

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
September 20, 2012
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Austin Hall

Members present:

Nancy Baker (H&SS); Helen Berg (COE); Don Bumpass (COBA); Kevin Clifton (FA&MC); Jeff Crane (H&SS); James Crosby (H&SS); Diane Dowdy (H&SS); Mark Frank (COBA); Randall Garner (CJ); Debbi Hatton (H&SS); Richard Henriksen (COE); Joan Hudson (COS); C. Renée James (COS); Bill Jasper (COS); Gerald Kohers (COBA); Hayoung Lim (FA&MC); Paul Loeffler (COS); Dennis Longmire (CJ); Joyce McCauley (COE);

Dr. Ilahi and Mr. Reed indicated that the dates for the workshops have not been determined exactly, but that they will likely occur near the end of October. An evening workshop will be held for students, while an afternoon workshop will be held for faculty. Both workshops will be limited to 25 participants, and faculty will be notified of these workshops via a website link. Depending on the success of these workshops, there might be some offered in the spring as well. It was suggested that an online workshop could be developed for online students.

Chair's Report:

1. Visioning and Planning Committee Update. The following Faculty Members were selected by the Administration for this committee, which met in late September to work with the administration on a long-term "vision" for SHSU: Mark Frank (COBA), Paul Loeffler (COS), Lee Miller (CHSS), Gaylene Armstrong (COCJ), Sheryl Murphy-Manley (COFAMC), Stanley Kelley (COS), Mary Nichter (COE), and Ken Hendrickson (CHSS)
2. Hard Copy of Budget – The Revised Recommended Budget of August 17 beginning on September 1 has been completed, 2012. The full report is 317 pages. There were no instructions given on whether or not this document may be e-mailed to anyone, but Chair Steele indicated that she could have it available in her office. It is also available on the library website.
3. Excellence in Teaching – Senate's three nominees for this committee (William Carroll (Political Science), Bala Maniam (Business and Finance) and Jerry Dowling (CJ)) were confirmed and letters signed the next day. In the process of passing on these names, Chair Steele met with Dawn Caplinger. They discussed the on-going review of functioning and non-functioning committees. Chair Steele informed Ms. Caplinger that the Senate's intention was to identify university committees that do not meet or that seem to have no real purpose rather than simply cut back on the number of committees.

3. Electronic Devices - Provost Hebert said the initial concern driving the limitation of faculty-assigned electronic devices (desktop computer systems, laptop computer systems,

communicated, that is the problem of the individual faculty member. However, there are issues that are communicated from the President or Provost to the Deans, and this information does not make it all the way down to faculty members. Whether it is a problem with Deans or particular chairs is certainly worth exploring.

3. Graduate support – the stipends for graduate students and other graduate support issues will be addressed by the Academic Affairs Committee.
4. Parking (cost) – This issue was unanimously dropped and will not be considered during this session of Faculty Senate.
5. Investigate whether SHSU has a culture of intimidation, sexism, racism, ageism, etc., which can make it a hostile environment in which to work. Given the broad scope of this charge, there was a motion to amend the charge to investigate only the race issue. However, Senate agreed that the full issue can be addressed by the University Affairs Committee, and that committee will decide how broad an approach to take. Along the same lines, all HAVEN questions and concerns will also be looked at by the University Affairs Committee.
6. Smoke-Free Campus Rules and Enforcement – there are a number of questions about the role of faculty in the enforcement of this policy, given that the language of the policy designates faculty members as one set of enforcers. However, given that the policy does not outline any penalty for smoking on campus, faculty members are willing to let Student Government or Staff Council deal with the issue. Further, if students would like to push for designated smoking areas, students should be the drivers of such a policy.
7. Travel Reimbursement – it was agreed that faculty should be notified that they can

Committee Reports: