

## **University Faculty Senate Minutes May 1, 2003**

**Members present:** Bill Abbott, Terry Bilhartz, Leonard Breen, Ted Creighton, Mary Lynn DeShazo, Mary Gutermuth, Marsha Harman, Penny Hasekoester, Deborah Hatton, David Henderson, Ann Jerabek, Joe Kirk, Gerald Kohers, S. Thomas Kordinak, Paul Loeffler, Holly Miller, Valerie Muehsam, Debra Price, Kandi Tayebi, Victoria Titterington, Tamara Waggener

**Member absent:** Joanne Ardovini-Brooker (professional conflict), Jeff Harwell (professional conflict), Joan Hudson (professional conflict), Gene Young (professional conflict)

### **Approval of Minutes**

Emendations for the minutes for April 10 were suggested and will be voted on at the next meeting.

### **President Gaertner and Dr. Allen Hightower—Alma Mater**

President Gaertner discussed the possibility of changing Sam Houston State University's Alma Mater. He will be discussing the possibilities with the Faculty Senate, Alumni Association, and Staff Council. He suggested three possible options:

1. Keep the Alma Mater the same.
2. Add a new verse to the old Alma Mater, making it more specific to Sam Houston State University.
3. Using a completely new song for the Alma Mater.

Dr. Allen Hightower sang the three options for the Faculty Senate. The Faculty Senate will vote on the options at the next Senate meeting.

### **Dr. Thelma Douglass, Vice President for Student Services; Paula Vernick, Office of the President; and Debbie Nichols, Office of the Vice President for Student Services—Bearkat OneCard**

Dr. Thelma Douglass introduced the faculty to the new Bearkat OneCard that will be coming in the fall for all students and faculty. A Powerpoint presentation was shown concerning the basics of the Bearkat OneCard. The following major points were emphasized:

1. The Bearkat OneCard will be the new campus ID card for all faculty, staff and students.
2. The Bearkat OneCard is not a credit card.
3. The Bearkat OneCard will later be used to key some buildings.
4. More information about the card can be accessed on the following website:  
[www.BearkatOne.com](http://www.BearkatOne.com)
5. Faculty need to check to make sure they have a photo on file and that their permanent address is correct. Notification of the card and the need to check

information will be coming to faculty mail boxes and e-mail. May 23 is the cutoff date for updating information.

6. Lost cards are immediately deactivated when an 800 number is called.
7. Travel reimbursements can be done by using the OneCard, by automatic deposit into an existing account, or by cutting a check (this option will have a fee).

Senators asked for more information on the financial institution behind the card and the history of how Sam Houston State University was linked with HigherOne. Senators also wanted to make sure that privacy issues were discussed. They were assured that all precautions were taken to protect the privacy of students and faculty.

### **Writing in the Disciplines Seminar**

The week of May 19-23 will be the first in a series of annual workshops focusing on Writing in the Disciplines. The workshop is aimed at increasing student participation, comprehension, and retention in classes through writing without increasing faculty workload. Each participant will receive a \$500 honorarium, and all faculty are encouraged to participate.

### **Chair's Report**

#### **Research Council Nominations**

Chair Muehsam reported that Dr. Gordon Plishker has asked the Faculty Senate to select faculty to fill four vacancies on the Research Council from a list of candidates nominated by the academic deans. Since this procedure violates the process agreed upon last November, the Senate agreed to follow the normal procedure of nominating their own representatives.

#### **New Programs and Distribution of FTEs**

Concern was expressed about the number of procedural decisions that have been made on campus that impact policy in regards to distribution of faculty and that no one is overseeing the new programs' needs for FTEs. Senators expressed concern that the University wants more programs but no FTEs, more research but not teaching load reduction.

### **Committee Reports**

There were no committee reports for University Affairs, Academic Affairs, Committee on Committees or Faculty Affairs.

Respectfully submitted,

Kandi Tayebi, Chair-Elect