

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

January 26, 2017

3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Austin Hall – Second Floor

Members Present (25): Irfan Ahmed (COBA), Donald Albert (COSET), Burcu Ates (COE), Jonathan Breazeale (COBA), Donald Bumpass (COBA), Madhusudan Choudhary (COSET), Donna Cox (COE), James Crosby (CHSS), Jennifer Didier (COHS), Brandy Doleshal (COSET), John Domino (CHSS), Karla Eidson (COE), Andrea Foster (COE), Randall Garner (CJ), Donovan Haines (COSET), Michael Hanson (NGL), Debbi Hatton (FAMC), Renee James (COSET), William Jasper (COSET), Santosh Kumar (COBA), Karen Miller (FAMC), Stephen Rapp (CHSS), Stacy Ulbig (CHSS), Anthony Watkins (FAMC), Ryan Zapalac (COHS)

Members Not Present (4): Nancy Baker (CHSS), Jeffrey Littlejohn (CHSS), Eric Marsh (FAMC), Melinda Miller (COE)

Called to Order: 3:32 PM in Austin Hall by Chair, Dr. Donna Cox

Approval of Minutes. The November 17 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Special Guest. President Dana Hoyt

Dr. Hoyt welcomed the Senate to the new semester and acknowledged receipt of the list of questions delivered by Dr. Cox after the January 20 Senate Confab. She said that not all of the questions related to the D.O. school have been answered, although, many of them have been answered in the literature and public information that has already been promulgated.

She also said that she'd like to talk about the Provost situation/search. Dr. Hoyt noted that many institutions in the state are in need of Provosts, and many concurrent Provost searches are going on across Texas (and other states). She also mentioned the pressing need to fill other leadership roles at the university – especially the position of Dean of COHS. Jerry Cook has also mentioned leaving his post as Associate Vice President of ORSP.

Dr. Cox noted Dr. Eglsaer's experience as a previous member of the Faculty Senate and how greatly that's served him in role as Interim Provost. A Senator asked whether or not Dr. Mary Robbins would retain the position of Vice Provost, and Dr. Hoyt said that would be Dr. Eglsaer's call if she were to remove the Interim tag from his title. One Senator asked if "continuity and culture" played a role in the decision to call off the broad search. Dr. Hoyt certainly said it played a role and stated that she compares possible outside talent with the talent we have already at SHSU. The same Senator asked what the express cost is to the university for conducting an external search. Dr. Hoyt said that the cost is approximately 1/3rd of the annual salary being offered. Dr. Hoyt mentioned that current surveys indicate that 2/3rds of existing Provosts have no aspiration to be President – and a good number of existing Deans do not aspire to become a Provost.

One Senator asked Dr. Hoyt to give an update on her recent trip to Austin. Dr. Hoyt said that the Senate did fund our formula as expected and our HEAF funds were increased as expected. She also said we are up for \$26 million in special items, and Dr. Hoyt believes we are not too at-risk for those being cut. The title of the bill this biennium is SB 1. Another Senator asked about Hazelwood's impact on our budget, and Dr. Hoyt said that expenditures on the service members have been relatively stable. Expenditures on dependents, however, have continued to rise dramatically. Dr. Hoyt said that she would lay 10:1 odds that the legislature would not do anything about it this session. She expects the House to be more moderate than the Senate.

One Senator asked Dr. Hoyt to comment on the pared back hours at the HKC. She said that there were several fee changes to online students that drove the change – as it has in multiple areas of Student Affairs. Another Senator confirmed the request to open the HKC longer hours, and Dr. Hoyt said that she is having discussions with Keith Jenkins and look at other options.

One Senator asked about an elevator in the Lee Drain Building that has been out of service for over an entire semester. Dr. Hoyt said that the elevator in question is quite old, and the elevator will be repaired in the summer – or perhaps even during Spring Break. Another Senator said that a student of hers with a disability is having to leave class early to make the start time for her other classes and his having to miss education. Dr. Hoyt said that it was the motor that burned up. She said she would really work to have them get the repairs done as soon as possible.

Dr. Hoyt then distributed a response to the questions submitted by to her by the Senate on Monday, January 23. Her initial discussion was with regard to the financial questions. We are still forecasting the first class of the D.O. program to begin classes in 2020. Answers to the questions were cut, copied and pasted into the Word document and were incomplete (many questions remain unanswered). Several Senators asked about the risk associated with starting the program and having to cease the program. Dr. Hoyt stated that the greatest risk associated with starting the school is the risk of receiving accreditation. Once SHSU has received accreditation, she sees no risk of the school failing – given the number of applications to currently available slots nationwide. She anticipates 6,000 applicants for the 150 slots. One Senator asked where our applicants would be coming from. Dr. Hoyt said that approximately 20% of applicants nationwide are foreign medical graduates (FMGs), and we should expect the same. Dr. Hoyt expects the accreditation process to be completed in the first three years (within the time period covered by the private donors). One Senator asked how much of the capital campaign money is earmarked for the D.O. program. Dr. Hoyt said that of the \$125 million goal of the campaign, \$80 million is already spoken for. She hopes that the existence of the program will actually bring in more than \$125 million. A Senator asked where the school will be located. Dr. Hoyt said that it will be located in the old Camp Strake on 14.7 acres near the intersection of Loop 336 and Interstate 45 in Conroe.

One Senator asked why a D.O. program and not more nursing programs. Dr. Hoyt said that interestingly it's easier to get doctoral-qualified faculty for medical programs than it is for nursing programs. Dr. Hoyt's vision is that we will certainly have additional clinical programs co-located with the school, but the need to fill primary care physician roles was the main factor.

Meeting adjourned at 5:06 PM.