

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

February 4, 2010

Members Present

Leonard Breen; Bill Brewer; Donald Bumpass; Rebecca Bustamante; Jeff Crane; Donna Desforges; Mark Frank; Deborah Hatton; Darci Hill; Renee James; Bill Jasper; Hee-jong Joo; Gerald Kohers; Paul Loeffler; Brian Loft; Andrew Lopenzina; Melinda Miller; Sheryl Murphy-Manley; Brian Oetiker; Ling Ren; Tracy Steele; Doug Ullrich.

Members Absent

Erin Cassidy; Chad Hargrave; Mack Hines

Call to Order

Chair Loeffler called the meeting to order at 3:32pm.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 21, 2009 meeting were approved.

Chair's Report

- Chair Loeffler reported from the January 25 meeting with Provost Payne
 - The academic policy covering merit increase and market adjustments (800722) is currently being separated into two policies. The intent of the new market adjustment policy is to be short and flexible.
 - Changes to the criteria and procedure for the Excellence in Teaching Award are currently being considered by CAD. There is some concern that the current procedure may be biased towards professors with large class sizes. Provost Payne referred the senate to the CAD minutes for a clearer understanding of the adjustments being considered.
 - Distance learning enrollment is growing substantially. By fall 2010, the university will have several new online offerings: a Master of Business Administration, a Masters of Public Affairs, a Library Masters, and a undergraduate in Criminal Justice.
 - Provost Payne expressed a desire not to lose the ability to begin the new Arts and Mass Communications College in the fall 2010. For the upcoming Faculty Senate election, he suggested that the senate proceed as if the new college will be approved for the fall 2010.
 - The university has received notice from the Governor of Texas to prepare for a 5% budget cut for both the remainder of this year, and for the next year. Since funding from the state is only one portion of the university's budget, this equates to a 1.5% to 2% cut in our total budget. Part of the response of the university will be to hold the hiring of "superstar" faculty until after the budget concerns are resolved.

- Provost Payne also expressed support for the faculty's concerns over the changing of the academic calendar this past fall semester, as well as concerns over the length of the upcoming fall semester.
- Chair Loeffler reported from the January 29 eCollege meeting
 - Associate Vice President for Distance Learning, Bill Angrove, announced that Blackboard will remain for the foreseeable future. The university will support both platforms, Blackboard and eCollege, until concerns with eCollege have been resolved. Currently, Bill Angrove's office is working with eCollege to improve its functionality. This includes the recent incorporation of Learning Objects and Turn-It-In. Work is also being done to make eCollege's grade book function more like Blackboard's. A new, customized eCollege grade book design is expected by fall 2010.
 - Bill Angrove also provided documentation from eCollege to show that material placed on eCollege by faculty remains the intellectual property of the customer (SHSU), not eCollege.
 - The university is currently out of compliance because materials placed on Blackboard are not being archived for the full five years, as required.
- Chair Loeffler reported from the February 3 APC meeting
 - The APC discussed minor changes to the faculty workload policy (790601), including the addition of art courses FTE credit, see 3.01d(4), and changes to the large class size work load adjustments, see 4.01d.
 - Revisions to the IRB procedure covering the use of human subjects for instructional purposes were considered. The new procedure would apply to instances where publication is not being considered.
 - Major changes to the distinguished professor policy (860425) were considered. The intent of these changes is to clearly delineate the SHSU policy from that of the new Board of Regent's distinguished professor policy.
 - The university is in compliance with the EEOC training; only three faculty/staff have not completed the online EEOC training.
 - A summer groundbreaking is anticipated for the new classroom facility in The Woodlands.
 - The university is currently engaging in negotiations over space and cost-concerns for a new classroom facility in Tomball.
 - Associate Vice President for Distance Learning, Bill Angrove, reported 34% increase in online enrollment. The university has also addressed problems associated with the uniform application of the distance learning fee.
 - In a post-APC meeting with Associate Provost Richard Elgsaer and Teresa Ringo, Chair Loeffler was able to discuss further the Faculty Senate's concerns over the Academic Calendar. Elgsaer reported that the university will stay with Wednesday as the start day for classes. Moreover, it was agreed that the fall 2010 schedule will be revised down to 42 instructional hours (it is currently 45 hours). To help faculty fill the three hour gap, the College of Humanities and Social Sciences intends to conduct a seminar in the provision of online instructional material.

New Business

- **New Market Advances in Salary Academic Policy Statement (100113)**
 - The senate noted that the new policy does not provide criteria or procedures for the determination of market adjustments. Several senators noted the lack of transparency in the selection of faculty.
 - In light of these complaints, senators also questioned when the new policy would become effective, and if it was intended to be used for the current market adjustments cycle.
 - The sense of the Faculty Senate was the new policy is unacceptable as is. The issue was assigned to the Faculty Affairs committee for review and recommendations.
- **Revised Merit Advances in Salary Academic Policy Statement (800722)**
 - Several senators commented that the revised section 3.02a uses the broad term “Teaching Effectiveness” rather than the dual statement “Chair’s Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness” and “Student’s Evaluation of Teaching Effectiveness.” A general discussion over the substantive nature of this change followed.
 - Senators also noted and discussed the revision of 3.02d, now worded as simply “Administrative Assignments.”
 - A motion to accept the new merit policy was approved by a majority vote.
- **Revised Designation of Distinguished Professors Academic Policy Statement (860425)**
 - The Faculty Senate noted changes in the distinguished professor policy were intended to delineate the SHSU policy from that of the Board of Regents. It was also noted that the new policy allows for Associate Professors to be eligible for University Distinguished Professorship.
 - A motion to accept the revised distinguished professorship was approved unanimously.
- **Revised Faculty Instructional Workload Academic Policy Statement (790601)**
 - The senate noted the three changes within the policy: Preamble, 3.01d(4), and 4.01d.
 - The history of changes to 4.01d (instructor of one or more large class) were discussed, with several senators expressing dissatisfaction with the removal of a recommended class size number.
 - The senate also noted that the four categories in Table 1 of Attachment 1 (Chair’s Rating, Student’s Rating, Scholarly and/or Creative Accomplishments, and Service) were no longer consistent with the four new categories in the revised Merit Advance in Salary Academic Policy Statement (Teaching Effectiveness, Scholarly and Creative Accomplishments, Service, and Administrative Assignments).
 - The Faculty Senate unanimously approved the following motion:
 - The Faculty Senate approves the Faculty Instructional Workload Policy Statement subject to a revision of section 4.01d inclusive of the parenthetical statement “(typically 100 students)” and a restructure of the Attachment 1 categories to be parallel with the revisions to 3.02 in the Merit Advance in Salary Academic Policy Statement (800722).

Committee Reports

- The Committee on Committees reported success in adjusting the upcoming Faculty Senate election for the establishment of a new college in fall 2010. Changes to the Faculty Senate Survey had to be delayed until the next senate meeting.
- Due to time constraints, the remaining committee reports were delayed until the next Faculty Senate meeting.

Senate adjourned at 5:10pm

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Frank, Chair-Elect