



**University Faculty Senate Minutes
Sam Houston State University
November 13, 2003**

Members present: David Bailey, Christopher Baldwin, James Carter, Steven Cuvelier, Mary Lynn DeShazo, Stacey Edmonson (and son Andrew), Mary Gutermuth, Mark Frank, Penny Hasekoester, Marsha Harman, Deborah Hatton, David Henderson, Lady Jane Hickey, Gerald Kohers, S. Thomas Kordinak, Paul Loeffler, Holly Miller, Valerie Muehsam, Kandi Tayebi, Tamara Waggener, Christopher White, Patricia Williams

Member absent: Terry Bilhartz (professional conflict), Joe Kirk (professional conflict), Debra Price (professional conflict)

Honor Societies and Recognition

Members and/or faculty sponsors of several honor societies were present to express their views regarding achievement recognition at graduation. Last year, the Faculty Senate voted to recommend that all honor societies be recognized equitably. Alpha Chi National Honor Society requested that the Senate reconsider its recommendation. Other honor societies present included Golden Key National Honor Society, Beta Alpha Psi, Phi Sigma Pi, Alpha Kappa Psi, Psi Chi Theta, and Sigma Tau Delta, all honor societies representing various areas of academic study. Although a motion was made and seconded to recognize Alpha Chi as traditionally has been done on the stage at graduation, a point of order was raised. Since the Senate had already made a recommendation, a motion would have to be made to rescind the previous vote. A motion was made and seconded to rescind the previous vote, but failed with 4 ayes and 16 nays, one abstention.

Approval of Minutes

Emendations for the minutes of October 30th were approved.

Chair's Report

APC Meeting:

No APC Meeting this week.

Texas Council of Faculty Senates (TCFS)

Chair Tayebi shared additional insights gathered at the TCFS including:

- Chancellor Urbanosky requested that the Faculty Senate minutes be sent to him and he would distribute them to the Board of Regents.
- Apparently tenure only guarantees a faculty member's salary. It does not guarantee an office, computer, telephone, etc. At one university in The Texas State University System (TSUS), tenure property rights are an issue as well as

assignment. The perception there is that more mature faculty are given assignments for which they have no knowledge or experience. When their performance is judged substandard, they are dismissed.

- Teaching loads vary across the State of Texas. In TSUS, Texas State University at San Marcos has moved from a teaching load of 12 hours/12 hours each semester to a teaching load of 9 hours/9 hours. The rest of the universities in TSUS remain at 12/12. There are various tracks at some universities. For instance, according to their faculty handbook, University of North Texas has some faculty on 6/9, others on 12/12, and others on 0/3.
- Chancellor Urbanosky indicated that the construction taking place at SHSU was an affirmation of Jack Parker, Vice President of Finance.
- Angelo State in TSUS is requesting to change their name to Texas State University at San Angelo. The report is that Texas State University at San Marcos is opposed to this move. Additionally, Texas State University at San Marcos is requesting that they be given their own Board of Regents separate from the Board of TSUS. One Senator indicated that Texas State University at San Marcos did not want presidents at the other “itty bitty” schools in TSUS to be making decisions that affect them.
- The teaching awards at other universities are frequently \$5,000.
- Chair Tayebi and Chair-Elect Harman met with President Gaertner. The following issues were discussed:
 - President Gaertner was concerned about the turnout for last year’s December reception in his home. He wondered if a different location or a different time would be more convenient for Senators or whether we were simply too busy to have the reception. [Senators expressed a preference for having the reception in Austin Hall at 4:30 PM on December 4th. The Senate will be dismissed at 4:30, and Senators will walk downstairs to the reception.]
 - President Gaertner favors regular merit for pay raises versus an across-the-board raise.
 - The reduced teaching loads will be phased into SHSU as per the recommendations of the committee assigned to this issue.
 - Although he acknowledged that travel funds were scarce, academics come before travel on the list of priorities. However, he said he looked forward to having the Senate’s recommendations on travel funds.
 - President Gaertner encouraged Senators to attend the TSUS Board of Regents meeting when the sessions were open to the public.

New Business

Teaching Award Process

Senators expressed a desire to have the process of selecting the award winner of the annual teaching award reexamined.

Workload

A number of senators expressed concern regarding the increasing demands on faculty for not only excellent teaching but increased research, recruitment, and similar expectations.

Old Business

Charge for Work Scholarships

The Academic Affairs Committee was assigned the charge regarding the work scholarships for transfer students originally suggested by Dr. David Burris in a previous meeting.

Committee Reports

Faculty Affairs

The proposed revision of the Grievance Policy was distributed to the Senate. They were asked to review it and be prepared to discuss it at a subsequent meeting.

Committee on Committees

Various morale surveys had been downloaded from the websites of other universities and were distributed to the Senate. The recommendation at this time was to organize the data from the previous Faculty Senate Survey in a manner in which colleges, trends, etc., could more easily be examined.

Respectfully submitted,

Marsha Harman, Chair-Elect