

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES  
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

12 September 2013  
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.  
Austin Hall

**Members present:**

Nancy Baker (CHSS); Tracy Bilsing (CHSS); Jonathan Breazeale (COBA); Don Bumpass (COBA); Madhusudan Choudhary (COS); Kevin Clifton (CFAMC); Donna Cox (COE); James Crosby (CHSS); Mark Frank (COBA); Randall Garner (COCJ); Richard Henriksen (COE); Joan Hudson (COS); C. Renée James (COS); Mark Klespis (COS); Hayoung Lim (CFAMC); Paul Loeffler (COS); Dennis Longmire (COCJ); David McTier (CFAMC); Sheryl Murphy-Manley (CFAMC); Diana Nabors (COE); Dwayne Pavelock (COS); Debra Price (COE); Lisa Shen (NGL); Stacy Ulbig (CHSS); Doug Ullrich (COS); Anthony Watkins (CFAMC); Pam Zelbst (COBA)

**Members not present:**

Helen Berg (COE); Diane Dowdey (CHSS); James Landa (CHSS); on leave for Fall 2013: Tom Cox (CHSS)

**Called to order:** 3:30 p.m. in Austin Hall by Chair Renee James

President Dana Gibson attended the meeting to wish outgoing senators well and thank them for their service. President Gibson entertained questions from the senators regarding recent local affairs involving eminent domain.

Outgoing Chair Tracy Steele was unable to attend but sent the gavel on to incoming Chair C. Renee James.

The minutes from the July 30 meeting were approved.

The senators elected as the new chair-elect Nancy Baker, from the History Department.

The senators broke into committees and elected chairs of their committees. The committee chairs chosen are:

Academic Affairs: Paul Loeffler  
Committee on Committees: Lisa Shen  
Faculty Affairs: Donna Cox  
University Affairs: Tracy Bilsing

## **New business:**

### **Athletic Advisory Committee**

The senators nominated two people to join the Athletic Advisory Committee. Debbi Hatton and Dwayne Pavelock were nominated.

### **DELTA**

The Senate discussed a number of different concerns, all of which have to do with DELTA. First, the senators talked about the availability of classes on Blackboard. Students do not have access until the first day of class. This is a problem for some classes. Faculty members have requested the ability to change the access date, but SHSU has not allowed this unless a faculty member makes a special request by calling DELTA. The question was raised: is there a way to do this without having to call DELTA?

Another item relating to DELTA is the issue of compensation for online courses. For example, if the 20<sup>th</sup> class day is the trigger date for deciding a class has “made” and a new course bonus is merited, why is the process for paying that faculty member the bonus not automatic? Why does the process lag and require human intervention?

Some senators brought up the issue of whether there is uniformity in online class compensation. Individual departments can choose to pay up to \$2500 to a faculty member for creating a new online class; this is a DELTA policy, and there is a check list to evaluate a course to see if it meets DELTA’s criteria for the bonus.

Senators had several questions about this issue: who created this checklist? Why do we not have access to this checklist in advance? Does the university own the class? One senator says that one of her courses was taken over and used without her against her wishes, as DELTA claimed to own it and be able to give it to someone else.

Another senator stated that, in her department, compensation for online courses existed before DELTA existed. There was nothing in the contract faculty members signed at the time about SHSU or DELTA owning faculty’s courses.

Yet another senator offered that Criminal Justice faculty members were paid to develop their online courses, with the understanding that such online courses could be passed on to other faculty members to teach, which is the current practice.

The suggestion was made to invite DELTA to visit us to discuss these (and other) issues.

Academic Affairs will submit a report on what they discussed with DELTA last year, as a starting point for what to discuss with DELTA at an upcoming meeting.

Faculty Affairs will come up with a list of questions and/or action items for which to ask DELTA when they attend one of our meetings. Faculty Affairs will base the list on a survey of Faculty Senate, among other things, and the list will be given to DELTA before a DELTA representative attends.

### **Faculty Senate Website**

Senators talked about another new business item: the Faculty Senate links on the SHSU website are all outdated and need to be updated. For example, there are two competing menus for information such as annual merit pay awarded, each covering a different set of years. It is not clear why there are competing menus for such information.

### **University-Community Relations**

Also, the university's relationship with the local community was raised as a possible item for future discussion.

### **Old Business:**

#### **FES**

The Academic Affairs Sub-Committee has held one Town Hall meeting on FES 1 and 2 on Sept. 11, and a second meeting on the same topic will be on Sept. 17.

#### **Drop Deadline Date**

Drop deadline is the last day of class once again, despite our fight in Spring 2013 to have the date changed to the 10<sup>th</sup> week of class. Why is this? It is a failure of policy or implementation? Chair Renee James will ask the Provost in her meeting with him if we can have the drop date deadline changed immediately for the Fall 2013 semester.

#### **Faculty Development Leave Policy**

We looked at several changes to the Faculty Development Leave Policy last spring. A senator has asked to revisit this and make sure the changes went through. Were these implemented?

#### **Excellence in Teaching, Research, and Service Committees**

Another senator asked whether new committees were formed for the Excellence in Research and Excellence in Service awards. In Spring 2013, there was a scramble to select people to serve on both of those committees so that those awards could be awarded. Did the people we recommended end up forming the committees?

#### **Provost's Visit**

Chair Renee James announced that on October 10, the Provost will visit us and give us a hierarchical flow chart showing us how the university's faculty and staff work and are connected to the state legislature in Austin. Her hope is that this information will ease the transition for new senators and be useful to the entire Senate.

**Master Plan**

One senator suggested that we might also want to spend some time examining the relatively new master plan for SHSU. Being familiar with the master plan could help us to understand better what the state and university have agreed on in terms of SHSU's future expansion. Negative coverage of SHSU in the local press and local community has been based in large part on inaccurate information being spread.

**IT Support for Faculty Senate**

A senator asked if we will continue to have an IT support person attending the Faculty Senate meetings, as we were doing last year. In addition, some asked what had happened with the IT purchasing committee. There was uncertainty about the IT purchasing committee – perhaps we need to revisit this.

If any senator has guests s/he would like to have visit Faculty Senate to discuss a particular issue, please contact Chair Renee James.

Adjourned 4:38 pm.

Our next meeting is on September 26.

revised 09-25-2013