

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
February 21, 2013
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); Donna Cox (COE); James Crosby (H&SS); Mark Frank (COBA); Randall Garner (CJ); Richard Henriksen (COE); Joan Hudson (COS); C. Renée James (COS); Gerald Kohers (COBA); Hayoung Lim (FA&MC); Dennis Longmire (CJ); Paul Loeffler (COS); Joyce McCauley (COE); Sheryl Murphy-Manley (FA&MC); Dwayne Pavelock (COS); Debra Price (COE); Tracy Steele (H&SS); Stacy Ulbig (H&SS); Doug Ullrich (COS); Walton Watkins (FA&MC); Ricky White (COS)

Members not present: Tracy Bilsing (H&SS); Tom Cox (H&SS); Diane Dowdey (H&SS); Debbi Hatton (H&SS); Bill Jasper (COS); Lisa Shen (NGL); Pam Zelbst (COBA)

Called to order: 3:30 p.m. in Austin Hall by Chair Tracy Steele

Special Guests: Dr. Kimberly Bell presented information about the Undergraduate Research Symposium.

Interested students and faculty were invited to attend the informational meeting for the Undergraduate Research Symposium on Thursday, February 28 from 3:00 – 5:00 in the Honors College Lounge, AB4, Room 107. Scholarships will be awarded for various presentation categories, including Best Overall Poster.

Approval of Minutes: February 14 minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

Chair's Report:

The meeting with Provost Hebert strongly indicated that the “exception” fee of \$1000 for upgrades to technology requests will be eliminated. The exact status will be made available later. The Provost also agreed that the “base model” for the various computers should be decided by faculty committee, who best know what the needs of faculty members are.

Committee Reports:

Faculty Affairs Committee

The Faculty Affairs Committee presented three reports and revisions of policy statements: Revision to the Faculty Development Leave Policy (along with suggested changes to Academic Policy 800328), results of the survey on Independent Study Classes, and results of the survey on Faculty Overloads (along with suggested changes to Academic Policy 790601; see attached).

Regarding the Faculty Overload Survey: One important concern revolved around possibility of carrying “overloads” (e.g., independent study sections, large class sections, etc) from one year to another. The current policy allows for a one-course reduction in teaching load after, for instance, 15 undergraduate students have been taught as an uncompensated overload over the span of three years. However, if a faculty member is the only one qualified to teach a certain course or set of courses, then it is impractical and sometimes impossible to allow for a reduction in that faculty member's teaching load. In these instances (and indeed in any instance of overload), faculty members can approach the Provost about being monetarily compensated for these overloads.

Faculty Senators discussed the procedure for obtaining financial remuneration after teaching overenrolled classes or uncompensated independent study classes. This is an issue that will need further exploration, but it was noted that the policy already allows for such.

The reports on independent studies and overloads were accepted unanimously, and the following resolution was crafted and passed unanimously.

Resolution: "In light of the reports stemming from Faculty Senate surveys on the teaching of overenrolled classes and independent study classes in which more than 90% of faculty teach without compensation, Faculty Senate resolves that the administration amend the Faculty Instructional Workload (790601) policy as revised by Faculty Senate."

The Faculty Affairs Committee recommended a number of changes to the Faculty Development Leave Policy. Most concerns revolved around whether clinical and tenure-track faculty should be included in the leave policy. One practical problem with including non-tenured faculty is that the tenure process could be adversely affected and the University could be opening itself up to a greater volume of grievances. The example was given that if two otherwise equal faculty members were going up for tenure, one could apply for (and obtain) a development leave, thus stopping the tenure clock and helping provide further accomplishments. Should tenure be denied one of these two members, it could be argued that the metric was uneven. The consensus was that untenured faculty should go through a different leave process should they desire a leave, and the formal Faculty Development Leave would remain the domain only of tenured faculty. The faculty affairs committee will look into additional changes.

There was a motion to strike 'tenure-track' from section 2.01a. The motion was passed with 22 ayes, 0 nays and 2 abstentions.

Senators agreed that there should be clarification on how to obtain 'alternative' leaves, in particular a specific mention of such leaves, so that the process will be more transparent.

Proposed changes to academic policy statement 800328 (Faculty Development Leave Policy) with a number of amendments were accepted, with 22 ayes, 1 nay and 1 abstention.

Committee on Committees

Nominees for Faculty Development Leave Committee were briefly discussed.

For upcoming Faculty Senate elections, there will be some changes over the coming years as we attempt to maintain the proper apportionment between colleges. A list of faculty members on the ballot was provided, and Senators were encouraged to remind their colleagues to vote.

The annual faculty survey was briefly discussed, and a few minor changes were suggested. A to accept those changes was unanimously passed.

University Affairs Committee

The University Affairs Committee has been tasked with exploring the drop deadline at SHSU. The SHSU drop date is much later than that at sister institutions. The UAC recommended that the final drop date be Friday of the 12th week of class, but several Senators felt that this was far too late given that evaluations would already have been completed. Then there was a motion to propose a drop deadline at the end of the 10th week of a long semester. The motion passed with 21 ayes, 1 nay and 2 abstentions.

Core Report: Senator Hatton submitted a report in absentia (see attached).

IDEA Report: IDEA representatives will be on campus Monday February 25 and Tuesday February 26. Faculty members are encouraged to attend.

Adjournment: 5:01 pm

Next Meeting: March 7, 2013

NOTE: The March 7 meeting will be held in LSC 304.