

SHSU Faculty Senate Minutes

Sam Houston State University

January 21, 2016

3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

LSC 304

Chair Lisa Shen called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

In attendance: Randy Garner (CJ), Don Bumpass (COBA), Mark Frank (COBA), Irfan Ahmed (COBA), Jonathan Breazeale (COBA), Mark Frank (COBA), Andrea Foster (COE), Donna Cox (COE), Karla Eidson (COE), Karen Miller (COFAMC), Debbi Hatton (COFAMC), David McTier (COFAMC), Eric Marsh (COFAMC), Dwayne Pavelock (COS), Madhu Choudhary (COS), Mark Klespis (COS), Bill Jasper (COS), Lisa Shen (NGL), Lisa Shen, (NGL)

Absent: Joan Bytheway (CJ), Diane Dowdey (CHSS), Jason Payton (CHSS), Jeff Littlejohn (CHSS), Nancy Baer (CHS), John Domino (CHSS), Tracy Bilsing (CHSS), Stacy Ulbig (CHSS), Gary Oden (COHS), James Landa (COHS), Douglas Ullrich (COS), Dwayne Pavelock (COS), Diana Nabors (COE), Melinda Miller (COE)

Approval of Minutes

The November 19, 2015 meeting were approved.

Chair Shen welcomed Senator Eric Marsh who will finish out the term of Senator Sheryl. Additionally, Bill Lutterschmidt has accepted a new position and has resigned from Senate. The runner-up of his election will complete his term at the next Senate meeting.

Special Guest

Natalie Payne, Technology Trainer, IT Client Services

Ms. Payne shared information about technology training opportunities for faculty, staff and student workers. She shared the current offerings through IT. She shared that faculty and staff can sign up for courses through Talent Management.

Ms. Payne also shared information about Office 365, which is a cloud based program that is an online version of Office. The software available with Office 365 includes the same programs as Office 2013, but also includes 20GB of Sky Drive storage. She also explained that students can download Microsoft Office for free.

Senators then had a short discussion about Office 365, its pros and cons and compatibility with other versions of Office. Ms. Payne informed the Senate that if any were interested in downloading Office 365 to contact IT@Sam for more information.

Chair's Report

Chair Shen shared that Provost Hebert will be visiting March 3rd to explain how the budgeting for SHSU works.

Additionally, she stated that according to Provost Hebert, Academic Affairs will be submitting a line item in the upcoming budget to provide locks for rooms that do not lock on the inside

Chair Shen reminded the Senate that a final town hall meeting concerning a proposal for campus carry procedures would be held Tuesday, January 26th at the Criminal Justice Building. After considering feedback from the town hall, the proposal will be presented to President Gibson.

In other campus carry news, Chair Shen shared that David Yarborough, along with Dean Lyons was working on a website that is to include a training video to address issues concerning concealed campus carry. Examples of possible scenarios, what happens when someone sees a concealed weapon, and options if a confrontation in an office should occur. Members of the Senate still have questions about accommodating special events, such as UIL events or public school children visiting campus. Several Senators suggested that prohibited events should also include artistic events, not just sporting or UIL events.

Lastly, Chair Shen shared news that the University of Houston and the University of Texas passed resolutions in support of prohibiting carrying concealed weapons on their campuses. As a result, the Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton issued guidelines in December 2015 (<http://trailblazersblog.dallasnews.com/2015/12/paxton-gun-bans-in-public-schools-dorms-would-violate-campus-carry-law.html/>).

Old Business

Graduate Faculty Status Policy (APS 801014)

The latest draft of Graduate Faculty Status Policy APS 801014 was sent via e-mail to the Graduate Council and hard copies were made available at the meeting. Dr. Mary Robbins, the Council of Deans, and the Council of Academic Affairs have reviewed the Policy. In a nutshell, responsibilities for full Graduate Faculty members include all responsibilities, including chairing dissertations and theses, Associate Faculty perform all responsibilities, minus chairing responsibilities and Temporary Graduate Faculty (clinical, non-tenure track) perform similar duties to Associate Graduate Faculty. Each department will determine graduate faculty status. The Graduate Council will oversee decisions made by the colleges.

A Senator shared that the Academic Affairs committee asked the Graduate Council for the Temporary Graduate Faculty rank and asked that deans have final approval and not the Graduate Council.

Chair Shen suggested the Senate invite Mary Robbins to talk about the revised policy on Graduate Faculty status and answer any questions Senators have.

The Academic Affairs committee will review the policy again and bring to the body any further suggestions or questions, which Chair Shen will then take to Dr. Robbins.

New Business

Chair Shen shared that scanned versions of original documents contained in promotion dossiers may now replace the original documents.

A senator asked the body if they had any concerns about the current Students with Disabilities Policy (Policy 811006). A potential problem is the perception that SSD is not fully following Policy 811006, specifically that a decision to not accept student accommodations rely on faculty members *and* SSD, not just SSD. Additionally, if a student files a grievance against a professor, the complaint doesn't go to the dean, but to the SSD.

One senate suggested a resolution and another suggested the Senate extend an invitation to a SSD representative. Chair Shen suggested the body talk to colleagues about the same issues and she will invite someone from SSD to a future Senate meeting.

Adjournment

5:00 pm