

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING AGENDA  
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

January 22, 2026  
3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.  
Austin Hall

**Senators Present (26)** Hosam Abdelhady (COM), Robert Alvarez (CHSS), Michael Arrington (CHSS), Traci Austin (COBA), Emma Bullock (COSET), Patrick Buzzini (CJ), Jennifer Child (CHSS), Kevin Crouch (Associate Chair), Magdalena Denham (CJ), Debbi Hatton (CAM), Owen Kelly (COM), Naomi Krawzik (COSET), Nick Lantz (CHSS), Victoria Lantz (Secretary), Kimberly LaPrairie (COE), Ali Mchiri (COBA), Hannah Menendez (NGL), Olga Minich (COSET), Ricardo Montelongo (COE), Audrey Murfin (Chair), Erin Owens (NGL), Berna Rahi (CHS), Xiaobo Belle Wang (CHSS), Todd Primm (COSET), Rebecca Wentworth (COE), Darren Williams (COSET), Willow Yang (COBA).

**Senators Not Present (3):** Miltonette Craig (CJ), Andy Noble (CAM), Erica Pasquini (COHS).

**Guests:**

Dr. Alisa White, President

Dr. Sumanth Yenduri, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

24-25 Outgoing Senators: Lindsay Clark, Brandy Doleshal, Dustin Gross, Todd Primm

**Acknowledgment of outgoing Senators**

Dr. White thanked and acknowledged the work of 2024-2025 Senate and the fall 2025 Shared Governance Task Force.

Dr. White and Dr. Yenduri presented certificates to last year's senators.

**Special Guests Comments and Q&A**

Dr. White introduced Dr. Yenduri, who gave a few words on the work of the Task Force and Senate.

**Senator Questions:**

- Weather cancelations: Dr. White talked about the process of weather-related closures and a senator highlighted the concern about weekend staff.
- Updates from the system or state senate may have missed in the fall: Dr. White talked about system leadership, system internships. Dr. Yenduri expanded on the internship. He discussed the Academic Affairs focus at the system level, program concerns, the General Education Curriculum review that is upcoming (in 2027). He stated that we had an excellent review process from the fall. Dr. White talked about an Austin meeting and new accrediting bodies outside of SACSCOC, including some that different state schools are considering. The question is how these new bodies will aid schools and federal funding. Our recent SACS accreditation was very successful.
- Enrollment numbers: Dr. White talked about stable numbers in enrollment and questions about how we can focus on student success and retention. She discussed some elite programming and learning communities. Some historic transfers are staying at the community college for four-year programs.
- Free application process and if that is translating to the actual enrollment: The answer from Dr. White and Dr. Yenduri was that we are not sure how much that will translate. Senate will have a presentation on enrollment in a few meetings.
- Non-tenured faculty new promotion guidelines: Dr. Yenduri talked about the importance of those tiers.

Senate Chair thanked both Dr. White and Dr. Yenduri for their work with the task force.

Senate Chair excuses outgoing senators.

### **Self-Introductions of Senators**

#### **Approval of Minutes**

May 01, 2025 meeting approved.

#### **Discussion of changes to Senate bylaws and structure**

Senate Chair starts with thanking the task force and talked through the work with the new law and the rewriting of the bylaws. She talked through the changes required by law: the livestream, the change in executive committee, the President appointed senators, the new term limits.

The elected senators now follow a staggered system, 2 years on and 2 years off. Because we are starting in January, there will be a straw poll for 6 months vs. 18 months.

Senate Secretary mentioned the difference between old terms limits and new, and some of the elements of the law.

Senators asked about the new executive set up. Chair and Associate Chair explained the set up and representation. Senators talked about non-tenure faculty ratio and elections in spring.

#### **Drawing of straws for term limits:**

CAM: no draw. Senator A. Noble will be 18-month senator (CAM is short senators).

CHSS: Senators X.B. Wang and J. Child will be 18-month senators.

CJ: Senator M. Craig will be an 18-month senator.

COBA: Senator A. Mchiri will be an 18-month senator.

COHS: Senator B. Rahi will be 18-month senator (COHS is short senators).

COE: Rebecca Wentworth (COE) volunteered for 6 months.

COSET: Senator E. Bullock (COSET) volunteered for 6 months.

NGL & COM: Senate H. Menendez (NGL) drew short, 6-month.

Re-draw from 6-month senators to fill out senate with one more 18-month position: Senate H. Menendez will be an 18-month senator.

### **Standing Committees**

#### **Committee Chair Selections**

- Academic Affairs – Kimberly LaPrairie
- Committee on Committees & Surveys – Owen Kelly
- Faculty Affairs – Nick Lantz
- University Affairs – Michael Arrington

### **New Business**

Senate Chair explained about senate assignments and policy review, with only one current policy to review.

#### **Senate Committee Assignments**

University Affairs: APS 250409 Polytechnic College

### **Chair's Report**

Summary the policies the task force reviewed fall 2025. Mostly minor changes in those policies that the task force agreed to.

The Faculty Presence revision the Senate and Task Force asked for was not put into the policy.

The foreign travel policy was revised for emergency travel.

**Announcements**

- Faculty Senate Reception with Dr. White February 10. RSVP due February 4
- Send head shots to Kevin Crouch for the website

**New Business:**

Senator N. Lantz asked us to look at creating a policy on classroom behavior management. We will have time to discuss this possibility at the next meeting.

**Adjournment:** 4:54 PM.