

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

12 April 2018
3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Austin Hall

Members Present (23).

Donald Albert (COSET), Maria Botero (CHSS), Jonathan Breazeale (COBA), Brandy Doleshal (COSET), Diane Dowdey (CHSS), Andrea Foster (COE), Donovan Haines (COSET), Michael Hanson (NGL), Renee James (COSET), William Jasper (COSET), Santosh Kumar (COBA), Bobby LaRue (CJ), Karen Miller (FAMC), Melinda Miller (COE), Vlad Radoias (COBA), D.T. Ratnapradia (COHS), Nancy Stockall (COE), William Carroll (CHSS), Kenneth McIntyre (CHSS), Donald Bumpass (COBA), Burcu Ates (COE), Ryan Zapalac (COHS), Kevin Clifton (FAMC)

Members Not Present (06).

James Crosby (CHSS), Stephen Rapp (CHSS), Randall Garner (CJ), Madhusudan Choudhary (COSET), Eric Marsh (FAMC), Anthony Watkins (FAMC)

Called to Order.

3:30 PM, Austin Hall room 300 by Chair Jonathan Breazeale.

Approval of Minutes.

Approved with unanimous in favor with two friendly emendations.

Guest. Dr. Richard Eglsaer, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Tenure and Promotion.

- 27 people came up for associate professor. 26 were granted tenure. One person was denied.
- One individual hired as an associate professor went up for tenure and it was awarded.
- 25 people applied for the rank of full professor. 20 were granted that rank. Five were denied.

Breakdown by college.

COBA

4/4 for tenure granted.

No candidates applied for full professor rank.

CJ 1/1 for tenure granted.

3/1 for awarding full professor rank.

COE

9/9 for tenure granted.

4/7 for awarding full professor rank.

FM&MC

3/3 for tenure granted.

3/3 for awarding full professor rank.

COHS

0/1 for tenure granted.

1/1 for awarding full professor rank.

CHSS

2/2 for tenure granted.

4/4 for awarding full professor rank.

COSET

6/6 for tenure granted.

6/6 for awarding full professor rank.

Library

1/1

One senator expressed a concern about associate professors who are department chairs assessing and casting a vote in awarding full professor rank. This situation happens in the university currently and college deans allow the lower ranked department chair to give input. The Provost doesn't like making associate professors chairs for this reason, but recognizes it occurs. The professor followed up by inquiring what would be the alternative if chairs with associate professor rank were no longer allowed to write a letter of recommendation and the Provost answered that there would be votes only by the DPTAC and the dean. Dr. Breazeale commented that this issue has been tabled at the Faculty Senate's request until the Senate was given the academic policies on tenure and promotion, FES, and post tenure review. Deans have acknowledged this concern and are receptive to considering changes to policy to remedy this.

Another senator asked if these decisions reflected the Provost's decision, the University President's decision, or the Board of Regents. The Provost stated that they reflect the Provost's and President's decision and the Board of Regents won't overturn the President's decisions.

College of Osteopathic Medicine program (COM).

Two weeks ago the coordinating board brought in an outside panel to look at SHSU materials on the COM. Panelists came from a DO schools in Washington, Southern Illinois, and West Virginia. There was also a representative from the Texas Coordinating Board. The President, Provost, Dean Henly met with them. After the meeting a preliminary report was returned to the University. A full report will be sent in the coming weeks to the University and the Coordinating Board.

In general, the preliminary report was very positive.

The Commission on Osteopathic College Accreditation (COCA) is meeting in April. If the SHSU administration gets the Coordinating board report before COCA meets, they will send it. The hope to have a visit from COCA early this summer.

Dr. Breazeale asked if Dr. Eglesaer if the university thinks that the goal of opening the COM by fall of 2020 is likely. Dr. Eglesaer replied that if we can get the COCA visit this summer, then he thinks that date is still achievable.

Online education.

