



Michael T. Stephenson

This email corrects an error regarding the Faculty Senate vote on non-tenure track faculty representation.

Dear colleagues,

As the spring comes to an end, here is a quick update from Academic Affairs.

Non-Tenure Track Faculty in Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate will vote today on whether to include non-tenure track faculty in Faculty Senate moving forward. This is the culmination of a year-long evaluation of the issue. I would like to thank them for their work in studying this option.

BRIDGE

In early July, I will announce those internal research projects funded under the [BRIDGE program](#). As you may recall, BRIDGE grants are supported by \$500,000 from the Provost Innovation Fund to accelerate outstanding interdisciplinary research and to be more competitive in leveraging external funding. Full proposals for those research teams who submitted their letters of intent are due on June 5.

SHSU Research Impact on Texas

Over the past 12 months, SHSU's faculty were collectively awarded \$24,097,924 in Texas, federal, and private foundation funds that impact the state of Texas. [Here](#) is the list of funding agencies helping our faculty make an impact locally with their research.

Course Evaluations

I received [this preliminary report](#) from the course evaluation working group, led by Dr. Aneika Simmons, outlining their research and recommendations for course evaluations. The data suggest some change is needed; the question remains what types of change and timing for implementation. I intend for them to vet their conclusions with faculty in open forums and surveys in the fall to determine next steps. I am grateful for their work and thoughtful recommendations.

Learning Loss

I also received [this report](#) from Dr. Amy Salazar's work with each college to understand student disengagement and learning loss. The read is sobering. Dr. Salazar and her staff are pursuing solutions to implement as early as this fall and will have an update for faculty then.

New SHSU Programs for Student Success

This summer, SHSU is pilot testing [Jumpstart@Sam](#), a summer bridge program for 30 students who are not TSI-met and partially funded by a federal SIP grant. And in August, we will officially launch [Bearkat Kickoff](#) for incoming freshmen students. Both are designed to assist students in their transition to SHSU.

Watermark

Thank you for your assistance in migrating to Watermark Workflow this spring. We are now working on preparing the Watermark Activities (CV) portion of the software for rollout to campus. Both COBA and COM are assisting with the pilot testing, as they need the reporting capabilities for their program accreditations. Additionally, this summer, we plan to work with associate deans and chairs to test and provide feedback on the system. Then, in the fall, a pilot group of faculty members will join COBA and COM to further hone it. If you would like to help test the product prior to fall, please [email Jamilyn White](#), Director of Faculty Records & Reporting. We appreciate anyone who is interested in getting their CV data entered while also helping to customize the system for SHSU's needs.

Have a wonderful summer! I look forward to seeing you on Sunday, Aug. 13 for New Student Convocation.

With gratitude,

Michael T. Stephenson
Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

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