

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES  
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY  
OCTOBER 27, 2005**

Chair Debbie Price called the meeting to order at 3:34 p.m.

**Members Present:** David Bailey; Christopher Baldwin; Jerry Cook; Linda Cook; Doug Constance; Peggy DeMers; Jim DeShaw; Mary Gutermuth; Joan Hudson; Gerald Kohers; Paul Loeffler; Brian Loft; Philip Morris; Valerie Muehsam; Debra Price; Jay Whatley; Patricia Williams; Chris White.

**Members Absent:** Steven Cuvelier (personal conflict); Jerry Dowling (personal conflict); Stacey Edmonson (personal conflict); Mark Frank (personal conflict); Debbi Hatton (professional conflict); Lady Jane Hickey (illness); Rosanne Keathley (professional conflict).

**Approval of Minutes:**

Emendations for the minutes of October 13, 2005 were approved.

**Chair's Report:**

Faculty Senate Chair Debbie Price presented the following reports to the Faculty Senate:

- The APC meeting scheduled for October 19, 2005 was cancelled.
- Chair Price attended the Texas Association of Faculty Senate meeting in Austin and several issues of importance were discussed:
  - There may be a bill in the next legislature to limit textbook changes to every two years.
  - Student fees may be an issue that universities have difficulty in justifying as they continue to increase.
  - The legislature may revisit the 120 hour rule.
  - The dissolution of the Texas A&M—Kingsville Faculty Senate was a major topic of discussion. A resolution in support of the Kingsville Faculty Senate was passed at the meeting. Chair Price read the resolution to the Faculty Senate and will send an electronic version to Senators.

Chair-Elect Philip Morris reported on his October 14, 2005 meeting with Provost Payne:

- The Provost was presented with the questions that Faculty Senate wishes him to address. He will come and address these issues at a date to be determined.
- There is a limited experiment in outsourcing some custodial positions on campus.
- The 120 hour issue has been sent to the Curriculum Committee.
- The Provost does not have strong feelings one way or the other about whether weeks or days are used in the Academic Calendar.
- The Provost strongly agreed with the Faculty Senate's recommendation for a policy website for the required policies that must be on all syllabi.
- The Faculty Senate's recommendation on Parking Handtags is apparently premature in that the Staff Council is going to discuss this issue on November 9, 2005.
- The President and Vice-Presidents are working on a document that will outline the money items that will be needed over the next 5 to 6 years to reach the University's growth vision.

**Old Business:**

There was no old business.

**New Business:**

- Graduate Stipends. Graduate Stipends are only occasionally raised and it is difficult to attract quality graduate students with stipends that are outdated. Senator DeShaw suggested that some type of index should be used for graduate stipends. For instance, the state legislature mandates minimum teacher salaries and perhaps graduate stipends could be indexed to that amount. Chair Price will take this issue to the Graduate Council.

**Committee Reports:**

The following committee reports were submitted to the Senate:

- Academic Affairs. Committee Chair Patricia Williams presented the committee's research on the policies that are required on all syllabi. Also, she has been in contact with Nancy Sears who agreed the website should not be difficult to establish and maintain.
- Committee on Committees. Committee Chair Gerald Kohers informed the Senate that the committee had no report.
- Faculty Affairs. In the absence of Committee Chair Debbi Hatton, Senators Baldwin, DeMers, and Constance reported that the committee was in the process of reviewing the Work Load Policy and that they had found numerous issues that still need to be addressed as well as inconsistencies in the document. Chair Price suggested that the committee might want to meet with Associate Vice President Eglsaer and will set up that meeting.
- University Affairs. Committee Chair Joan Hudson reported on the committee's review of the 2005 Faculty Senate Survey. The major issues of concern on the survey involved workload, selection of department chairs, and allocation of travel funds. The committee also suggested that it might be helpful to let the faculty know that the Faculty Senate does address the issues raised by the survey.

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 4:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Philip W. Morris, Chair-Elect.