

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

December 3, 2009

Members Present

Bill Brewer; Donald Bumpass; Rebecca Bustamante; Erin Cassidy; Jeff Crane; Donna Desforges; Mark Frank; Chad Hargrave; Deborah Hatton; Mack Hines; Renee James; Bill Jasper; Hee-jong Joo; Gerald Kohers; Paul Loeffler; Brian Loft; Melinda Miller; Sheryl Murphy-Manley; Brian Oetiker; Tracy Steele; Doug Ullrich.

Members Absent

Leonard Breen; Darci Hill; Andrew Lopenzina; Ling Ren.

Call to Order

Chair Loeffler called the meeting to order at 3:33pm.

Special Guest: Ann O'Meara, Director of Marketing; Jurden Bruce, University Webmaster; Dr. Richard Eglsaer, Associate Provost; Keri Rogers, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs; Heather Thielemann, Vice President for Enrollment Management.

- Ann O'Meara and Jurden Bruce presented to the Faculty Senate a preview of the new university homepage (http://www.shsu.edu/~shsu_web/).
- The new homepage is intended to be a portrait, not a portal. Our current webpage is a portal designed for users to find information. The new design, however, is intended to tell our story to prospective students and their parents. The page features a slider on top, with new stories every 3 to 5 weeks. The bottom of the web page features faces of SHSU, a diverse look at the of alumni, faculty, and students of Sam Houston State University.
- Senators expressed concerns over:
 - the omission of a direct link to the library on the homepage
 - the omission of a fast links drop-down menu on the homepage
 - the narrow use of a portrait design over the more functional portal design that faculty are both familiar with and use on a daily basis
 - the use of the term "Majors and Programs" over of the conventional term "Colleges"
 - quality control over the stories and faces presented on the new homepage, particularly the diversity of the faces presented at the bottom of the page, and quality of the stories in the slider
 - the limited involvement of faculty in the decision process, both up to this point and going forward (the website redesign committee was composed of Heather Crowson, Frank Holmes, Ann O'Meara, Mark Adams, Keri Rogers and Thelma Mooney)
 - the focus of the "Research and Recognition" area of the new webpage
 - the limited information over the data used to inform the decision process
- Ann O'Meara emphasized that the design of the webpage is a dynamic, fluid process. Comments, suggestions, and concerns of faculty should be emailed to webdev@shsu.edu.

- The new homepage is expected to go live on February 4, 2010. The homepage was developed by Stamats at a cost of approximately \$140,000. Stamats was one of eight bidders for the project, and significantly below the highest bid (approximately \$270,000).
- The senate requested an opportunity to re-visit the web page before the February 4th launch.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 19, 2009 meeting were approved.

Chair's Report

- Chair Loeffler reported from the November 30 meeting with Provost Payne
 - Provost Payne was supportive of the senate's current interest in traffic safety in and around campus
 - Provost Payne was happy with the Faculty Senate's resolution concerning the library being on the new university homepage. He encouraged the senate to voice the concerns of the faculty to Ann O'Meara, the Director of Marketing.
 - In response to concerns from some faculty over the charitable campaign, Provost Payne expressed displeasure with reports over aggressive lobbying for contributions, but did note that the contribution can be only \$1 per month.
 - A SACS interim review is expected. Provost Payne anticipates that approximately one-quarter of the departments may be unsatisfactory.
 - Provost Payne reported on an upcoming meeting with alumni in New York. He would like to conduct a similar meeting next year for alumni in California.
 - Plans for the new University Center continue to move forward. The new facility will have approximately 150,000 square feet of space, with 30,000 being unfinished, and 80,000 being usable for classrooms and offices.
 - The university also continues to explore a satellite campus in the northwest Houston area.

Committee Reports

- The Committee on Committees received approval to fill a position on the Faculty Handbook Committee.
- Due to time constraints, the remaining committee reports were delayed until the next meeting of the Faculty Senate.

Senate adjourned at 4:55pm to attend the holiday party hosted by Jim and Nancy Gaertner to honor the Faculty Senate.

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Frank, Chair-Elect