

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
November 6, 2008**

Chair Stacey Edmonson called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Members Present: Bill Brewer; Stacey Edmonson; Bill Edgington; Mark Frank; Darci Hill; Ann Jerabek; Gerald Kohers; Paul Loeffler; Brian Loft; Andrew Lopenzina; Bill Lutterschmidt; Melinda Miller; John Newbold; Brian Oetiker; Yan Zhang.

Members Absent: Tracy Bilsing; Debbi Hatton; Emmette Jackson; William Jasper; Sheryl Murphy-Manley; Joseph Neisser; Debra Price; Sam Souryal; Tracy Steele; Tamara Waggener

Approval of Minutes:

Acceptance of the amended minutes from the October 6, 2008 meeting was moved and they were approved.

Chair's Report

- APC Meeting on November 5, 2008.
 - SACS review taking place with oral report next Thursday (13 Nov.)
 - The 2:00 December graduation period with 550 students scheduled exceeds estimated capacity. Thus the administration is looking for options. Senate should anticipate memorandum addressing this issue.
 - Syllabus guidelines: These address items to be in each syllabus provided to students and specific items were approved by APC. We should anticipate distribution from Deans.
 - The Policy on Reappointment Tenure Promotion: APC proposed modifications to policy. "Early consideration for tenure...requires approval of Chair and Dean prior to progress to DPTAC. Failure of the applicant to provide completely truthful and accurate documentation is grounds for denial."

Senate discussion followed. The general consensus of senators is that any proof of dishonesty" would be better wording than "completely truthful and accurate".

An impromptu CAD meeting is introducing a restriction of self-nomination from Associate to Full Professor rank to include a three-year interval.

Senate discussion followed. Self-promotion is important and this restriction represents a significant change in our policy. General Senate consensus is that the Academic Affairs committee should address this issue; their charge is to review, evaluate and provide recommendation to Senate on Dec.6th. Following Senate approval the chair will request a proposed change in writing.

- The Faculty Development Leave Committee: Provost can grant a leave without the official process. This would be unusual and rare.
- Senator Executive Committee meeting with Provost Payne on October 21st
 - Property on FM 222 near the Woodlands is to be obtained from Lone Star College such that we will have our own University Center facility. This is a grant of land on which the university will be obligated to construct a facility. We will still be bound by University Center restrictions and agreements.
 - The \$3.4M allotment from Coordinating Board has been approved.
 - Randy Best – Public/Private partnership proposal in Educational Leadership is ongoing for its doctoral program. There are also discussions for MS-CJ and MS-Digital Security degree programs that will be on-line offerings.
 - Fees and designated tuition for SHSU is going forward. Athletics currently receive 50% of the student services fee but in the proposed fee structure it will have its own fee which includes \$2 to support the golf course.
- Texas Council of Faculty Senate Meeting in Austin
 - System and Dr. Craycraft indicate tuition deregulation will be a topic of legislature session but do not anticipate change.
 - The future of Higher Education programs in US, especially in STEM fields, is of concern.
 - The Board is requesting full formula funding.
 - Funding on course completion is being seriously considered. Only SHSU and TxSt of all 35 universities would not experience reduction in funding.
 - Faculty salaries and salary compression will be examined.
 - The Business Meeting on Saturday was quite informative in that its focus was on the organization assisting in reforming or redirecting the legislators’ perceptions of the roles and responsibilities of faculty.

Old Business: None

New Business:

- Senators Bill Lutterschmidt and Brian Loft explored/discussed Faculty Club
 - Would the administration support another trail? Discussions with administrators indicated, yes. John McCauskie invited Senators Lutterschmidt and Loft to propose to our architects to place in conjunction with a new dining facility. Alumni support also exists. They concluded that now is the time for a formal proposal. Our draft would first go to Dr. Eglasaer. The dining facility with pub will be an area for entertainment to be used by faculty as well as university development, alumni and President’s Office. It needs to be of similar quality as that at Rice or Baylor. Senators Lutterschmidt and Loft are requesting a charge from Senate to proceed under the auspices of a Senate effort to promote “university-wide collegiality” and interdepartmental as well as faculty-staff interaction.

Senate discussion followed. A motion was made and passed directing work with administration to develop a Faculty Club proposal by Dec. 1st meeting of Senate.

- Calendar Committee Issues
 - It was announced that SHSU is out of compliance with the Coordinating Board's Common calendar and that Senate had brought this to the administration's attention. As a result, the Calendar Committee is schedule to meet again.

Senate discussion followed and several constructive suggestions were made. We must have a presentation with respect to spring starting dates because we are presently starting one week late and have an additional presentation to address the M-day/T-day mismatch. The Wednesday starting day is better in that it promotes community and faculty collegiality because it allows for most faculty to attend the President's address. Senate should promote inclusion of dead day(s) which enhance student performance. If we constructed the schedules to include multiple days or a week for study and mentoring they could start after the 45th instructional day.

Committee Reports:

- Faculty Affairs: no report
- Committee on Committees: The on-line survey is being prepared
- Academic Affairs:
 - A report on the extended calendar versus a shorter academic calendar and potential impact on academic integrity was presented. Research indicates there is no statistical difference between the extended calendar and shorter semesters. General discussion followed with various observations of past history and suggestions of component issues to address relating to the academic calendar. The Academic Affairs report is appended to the minutes.
- University Affairs: A bookstore survey is to be distributed in draft form to the Senate for use in the Spring.

