

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

November 5, 2020
3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Remote via Zoom

Senators Present (28).

Samuel Adu-Prah (COSET), Mario Aschauer (CAM), Natalie Baker (CJ), Maria Botero (CHSS), Timothy Brown (COE), Patrick Buzzini (CJ), Valencia Browning-Keen (COHS), Rhonda Callaway (CHSS), Brandy Doleshal (COSET), Jamie Durán (COE), Debbi Hatton (CAM), Damon Hay (COSET), Soo-Yeon Hwang (NGL), John Lane (CAM), Kevin Lord (COM), Lee Miller (CHSS), Geraldine Monjardez (CJ), Carolyn Moore (CAM), Marianne Moore (COHS), Jan Taylor Morris (COBA), Benjamin Park (CHSS), Mary Petró (COE), Debbie Price (COE), Kevin Randall (COHS) Stephen Rapp (CHSS), Karen Sherrill (COBA), Aneika Simmons (COBA), Susan Skidmore (COE).

Senators Not Present (3).

Siham Bouamer (CHSS), Dwayne Pavelock (COSET), Kyle Stutts (COSET).

Special Guests.

Dr. Drew Miller

Called to Order.

3:30 PM, Remote via Zoom, by Chair Lee Miller.

COVID-19 Update by Dr. Drew Miller. Dr. Miller gave an update on the status of the university with respect to COVID-19, followed by a Q&A with the Senate. Some of the points discussed are summarized as follows.

The number of infections at the university has been up and down like the rest of the state. There was a slow down for a while, but then increased across the state as well as on campus. There is an increase in the number of people getting tested. Spread appears to be happening at social gatherings. Recent testing indicates an upcoming plateau. The administration feels able to keep pace and that nothing overwhelming is occurring. Shenanigans, a local bar popular with college students, has reopened with questionable distancing and mask-wearing being practiced. Dr White has met with Judge Pierce over concerns.

A COVID testing kiosk is now open and everyone is encouraged to use it, free of charge. There is a 24-36 hour turn-around time on test results. The tests are saliva based and have the highest reliability of all the available tests. There will be testing once a week at COM and this will be made available to TWC students, staff and faculty, but they will need to make the short drive to COM. The Student Health Center also continues to test, but Huntsville Memorial Hospital is no longer testing on campus.

The possibility of widespread regular testing is currently being looked at. The idea is to select 8-10% on a weekly basis and more for those in residence halls or in other high-risk areas or organizations. This will be voluntary and not mandated due to legal and other obstacles. There

is no random testing now due to the need to implement a formal plan to do so. There has not been time for such planning since the kiosk testing became available to the university on short notice.

Currently, classes will resume face-to-face after Thanksgiving, as it is argued that the SHSU community is transient already, and that the university has already experienced the impact of those kinds of exposures.

The policy offering guidance on travel is being revised, as the current policy is now out of step with the CDC. The hope is for this to be ready before holiday break. It is still recommended that those who travel by air over the break quarantine for the 14 days.

New Business.

Based on concerns expressed in Senate, Senators Baker and Duran volunteered to draft recommendations pertaining to a return after Thanksgiving, and for a return after spring break next semester.

Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of the October 16 meeting were approved.

Unfinished Business.

Senator Hay reported on the recommendations of an ad-hoc subcommittee investigating options for handling motions and votes in virtual meetings. Senator Morris moved that the Senate adopt the following recommendations from the committee:

1. Continue to use the Zoom Chat feature for voting or use an on-camera physical show of hands for routine and non-contentious matters, unless there is a desire for anonymity.
2. Before any vote is taken any Senator may make a motion to have the vote conducted anonymously.
3. If a motion for anonymity is adopted, then a Qualtrics survey containing a generic motion would be immediately deployed via email.

The motion was adopted.

Chair's Report.

The Chair led a discussion on the Chair's Report which was distributed ahead of the meeting.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:01 PM.