

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES  
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
December 1, 2008**

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

**Members Present:** Bill Brewer; Tracy Bilsing; Bill Edgington; Stacey Edmonson; Debbi Hatton; Darci Hill; William Jasper; Ann Jerabek; Gerald Kohers; Paul Loeffler; Brian Loft; Andrew Lopenzina; Bill Lutterschmidt; Melinda Miller; Sheryl Murphy-Manley; Joseph Neisser; Brian Oetiker; Debra Price.

**Members Absent:** Mark Frank; Emmette Jackson; John Newbold; Sam Souryal; Tracy Steele; Tamara Waggener; Yan Zhang.

**Approval of Minutes:**

The minutes from the November 6, 2008 meeting were approved.

**Special Guest:**

Dr. Janet Williams addressed the Senate concerning the P-16 College Readiness Initiative

- History: The legislature established College Readiness Standards (CRS) following a Coordinating Board initiative 47% of high school graduates were “college ready” while 50% of entry-level students were in development courses.
- Data: Of the students who finish ninth grade, 64% graduate from high school, 22% reach their sophomore college year, but only 13% receive a degree in six years.
- Goal: Keep students in high school and get them into college or junior college; put development education out of business due to preparedness and increased math requirements in high school curricula. Another stated objective is to establish high school-higher education vertical teams of faculty to develop and monitor these programs. Overall, the goal is to promote a “college-going” culture in high school.
- Emphasis: Note that P-16 “will” prepare all students for college. High school assessment will be aligned with college entrance requirements, and “we” will establish accountability measures through the P-16 Council at SHSU and elsewhere.

Senate Discussion:

- Senate discussed the CRS presentation. Some concerns were raised with respect to the goals, methodology and effectiveness of this program.

**Chair’s Report:**

- Provost Meeting.
  - SACS report: There were twelve “trivial” non-compliance areas; five were in Finance and many others were in Academic Affairs but were policy related.

Senate will need to have quick review and processing of these new policies before our first January meeting.

- Senator Ogden wants an Ethics Center and his office is looking at SHSU. Spring is the expected timeframe for an announcement.
- University Distinguished Professor and Professor Emeritus ranks, which we currently have at SHSU, are being reviewed in light of two new ranks, Regents Distinguished Professor and Regents Professor Emeritus, which have been added at the system level. Thus, we anticipate modifying our ranks to include a four-step system of distinguished ranks.
- Some schools have hiring freezes already for next year. We presently do not.
- Four new faculty positions were requested in Psychology, Spanish, Nursing & Engineering-Physics. The administration anticipates approval.
- McGregor Stevenson, Assistant Defense Commissioner, has requested a report on compliance with the 120 hour rule. Thus, we should expect questions about our programs which are over 120 hours, representing over 50% of our programs.
- A contract is being considered for a "reality" television program with our rodeo team. This will be approached with caution.
- Randy Best and his Best Enterprises: Note that a \$12M profit was made at Lamar University last year. The MS-CJ, and Ed.D. programs at SHSU are being evaluated as this public-private relationship is explored in greater detail.
- An honors college is being considered although this is in the early discussion phase.
- Graduation for Fall-08 is over subscribed; this is a problem being addressed and may impact the number of ceremonies in future semesters.
- Fees and designation tuition: Chancellor has limited these to 5% increases; our request was 7%. This decision will have been made at latest Board meeting.
- College of Business Administration, Dean: There are forty "on paper" candidates, six of which are considered "outstanding". The search is progressing well.
- Faculty Club: Dr. Edmonson raised the issue of a Faculty Club with the Provost subsequently notifying him that a proposal was forthcoming.

### **Old Business:**

- Faculty Dining Hall Proposal
  - Senators Bill Lutterschmidt and Brian Loft submitted their memorandum.
  - A motion to endorse the memorandum with instructions from the Senate for Drs. Lutterschmidt and Loft to transmit the document to the administration and to engage in discussions as our appointed representatives.
  - The memorandum is attached.

### **New Business:**

- Staff Council
  - Staff Council is exploring a proposal which would allow for the reduction of fees for children of employees.

- The sense of the Senate is that we would support such a recommendation by the Staff Council.
- Religious Language
  - Senate received a request by a faculty member to examine two occurrences of “prayers” being offered at departmental events.
- Staff Representative Kevin Brady’s visit to Senate
  - The sense of the Senate is that we should sponsor a presentation for the general university community or, more specifically, the faculty. A reception should be scheduled afterwards in Austin Hall for Senators.
- The MAAP-CAAP Testing issue
  - Senate adopted the following position statement: ”After reviewing the options for the Voluntary System of Accountability, the Faculty Senate recommends that SHSU use the MAPP.”
- Annual Fund Drive
  - Senator Hatton relayed Senator Jackson’s concern about letters and/or e-mail that provides details of faculty contributions to the General Fund. Discussion followed. Dr. Edmonson will discuss this concern with the Provost at the next Executive Council meeting.

**Committee Reports:**

• Faculty Affairs:

- A draft committee report on merit weights was submitted. Discussion was tabled due to time considerations.

• Committee on Committees: no report

• Academic Affairs: no report

• University Affairs:

- The Bookstore Survey is to be implemented.

• 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 reminder that following this meeting the President’s Reception was soon to begin in the Peabody Library building.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Loeffler.