

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

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

**Senators Present (16)** Hosam Abdelhady (COM), Robert Alvarez (CHSS), Michael Arrington (CHSS), , Emma Bullock (COSET), Patrick Buzzini (CJ),, Miltonette Craig (CJ), Kevin Crouch (Associate Chair), , Debbi Hatton (CAM), Owen Kelly (COM), , Kimberly LaPrairie (COE), Ali Mchiri (COBA), , Audrey Murfin (Chair), Erin Owens (NGL), , Rebecca Wentworth (COE), Berna Rahi (CHS), , Darren Williams (COSET).

**Senators Not Present (13):** Jennifer Child (CHSS) Nick Lantz (CHSS), Victoria Lantz (Secretary), Andy Noble (CAM), Traci Austin (COBA), Naomi Krawzik (COSET), Ricardo Montelongo (COE), Xiaobo Belle Wang (CHSS) Magdalena Denham (CJ) Hannah Menendez (NGL), Olga Minich (COSET), Erica Pasquini (COHS) Willow Yang (COBA).

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

**Approval of Minutes**

February 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting - Approved  
February 19<sup>th</sup> Meeting - Approved

**Unfinished Business**

1. Continued discussion of APS 250409 Polytechnic College with
  - Chair laid out the background on this policy and how it was brought to senate in the spring of 2025. It was meant to be a crosswalk and was meant to illustrate the exceptions. In spring 2025, we were not willing to make an exception to the Policy on Policies, but to just work with an interim policy until a workgroup is established. That interim policy is set to expire in April.
  - Senators are still concerned about the 15 hours for faculty and whether they have service and if they could even sit on committee to help with self-governance.
  - Chair will send a request to the Dr. Hargrave to keep in mind a variety of points that need to be considered by the workgroup when creating the new policy.

**New Business**

1. Concerns about website and recruitment
  - a. The Chair received concern from a CAM about marketing, information posting, and the new website.
  - b. A senator expressed grave concerns about how the website misinforms students about their program. They have zero applications; they are seeing a drastic drop. COSET
  - c. Senator expressed how the inquiry through the website about the program doesn't go to the faculty in charge.
  - d. Senator concerned about the ICM is not taking the faculty concerns or feedback about the website.
  - e. Senator asked if there was any value in a listening session from ICM about what has to change and what need to be fixed.
  - f. Senators are concerned the intranet vs shsu is creating misleading info or makes it so confusing that students stop looking into our programs/information.

- g. Senator was worried that accreditation is in jeopardy because info is supposed to be in on webpage and yet ICM says that info is not pretty and needs to be on the intranet.
  - h. Senator read info from MATHEMATICS that is completely incorrect.
2. Question from Dr. Gaillard regarding FES and IDEA qualitative reports
    - a. Chairs are requesting IDEA qualitative section in FES reports. This would exceed the 50% allowed. What are the senators' thoughts.
    - b. Senator strongly against, the qualitative is not folded, how do you rank it?
    - c. It feels like you are being graded twice for the same thing.
    - d. No senators who chose to speak in favor.
  3. New workgroups needed: New policy, APS 26XXXXX, Faculty Disputes and Grievances; Major revision, APS 990407, Student Resignations; Major Revision APS 950609, Establishment and Review of Centers and Institutes.
    - a. Still looking for faculty for workgroups.
    - b. Chair reminded the body that it is important for us to be involved from the beginning.
  4. Senate Committee Assignments
    - a. Committee on Committees: Begin work on Committee Preference Survey

### **Chair's Report**

Updates from Texas Council of Faculty Senates

1. Chairs asked to present on 3 topics: Censorship and Content Control, Artificial Intelligence, Academic Freedom and Shared Governance, and Accreditation and Compliance
2. Statewide themes overall:
  - a. SB 37 reshaping governance and curriculum statewide
  - b. Course audits and content reviews underway or anticipated
  - c. Widespread anticipatory syllabus modification
  - d. Shift from deliberative governance >>advisory compliance structures
  - e. AI governance emerging but inconsistent
3. All systems have re-formed Faculty Senates (or Faculty Councils) with the exception of UT system

### **Q & A with Dr. Yenduri**

Dr. Yenduri wants to speak about how the reorganization of the office of academic affairs was made and reassure the body that no money was taken from the college; all monies came from the office of academic affairs. He spoke about how he looked at the Vice Provost portfolios and felt they needed multiple Vice Provost to focus on clear areas. He wanted one to be focused on Faculty & Student Success and the other focus on Enrollment. He spoke to why he didn't want to do a national search and why he didn't want to do an internal search because we couldn't waste time and risk Polytechnic failing. He also spoke about how he wanted to bring some new in the role of VP of Research and make sure we are competitive in that area. He wanted to explain why he had to wait because of the new law.

