

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
March 3, 2011

Members Present:

Len Breen (CoE), Carl Brewer (CoBA), Donald Bumpass (CoBA), Rebecca Bustamente (CoE), Erin Cassidy (NGL), Jeff Crane (CHSS), Donna Desforges (CHSS), Mark Frank (CoBA), Debbi Hatton (CHSS), Renee James (CoAS), Bill Jasper (CoAS), Gerald Kohers (CoBA), Paul Loeffler (CoAS), Drew Lopenzina (CHSS), Sheryl Murphy-Manley (CoAS), Sheryl Serres (CoE), Tracy Steele (CHSS), Doug Ullrich (CoAS), Ricky White (CoAS).

Members Not Present:

Tracy Bilsing (CHSS), Chad Hargrave (CoAS), Hee-Jong Joo (CoCJ), Joyce Mc Cauley (CoE), Dwayne Pavelock (CoAS), Ling Ren (CoCJ).

Call to Order:

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 by Senate Chair Frank.

Minutes Approved:

Motion to approve minutes from February 17, 2011 passed unanimously.

Chair's Report:

Meetings with Provost Payne, Feb. 22, 2011

- 1) It is VERY unlikely there will be money for merit and market raises this year. There will be money for promotions but the chances are slim there will be any other funds available. The University is reviewing the possibility of implementing a new fee in the fall to help off-set budget cuts. The decision has not been finalized nor has it been decided if it will be a fee based on program, department or major.
- 2) The THCB is taking a hard-line on the 120hr rule for degree plans. If there is a program in the state that can offer the degree in 120 hours, then all programs must offer the degree for 120 hours. SHSU has several degree plans requiring more than 120 hrs. (Members of the Senate asked if courses considered prerequisites were counted in the 120 hour limit because many students enter the University lacking competent preparation for selected major. One example is a student majoring in mathematics that must pass Calculus but cannot enroll in the course without Trigonometry.)
- 3) Issues with the implementation of Banner were discussed with the Provost who recommended that the Senate invite Dean Jaimie Hebert to answer questions.

Texas Council of Faculty Senates Meeting, Feb. 25-26, 2011 in Austin, Texas

- 1) *Texas State System Senate Leadership Meeting – Assistant Chancellor Jim Gaertner*
 - A) The budget is not good but Gaertner feels the shortfall will be more like 20 billion instead of the 27 billion number being bantered about. If holiday sales

were exceptionally good, cuts to higher education could be as low as 10% but most likely 13%.

- B) Sam Houston State University appears to be the only institution which received market/merit raises last year. There was some confusion if Texas State-San Marcos received raises or not. Everyone reported being told that they will not receive pay increases this year. Most schools in the system reported hiring freezes for all but “essential” positions.
- C) Sul Ross University has moved to a flat rate for teaching summer classes. The rate is \$4,200 per class. SHSU seemed to be the only school in the system not discussing the move to a flat rate-per-class system.
- D) Dr. Gaertner discussed how Chancellor Matthews preferred the system to be more centralized; however, Chancellor McCall’s leadership style is much more decentralized. It is his opinion that the campuses should expect this style to trickle down.

2) *Meeting with Faculty Senate Leadership of State’s Schools*

- A) TCFS passed a resolution opposing the five Concealed Hand-guns on Campus bills currently making their way through the State’s legislature. Those supporting the bills base their views on guaranteeing 2nd Amendment rights. Every University President in Texas has come out in opposition of the bills. Chair Frank placed the following resolution to the Senate:
*Whereas, allowing concealed firearm on the campus of Sam Houston State University threatens our ability to create and maintain a safe, open learning environment for students, faculty and staff;
Be it resolved that the members of the SHSU Faculty Senate strongly oppose any legislation or initiatives that will allow carrying concealed weapons on university campuses.*

The resolution passed the Senate with a vote of 18 yeas /0 nays/ 1 abstention. With passage, the resolution will be presented to Provost Payne.

- B) The second resolution passed by the TCFS covered increasing teaching loads due to the upcoming future budget shortfall. Many schools are going to a 4/5 teaching load. Faculty at these schools are still required to produce scholarship and service at a rate equal to that of a faculty teaching a 3/3 load. The TCFS passed the following resolution:
*Whereas, the Texas Council of Faculty Senates recognizes the budgetary constraints of the 2011 legislature and current biennium funding period, and
Whereas, each university and college must respond to said constraints in ways that are appropriate to their institution,
BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Texas Council of Faculty Senates is opposed to the practice of increasing teaching duties for faculty while continuing to maintain the same requirements and expectations for research and service.*

Members of the SHSU faculty referred the resolution to the *Faculty Affairs committee* for review and recommendation. Chair Frank and Chair-elect Hatton will discuss the possibility of similar actions happening at SHSU with Provost Payne also.

3) *Additional Information for the TCFS meeting*

- A) UH-Downtown has a new Provost and it is Brian Chapman, former dean of CHSS.

