

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES - DRAFT
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

February 17, 2022
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Remote via Zoom

Senators Present (30)

Samuel Adu-Prah (COSET), Mario Aschauer (CAM), Natalie Baker (CJ), María Botero (CHSS), Tim Brown (COE), Patrick Buzzini (CJ), Rhonda Callaway (CHSS), Mona Cockerham (COHS), Tamara Cook (COSET), Brandy Doleshal (COSET), Mandy Duan (COBA), Debbi Hatton (CAM), Damon Hay (COSET), Nick Lantz (CHSS), Junkun Ma (COSET), Geraldine Monjardez (CJ), Sureni Mullegama (COM), Audrey Murfin (CHSS), Mary Petrón (COE), Debbie Price (COE), Kevin Randall (COHS), Stephen Rapp (CHSS), Vlad Radoias (COBA), Karen Sherrill (COBA), Aneika Simmons (COBA), Kyle Stutts (COSET), Zachary Valdes (NGL), Anthony Watkins (CAM), Xiaobo Wang (CHSS), Rebecca Wentworth (COE).

Senators Not Present (1)

Victoria Lantz (CAM)

Called to Order

3:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

January 20, 2022, minutes were approved.

Members of Faculty Senate welcome Senator Valdes (NGL) to Faculty Senate.

Senate Committee Reports

1. Academic Affairs Committee. Senator Hatton (Chair of the AA committee) updated FS that members of this committee are still revising APS 810213 Procedures in Cases of Academic Dishonesty.
2. Committee on Committees & Surveys. Senator Wentworth (Chair of the CC committee) updated FS that this committee has nominated several faculty members to fill gaps in existing committees, such the committees for Faculty Excellence Awards, and a new Faculty Senate representative for NGL. They will start preparing for the faculty perception survey and the committee preference survey that will be sent to faculty in the near future.
3. Faculty Affairs Committee. Senator Adu-Prah (Chair of the FA Committee) updated FS that this committee has no charges at this point.
4. University Affairs Committee. Senator Wang (Chair of the UA Committee) updated FS that the committee will continue to review APS 871214 English Language Proficiency for Instructional Personnel.
5. Shared Governance Committee. Senator Sherrill (Chair of the SG Committee) presented, on behalf of the SG committee, a draft of a proposal for shared governance. This proposal was discussed towards the end of the meeting, as reported below.

Other Reports

Strategic Planning. This committee has developed a strategic framework that includes a vision, mission, values, and strategic priorities for SHSU. This framework has been presented to Cabinet and the President, and it is currently under review.

Chair's Report

- **APS 910312 – Academic Probation, Suspension, Dismissal, and Termination.** This policy is proposed by the Academic Success Center, Brian Loft (AVP for Faculty and Student Success), and Danielle Boisvert (Academic Affairs Faculty Fellow). The aim of this policy is to reduce the penalty for students who were on probation and have subsequently earned a semester GPA of 2.0 or higher but have not quite reached the required 2.0 SHSU GPA to avoid suspension. This policy revision proposes such students be placed on *Continued Probation* instead. The AA committee has been charged with revising this proposed policy.
- **Simple Syllabus.** Academic Affairs is considering the purchase of a software program called [Simple Syllabus](#), and would like to get faculty feedback before moving forward. Reasons given by Academic Affairs for considering this include:
 - Course syllabi currently have a wide variety of formats and content—this makes it more difficult for students to navigate each syllabus and locate the information they need.
 - Most course syllabi are not currently mobile friendly. Studies have shown that most students complete at least some of their academic work on a phone or tablet.
 - Compliance with HB 1027 (public posting of course syllabi) is currently time-consuming and inefficient.

The FA committee has been charged with reviewing this software.

- **Meetings with President White.** Senate leadership met with the President on Jan 26 and Feb 16. Topics discussed included recent Senate work, what faculty think ought to be prioritized (e.g., ORP contribution increase, more TT lines, more full-time instructors instead of reliance on adjuncts, etc.). It was discussed what was the best method to obtain faculty feedback regarding this issue. Cost of living increases, merit pay, salary inversion, and the need for a university compensation plan was also discussed. The effects of faculty of salary inversion, lack of cost-of-living adjustments, and merit were discussed. Bearkat bundle concerns were shared with the President. Finally, the President requested FS feedback on the possible elimination of commencement speakers. Senators were not in favor of eliminating it entirely and explored alternatives.
- **Meetings with Provost Stephenson.** Senate leadership met with the Provost on Jan. 28, and Feb. 7. Topics discussed included recent Senate activities, status of the policy review of the big four, recognition and promotion of non-tenure track faculty (and a better name for such faculty), number of non-TT faculty vs TT

faculty, and class scheduling issues/Ad Astra problems, university's response to COVID and the need for flexibility and authority at the department level, development of new charge for the University Curriculum Committee and the need for an academic integrity statement (beyond the video for online courses). Michael Demson, Chair of the Curriculum Committee, volunteered to chair a committee to work on this issue. Senators requested that questions regarding the effects of the early-semester problems with registration be brought forward at the next meeting with the Provost, as well as questions regarding how decisions of Merit are applied to faculty, staff and administrators.

- **Faculty Senate email to Faculty.** There has been positive feedback from a number of faculty on this initiative. Ideas for the next installment were requested.
- **SGA Meeting.** Senate leadership attended the SGA meeting on February 8. The purpose was to introduce Faculty Senate to SGA and to establish a line of communication between the two entities. A considerable portion of the time was spent discussing the Bearkat Bundle.
- **Modified Instructional Duties (MID) proposal.** This proposal is going back to CAD. Members of CAD have consistently been concerned about the need for a similar policy for staff. However, Staff Senate supports the MID proposal going forward without a similar policy for them in place, since existing policies meet their needs. Staff Senate volunteered sending a letter in support.

Unfinished Business

Faculty Centennial Scholarship Update. Members of FS recommend Cecilia Hendrickson and Morgan Mash for the Faculty Centennial Scholarship and consider new criteria for this scholarship.

New Business

Shared Governance discussion. Members of FS discussed the draft of a proposal for shared governance. It was agreed that a survey will be sent to members of FS to clarify some of the definitions and elements included in this proposal.

Next Meeting

March 3, 3:30 p.m.

Adjournment

5:03 p.m.