

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
MARCH 9, 2006**

Chair Debbie Price called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

Members Present: Jerry Cook; Doug Constance; Peggy DeMers; Stacey Edmonson; Mark Frank; Mary Gutermuth; Debbi Hatton; Joan Hudson; Rosanne Keathley; Gerald Kohers; Brian Loft; Philip Morris; Valerie Muehsam; Debra Price; Chris White; Patricia Williams.

Members Absent: David Bailey (professional conflict); Christopher Baldwin (professional conflict); Linda Cook (professional conflict); Steven Cuvelier (professional conflict); Jim DeShaw (professional conflict); Jerry Dowling (professional conflict); Lady Jane Hickey (illness); Paul Loeffler (professional conflict); Jay Whatley (professional conflict).

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the February 23, 2006 meeting were approved.

Chair's Report:

Faculty Senate Chair Debbie Price began by introducing Wally Barnes (Reading Center) and Marilyn Butler (COBA). Barnes and Butler are doctoral students in Higher Education Leadership who came to the meeting to observe for their Law and Governance class. Then, Chair Price presented the following report to the Faculty Senate:

- At the latest Academic Policy Council (APC) meeting, the issue of outside members on thesis and dissertation committees was discussed. Previously, outside "readers" were allowed. This was clarified to specifically allow outsiders to be full members of thesis and dissertation committees. Furthermore, outsiders can co-chair committees. Multiple outsiders are allowed on committees with Dean approval.
- Also at the APC meeting, there was spirited discussion of the IDEA system.

New Business:

- Request for faculty input from the Office of Research and Sponsored Programs– Senator Doug Constance reported that Delia Gallinaro with ORSP was looking for a small (4-5 members) committee of faculty members who would advise ORSP in the redevelopment of its webpage to be more useful for faculty. Senator Constance suggested that any faculty member who is interested in this endeavor contact ORSP.
- There was no additional new business.

Old Business:

- There was no old business.

Committee Reports:

The following committee reports were submitted to the Senate:

- Academic Affairs. Committee Chair Patricia Williams reported on the following issues:
 - The AA committee is looking into the fact that some classes meet more times in the Spring Semester than other classes (for instance Wednesday night classes

meet two more times than do Monday night classes). The committee is gathering further information and will be in contact with Registrar Teresa Ringo who is the Chair of the Calendar Committee.

- The committee had a rough draft of a recommendation for a change to the Office Hour policy in Faculty Handbook. The Senate discussed this issue. As a result of this discussion, the Senate agreed that the present Faculty Handbook is outdated. ***A motion was made and approved to recommend that Provost Payne appoint a committee to consider the updating/improvement of the Faculty Handbook.***
- There are questions concerning the new graduate faculty policy and the status of some long-time members of the graduate faculty. The AA committee is continuing to gather information on this issue.
- The AA committee is also continuing to gather information about the way service is counted for FES purposes in the various colleges.
- ***Committee on Committees.*** Committee on Committees Committee Chair Gerald Kohers reported:
 - The COC committee had updated the yearly Faculty Survey. Committee Chair Kohers presented the Senate with the updated version and reported that the committee had modified the survey by deleting questions that had historically low response rates. After discussion, the Senate made suggestions for minor changes in the survey. Also, it was agreed that the survey should be administered online if feasible. ***A motion was made and approved to accept the survey (subject to the minor revisions) and to proceed with its administration (and that the administration of the survey would be online provided that Computer Services can do it this year).***
 - The Ballot for Faculty Development Leave Committee was presented to the Senate. Again, it was suggested that the Ballot could be administered online. ***A motion was made and approved to accept the ballot and to administer it online (if possible).***
 - The Committee Nominations were compiled by the COC committee and presented to the Senate. Committee Chair Kohers reported that the nominations were based on the faculty preferences indicated on the online university committee preference selection form. ***A motion was made and approved to accept the nominations.***
 - The COC committee presented a draft of revisions to the Faculty Senate's bylaws. The Senate will consider these revisions at the next meeting.
- ***Faculty Affairs.*** Committee member Peggy DeMers presented the committee's recommendation on merit raise allocations. The recommendation (with amendments) calls for future merit money to be split into three distinct pools. The first pool is the current Merit 1 (percentage merit), the second pool is the current Merit 2 (Merit pay) and the third pool is Market Adjustments (monies specifically designated to address market issues). Furthermore, the recommendation calls for Merit 2 to be allocated based on FTE percentages of the various colleges. ***A motion was made to accept the amended recommendation and discussion was begun on the issue. Then in mid-discussion, a "previous question" motion was made, discussion was cut-off, a vote was held, and the recommendation was declared adopted with a less than unanimous vote.***

- 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 and had no report at this time.

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Philip W. Morris, Chair-Elect.