

Office of the Vice President for Student Services  
Sam Houston State University  
Mr. Frank Parker

**Vice President for Student Services Information Exchange Luncheon**

with Dr. James Gaertner

Wednesday, February 11, 2009

Lowman Student Center, Room 304

Discussion Notes:

Students were asked to share their experiences at SHSU, explain why they chose SHSU, and discuss those things about the University that they would change or improve.

- Reasons why students came to SHSU: location accessible and not far from home; size of campus is small but diverse; musical theatre, Arts & Sciences program is great and helpful; education programming is strong; the majors offered and available organizations on campus.
- Changes students would make at SHSU: more dormitories on campus boost the moral for school; better advertisement of events (use Facebook, e-mail, flyers, word-of-mouth, campus signage); class availability needs to be enhanced.
- Students offered descriptions of “good” professors and “bad” professors.  
Good professors:  
Apply hands-on activities and experiences;  
Are well-rounded in their subject field;  
Are enthusiastic about the subject;  
Use multiple resources for learning (PowerPoint, lecture, discussion, hands-on activities, etc.).  
  
Bad professors:  
Lecture on 70 slides in 50 minutes (for example);  
Offer no substance to the class;  
Lecture the entire time with no visual aids;  
Tell irrelevant life stories in class;  
Test straight from the textbook with no supplemental information.
- Surprises experienced by some SHSU students: one-on-one time with professors; personal interest in students by professors; lots of free items that cater to the students; classes are of reasonable and comfortable sizes; professors remain very personable.
- Questions/concerns offered by students:  
There is confusion among advisors concerning the number of prerequisites in the College of Education programs.

Seniors experience problems with class availability caused by a limited number of professors who teach needed courses, and small classes fill quickly. For transfer students, finding classes and obtaining transcripts in the transfer process is difficult.

- **VPSS Luncheon Follow-up Questionnaire Results**

A total of 26 students attended the luncheon, and 25 responded to the anonymous questionnaire. The group was comprised of freshman, sophomore, junior, senior and graduate students who participate in social and academic organizations on campus.

Scale

- 1 – Completely Agree
- 2 – Somewhat Agree
- 3 – Neither Agree nor Disagree
- 4 – Somewhat Disagree
- 5 – Completely Disagree

Statements

A. *My questions and concerns were addressed OR I was provided information to follow up with an appropriate faculty/staff member or department to resolve an issue.*

**Response:** Completely Agree – 19  
Somewhat Agree – 5  
Neither Agree nor Disagree – 1

B. *The topics discussed at the luncheon were relevant to me and/or my student organization.*

**Response:** Completely Agree – 16  
Somewhat Agree – 6  
Neither Agree nor Disagree – 2  
Completely Disagree - 1

C. *I was able to share my opinions openly and thoroughly with students and the administrator(s) at the luncheon.*

**Response:** Completely Agree – 22  
Somewhat Agree – 1  
Neither Agree nor Disagree – 2

D. *I believe the opportunity to meet Sam Houston State University administrators is a benefit to students.*

**Response:** Completely Agree – 25

E. *I would attend another student/administrator luncheon.*

**Response:** Completely Agree – 22  
Somewhat Agree – 2  
No Answer – 1

Guest Comments: *Students were asked to complete the following sentences and offer any additional comments. In general, the student comments are typed below as they were written.*

### **AT THIS LUNCHEON, I LEARNED**

...the University is reaching out to the students through lunches and other innovative ways.

...that the President does care and to see him take time out of his day was excellent.

...a lot about SHSU. I enjoyed it and was glad to hear all the opinions.

...about the problems and situations in SHSU.

...about other students' concerns.

...that the administrators are working hard to meet the needs of the students.

...a lot about other student opinions.

...that the President is in our favor to make everything better.

...about different topics and issues about SHSU as well as what people liked.

...that the administrators really care to hear student opinion and concerns.

...that the administrators are open to all opinions.

...that I was not the only student with these concerns. We share a lot of the same views. I enjoyed meeting the President and the VP of Student Services.

...the care and compassion of our admin. about our students and campus as a whole.

...Orange Fridays get you free stuff.

...various information about Sam Houston.

...more about the inner workings of the University's administration.

...the school has many organizations, but the means of communication are lacking.

...about the administration such as the President and Vice and completely enjoyed it!

...different views from other students concerning campus life and organizations. I was pleased to meet with President Gaertner and VP Parker in such a personal setting.

**TO IMPROVE THIS PROGRAM, I WOULD**

...keep the luncheons going and make them weekly if possible.

...see more faculty attend the lunches.

...continue. This was great. Thank you.

...send some questions to students in order to think about feasible responses that could solve our doubts.

...communicate with students more.

...just review and advisement. I think that is one of the biggest issues.

...maybe a lot more time to discuss issues.

...nothing. It was enjoyable, and I felt free to voice my concerns.

...give it a longer time period to meet.

...conduct it more often.