

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

October 6, 2016

3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Lowman Student Center – Room 304

Members Present (23): Irfan Ahmed (COBA), Donald Albert (COS), Burcu Ates (COE), Jonathan Breazeale (COBA), Donald Bumpass (COBA), Donna Cox (COE), James Crosby (CHSS), Jennifer Didier (COHS), Brandy Doleshal (COS), Karla Eidson (COE), Andrea Foster (COE), Randall Garner (CJ), Donovan Haines (COS), Michael Hanson (NGL), Debbi Hatton (FAMC), Renee James (COS), William Jasper (COS), Santosh Kumar (COBA), Eric Marsh (FAMC), Melinda Miller (COE), Karen Miller (FAMC), Stacy Ulbig (CHSS), Anthony Watkins (FAMC)

Members Not Present (6): Nancy Baker (CHSS) [on leave for fall 2016], Madhusudan Choudhary (COS), John Domino (CHSS), Jeffrey Littlejohn (CHSS), Stephen Rapp (CHSS), Ryan Zapalac (COHS) [on leave for fall 2016]

Called to Order: 3:30 PM in Lowman Student Center – Room 304 by Chair, Dr. Donna Cox

Special Guest: Dr. Dana Hoyt, President

President Hoyt addressed three issues with the Senate.

1. **Austin Hall.** President Hoyt invited the Senate to occupy Austin Hall once again for its bi-weekly Thursday meetings.
2. **Provost Search.** President Hoyt explained that the applicant pool was not as strong as she and the committee had hoped for. She foresees the university using an outside search firm to find candidates with backgrounds in health – or at schools with health programs. Her new estimate for a start time for a permanent Provost would be 12-18 months from now.
3. **School of Osteopathy.** The new dean of the D.O. school, Dr. Charles Henley, will start November 1. He has started a D.O. program from scratch in Indiana. SHSU would be his second school to get started. Dr. Hoyt addressed how we arrived at the decision to move forward with a D.O. program. First, D.O. graduates participate in primary care disciplines at a much higher rate than M.D. graduates (over 60% of D.O. graduates as opposed to 25% of M.D.s). Population forecasts for Texas indicate a greater need for primary care disciplines, and Texas currently has only one D.O. program. Dr. Hoyt then addressed the need to self-fund and gave numerous examples of exemplary programs (in many different areas) that are self- or internally-funded. She offered that an Osteopathic School may help our other programs on campus. She shared that our Entrepreneurship program has just hit the radar screen of a large potential donor because we first approached them about our health programs. We've also always had difficulty having Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board [THECB] think of us as a graduate school. It would really go a long way to have such a prestigious program that might open the door for more graduate programs or improvements to our current programs. One senator asked if any tuition, fees or state funding are going to fund the D.O. school, and she responded that every penny of start-up costs (including salaries

of the staff being hired) is coming from private donors. One senator asked whether or not the \$55,000 annual tuition is reasonable. Dr. Hoyt indicated that doctors who serve in rural areas can apply through state programs to have student loans paid-off, and her hope is that we can really help underserved areas of our state. A faculty member in attendance asked whether or not we need to provide the \$32-36 million escrow funds required to be accredited. Dr. Hoyt confirmed the requirement but shared that we have short and mid-term investment funds needed to cover those escrow dollars without having to borrow it and could earmark those funds for that purpose. She does not “lose sleep” over that financial requirement. We would even continue to receive interest and returns on those dollars as long as the principal amount is not eroded below the accreditation requirement.

Dr. Hoyt asked the Senate if anyone had any questions outside the topics covered above. One Senator asked whether or not we still have a focus on academics – given the expansion of “workforce preparation” and terminology that potentially paints the educational process in an alternative light. Dr. Hoyt says that more than anything, she works for an educated populous. She apologized for sometimes coming across as “non-academic,” but she also knows that to continue garnering support (financial and otherwise) for academics, we must sell ourselves to those who don’t buy off on a purely academic model. The senator also asked if postponing the Provost search was an indication that Academic Affairs is no longer the focus of the university. Dr. Hoyt said that the candidates absolutely were not prepared for the duties and responsibilities she expects of a new Provost. A big risk Dr. Hoyt perceives is that if we do not pursue the Osteopathy school now, then SHSU will lose the opportunity to another institution. We need the right Provost to lead us through the academic process of creating the new school, and a poorly qualified candidate would absolutely not be able to do that.

Another senator asked why we are choosing to start a new school rather than ramp up the programs already offered by the College of Health Sciences. Dr. Hoyt reiterated that our Osteopathy program is specifically targeted to fill the shortfall of primary care physicians. The current College of Health Sciences cannot do that.

Approval of Minutes.

The September 22 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

The April 28 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Chair’s Report

None

Old Business

None

New Business

Faculty Senate Website. A photographer from Sam Online was available to take photos of senators wishing to have an updated picture taken for the Faculty Senate webpage.

Meeting adjourned at 4:54 PM.