In an effort to assure the quality of SHSU online instruction, some sort of online instructor certification is necessary. They have already standardized the format of online classes to assist in standardizing and simplifying student's user experience. Senate members who have had their online courses be part of this process have found it helpful. The other part of this is to have instruction in online pedagogy for professors and to help familiarize them with the software being used. Hopes to have 100 individuals participate in the program. The Provost has put together a stipend for faculty. Believes it may take three years to get through all of SHSU's faculty.

Dr. Eglesaer drew a parallel between this training for online classes and the Association of College and University Educator's (ACUE) Course in Effective Teaching Practices that SHSU's PACE is providing.

The senate asked a series of questions related to the online program.

Question: is there a certification period for the online credential?

They are still structuring recertification. For those who have been teaching online for a while, the credential could come after a less intense refresher course or discussion. May model the recertification like ACUE's model.

Q – Are the stipends for ACUE and this training equal?

He believed they were.

Q – Will every professor be required to take the instructing online training?

It depends on department's needs. If a department doesn't need a professor to teach online, then a professor would not be required to take the course. If a department needs a professor to teach online, then they'll have to be certified.

Other issues:

On professor inquired about merit raises.

Dr. Eglsaer hasn't see the amount yet. He has sent out express instructions for the deans to consider the past 2 years in their calculations on merit pay. If the Texas State legislature cuts funding to higher education again, this could jeopardize any merit raise.

Chair's Report.

Use of Telephones and Text Messages in Classrooms. – Dr. Robbins requested that the Faculty Senate create a proposal of what we'd like the policy on telephones and text messaging to be, where we want it to be published (faculty handbook, syllabi) and then submit the suggestion to the Provost for consideration. Dr. Breazeale explained to the Provost and Vice-Provost that faculty do understand there is a place for technology in the classroom, but also that faculty want the Provost's office to have their back if students dislike the policy. Dr. Eglsaer and Dr. Robbins were receptive to this concern. The Provost and Vice-Provost want to give faculty flexibility in what they want to do regarding telephones and text messaging in classrooms. Policies in syllabi need to be reasonable and have consequences.

The senate felt that there is a place for technology in the classroom. Some suggestions for crafting a policy include:

- Including wording that prohibits the device from becoming a distraction.
- Setting up a comments thread on the Faculty Senate blackboard page where senators can post policies on phones and text messaging.
- Create a template for general use

Donald Bumpass was assigned to start the tread.

Summer Policy Review.

Dr. Robbins wanted to get several policy reviews completed before the AAC's may meeting. It was discussed that the Faculty Senate wants to examine Tenure & Promotion in conjunction with the FES and the Post Tenure & Review policies at the same time. CAD and Dr. Robbins are looking to getting feedback from the faculty as a whole and not just from the Faculty Senate. It looks like there will be a Qualtrics survey in May soliciting input. A survey allows for the general faculty to consider parts of these policies that aren't part of the Texas system policies, and thus parts we can actually change. Dr. Breazeale advocated that the survey be designed well and that the collected data be open to all faculty to examine. They also plan on scheduling town hall meetings in the fall.

One senator felt that surveys and town hall meetings will not bring about change. They are just venues that allow the faculty to vent their feeling before the administration does what its going to do. It was expressed that the survey should only go to faculty, but not to administrators, to prevent false weighting.

Dr. Breazeale asked for anyone who is interested in participating in the summer policy review to contact him.

Old Business.

Policy Review –

Policy 810213 - Academic dishonesty.

2.01.6 - change "bribing" to "asking."

2.01.7 - change "typist" to "word processor."

3.01 - Proposal that penalty can be imposed by the teacher and accepted by the student without involving the chair. Faculty member must communicate the penalty via writing and give them a copy of their appeal rights. The penalty will be imposed prior to the appeal.
The senate unanimously voted to approve the policy revisions with the two friendly amendments to section 2.

Adjournment: 5:02 p.m.