

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

February 9, 2017
3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
LSC 304

Members Present (23): Irfan Ahmed (COBA), Donald Albert (COSET), Burcu Ates (COE), Jonathan Breazeale (COBA), Donald Bumpass (COBA), James Crosby (CHSS), Jennifer Didier (COHS), Brandy Doleshal (COSET), Karla Eidson (COE), Andrea Foster (COE), Donovan Haines (COSET), Michael Hanson (NGL), Debbi Hatton (FAMC), Renee James (COSET), William Jasper (COSET), Santosh Kumar (COBA), Eric Marsh (FAMC), Karen Miller (FAMC), Melinda Miller (COE), Stephen Rapp (CHSS), Stacy Ulbig (CHSS), Anthony Watkins (FAMC), Ryan Zapalac (COHS)

Members Not Present (6): Nancy Baker (CHSS), Madhusudan Choudhary (COSET), Donna Cox (COE), John Domino (CHSS), Randall Garner (CJ), Jeffrey Littlejohn (CHSS)

Called to Order: 3:34 PM in Lowman Student Center (LSC) – Room 304 by Chair Elect Jonathan Breazeale.

Approval of Minutes. The January 26 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Special Guest. Dr. Heather Thielemann – Admissions Standards

Fall 17 acceptance standards were presented to the senate. Rank has been removed from admission standards, as ranking has not proven to be a consistent indicator for all schools, especially smaller schools.

Admissions has taken GPA from every high schools and converted it to the 4.0 scale. The 1.9 entry threshold has been raised to 2.24, as admissions determined that many lower GPA students simply weren't prepared for college course work.

SHSU is the only public school not currently using rank, moving toward a private school model. Due to the lack of clarity GPA provides, SAT and ACT tests are reemerging as a valid assessment of preparedness.

SHSU historically receives up to 30,000 applications, which are up about 14% over last year. Approximately 8,000 will be accepted and 2,200–2,400 will enroll.

The university will purchase lists from consulting companies in effort to locate potential students.

Students are assessed a risk ranking of low, medium, and high risk. Discussion will continue what to do with this ranking.

While transfer students with 30+ hours have proven more successful in terms of graduation, transfer credit application has been problematic due to credits not applying to all selected majors.

Math, reading, and English are designated developmental subjects. SHSU has very few students requiring developmental work in all three areas.

A chart explaining House Bill 5 was distributed and discussed. HB5 transcripts will indicate advanced high school courses which is currently not the case. HB5 specifies the following endorsements which SHSU decided to accept approximately a year ago.

Stem

Business and Industry

Public Services

Arts and Humanities

Multidisciplinary Studies

While it is not clear if students with a successful Endorsement will be successful at the university level, SHSU is attempting to be pro-active in its implementation of HB5.

About 3 years ago SHSU began to apply academic standards to Hazelwood eligible students.

Chair's Report

Governor Abbott's Hiring Freeze

Details on the Hiring Freeze were sent to faculty earlier in the day. The Provost wanted to clarify that the goal of the freeze is to save money through the summer, and that the freeze has nothing to do with the D.O. school. 30% of our budget comes from the state, so any possible cut would seemingly only affect these funds.

Lee Drain Elevators

Work on the Lee Drain Elevators has been scheduled for March 10.

Future President/Provost Roundtable Discussions

The Provost is interested in future topics of discussion. University funding models and enrollment growth are possible topics. Senators were also curious if there has been consideration of how slowing growth could affect the university? A Senator voiced concern that this might not be the best forum to ask sensitive questions, or discuss more open ended concerns that might not have clear answers or strategies already in place. Some Senators would like travel restrictions addressed. How will restrictions or changes affect faculty? Faculty governance was raised by another senator. There continues to be confusion about how our shared governance works.

SACS Reaffirmation was discussed. Mary Robbins will be undertaking an extensive review of academic policies. This report will be written in Fall 2018.

There were no committee Reports or new business.

Adjournment: 5:00 PM