

DRAFT: FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

September 29, 2011

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
LSC 304

Members Present:

Tracy Bilsing (CHSS), Len Breen (CoE), Donald Bumpass (CoBA), Erin Cassidy (NGL), Jeff Crane (CHSS), Donna Desforges (CHSS), Mark Frank (CoBA), Debbi Hatton (CHSS), Renee James (CoAS), Bill Jasper (CoAS), Gerald Kohers (CoBA), Paul Loeffler (CoAS), Drew Lopenzino (CHSS), Joyce Mc Cauley (CoE), Sheryl Murphy-Manley (CFAMC), Dwayne Pavelock (CoAS), Javier Pinell (CFAMC), Sheryl Serres (CoE), Doug Ullrich (CoAS), Pamela Zelbst (COBA)

Members Not Present:

Kevin Clifton (CFAMC), Chad Hargrave (CoAS), Lawrence Kohn (COE), Debbie Price (COE), Ling Ren (CoCJ), Tracy Steele (CHSS), Ricky White (CoAS)

Meeting called to order by Debbi Hatton at 3:37 p.m.

Guest Speaker:

Kris Kaskel-Ruiz (Associate Vice President of Marketing and Communications) discussed the social media policy, which has generated quite a bit of press and confusion recently. With her were Steven Keating (Assistant Director of Marketing), Kevin Flanagan (Director of Marketing & Communications). Kaskel-Ruiz explained that she spoke to SGA in a private meeting with Tyler Eberhart and later in an open meeting earlier in the week. She also met with Dean's Council on 9/28 and plans to meet with Staff Council, explaining that her "big goal is facilitate ongoing conversation about the University."

The Social Media Project was commissioned about a year ago to create University Social Media Platform in cooperation with marketing and social media firm (Weldt). The platform was "soft launched" in August. There are nearly 32K people in the SHSU social media 'universe.' With regard to the policy, Kaskel-Ruiz explained that she was soliciting feedback and understands free speech concerns. She stated that she was going to to set up formal committee (standing) with members from SGA, FS, Staff Council, each college, and a so-called "free speech expert" to work on policy and make sure the language is representative of university and all its constituents, claiming that the current policy is "just a draft" right now, a statement that caused some concern among senators because the policy had been signed by the University President.

Senator Loeffler pointed out that in general there is prescribed procedure for rolling out a policy, to which Kaskel-Ruiz explained that the policy "will be living document; whatever the policy addresses today will change in 6 months." Faculty Senate simply reiterated the procedure for creating policies. There was also some discussion of the perception that policies could be "living documents" whose intentions changed over time versus literal documents.

Senator Jasper suggested that virtually all the fallout was the result of a lack of communication, that the University community was not told that this was a work in progress.

Kaskel-Ruiz also explained that the impetus for having shared passwords was the Air-Soft gun incident where the original password holder had graduated, and there was a significant delay in getting the news out to the University.

Great concern was expressed that the shared password situation had already resulted in at least one unauthorized editing of a faculty member's page, and Senate was assured that this was isolated and would not happen again.

Should anyone have concerns, faculty is encouraged to contact Kris Kaskel-Ruiz. She is in room 120 of Administration Bldg. and at phone extension 3492. Kevin and Steven are in Suite 115. Kaskel-Ruiz's next goal is to organize standing committee to hash out problems with policy.

Approval of Minutes: Minutes from September 15th meeting were approved unanimously.

MEANWHILE: An apparent fire at Smith Huston caused some murmurings over the implementation of KatSafe. No information had been disseminated, but emergency vehicles were parked outside SH for the duration of the meeting.

Chair's Report:

Senate resolution regarding following proper policy procedure was brought to Provost Hebert's attention, and he agreed that this was the way things should be done. SGA forwarded a similar resolution, and Staff Council is expected to follow suit.

There had been unresolved questions about IRB. The new chair Rody Miller in psychology is looking into problems. Jerry Cook and Kandi Tayebi were unaware that there were problems.

Regarding the annual review of the senate chair, Provost Hebert will share the process with Senate and discuss with Senate if there is some disconnect. Also it has been requested that the chair-elect have course release. The reason that the Provost provides the evaluation is that the reassigned time money comes from Provost's office budget.

Apparently deceased faculty members have been serving on committees. Not really, but according to Dr. Tayebi, there are plenty of non-functioning committees and even deceased people still assigned to some committees. Obviously a major overhaul is in the works to figure out what committees are doing what and who should be on them.

A new strategic enrollment management task force to look at UG enrollment will be created. Volunteers are welcome to step up.

Under the new strategic plan, there will be regular program reviews every 5 years. Senator Loeffler raised questions regarding departments' abilities to choose the cycle to, for example, coincide with external reviews such as ACS.

Provost Hebert is soliciting information for deans and chairs during week of 10/10 regarding how we see the role of departments and colleges (in a philosophical sense). He also wants to see how communication flow and how views of faculty compare to vision of administration. He also wants information ASAP to get strategic plan moving. Board of Regents will be on campus in November and Provost Hebert must present campus update *from faculty*. Send highlights of faculty accomplishments to Debbie Hatton.

From VP Tayebi: core curriculum changes will be voted on on 10/28. Starting in November, we'll start process of looking at the core. One possibility is to remove all core courses and start anew; another is to leave it alone and allow core assessment committee look at courses individually.

From VP Angrove: fiber optic uplink will cost approx \$50K. If faculty want to use it or have connections with media outlets, then let these outlets know that we will have the fiber optic uplink in Dan Rather bldg. It will possibly be in place by January.

Committee Report:

Faculty Affairs – Excellence in teaching award draft policy was reviewed. For nominations ratio, the committee will need to sort through 'activities' classes to get rid of things like lab classes, which the professor never actually teaches. Also, exams are professional work product, and indicate something about teaching. Do we want committee to request exams along with everything else? There were questions raised about classes that are not your typical lecture classes, for instance, music faculty who teach one-on-one with a few students and have a performance for a final exam. And how do you visit an online class? Some teaching materials simply aren't "submittable."

There were a number of questions about why we don't simply have departmental nominations/college nominations/up to the university level? And how much information about research and service should be looked at? Also who decides the criteria and weights? How much weight would be given to IDEA scores? Why would we possibly use that as a major factor in weighting the nominees when we have fought against weighting tenure and promotion with IDEA? Senator Jasper contends that although departmental nominations are fine, we need student input. This discussion was quite lively and full of suggestions, but little was resolved. It was suggested that perhaps the committee could just soften language to "chair MAY" instead of "the chair WILL" with regard to IDEA weighting.

Also, why have just one award? In a university with so many different teaching styles and classroom environments, why not have one per college?

New Business:

At meeting AFTER next, ALL committees are requested to bring recommendations forward. The President will be here on 10/13 addressing strategic plan.

Announcement from Senator Kohers: The Excellence in Teaching Committee is currently meeting and needs a nominee from fine arts.

Regarding the Emeritus Faculty Policy, the Senate's sense was that the policy is fine as is. Section 2.02 was the concern because it says and/or, which is interpreted to mean "continual." Senate is convinced that it is okay, and the vote was to send it back to CAD.

Adjournment: 5:04 PM

Next meeting will be Oct 13th at 3:30 in LSC 315.

Minutes submitted by Renee James in Tracy Steele's absence.