

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

November 5, 2009

Members Present

Leonard Breen; Bill Brewer; Rebecca Bustamante; Erin Cassidy; Jeff Crane; Donna Desforges; Mark Frank; Chad Hargrave; Deborah Hatton; Darci Hill; Bill Jasper; Gerald Kohers; Paul Loeffler; Andrew Lopenzina; Sheryl Murphy-Manley; Brian Oetiker; Tracy Steele; Doug Ullrich.

Members Absent

Donald Bumpass; Mack Hines; Renee James; Hee-jong Joo; Brian Loft; Melinda Miller; Ling Ren.

Call to Order

Chair Loeffler called the meeting to order at 3:32pm.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 22, 2009 meeting were approved.

Special Guest: President James F. Gaertner.

- President Gaertner shared with the Faculty Senate his recent decision to retire after nine year of service as President of Sam Houston State University. President Gaertner commented that his decision was related to the closing of the capital campaign, the construction of the new performing arts center, the successful acquisition of property in The Woodlands, and currently having three members of the Texas State Board of Regents with close ties to Sam Houston State University.
- Looking forward, President Gaertner also shared with the senators his vision of factors that will likely have a large impact on the university in the future: increased competition in distance learning and from community colleges, the development of The Woodlands, the potential for a tighter budget from the State of Texas, the increasing importance of research and creative activity, and the ability to take advantage of our unique niches and interdisciplinary programs.
- For the upcoming presidential search, President Gaertner noted that the committee will consist of three members from the Texas State Board of Regents, one faculty member, one member of the staff, one student, one community leader, and one alumnus. An advertisement for the position should appear by the first of the year, with semi-finalists being decided upon by March or April, and three to five finalist by May. On campus interviews are likely to occur in the early part of the summer, and the final naming of the person should occur in late June or July.

Chair's Report

- Chair Loeffler reported from the October 23- 24 meeting of the Texas Council of Faculty Senates:

- Dr. Kenneth Craycraft discussed with senators from the Texas State University System issues related to the implementation of HB 2504 (in particular, the requiring in the syllabus of a general description of the subject matter of each lecture), the potential for a State of Texas budget shortfall of \$7-10 billion, the preparation for a 7-10% cut to universities, and the growth of distance education following the activities of HEH.
- The general meeting of the Texas Council of Faculty Senates focused on the potential impact of Proposition 4 (the development of more Tier 1 universities in Texas), the implementation of HB 2504, and core curriculum issues. During the roundup reports from the various universities, it was noteworthy that at least one university has an administrative assistant assigned to aid the Faculty Senate. Also, the Texas Council of Faculty Senates is in the process of aiding the development of a sister organization for community college senates.
- Chair Loeffler reported from the October 26 meeting with Provost Payne:
 - The first resolution from the previous Faculty Senate meeting (concerning graduate class sizes for distance learning classes) was unfavorably received by Provost Payne. The provost explained that the university must break-even on these classes while also maintaining marketability in terms of student cost. Consequently, the minimum class sizes proposed in the resolution would be too restrictive, particularly given the lack of institutional experience with these programs.
 - The second resolution from the previous senate meeting (concerning faculty representation in the Distance Learning committee) was accepted by Provost Payne.
 - Provost Payne noted that he was generally opposed to the move to a fully smoke-free campus.
 - Several new degree proposals and certificates are anticipated over the next 2-3 years.
 - Two new Finance and Operations policies (FO-14 and FO-51) were announced concerning the use of the SHSU name on checking accounts by student organizations and other related groups.
- There was no APC meeting.

Old Business

- Senators raised questions surrounding the timing of the conversion from Blackboard to eCollege. Chair Loeffler agreed to seek advisement on the issue from Provost Payne.
- The Faculty Senate received a letter from Justin Williams, an Associate Professor from the Department of Biological Sciences, concerning designated areas for motorcycle parking (see the attachment to these minutes). The issue was discussed favorably and assigned to the University Affairs committee.

New Business

- A one-time moving-up of the Faculty Senate Awards presentation to the end of the spring semester in 2010 was discussed with general agreement from the senators. (This presentation would ordinarily take place at the start of the fall semester in 2010.)