Dr. Yenduri opened it to questions or comments from Senate.

Senator asked for what the Provost's vision is for OSRP with a new VP of Research

- R1 is not the goal. The goal is to allow faculty to research/scholarly activities that they should. He wants us to maximize the various monies that are available to us. TxSt got 71 million by checking one box, we have got 7million or so and we should be at 20.
- Smaller universities are doing more than us, and he knows we can do more. He was to support faculty in the research/scholarly/creatives activities in the best ways we can. Proper practices that are meaningful.
- Senator spoke about how they ran into hurdles, getting funding because of lack of infrastructure.
- Dr. Yenduri spoke about supporting all research faculty do, even if it is outside areas of expertise.
- Dr. Yenduri spoke about various examples of how we support clear processes before we write grants and run into hurdles.
- Dr. Yenduri feels we have great possibilities in interdisciplinary research.
- Senator shared how they run into problems with IT and computers and vendors.
- Dr. Yenduri spoke to the limitations and restrictions of state policies in terms of who we buy from. He also spoke to what the timeline is that we are making requests. He believes there is room for us to make improvements.
- Senator spoke to problems with IT in terms of taking our problem on as your own. Dr. Yenduri agreed, he did say IT was under extreme pressures, but he was not making excuses.
- Senator spoke about more issues with technology and the lack of communication from IT.
- Senator asked was the plan to keep R2 status. Dr Yenduri says he prefers not to focus on R1 or R2; he said if we don't support our faculty, we will not be successful. He wants to find ways with new VPR to support and connect faculty who could collaborate and how to successfully write grant requests.
- Senator asked about moving up timelines for faculty positions to be posted. Dr. Yenduri took responsibility for the poor timeline this cycle. He is now on top of it and envisions it to be that this summer we will reset by starting with needs list from all deans and then he will address them.
- Senator anecdote on summer pay: "last week someone stopped me in the LSC asking what the Senate was going to do about the disparity in faculty pay for summer. I explained that during my 20+ years we had revisited the topic several times when the administration requests a move to a flat rate per course for the summer, but most faculty agreed that we were better off with the .25 pay scale. However, her concern was that faculty who teach in summer I are paid .25 per course while faculty who teach summer II are paid .50 per course. I called HR to verify and was very surprised to find out that she is correct. As the person in payroll explained it, faculty who teach in summer I are paid out over the entire summer while faculty who teach summer II are only paid in July and August so their salary is figured at a higher rate to compensate for the difference in 6 pay periods vs 3 pay periods. According to HR, the real issue stems from .50 faculty accruing sick leave, retirement and longevity pay while .25 faculty do not. The person I talked to said they had only been here a few years and this was the way it had always been done and they were surprised that more faculty didn't complain." Dr Yenduri said he would ask about it.
- Senator asked about enrollment. Dr. Yenduri spoke about being slightly up. He spoke about a variety of problems that he is identifying. He has ask Salesforce to present at AAC. He spoke about how the first step was mapped wrong by Salesforce and how the university is working to fix it from IT, Salesforce, etc. He is hearing a variety of issues each day.
- Dr. Yenduri speaks to enrollment saying how the university is behind when looking at a 5 years pov.
- Senator asked about headcounts vs SCH.
- Dr. Yenduri spoke to what the differences are but really wants us to succeed in each.

- Senator spoke to how 12 vs 15 hours and how students are choosing 12 hours because they need to work full-time. Various senators weighed in. Dr. Yenduri agreed and said it is a challenging problem, and it will vary from program to program and student to student. He spoke about the possibilities of tools that could be helpful with regards to advising or tutoring by allowing more student engagement.

**Adjournment:** 4:59PM.