

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
January 22, 2009

Chair Stacey Edmonson called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Members Present: Tracy Bilsing; Bill Brewer; Bill Edgington; Stacey Edmonson; Mark Frank; Darci Hill; Emmette Jackson; Bill Jasper; Ann Jerabek; Gerald Kohers; Paul Loeffler; Brian Loft; Andrew Lopenzina; Bill Lutterschmidt; Melinda Miller; Sheryl Murphy-Manley; Joseph Neisser; John Newbold; Brian Oetiker; Debra Price; Tracy Steele; Yan Zhang.

Members Absent: Debbi Hatton; Sam Souryal; Tamara Waggener.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the December 1, 2008 meeting were approved as amended.

Special Guest:

- Dr. Frank Holmes, Vice President for University Advancement addressed the Senate
 - History: Among President Gaertner's early objectives were improving relationships with alumni and friends as well as significantly increasing our activities in development.
 - Data: In University Advancement there are six departments: Development, Alumni Relations, Public Relations, Marketing, Sam Houston Memorial Museum, and Advancement Services. He began a staff of eleven but now has twenty-three with approximately fifty student employees. However, Dr Holmes indicated that this remains 50% understaffed for a university of our size. His budget is around three million dollars, including the museum.
 - Goals and Progress: A major objective is to maintain "very active" outreach and communication, particularly with our alumni, focusing on our alumni endowment. In the area of development fund raising he would like to add three directors to the office to complement the six staff, Directors of Annual Giving, Corporate and Foundation Relations and Special Projects. Our Capital Campaign, which started in March of 2006, has 16,000 contributors with approximately 125 provided gifts greater than \$25,000. At present \$43,000,000 has been committed and we have three years remaining. The goal is to create a culture of philanthropy in our donor base. Faculty/staff giving has grown substantially. Six years ago the giving rate was 23% or \$76,000/yr. but this year it was 78% or approximately \$200,000/yr. The museum is very successful with 50,000 visitors/yr. of which 6,000 are school children. The museum hosts 120 events/yr. in the Walker Center. The Office is planning an admission charge in the range of \$4.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children, allowing for a \$1.00 discount for seniors and faculty/staff.

- Senate Discussion:
 - During Senate discussion several favorable comments were made by Senators reflecting their experiences with Dr. Holmes' office. The office was commended for the progress, but concerns were expressed by Senators that we might not be competitive with our sister institutions. Dr. Holmes responded, reiterating Dr. Gaertner's commitment to grow the program and to its outreach activities by providing needed resources and personal appearances whenever asked. Dr. Edmonson ended the session by thanking Dr. Holmes and informing the Senate that Dr. David Burriss was our next Special Guest to address university articulation agreements.

Chair's Report:

- Pending University Policies.
 - Although the Provost had indicated at the last meeting that Senate should anticipate several policies which were underdevelopment by the administration, she had no news on their status.
 - There were no upper administration meetings on which to report.

Old Business:

- Calendar
 - Senate had notified the Calendar Committee of the pending violation of the Coordinating Board's common calendar.
 - Ms. Ringo, Calendar Committee Chair, scheduled a meeting.
 - Senate sent our issues with a request for response.
 - The university calendar, in a revised version, was approved, without Senate representation, that was "held" via email on January 19, 2009.
 - No copy of the "approved" calendar has been sent to Senate although two items have been distributed by the committee.
 - The issue of appropriateness and point of order is to be discussed with Dr. Payne at the next Senate officers' meeting.
 - Senate response: Senate should generate a formal statement of protest thus Academic Affairs has been assigned the task of creating a resolution.
- Parking
 - Senators have received several faculty complaints: the number of faculty/staff parking spots in contrast to the number of individuals and that the Parking Grievance Committee commonly waves too many tickets which renders the deterrent ineffective.
 - This issue stimulated considerable floor discussion.
 - The issue was assigned to University Affairs.

New Business:

- Mid-term Grades
 - Student Success Initiatives for incoming freshman under the direction of Dr. Keri Rogers is exploring a policy of issuing mid-term grades.
 - Discussion followed.

- Consensus of Senate: In as much as the First Alert Program already exists, Senate does not see the benefit of a new system to report unsatisfactory student performance or progress. In light of Academic Policy Council's decision to place the course drop-date (the Q-date) at the end of the semester, rather than mid-semester, consideration of mid-term grades appears to be a mute point.
- Shuttle Schedules
 - The University Center Shuttle schedule should not dictate academic schedules. Senate feels that there was an apparent lack of procedure in the decision process. The perception was that lack of concern for faculty or student interests or needs existed at the time the decision was made to alter the schedule to accommodate staff working hours. Dr. Edmonson will discuss the issue with Dr. Payne.

Committee Reports:

- Faculty Affairs:
 - No report.
- Committee on Committees:
 - No report
- Academic Affairs:
 - No report
- University Affairs:
 - The Bookstore Survey is scheduled to go to the faculty (anyone teaching a class.)

General Senate Input:

- Senator Kohers asked the Senate; "How do we better communicate with the general faculty?"
 - Open discussion followed with proposed solutions to consider: sending e-mail to faculty about posted minutes, an inclusion in the Academic Affairs newsletter; establishing a link with an expanded agenda (to include issues at standing committees as well as approved minutes), direct e-mail from Senate, direct communication at the college level.
 - Resolved: The group of Senators from each college are to select one "director of college communication" who will send an informal email before and after each senate meeting to faculty within the college faculty.

Senate adjourned at 5:00

Respectfully submitted by Paul Loeffler.