

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

September 21, 2023

3:30 - 5:00 p.m.

Austin Hall

Senators Present (21)

Samuel Adu-Prah (COSET), Diana Brown, (COBA), Tamara Cook (COSET), Miltonette Craig (CJ), Kevin Crouch (CAM), Brandy Doleshal (COSET), Xiaoman Duan (COBA), Dustin Gross (COSET), Owen Kelly (COM), Nick Lantz (CHSS), Victoria Lantz (CAM), Kimberly LaPrairie (COE), Kenneth McIntyre (CHSS), Audrey Murfin (CHSS), Diana Nabors (COE), Erica Pasquini (COHS), Todd Primm (COSET), Zeinab Shuker (CHSS), Zachary Valdes (NGL), Rebecca Wentworth (COE), Darren Williams (COSET).

Guests

Volha Minich (COSET)

Senators Not Present (8)

Patrick Buzzini (CJ), Magdalena Denham (CJ), Debbi Hatton (CAM), Daphne Johnson (COE), Vlad Radoias (COBA), Karen Sherrill (COBA), Xiaobo Wang (CHSS), Anthony Watkins (CAM)

Special Guests

Amanda Dunbar, Office of Internal Audit, SHSU

Patrick Nelson, Office of Internal Audit, SHSU

Called to Order

3:30 p.m., by Chair, Samuel Adu-Prah.

Discussion with Special Guests, Amanda Dunbar, Office of Internal Audit at SHSU; and Patrick Nelson, Office of Internal Audit at SHSU

Ms. Amanda Dunbar and Mr. Patrick Nelson from the Office of Internal Audit, SHSU, thanked the Faculty Senate for the opportunity to meet. Ms. Dunbar presented on her team's audit of the SHSU Bearkat Bundle program.

Ms. Dunbar reported that while the audit demonstrated the effectiveness of the review system overall, her team was ultimately unable to make determinations pertaining to the audit's two primary assessment criteria, which included the following items: a) comparative cost-savings benefits to students enrolled in the program; and b) percentage of materials delivered to students by the first-class date. Ms. Dunbar reported that with respect to both criteria, her team was provided unreliable aggregate data, citing various complications with incomplete datasets, and with apparent deficiencies in affiliated recording systems. Ms. Dunbar also reported on the team's additional activities pertaining to the audit, including touring the Barnes & Noble warehouse; participating in an interdepartmental workshop tasked with assessing Bearkat Bundle workflow logistics; and conducting ad-hoc in-person interviews with students who were on-site to retrieve Bearkat Bundle textbooks.

The floor was opened for questions and comments from senators in attendance. Various concerns

were raised by senators, including reports of: a) the program failing to demonstrate notable improvements on issues reported in the Fall 2022 semester; b) a percentage of classes in Fall 2023 not having access to textbooks after more than four weeks into the semester; c) courses being required to move to newer, more expensive textbook editions despite older editions being available through other platforms; d) textbooks being reported as out-of-print within Bearkat Bundle's system despite being available through alternate third-party commercial sites; e) a lack of timely updates to students and faculty on delayed items; f) unsatisfactory customer service; and g) discrepancies in price comparison datapoints, with concerns that projected savings estimates are contrasting semesterly-rent prices to third-party purchase prices of new latest-edition versions.

The senate agreed that further review of the Bearkat Bundle program was warranted, and that it would seek additional mechanisms for exploring how the program may be assessed and improved. The senate thanked the special guests for attending and reporting on their findings.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September 7, 2023, meeting were approved.

New Business

1. The chair provided updates on subcommittee assignments for the following policies in review:
 - APS 021120 Procedures for Distance and Online Education
 - APS 811006 Students with Disabilities
 - APS 801007 Courses and Grades Transferred from Other Colleges and Universities
 - APS 800328 Faculty Development Leave

2. The chair updated senate on calls for nominations to working groups assigned to the following policies under review:
 - APS 21120 Off-Campus and Online Education
 - APS 980204 Performance Evaluation of Tenured Faculty
 - APS 110511 Appointment, Evaluation, and Workload of Chairs
 - APS 900417 Faculty Reappointment, Tenure, and Promotion for Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty
 - APS 820317 The Faculty Evaluation System
 - APS 810701 Instructional Overloads
 - APS 810213 Procedures in Cases of Academic Dishonesty
 - APS 840502 Admission Standards for Undergraduate Students

Chair's Report

1. Update on the Faculty Handbook's availability and posting on university website.
2. Update on the issue of higher education enrollment distributions by gender, and its related impact to SHSU.
3. Update on learning loss, with reference to previous Provost e-mails and upcoming Blackboard workshops.
4. Update on SB17 and SB18, with mention that the Faculty Senate Executive committee will

- be discussing these bills at the upcoming TCFS Fall 2023 meeting.
5. Update on the IDEA short form pilot program.
 6. Update on activities from the most recent Academic Affairs Council meeting.
 7. Update on Campus Wellness with respect to flu shot availability for faculty on campus.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m.