Senate adjourned at 5:00

- Adjournment followed Chair Edmonson's announcement that following the December 1st meeting will be the President's reception. We shall meet in Austin College at the regular time prior to transit to the LSC. At the meeting we will hear presentations from Heather Crowson and Jackie Williams.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Loeffler

REPORT

To: Faculty Senate, Sam Houston State University

From: Academic Affairs Committee

Regarding: Academic Calendar

Charge

The Academic Affairs Committee was charged with evaluating how a shorter academic semester may impact student performance within an academic course. This charge is based upon the following:

- 1) Sam Houston State University typically enforces the "45-hour rule" whereas surrounding colleges, both within and outside our university system, do not.
- 2) Our academic calendar often creates discrepancy between hours of instruction for M-day classes versus T-day classes. (See attached pages)

EXAMPLE: San Marcos, Lamar, Texas A&M, and Texas
M-day Classes = 42 thus 42 hours of instruction
T-day Classes = 28 thus (28 x 1.5) or 42 hours of instruction

Sam Houston State University
M-day Classes = 44 thus 44 hours of instruction
T-day Classes = 31 thus (31 x 1.5) or 46.5 hours of instruction

- 3) Additional contact hours may place the research faculty at Sam Houston State University at a disadvantage in regard to scholarship. Faculty members, with reduced contact hours within our university system, have increased opportunity for conference attendance, presentation, and research.
- 4) Student employment opportunities are directly affected by the extended semester.
- 5) Academic integrity of grading is influenced by limited time between the final class day, the final exam period, and the deadline for final grade submission.

As a shorter academic semester may influence a student's academic performance, the Academic Affairs Committee evaluated student performance by comparing mean grade distributions from a "short semester" (Fall 2005) and "long semester" (Fall 2006 and 2007). Faculty members were asked to volunteer class grade distributions for analyses. A simple analysis (see attached) indicated that there is no significant difference ($P > 0.05$) between student performance associated with a "short" or "long" semester. The Academic Affairs Committee therefore concludes that student performance will not be significantly influenced by a shorter course semester.

Recommendation

The Academic Affairs Committee recommends that Faculty Senate explore other options surrounding the procedures for how the academic calendar is determined. If the faculty has limited voice, Faculty Senate may consider student involvement through the Student Government Association. If there is strong student interest in demonstrating how the current academic calendar places our students at a significant disadvantage (regarding employment, career opportunities, etc.) compared to other students in surrounding universities, the university may consider such student concerns in determining the academic calendar.

FALL 2007

	Start Date		End Date		Labor Day holiday?	Thanksgiving		Class Days
		Diff		Diff		# days	Diff	
SHSU	Aug-20		Dec-06		Y	3		75
TX State-SM	Aug-22	-2	Dec-03	-3	Y	3	0	70
Lamar	Aug-23	-3	Dec-03	-3	Y	2	1	70
Sul Ross	Aug-22	-2	Dec-07	1	Y	5	-2	72
Angelo State	Aug-27	-5	Dec-07	1	Y	2	1	72
Texas A&M	Aug-27	-5	Dec-04	-2	N	2	1	70
UT-Austin	Aug-29	-7	Dec-07	1	Y	3	0	69
A&M-Commerce	Aug-27	-5	Dec-07	1	N	2	1	73
SFA	Aug-27	-5	Dec-07	1	Y	3	0	71
U-Houston	Aug-20	0	Dec-01	-4	Y	3	0	71
UT-Dallas	Aug-16	2	Nov-26	-8	Y	2	1	70

Fall 2006 class days

	Sam Houston State	San Marcos	Lamar	Texas A&M	Texas
m	15	14	14	15	13
t	16	14	14	15	14
w	15	14	14	14	15
th	15	14	14	13	14
f	14	14	14	13	14
mwf	44	42	42	42	42
tth	31	28	28	28	28

Grade Analysis Among Academic Years

Instructor	Course	2005	2006	2007	Statistical Results
Dr. Olson	HIS 163	Mean = 2.093 N = 216 SE = 0.0848	Mean = 2.154 N = 259 SE = 0.0719		Mann-Whitney T = 50667.0 P = 0.619
Dr. Cook	BIO 162	Mean = 63.5 N = 79 SE = 2.657	Mean = 66.4 N = 72 SE = 2.331		Mann-Whitney T = 5157.0 P = 0.629
Dr. Cook	BIO 446	Mean = 77.1 N = 25 SE = 3.22	Mean = 72.3 N = 19 SE = 4.62	Mean = 78.2 N = 21 SE = 3.34	F = 0.671 df = 2, 62 P = 0.515
Dr. Vic Sower	MKT 475	Mean = 2.330 N = 91 SE = 0.0912		Mean = 2.305 N = 82 SE = 0.115	Mann-Whitney T = 7096.0 P = 0.909
Dr. J. Newbold	MKT 572	Mean = 3.818 N = 11 SE = 0.122		Mean = 3.692 N = 13 SE = 0.175	Mann-Whitney T = 142.0 P = 0.815
Dr. Bill Jasper	MTH 383	Mean = 3.286 N = 21 SE = 0.171		Mean = 2.909 N = 22 SE = 0.245	Mann-Whitney T = 503.5 P = 0.319
Dr. G. Sanford	PHL 372 Sec 01	Mean = 79.29 N = 35 SE = 3.025	Mean = 68.37 N = 32 SE = 5.063		Mann-Whitney T = 920.0 P = 0.036
Dr. G. Sanford	PHL 372 Sec 02	Mean = 68.71 N = 36 SE = 4.087	Mean = 68.37 N = 32 SE = 5.063		Mann-Whitney T = 1161.0 P = 0.488