

Faculty Senate Minutes

October 2, 2008

Members Present:

Members Present: Stacey Edmonson; Bill Edgington; Mark Frank; Debbi Hatton; Darci Hill; Emmette Jackson; Ann Jerabek; Bill Lutterschmidt; Brian Oetiker; Debra Price; Tracy Steele; Bill Brewer; Andrew Lopenzina; Melinda Miller; Sheryl Murphy-Manley; Joseph Neisser; Yan Zhang.

Members Absent: Bill Jasper; Brian Loft; Sam Souryall; Tracy Bilsing; Tamara Waggoner; Gerald Kohers; Paul Loeffler; Brian Loft; John Newbold; Sam Souryal

Meeting called to order at 3:32pm

I. Minutes from September 4, 2008 approved

II. Senate addressed by Mitchell Muesham, Assoc. Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Graduate Studies:

- A. Senate was presented the upcoming timeline for SACS review-
 - a. Oct. 24, 2008 SACS representative Dr. Marci Stole will be on SHSU campus to meet with campus leadership committee to make recommendations on QEP.
 - b. Nov 3-6, 2008 The eleven member Off Site committee will meet in Atlanta, GA to review submitted documents from three institutions including SHSU.
 - c. Second week of November, SHSU will receive oral report on Off-site committee report. A written copy will follow. SHSU will write a focus report on the committee's report.
 - d. Feb. 25, 2009 SACS On-site review team's chair will be on campus to meet with the University's leadership.
 - e. Mar. 24-26, 2009, complete On-site review team on campus. Will hold meetings in the LSC and be housed in campus hotel. The campus visit will culminate in an exit meeting with President Gaertner to discuss committee's final report on accreditation.
 - f. Mid-June, 2009, SHSU will submit its response to final report to SACS.
- B. Muesham is pleased with the university's preparation for the accreditation review and feels comfortable that SACS will recommend full accreditation renewal.

C. Muesham also addressed the Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA) instruments. Institutions of higher education are facing increasing pressure to justify the value added aspect of education. ASKEW is working toward developing a common scale to allow families to measure institution against institution.

a. SHSU is reviewing three standardized assessments to assess the core outcomes including critical thinking. Faculty and departments will be asked for input on mechanisms prior to final selection. Currently, the plan is to generate representative data by testing 100 incoming freshmen and 100 seniors. The kick off date is tentatively set for spring 2009. Senator Hatton asked who will be responsible for paying for the students' testing. Muesham assured the Senate that the students will not be responsible for paying for the exams.

b. In addition to the campus wide VSA, departments may select additional critical thinking assessment instruments. Some institutions are currently utilizing a campus developed assessment. Senator Neisser asked for clarification if the campus created instrument could be used as the official VSA. It can not but Muesham encourages departments developing benchmarks of skill sets for graduates.

D. Finally, Muesham addressed incentive budgeting for addressing Closing the Gap initiative. He is on a THCB committee to develop accountability measures for Doctoral Institutions. Senator Hill asked if consideration is given for funding since SHSU is an emerging doctoral university while other institutions in the same tier have broader range and longer history in granting doctorates. It is not.

III. Chair's Report- Chair Edmondson presented the following:

A. The APC cancelled its meeting due to Hurricane Ike closure.

B. Senate Chair Edmondson met with Provost Payne.

a. The university will do a national search for the position of Vice-President of Finance. Dean Webb will chair the committee who has established Fall 2009 as the target date to have the position filled.

b. The university will do a national search for the position of Dean of College of Business Administration. There is no current timeline. Dean Hebert will chair the committee.

c. The THCB committee to review the proposed degree plan did not meet due to the hurricane.

- C. Chair Edmondson discussed that Lamar University has contracted with Higher Education Holdings to run teacher certification and graduate programs in education. The approach has been approved by SACS, Fernando and Chancellor Mathews. The on-line programs are highly popular because they are cheap and quick. The impact on the SHSU College of Education programs has not been determined.
- D. It appears that the university will convert to the Banner Integrated computer system. The system is very expensive but has been successful at TX Tech and Angelo State and solves many problems experienced by computer services.
- E. Ground breaking ceremonies for the new Performing Arts Complex was conducted today.
- F. Deadline for submitting final course grades for the Fall semester has been moved up to Friday, December 19 instead of Monday, December 22. The move will provide extra time for the Registrar's office to prepare necessary reports before the Christmas break.

V. New Business

- A. Impact of the economy on university community. Vice-chair Loeffler indicated that the university needs to consider approaches to assist students and faculty in a down turned economy such as energy saving. Senator Price indicated that due to Hurricane Ike the Spring semester will have one less week than a typical fall semester. This will provide an opportunity to gather data on shortening the semester to meet outcome objectives. The Senate will follow up with a report to the APC.
- B. It was recommended that the university take steps to move toward a green campus. The campus has a recycling committee. The Senate will find out who is on the committee before framing a resolution on the issue.
- C. Report on Calendar Committee Meeting. Senator Hatton reported that she, Vice-Chair Loeffler and Senator Bilsing attended the calendar committee meeting on Sept. 23. The topic of discussion was the 2010-2011 academic calendar. A hand out with the recommended calendar was distributed to the Senate. The APC will need to approve the final version of the calendar. Chair Edmondson and senators will discuss the need for a stronger faculty voice on calendar decisions with the APC and respective deans.

VI. Committee Reports

- A. Faculty Affairs- Committee chair Frank presented the committee's report on Merit Raises and Teaching Tracks. The reports indicates a wide discrepancies merit raises between 3/3 faculty, 4/4 teaching faculty and 4/4 administrative faculty. Copy of report attached to minutes. The senate recommended that the committee review the weights of the FES per track for a future report.
- B. University Affairs- No report. Will continue to work on assignments.
- C. Academic Affairs – Committee chairman Luttersmidt requested committee members send him copies of their schedules. Will meet to work on assignments next week.
- D. Committee on Committees – The committee determined nominees for two committees.

VII. New Business

- A. Senator Jerabek announced that the NGL has rescheduled its open house to October 15th & 16th, 2:00-5:00. The theme is “Research Junction: Where Inquiry, Investigation, and Insight Intersect.
- B. Chair Edmondson announced that the next Senate meeting will be held October 16.

VIII. Senate adjourned at 5:01

Respectfully submitted by Debbi Hatton