

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

19 March 2015

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Lowman Student Center, Room 304

Members Present (18):

Nancy Baker (CHSS), Don Bumpass (COBA), Donna Cox (COE), James Crosby (CHSS), Mark Frank (COBA), Randy Garner (CJ), Deborah Hatton (COFAMC), Richard Henriksen (COE), Mark Klespis (COS), James Landa (COHS), Dennis Longmire (CJ), Paul Loeffler (COS), David McTier (COFAMC), Sheryl Murphy-Manley (COFAMC), Gary Oden (COHS), Dwayne Pavelock (COS), Lisa Shen (NGL), Stacy Ulbig (CHSS)

Members Not Present (13):

Irfan Ahmed (COBA), Helen Berg (COE), Tracy Bilsing (CHSS), Jonathan Breazeale (COBA), Madhusudan Choudhary (COS), John Domino (CHSS), Diane Dowdey (CHSS), Karla Edison (COE), Joan Hudson (COS), Jeffery Littlejohn (CHSS), Diana Nabors (COE), Douglas Ullrich (COS), Tony Watkins (COFAMC)

Called to Order: 3:30 pm in LSC 304 by Chair Nancy Baker

Minutes Approved: Minutes for the February 26th meeting were approved unanimously

Special Guest: Dr. Jaimie Hebert, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Provost Hebert's Visit

Undergraduate Admissions Policy (Academic Policy 840502) Revision

Provost Hebert provided details about changes to the admissions policy, and apologized for the miscommunication from Academic Affairs to Senate regarding this policy.

Specifically, the undergraduate admissions standards were revised and approved by the relevant bodies, including the Faculty Senate, in 2012. However, the corresponding admissions policy document was not updated at that time. Therefore, when the oversight was corrected recently, the provost had intended to inform Senate of the correction. However, due to some internal miscommunication, this courtesed through more than fast ones.

The provost also addressed discrepancies in the original and the revised automatic acceptance rates. During the initial admissions standards review in early 2012, the original proposal

automatically accept students who are in the top 20% of their class. This 20% acceptance rate was approved by the Council of Academic Deans (CAD) and Fac

student body is deeply divided on campus carry, and, based on current campus attitude and past experience debating the topic, the SGA is not actively seeing a consensus at this time.

Another senator pointed out that in addition to the open carry bill, there are also mirroring bills in the House and the Senate to allow for concealed campus carry, with clauses specifically

resolution to include a clause supporting local control. After a few rounds of lively debates, a motion to amend the 2014 resolution was defeated.

Referring to the TSUS Council of Faculty Senate's (CFS) decision to refrain from keeping detailed minutes during the council's meeting with TSUS Vice Chancellor Perry Moore, a senator expressed disappointment at the limited transparency.

Dr. Baker and Senator Shen both reassured senators that Dr. Moore has strived to maintain an open and relaxed environment for the CFS meetings. However, as a public representative for the system, he would have to be much more cautious and reserved in his remarks if all the discussions are recorded and made public. Moreover, the meeting attendees are encouraged to share written meetings summaries with their senates and colleagues.

**Faculty Senate
Chair's Report
03-19-2015**

Proposed Policy Editing Committee of Faculty

I communicated to the provost the Senate's suggestion that a small committee composed of faculty experts and compensated for their efforts be given a summer to copyedit all academic policies so that they are clear, concise, and coherent as a whole body of policies. The provost liked this idea and said he would give it further consideration.

Privacy Rooms

The provost has talked with Carlos Hernandez (VP for Finance) about the need for more privacy rooms (for nursing mothers, diabetics, and transgendered members of the university community) on campus. If there is room on campus, immediate steps can be taken to designate additional privacy rooms. The provost will raise the issue at the next Cabinet meeting and seek approval. There may also be a second privacy room available currently in the Counseling Center.

Daycare

At the next Cabinet meeting, the provost will discuss the possibility of reinstating a daycare for university members to use.

Admissions policy

Chair elect Lisa Shen and I asked the provost why the admissions policy revision had changed from automatic acceptance of the top 20% (as Senate approved in 2012) to automatic acceptance of the top 25% (as shown in the revised policy sent to Senate in February 2015) of graduating high school seniors in their class. The provost explained that deans and administrators wanted the top 20% but that the Texas Education Association (TEA) had changed school transcripts for K-12 to show only the top 10% or top 25% (as well as those in the top 50% and the top 75%). Therefore, there was no way to ascertain what the top 20% would be (except via student self-reporting). Given the choice between automatic acceptance of either the top 10% or the top 25% (or not having any automatic acceptance offered), the administration at SHSU chose to go with the top 25%.

Since changing the SHSU admissions policy, there are promising signs that SHSU's new policy is achieving desired results: enrollments, SAT scores, retention rates and graduation rates are all on the rise.

FES policy

We summarized the results of Dean Lyons' visit to Senate and asked why Dean Lyons seemed completely unaware of the time-consuming and painstaking efforts of the FES Revision Committee in devising a detailed proposal for how FES could be revised. The provost said that Dean Edmonson had seen the FES committee's report. In the aftermath of Dean Lyons's visit with Senate, the provost met with Lyons to

Chair elect course release

The provost will inform CAD that the chair-elect in future will have a course release.

Intellectual Copyright Policy

The provost will look into whether TSUS has changed its policy regarding intellectual copyrights.

Submitted respectfully by Chair Nancy Baker via e-mail.

TSUS & TCFS Spring 2015 Meeting Highlights

Texas State University System (TSUS) Meeting

February 27, 2015

With Dr. Perry Moore, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs, Dr. Fernando Gomez, Vice Chancellor and General Council, and Dr. Sean Cunningham, Vice Chancellor for Governmental Relations

Dr. Moore and Dr. Cunningham highlighted several topics of interest from the current legislative session

- **Tuition Revenue Bond (TRB)** – The system is optimistic for a favorable outcome.
- **Higher Education Assistance Fund (HEAF)**