Committee Reports

- The Faculty Affairs committee is currently investigating common practices in the use of student evaluation scores from the IDEA system in *both* the Chair's Evaluation of Effective Teaching (FES 1) and the Students' Rating of Teaching Effectiveness (FES 2) (see Academic Policy 820317, http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/documents/820317_000.pdf). The Faculty Affairs committee reported that the IDEA system recommends student evaluations constitute only 30-50% of a faculty's overall evaluation of teaching effectiveness. This is consistent with the exclusive use of IDEA scores in FES 2. In a survey of 13 departments across campus, however, the Faculty Affairs committee has discovered that only 3 of these 13 departments use any information beyond the IDEA scores for *both* FES 1 and 2. A committee recommendation to the senate is near completion.
- The University Affairs committee reported progress on three issues: (1) the compiling of data from last year's survey of the bookstore, (2) discussions surrounding the safety of street crossing on-campus, and (3) a survey of the assistants to each of the college deans concerning the catering service from Aramark.
- The Academic Affairs committee is currently surveying the faculty on their use of the Math Center.
- The Committee on Committees received approval from the Faculty Senate to fill a vacancy on the Grievance Committee. Committee Chair Kohers raised concerns over the upcoming Faculty Senate elections given the proposed creation of the new College of Arts and Communication. Chair Loeffler agreed to seek advisement on the issue from Provost Payne.

Senate adjourned at 5:03pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Mark Frank, Chair-Elect



Sam Houston State University

A Member of The Texas State University System

Dear Faculty Senate 2009,

RE: Request for designated Motorcycle parking area on the south side of campus.

Recently, there has been an increase in faculty that commute to campus on motorcycles or scooters. Many of these faculty work on the south side of campus in the Lee Drain building (ex. Dr. Chris Wilson, Dr. Brian Loft, and Dr. Justin Williams). Because the university does not provide different parking permits for motorcycle riders we technically we have the right to park in a parking spot typically designated for a car. However, it is not in the nature of motorcyclists to take an entire parking spot for our smaller two wheeled vehicles. Consequently we opt for more creative spots, ex. between garbage bins or in yellow zones, thereby opening more space for our brethren that drive cars. Recently, however the university police have decided to crack down on creative bike parking, and have subsequently issued ticket violations to motorcyclists that do not park in an actual parking spot most typically designated for cars. In an attempt to be both legal and reasonable the following is proposed:

We, the motorcycle riding community of Sam Houston State University, request a designated parking area solely for motorcycles on the South Side of campus. The justification for a reserved spot are thus:

- 1) The conversion of only one parking spot typically designated for a car would free up space for approximately 5 motorcycles. This is an efficient use of space considering that the same 5 motorcycles could theoretically take up 5 individual parking spots for cars. The trade off is negligible and logical, one car spot is lost to free up 4 car spots.
- 2) A designated spot in the proper location would be safer for the motorcycle riding faculty. It is well understood by drivers that parking lots are dangerous places with an estimated 14% of all vehicle accidents occurring in parking lots. This statistic rises even higher when motorcycles are factored. Because of the limited room to maneuver, reduced travel speed, high occurrence of gravel and reduced line of sight parking areas are particularly dangerous places for motorcyclists. A designated parking spot for motorcyclists at the entrance of a parking area would reduced the need for motorcyclist to have to ride and maneuver in the tight and dangerous landscape of a parking lot.

The area that is proposed for a designated motorcycle parking spot on the south side of campus is the vertical parking spot on the west side of the Randel house due South of CHSS building (photo 1). This area is selected because it meets many of the criteria for a motorcycle spot. It eliminates only one car spot, it is at the mouth of a parking area, it is near the offices of many of the riders that would use the spot and as the photo clearly indicates it is already a popular spot for many of the riders. We simply propose that one of the car spots be eliminated and designated restricted parking use for motorcycles. The safety measures this would create would be much appreciated.



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Sincerely,

Justin Williams, Ph. D. (Writing on behalf of the concerned riding faculty)
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Photo 1. Proposed car parking area to be converted to designated motorcycle parking.