

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

November 17, 2016

3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

The Education Center – Room 115

Members Present (20): Irfan Ahmed (COBA), Burcu Ates (COE), Jonathan Breazeale (COBA), Donald Bumpass (COBA), Donna Cox (COE), James Crosby (CHSS), Jennifer Didier (COHS), Brandy Doleshal (COSET), Karla Eidson (COE), Randall Garner (CJ), Donovan Haines (COSET), Michael Hanson (NGL), Debbi Hatton (FAMC), William Jasper (COSET), Jeffrey Littlejohn (CHSS), Melinda Miller (COE), Karen Miller (FAMC), Stephen Rapp (CHSS), Stacy Ulbig (CHSS), Anthony Watkins (FAMC),

Members Not Present (9): Donald Albert (COSET), Nancy Baker (CHSS) [on leave for fall 2016], Madhusudan Choudhary (COSET), John Domino (CHSS), Andrea Foster (COE), Renee James (COSET), Santosh Kumar (COBA), Eric Marsh (FAMC), Ryan Zapalac (COHS) [on leave for fall 2016]

Called to Order: 3:37 PM in The Education Center by Chair, Dr. Donna Cox

Approval of Minutes.

The November 3 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Chair's Report

Dr. Cox provided the Senate with a list of accomplishments during the fall 2016 semester:

- Hosted President Hoyt to discuss the Provost search and the D.O. program
- Addressed issues associated with the grievance form
- Hosted Dr. Jeremiah Dancy and Fernando Chavez of the Veterans Alliance Network
- Hosted a follow-on meeting with Dr. Hoyt regarding the D.O. program
- Hosted Dr. Tracy Bilsing to discuss the Undergraduate Research Symposium
- Hosted Dr. Eglsaer in a discussion of tenure/promotion, the D.O. program and the external faculty salary study.
- The Senate voted to accept the Academic Affairs recommendation on APS 930226 (Developmental Education)

University Curriculum Committee. The Senate was notified that Senator Debbi Hatton is now chair of the University Curriculum Committee and Senator Melinda Miller is its chair-elect.

School of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Cox will extend an invitation to Dr. Henley to attend a Senate meeting to discuss the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Admissions Standards. Dr. Cox circulated a draft of proposed Freshman Admissions Standards (entering Fall 2017). It is proposed that the lowest allowable High School GPA be raised from 1.99 to 2.25. The Senate agreed to consolidate a list of questions for Dr. Thielemann regarding the proposed changes.

SHSU Statement on Responding to Racism and other Oppressive Practices. A Senator brought a recent social media incident involving SHSU staff and an alleged discriminatory incident. A heated conversation ensued. Several Senators felt that the absence of any statement at all by the university confirming its commitment to equal opportunity and non-discriminatory practices was suspect. The discussion peaked with a Senator questioning whether or not this issue was indicative of a leadership culture of untrustworthiness and discrimination in general. Dr. Cox agreed to discuss the matter with Dr. Eglsaer at their next meeting.

Committee Reports

Faculty Affairs. Faculty Affairs submitted a report recommending a common syllabus statement regarding concealed handguns on campus to be included in the SHSU Syllabus Guidelines. Several Senators voiced support for such a statement, and several Senators voiced their opposition. Drs. Cox and Breazeale will include the report in their bi-weekly discussions with the Provost.

Old Business

External Faculty Salary Study. Dr. Cox distributed the External Faculty Salary Study to the Senate via email and asked all Senators to review the document in order to better answer the questions of the faculty in their respective colleges.

Intellectual Property. Issues surrounding copying of online (and face-to-face) materials continue to be raise.

New Business

Spring 2017 Faculty Senate Agenda Items. Dr. Cox set January 20 from 11:00 – 1:00 as the time for a Faculty Senate Confab/Retreat.

Spring Senate Meetings.

January 26Austin Hall
February 9LSC 304
February 23LSC 304
March 9Austin Hall
March 30Austin Hall
April 13Austin Hall
April 27Austin Hall

Meeting adjourned at 5:03 PM.