

FACULTY SENATE MEETING MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

February 19, 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), Miltonette Craig (CJ), 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), Andy Noble (CAM), Erin Owens (NGL), Erica Pasquini (COHS), Rebecca Wentworth (COE), Willow Yang (COBA).

Senators Not Present (3): Berna Rahi (CHS), Xiaobo Belle Wang (CHSS), Darren Williams (COSET).

Guests:

Dr. Jason Meriwether, Vice President of Enrollment; Megan St. Vigne, Associate VP for Enrollment Success; Dr. John Jordan, Associate VP for Enrollment Services

Special Guests Comments and Q&A

Senate chair introduced Dr. Jason Meriwether, Megan St. Vigne, and Dr. John Jordan, from Enrollment to talk about the Strategic Enrollment Management (SEM) Plan 2026-2029.

Enrollment Management team talked through the presentation on future work of enrollment.

- Introduced the framing for the information for senate, questions received, and are in process of creating a written response for senate questions with a return to senate for a detailed Q&A.
- Talked through the development of the SEM plan and discussions across all levels campus in order to craft the three-year plan.
- From the multiple meetings across campus, developed qualitative and quantitative data.
- The pamphlet given to all senators offered bullet points on goals and objectives based on the data and discussions. Summarizing the pamphlet:
 - Faster and more streamlined are key to getting students. Prospective students are looking more for quick answers, processing, acceptance, etc.
 - Streamlining the transfer process is important to helping ensure success for the variety of transfer students across the board.
 - The team are working with Texas area schools, talking with leaders and students. Special focus on alumni who are teaching in the high schools to encourage long-term SHSU connections.
 - Prioritize retention, completion, and success post-graduation; prioritize how to cut through the noise in terms of brand; prioritize technology and how we are communicating with students.
 - Working to build a financial system and helping people recognize actual cost at SHSU.
- Dr. Meriwether showed the dashboard: a number of statistics to process enrollment, registration holds, barriers. Detailed breakdown by college and units, and individual students. Breakdowns of high schools, community colleges, by program interests, focuses, etc.
- Email Senate Chair to get access to the dashboard (with deans' approvals).

Senator Questions:

- Graduate enrollment and management, marketing and communication, funding for graduate programs, graduate faculty inclusion: Dr. Meriwether talked about future SEM plan for graduate programs. Looking into smoother processes, leaving difficult application programs, etc. There is a gap in ownership, communication, and information in graduate marketing and programs. Submitted proposals to help build up marketing, recruitment, etc. Need to build a system to support these programs and enrollment. Funding issues will be discussed when the team returns to senate. Talking with the graduate school administration about faculty representation for the grad SEM plan.
- The team will return to talk at length with senate, with graduate school admin.

Unfinished Business

1. Continued discussion of APS 250409 Polytechnic College with guest Dr. Chad Hargrave, Vice President for Research and Strategic Partnerships
 - Dr. Hargrave explained how the policy came about and a structure of exceptions to help the Polytechnic College to move forward.
 - The Polytechnic College faculty is not on the tenure system. Workload documents are under review in the Provost's Office. The faculty do not have service loads. They work on contact hours, with 15 contact-credit hours. The number of students and the amount of contact hours build up to the contracted contact-credit hours for faculty.
 - Questions from senators relate FTE and the university workload policy.
 - Dr. Hargrave explained the newness of the programs, the program directors and workload adjustment, overloads, etc.
 - Senators asked about better balance for the .4 FTE to .5 FTE; open enrollment: Open enrollment is a state statute, but there is TSI compliant. Polytechnic College reached out to TSI class departments to ask about how to enroll students who need co-enrolled TSI classes.
 - Senate Chair proposed a work group with senate representative to move this policy from interim to permanent.
 - Dr. Hargrave offered to come back.

Adjournment: 5:05PM.