

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

April 10, 2025
3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Austin Hall

Senators Present (23) Irfan Ahmed (COBA), Michael Arrington (CHSS), Traci Austin (COBA), Patrick Buzzini (CJ), Lindsay Clark (COBA), Miltonette Craig (CJ), Magdalena Denham (CJ), Brandy Doleshal (COSET), Dustin Gross (COSET), Debbi Hatton (CAM), Nick Lantz (CHSS), Victoria Lantz (CAM), Kimberly LaPrairie (COE), Kenneth McIntyre (CHSS), Ricardo Montelongo (COE), Audrey Murfin (CHSS), Jill Pagels (COE), Erica Pasquini (COHS), Todd Primm (COSET), Bradley Seaberg (CHSS), Zachary Valdes (NGL), Darren Williams (COSET), Willow Yang (COBA).

Senators Not Present (7): Miriam Akoto (CHSS), Emma Bullock (COSET), Jennifer Child (CHSS), Kevin Crouch (CAM), Owen Kelly (COM), Xiaobo Belle Wang (CHSS), Rebecca Wentworth (COE).

Guests: Volha Minich (COSET)

Call to Order

3:30 PM

Special Guests

Dr. Anne R. Gaillard, Vice Provost

Dr. Chad W. Hargrave, Vice President for Research and Strategic Partnerships & Chief Research Officer

Discussion, Polytechnic Policy, APS 250409: The proposed new policy would specify the application of certain policies to the Polytechnic without the need for rewriting every policy immediately. As each policy comes up for renewal, the information on the Polytechnic College will be added. Once all policies are updated, this policy will be rescinded.

Discussion, Polytechnic College: In response to senator questions, Drs. Gaillard and Hargrave provided further information about the Polytechnic College. Though the College was not built on the traditional faculty, there could be later opportunities for us to teach in the Polytechnic, although Dr. Hargrave also emphasized the need for faculty from industry. Currently the Polytechnic is fully online, but there will be industry partnerships for hands on learning. Dr. Hargrave noted that the Polytechnic just got SACS accreditation. Course proposals for the Polytechnic will use the Workforce Education Manual, which is different from the ACGM Academic Course Guide Manual. The first is vocational in nature, rather than theoretical. Poly will confer AAS, Applied Associates, but this does require 15 hours of academic core (including Math and English). Ultimately we will create BAAS programs that AAS students can move into. Math and English will open up special sections for the Polytechnic students, and both have created special online sections for this summer.

Student engagement: Drs. Gaillard and Hargrave assured senators that there will be student support services for Polytechnic students. We will try to integrate into campus culture as lifelong learners. Student fees are still being worked out.

Other educational entities: Area industry needs workforce but the current 2 year colleges in our area are not able to support it. Additionally, students want the SHSU brand. SHSU is talking to ISDs about feeding CTEs into Poly. Students can bring in some of this technical/workforce credit into their degrees.

Research concerns (non-Poly): Dr. Hargrave responded to faculty concerns about lost institutional funding. SHSU has lost 2 grants due to recent changes. Dr. Hargrave encouraged faculty to focus on the positive and keep submitting grants, and our awards and expenditures will grow. However, we are not pursuing an R1 designation.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the March 20 meeting were approved.

Senate Committee Reports

Academic Affairs Committee

- APS 240305– *Curriculum Development and Revision*

Note: *New Policy*. A new policy on curriculum development and revision was prepared to formalize the curriculum process.

Academic Affairs Committee moved that the policy be accepted with minor changes. The revisions suggested were that the policy specify two faculty members in addition to the chair be on the committee, and that the policy clarify the authority of AAC versus faculty. Motion passed unanimously.

Faculty Affairs Committee

- APS 950531– *Undergraduate Degree and Certificate Requirements and Specifications*

Note: *Minor Revision*. Additions were made to account for embedded associate's degrees and applied associate's degrees (Polytechnic College).

Faculty Affairs moved to approve as written. Motion passed unanimously.

University Affairs Committee

- APS 210216– *Academic Policies*

Note: *Minor Revision*. A revision to section 4 is proposed to address the frequent occurrence of policies coming up for scheduled five-year reviews despite having undergone review sessions in advance of this cycle.

University Affairs moved to approve as written. Motion passed unanimously.

Committee on Committees & Surveys

- Report from the Committee on Committees was deferred to next meeting.

New Business

Senate Committee Assignments

Faculty Affairs Committee

- APS 250402– *Faculty Presence*

Note: *New Policy*. A new policy is proposed in support of TSUS Rules & Regulations, Chapter V, section 7.4 regarding in-person teaching, on-campus office hours, and campus engagement.

Senate Discussion

Polytechnic College Academic Policy – continued

Senate discussed Academic Affairs' proposal for the Polytechnic College academic policy, which would serve as a crosswalk to apply the specified existing academic policies to the Polytechnic College (discussed by Dr. Gaillard above). Senate was asked to vote on whether to proceed with this policy review as constructed, and without the formation of a faculty policy workgroup. Senate prefers it as an

interim policy and will vote on it in 12 months to avoid breaking the Policy on Policies (APS 210216 – Academic Policies).

Q-Drop Deadline Revision Proposal – Academic Calendar Advisory Committee

Senate discussed a proposal from the Academic Calendar Advisory Committee to move Q-Drop date closer to the end of the semester (1-2 weeks prior to final exams vs. the current scheduling of 5-6 weeks prior to final exams). The date change was proposed due to many requests for late drops.

Points made in favor of a later drop deadline: It reduces pressure on faculty to award an Incomplete, and some faculty felt the difference between 1-2 weeks or 5-6 weeks before finals is not significant.

Points made against a later drop deadline: A later drop date causes students to take on too many hours, resulting in less commitment across all their courses. When the Q-drop date is earlier in the semester, students will either commit to the course or shift their attention to their other courses. Classes that depend on group work find it is hard to mitigate the effects on other students if someone drops late. Students are not supposed to be able to drop after the final, but some final exams are earlier in lab classes. There was concern with timing with IDEA forms. Faculty prefer a drop deadline before IDEA forms are released.

Faculty Participation in Commencement – NGL Faculty

Senate discussed a recent inquiry regarding whether faculty serving in areas that do not house degree programs (such as NGL) should fall within the scope of commencement attendance requirements as detailed in APS 791221 – *Faculty Participation in Commencement*. Senators agreed that the policy allows for each college to choose its own rotation, and colleges without graduates may choose a rotation where no one is expected to attend.

Chair's Report

The provost search is progressing on schedule.

Announcements

- Now accepting nominations for 2025-26 Faculty Senate Chair-elect position. Election to take place during May 1, 2025, meeting.
- Coffee and Conversations with Dr. White on April 17, 2025, at LSC White Ballroom, 8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Registration requested via e-mail announcement distributed on 4/1/25.

Adjournment: 5:00 PM.