

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES  
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

25 September 2014  
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Austin Hall

**Members Present (26):**

Irfan Ahmed (COBA), Nancy Baker (CHSS), Helen Berg (COE), Tracy Bilsing (CHSS), John Breazeale (COBA), Don Bumpass (COBA), Madhusudan Choudhary (COS), Donna Cox (COE), James Crosby (CHSS), Karla Edison (COE), Mark Frank (COBA), Randy Garner (CJ), Deborah Hatton (COFAMC), Richard Henriksen (COE), Jeffrey Littlejohn (CHSS), Paul Loeffler (COS), Dennis Longmire (CJ), David McTier (COFAMC), Sheryl Murphy-Manley (COFAMC), Gary Oden (COHS), Dwayne Pavelock (COS), Lisa Shen (NGL), Stacy Ulbig (CHSS), Douglas Ullrich (COS), Tony Watkins (COFAMC)

**Members Not Present (5):**

Joan Hudson (COS), Mark Klespis (COS), James Landa (COHS), Diana Nabors (COE), John Domino (CHSS - on leave for fall 2014)

**Called to Order:** 3:30 pm in Austin Hall by Chair Nancy Baker

**Minutes Approved:** Minutes for the September 11 meeting were approved (26 yes)

The senators took a few minutes to introduce themselves. Dr. Baker also gave special thanks to Senator James Landa, who made name cards for all the senators.

A thinking-of-you card for past chair Tracy Steele, who is on medical leave, was available for senators to share encouragement and goodwill with Tracy.

**Chair's Report**

**Faculty Development Leave (FDL) Policy**

When the FDL policy was revised this past April, the minimum required time between leaves was reduced from 7 to 5 years. However, the "ineligible list" of recent FDL recipients distributed by the Office of the Provost in early September still followed the old 7-year rule.

The corrected past FDL recipient list has been sent to all the deans after Dr. Baker alerted Julie Schwab of this error.

A senator inquired whether the updated list will also be sent to the general faculty. Dr. Baker felt such was the intention of the Office of the Provost in sending the list to the deans, and encouraged senators to ask their deans during the college dean-senator meetings.

## **FES Revisions**

and submitted to Provost Hebert. The provost indicated the Council of Academic Deans (CAD) has considered CC's recommendations, but would still like to keep collegiality as a standalone category for tenure consideration. A senator inquired whether CAD was aware that CC's recommendation was not to eliminate collegiality altogether, but to incorporate collegiality into the evaluations of teaching, research, and service. The answer was yes.

Instead, Provost Hebert would like Senate to develop a clear definition of collegiality. The provost also suggested finding alternative wordings for the term to avoid confusions between collegiality and congeniality. Lastly, Dr. Baker would like to remind senators the provost feels strongly about not quantifying collegiality.

### **Grievance Policy**

Provost Hebert addressed a num1utn num1m1mn Tw 1.32 TD 0 Tdrt 0J 0.022n2(t to)eJ 0.022n2(t to)eu,ce2



## **President's Roundtable on Creative Confidence**

Dr. Baker provided a brief summary of the roundtable discussions and encouraged senators who did not attend the roundtable to refer to the handouts on creative confidence, available as an attachment in President Hoyt's roundtable email invitation.

## **Old Business**

### **Academic Policy 900417 (Reappointment, Promotion, and Tenure)**

In light of Dr. Baker's report, a senator wondered if Senate should wait for the Council of Chairs' feedback on the proposed FES changes before resuming the discussion on this policy.

In response, some senators pointed out that the Faculty Affairs report, first submitted to Senate last spring, highlighted many much-needed typographical corrections to the current policy. A few senators further recommended for the provost to remove the current policy from the Academic Affairs website altogether until corrections are made. On the other hand, some senators felt that copyediting academic policies should not be a task for the Senate.

