

# **FACULTY SENATE MINUTES**

## **SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

### **October 22, 2009**

#### **Members Present**

Leonard Breen; Rebecca Bustamante; Erin Cassidy; Donna Desforjes; Mark Frank; Deborah Hatton; Darci Hill; Mack Hines; Renee James; Gerald Kohers; Paul Loeffler; Brian Loft; Andrew Lopenzina; Melinda Miller; Sheryl Murphy-Manley; Brian Oetiker; Tracy Steele.

#### **Members Absent**

Bill Brewer; Donald Bumpass; Jeff Crane; Chad Hargrave; Emmette Jackson; Bill Jasper; Hee-jong Joo; Ling Ren.

#### **Call to Order**

Chair Loeffler called the meeting to order at 3:36pm.

#### **Approval of Minutes**

The minutes of the October 8, 2009 meeting were approved.

#### **Special Guest:** Dr. Jerry Cook, Associate Vice President, Research and Special Programs.

- Dr. Cook reported that the Office of Research Administration (formerly, Contracts and Grants) has merged with the Office of Research and Special Programs to facilitate both pre-award routing, budget development, and grant submission procedures and post-award grant management.
- Dr. Cook sought to dispel continuing misperceptions over indirect costs. While many granting agencies use indirect costs as part of their budgeting, some do not allow for indirect costs, and his office is happy to live without these when such requirements are present. When indirect costs are present, Dr. Cook reported that the university will be following the practice of allowing faculty to have spending authority over a portion these costs.
- Dr. Cook reported that the pool of money used to fund for the two internal research enhancement grant programs has been exhausted, but that the administration will make funding of these programs a part of the regular budget beginning next year. In addition, individual faculty will no longer be allowed to have their names in more than one internal grant application per year.
- Finally, Dr. Cook reported that his office has a small pool of funds that is available for faculty to use for travel associated with research activities. Each year these funds are distributed informally, and without deadline, though are usually depleted quickly.

#### **Chair's Report**

- Chair Loeffler reported from the October 12<sup>th</sup> meeting with Provost Payne:
  - While there are now an increasing number of confirmed cases of H1N1 on-campus, there is no clear method to accurately determine the total number of students with H1N1.

- Provost Payne agreed to appoint a senator to the academic policy review committee.
- The math center is open to all students and receives approximately \$87 thousand in funding from the university.
- Newsletters and other similar publications must contain an accurate and updated list of the Board of Regents' names and hometowns.
- All of the deans are supportive of the formation of the proposed College of Arts and Communication. The university intend will try and fund this through the use of a designated tuition increase.
- NCATE is on campus.
- Chair-Elect Frank reported from the October 21<sup>st</sup> meeting of APC
  - A change in the Academic Calendar start date was approved; the start date will move back to Wednesday (from Monday) starting Fall 2010, and lasting though Spring 2012.
  - A revision of Academic Policy 820317 (The Faculty Evaluation System) was approved. This revision added two bulleted items for service activities (section 5.02): "Faculty-community collaboration for scholarly research," and "Faculty-community projects for leadership, economic, or social service development."
  - Elimination of Academic Policy 9200820 (College Available to Huntsville High School Seniors).
  - Elimination of Academic Policy 820602 (Undergraduate Student Recruitment and Development).
  - A change in the timeline for requesting the Summer/Fall schedule of classes was approved; schedules will now be due in January, not November.
  - Approval of the SHSU Technology Acquisition Oversight Policy.
  - Two proposals concerning student retention were approved: (1) all suspended students will have an additional block which must be lifted by the SAM center before they can register for classes, and (2) students placed on probation must come to the SAM center for re-advisement.

### **Old Business**

- The Committee on Committees reported that it intends to look into (1) the relevance of university committees, (2) the possibility of using an outside survey to evaluate the culture of the university, and (3) any additional improvements to the annual Faculty Senate survey.
- Senators raised questions regarding the source of the new \$25 million endowment, as well as how students may apply for scholarships from these funds.

### **New Business**

- The senate discussed issues concerning distance learning for graduate programs. This discussion resulted is the unanimous passage of two senate resolutions, one concerning graduate class size minimums, and a second concerning Faculty Senate representation on the Distance Education Committee (see the attachment to these minutes).
- Emmitt Jackson resigned from the Faculty Senate. His term was to expire at the end of Summer 2010. Doug Ullrich will replace Senator Jackson.

**Committee Reports**

Due to time constraints, committee reports were postponed until the next meeting of the Faculty Senate.

**Senate adjourned at 5:08pm**

Respectfully Submitted,  
Mark Frank, Chair-Elect

## **Faculty Senate Resolution Concerning Graduate Class Sizes for Distance Learning Classes**

The Faculty Senate resolves that the university maintain the minimum graduate class-size consistent with current enrollment guidelines (i.e. a five student minimum), while class-size maximums be determined by the departments.

Adopted Unanimously, October 22, 2009

---

## **Faculty Senate Resolution Concerning Faculty Representation in the Distance Learning Committee**

The Faculty Senate recommends the appointment of two Faculty Senate members to the Distance Education Committee.

Adopted Unanimously, October 22, 2009