

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
September 7, 2023
3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Austin Hall

Senators Present (24)

Samuel Adu-Prah (COSET), Diana Brown, (COBA), Patrick Buzzini (CJ), Tamara Cook (COSET), Kevin Crouch (CAM), Magdalena Denham (CJ), Brandy Doleshal (COSET), Xiaoman Duan (COBA), Dustin Gross (COSET), Debbi Hatton (CAM), Nick Lantz (CHSS), Victoria Lantz (CAM), Kimberly LaPrairie (COE), Audrey Murfin (CHSS), Diana Nabors (COE), Kelly Owen (COM), Erica Pasquini (COHS), Todd Primm (COSET), Karen Sherrill (COBA), Zeinab Shuker (CHSS), Zachary Valdes (NGL), Xiaobo Wang (CHSS), Rebecca Wentworth (COE), Darren Williams (COSET).

Guests

Volha Minich (COSET)

Senators Not Present (5)

Daphne Johnson (COE), Kenneth McIntyre (CHSS), Craig Miltonette (CJ), Vlad Radoias (COBA), Anthony Watkins (CAM)

Special Guests

Dr. Alisa White, President SHSU and Dr. Michael T. Stephenson, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Called to Order

3:30 PM, by Outgoing Chair, Maria Botero (CHSS). Meeting turned over to current Chair of the Senate, Samuel Adu-Prah.

Dr. White and Dr. Stephenson thanked the outgoing Senators and presented a recognition plaque to the outgoing Chair, Maria Botero, and certificates to the following outgoing Senators.

Dr. White and Dr. Stephenson thanked the outgoing Chair and commended her for her efforts over the past year. The outgoing Chair also thanked Dr. White and Dr. Stephenson for the time and efforts they devoted to meeting and collaborating with Faculty Senate, which she endorsed as playing a strong role in contributing to a positive, collaborative culture for SHSU faculty and administration. She also provided remarks on the continued importance of shared governance and Faculty Senate leadership on campus. She thanked all returning Senators for their efforts and welcomed all new Senators onto Faculty Senate.

Discussion with Special Guests, Dr. White and Dr. Stephenson

Dr. White thanked Faculty Senate and spoke on the importance of Senate to the University. She is looking forward to working with Faculty Senate this upcoming year. Dr. Stephenson also thanked the outgoing Chair and the members of Faculty Senate for their leadership and efforts. Dr.

Stephenson discussed enrollment numbers, which he reported are particularly strong with freshmen, both in terms of a record incoming freshman class, and with improved freshman retention. Dr. Stephenson also spoke on positive developments in research funding, with the number of awarded proposals, and the number of proposals overall, featuring notable increases. Dr. White noted that enrollment figures indicate student credit hour production is increasing. Dr. White also commented on concerns regarding the national issue of decreased male enrollment in higher education. Dr. White and Dr. Stephenson received additional questions from the floor pertaining to the Bearkat Kickoff event; high school graduation distribution rates by gender; higher education certifications; and challenges associated with online programs.

Self-Introductions of Senators

Senators introduced themselves.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the May 4, 2023, meeting were approved.

Faculty Senate Standing Committees

The Chair of Faculty Senate provided an overview of the existing standing committees and charged them to elect a chair. Each subcommittee elected a chair.

Unfinished Business

Chairs report.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 P.M.