Academic Affairs Council Meeting

The APC has not met since the last Senate meeting

New Business

- A) Jaimie Hebert has been invited to attend the March 24th Senate meeting to discuss Banner's role on campus.
- B) The Senate discussed honoring Provost Payne for his dedication to the university. Plans for this will be finalized at a later meeting.
- C) Results from the past couple of Senate Annual Surveys indicated that the communication between the Senate and campus faculty needed improvement. Chair Frank created a list of strategies to improve the campus' perception of the Senate. These included:
 - 1) Senators from CHSS and CoED meet regularly with their deans to discuss issues pertaining to the campus and faculty. The COBA senators have begun this practice this semester. In an effort to strengthen relations and communication pathways, Senate Chair Frank charged *the Senators from each college to meet with their respective deans on regular bases throughout the academic year*. The motion was seconded by Senator Loeffler and passed unanimously.
 - 2) Having the chair-elect attend meetings of the Academic Policy Council. Since this would require permission from the Provost, Chair Frank will address the issue at the next meeting with the Provost.
 - 3) A synopsis version of Senate business will be distributed through the Academic Affairs email newsletter. The Committee-on-Committees will be responsible for submitting the information to Dorothy.
 - 4) Form an advisory group from past Senate Presidents to assist with institutional memory.

Committee Reports:

University Affairs – Report presented by Don Bumpass

1. The committee has worked diligently to evaluate how Faculty Senators are compensated throughout the state. The committee found that SHSU level of compensation of providing a one class release time for the Senate's chair was in line with a majority of schools. Their findings concluded:
 - Schools more generous than SHSU: Houston, UT-Dallas.
 - Schools who are as generous as SHSU: SFA, Texas State, TAMU-International, TAMU-Kingsville, TAMU-College Station.
 - Schools less generous than SHSU: UT-Austin, Sul Ross.

A full copy of the report is available at Attachment #1- UA Report on Compensation Awarded to Faculty Senators.

2. Also the committee met with Vice-President Frank Holmes to discuss funding from the capital campaign. The full committee report may be accessed at attachment #2- Capital Campaign Monies Allocation.

Faculty Affairs – Report presented by Donna Desforges

The committee will review the TCFS resolution on budget reduction and faculty workload and make a formal resolution to the full senate whether to take the issue forward to Provost Payne.

Committee on Committees-Report presented by Gerald Kohers

1. The committee will accept the standing charge of creating a synopsis of the Senate's meetings to be posted to the Academic Affairs newsletter. Chair Frank will discuss this with Provost Payne prior to beginning posts.
2. The Senate's Annual Survey should soon be available on-line.
3. The Senate's e-College survey will be posted soon also.
4. The committee has begun reviewing campus-wide committees to ensure relevancy and proper appointments. The *Committee-on-Committees* has determined faculty involvement is no longer necessary. These committees are:

Faculty Achievement Awards Committee – Information is handled by deans' offices clerical staff. Additionally, charge is covered by Excellence Awards committees.

Faculty Handbook Advisory Committee – Committee's charge is covered by Academic Policy Council. Committee has not met for over a year.

Intercultural Awareness Committee – Committee has not met since 2009 and reports to Student Services not Academic Affairs.

Newton Gresham Library Committee – Committee's charge is handled by departmental library liaisons. Additionally, Dean Holder regularly publishes a newsletter with library information which is superior to the committee's report.

Ring Ceremony Committee – Committee’s charge to organize the University Ring Ceremony which is co-sponsored by the Vice President for Student Services and the SHSU Alumni Association does not lie with Academic Affairs. The committee would best be assigned to VP of Student Services.

Student Organizations Board – Committee does not regularly meet as its charge is handled by the Dean of Students office. The Senate feels this committee’s charge - Reviews applications for recognition and maintenance of recognition for student organizations, and reviews actions of student organizations would best be handled by the VP of Academic Affairs office.

Underrepresented Minority Faculty Populations Committee – This committee is charged with providing a forum for communicating more effectively among administrators and faculty about the concerns of underrepresented minority faculty populations of the university; studies and develops plans and recommendations for the encouragement and the advancement of underrepresented minority faculty. The current committee has not met since 2009 and it appears its charge is being handled independently in each college.

Who's Who Selection Committee – This committee assists in the selection of students from the university who are extended the Who's Who recognition each year. The *Committee-on-Committees* felt this committee would best be handled by the VP of Student Affairs.

The Senate voted 15-0-0 in favor of accepting the committee’s recommendations. Chair Frank will discuss the changes with Provost Payne.

5. Members of the *Committee-on-Committees* are currently contacting other committees to ascertain more information before determining if the committee is dormant or just in need of additional structure.
6. Upon review, the *Committee-on-Committees* determined that the *University’s Core Curriculum Committee* has two members representing the Senate who are no longer members of this body. Chair-elect Hatton will accept the assignment of one member. Members of the Faculty Senate who are interested in serving on the campus committee should contact Gerald Kohers. Paul Loeffler will continue to serve on the committee.
7. After reviewing the listing of current campus committees, the *Committee-on-Committees* recommended the creation on two new committees:
 - a) Distance Learning Committee which would provide leadership as the University broadens its non-traditional course offerings. The *Academic Affairs committee* will review this recommendation.
 - b) Committee on Merit and Market Adjustments. A standing committee who would monitor the distribution of merit and market salary adjustments. The

Faculty Affairs committee will review the viability of this committee and report to the full Senate.

Time precluded a report from the *Academic Affairs Committee*.

Meeting Closed:

-The meeting was called to a close 5:05 pm.

-The next Senate meeting will be held March 24, 2011.

Respectfully Submitted,

Debbi Hatton

Approved – March 24, 2011.

Attachment # 1 - UA Report on Compensation Awarded to Faculty Senators

Attachment # 2 - Capital Campaign Monies Allocation