

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
DECEMBER 01, 2005**

Chair Debbie Price called the meeting to order at 3:32 p.m.

Members Present: David Bailey; Christopher Baldwin; Jerry Cook; Linda Cook; Doug Constance; Steven Cuvelier; Peggy DeMers; Jim DeShaw; Jerry Dowling; Stacey Edmonson; Mark Frank; Mary Gutermuth; Debbi Hatton; Lady Jane Hickey; Joan Hudson; Gerald Kohers; Paul Loeffler; Brian Loft; Philip Morris; Valerie Muehsam; Debra Price; Patricia Williams; Jay Whatley; Chris White.

Members Absent: Rosanne Keathley (professional conflict).

Approval of Minutes:

Emendations for the minutes of November 10, 2005 were approved.

Chair's Report:

Faculty Senate Chair Debbie Price presented the following report to the Faculty Senate:

- There was an Academic Affairs Council (AAC) meeting on November 29, 2005.
- The AAC reviewed the Curriculum Committee's Report. Numerous new classes were approved; especially in the College of Arts and Sciences. Many of these new classes are being created to response to accreditation requirements.
- The University's request for additional campus construction was tabled at the most recent meeting of the Board of Regents. The Board was concerned about the current usage of buildings on campus, particularly on Fridays. Currently, several of the colleges on campus are teaching only a limited number of classes on Fridays. In response, the University will increase the number of classes taught on Fridays.
- During the fall of 2005, for ALL State universities, there was an increase of approximately 4,000 students. One thousand of those students are at SHSU. Therefore, SHSU is responsible for one quarter of the state's increase in university students for the Fall 2005 semester.
- The Division of Academic Affairs has set up a committee to research the establishment of a Center of Excellence on campus. The Center's purpose would be to assist faculty development to improve teaching.
- There have been a number of problems with the IDEA system for student evaluations this semester. These problems have included late delivery of both the student forms and the faculty "blue" forms as well as the lack of printed "title" information on the student forms. The Faculty Affairs committee will consider the appropriateness of a Senate response and if the Senate should make a recommendation concerning the method and timing of the distribution of the IDEA forms.

New Business:

- Senator Doug Constance proposed a resolution supporting the University's successful efforts to increase student enrollment and the associated decision to hire additional faculty to facilitate this growth. The resolution encourages the University to consider

hiring more academic support staff, providing more graduate assistantships, and providing more travel funds to support the continued goal of excellence in teaching, research, and service at SHSU. After discussion, the resolution was passed by the Senate.

- The resolution is appended to the end of these minutes.
- There was no additional new business

Old Business:

- Calendar Committee. Senate Chair Debbie Price reported that the Calendar Committee recently met to work on the 2007-2008 University calendar. The Faculty Senate has previously raised questions concerning the method that is used to determine the length of the semester. Specifically, there have been questions about the use of days versus weeks in determining the amount of contact time that is required. According to Registrar Teresa Ringo, the method used by some other state universities (i.e. UT and A&M) may not comply with state law and the method that is used here at SHSU does comply with state law. Following floor discussion of this issue it was suggested that Academic Affairs draft a calendar using weeks rather than days and submit this to Dr. Gomez for consideration with respect to the requirements of Texas Education Code.
- Graduate Stipends. Senate Chair Debbie Price reported that the Graduate Council is proposing that graduate stipends be increased over the next five years beginning with a \$15,000 a year stipend and rising to an \$18,000 a year stipend. Additionally, the Provost is requesting an additional 25 new graduate assistantships each year. The proposal will go forth to the President.

Committee Reports:

The following committee reports were submitted to the Senate:

- Academic Affairs. Committee Chair Patricia Williams reported that a link to the webpage with the key policies that appear on all syllabi will be included in the electronic newsletter from the Division of Academic Affairs that is sent out by Dorothy Roberson. Also, the committee is continuing to investigate the way that the various colleges encourage and reward service and will have a report next semester.
- Committee on Committees. Committee on Committees Committee Chair Gerald Kohers informed the Senate that the participation in the online university committee preference selection form has been disappointing (only 107 online and 3 paper responses to date). He will send out a reminder email to all faculty and requested that all Senators encourage their faculty's participation at the website: <https://ww2.shsu.edu/comm02wp/>. Also, he is working on an automated method of determining the number of faculty serving on university committees. This process should be completed by the beginning of the next semester.
- Faculty Affairs. Committee Chair Debbi Hatton reported that the committee is continuing to work on its assigned tasks. Currently, they are in the process of gathering information.
- University Affairs. Committee Chair Joan Hudson reported that the committee is continuing to work on its assigned tasks. Currently, they are in the process of gathering information.

Senate Input:

Senator Mary Gutermuth provided senators with a copy of an article from the Fall 2005 issue of "Faculty Matters" which is the newsletter of the American Association of University Professors. The article is titled "Chapter Mounts 'Loyal Faculty' Campaign" and details efforts to combat salary compression among long-term faculty at the University of Washington.

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:11 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Philip W. Morris, Chair-Elect.

Faculty Senate Resolution (December 1, 2005)

The Faculty Senate voted to send forward the following recommendation at the December 1, 2005 meeting.

Where as:

The SHSU Faculty Senate supports and applauds the University's successful efforts to increase student enrollment over the past few years.

And where as:

The SHSU Faculty Senate supports and appreciates the University's decisions to hire significantly more faculty over the past two years to meet the demands of the increased enrollment.

Recommendation:

The SHSU Faculty Senate encourages the University to consider hiring more academic support staff, providing more graduate teaching/research assistantships, and providing more faculty and graduate student travel money in the next few years to support the continued goal of excellence in teaching, research, and service at SHSU.