After much deliberation, senators tentatively agreed that typographical errors in the current policy should be corrected as soon as possible, regardless of any anticipated substantive changes. However, senators also voiced reservations with voting to accept the FA report for submission to the provost. The vote of approval would signal Senate's endorsement for the entire report, which includes policy content beyond grammar and spelling corrections.

### **Bearkat OneCard**

Chair of the University Affairs Committee (UA), Tony Watkins, shared his conversation with Dr. Vienne, Director of Bearkat OneCard Services, about a number of card issues raised by faculty. Dr. Vienne acknowledges issues with expired cards and reassures Senate her office is working with employees and students on resetting user accounts. The process takes 5-10 minutes.

Holders of non-activated cards will be unable to use their cards to access the HKC, athletic events, and locked buildings that they are authorized to enter afterhours. However, Dr. Vienne believed non-activated card holders might be able to use the library. A senator for the library confirmed that the SHSU community can access library resources without activating their cards.

When asked to consider offering two cards - one for ID, one for those who wish to use Higher One services - Dr. Vienne cited university policies to streamline process esTd [9h9 -0.002 .Ate.12Td [(e)4(ve)



A few senators questioned whether it is appropriate to discuss a faculty group not present at the meeting, and whether adjunct faculty have representation. Even though adjunct faculty do not serve on Senate, since all teaching faculty are eligible to vote in Senate elections, Faculty Senate would serve to represent all faculty, including non-tenure-track faculty.

Other senators raised concerns about the overall treatment of adjunct faculty. For instance, pool faculty in the Department of English has not received any raises in 20 years, while the College of Business Administration recently terminated the contracts of a number of adjunct faculty who have been teaching for SHSU for many years because of accreditation requirements. Another senator recalled when Provost Hebert was asked about providing raises for adjunct faculty at past Senate meeting, he had answered no repeatedly. Lastly, one senator remarked that, regardless of the solution, the limited campus resources available cannot adequately address the needs of all faculty, regardless of tenure status.

Dr. Baker asked the Faculty Affairs Committee to review the comments shared by senators and explore options to provide support for non-tenure-track faculty, including multi-year contracts.

## **New Business**

### **Revised New Committee Proposals**

During the last academic year, Senate approved proposals for two new committees: the Online Course-Development Support Committee and the Computer and Technology Standards Committee. The proposals were submitted to Academic Affairs for review. Dr. Tayebi, on behalf of Academic Affairs and the Committee Book, would like to ask Senate to include an additional representative on each committee. The new members will be nominated from either Graduate Studies or Academic Planning and Assessment.

Dr. Mark Frank, the chair of CC, presented the revised proposals for Senate. A few questions were raised about the proposal content, though none about the additional committee members. After some discussion, Dr. Frank reminded senators that the proposals themselves have already been reviewed and approved by Senate. The current review should focus on the revisions.

***Motion was made to approve the revised proposals for the Online Course-Development Support Committee and the***

## **Proposal for New Salary Equity Committee**

On behalf of faculty from the College of Science, Senator Paul Loeffler proposed forming a new committee to address internal



since Senate meetings are open to the public, senators should feel comfortable sharing anything transpired during the open meetings. Other senators agreed.

### **Course Load Reduction for Chair-Elect**

Another senator shared that, while consider running for Senate chair-elect, he was surprised to learn about all the responsibilities associated with the position. Therefore, the senator would like to see similar administrative support offered to the Senate chair, specifically the reduction in course load, extended to the chair-elect. Several senators, including past Senate chairs, voiced support for the idea.

*Motion was made for the Senate to recommend the Office of the Provost to offer a one-course reduction per semester for the Senate chair-elect.*

*Motion passed (25 yes, 0 no, 1 abstention).*

**Meeting Adjourned at 5:00pm**

## **(Proposed) Computer and Technology Standards Committee**

Category Faculty Affairs  
Appointed by President  
Reports to Vice President for Information Technology

Number of Members 12  
Chair 1  
Faculty 8  
Staff

**(Proposed) Online Course-**