

## University Affairs Committee Report for 2011-2012

The University Affairs committee started off the fall with a charge to investigate possible factors affecting enrollment stagnation, especially freshman enrollment. Data was collected regarding enrollment comparisons between SHSU and peer institutions in Texas (which found that enrollment had not stagnated as much as was thought, especially in comparison to schools of similar size); graduation rates and college enrollment data for public school students in surrounding counties; marketing campaigns; Visitor Center feedback; application and acceptance statistics; and so forth. Data collection and analysis was halted in light of the university's formation of the Strategic Enrollment Management task force. A 25-page report of the committee's incomplete investigation was submitted, including some general summary points, but the committee did not feel comfortable making specific recommendations in light of the unfinished nature of the research.

The second charge addressed by University Affairs was to propose ways for the campus to become more economically and environmentally friendly. The committee submitted a final report suggesting nineteen strategies, organized into a two-phase approach, for educating and motivating students, faculty, and staff as well as updating campus facilities and procedures. The committee submitted a specific proposal for the Faculty Senate to act as a role model by officially "going green," but the proposal was tabled by the Senate pending further discussion of exactly what this would entail. In the Spring, the University Affairs committee was charged to review seventeen new or updated policies from the Office of Information Technology (IT). The committee presented to the Senate its recommendations for approvals of or modifications to these policies.

Next the University Affairs committee was charged to investigate the use of IDEA evaluation in online classes. The committee compiled published research, as well as information from the deans at SHSU, about the use of IDEA online and the comparison of online and on-site IDEA scores. A complete report of data and conclusions was submitted, including seven suggested steps for the university to take based on the findings (including adoption of a separate evaluation system designed for the online environment). As an outgrowth of the committee's interviews with the SHSU deans, an additional statement and recommendation were also submitted concerning faculty compensation for online course development.

The University Affairs committee did not have time to address its final charge to propose strategies for strengthening the relationship between the university and the community of Huntsville. This charge may be reassigned to the committee during the 2012-2013 academic year.