

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

September 8, 2016

3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Lowman Student Center – Room 304

**Members Present (23):** Irfan Ahmed (COBA), Donald Albert (COS), Burcu Ates (COE), Jonathan Breazeale (COBA), Donald Bumpass (COBA), Joan Bytheway (CJ), Donna Cox (COE), James Crosby (CHSS), Jennifer Didier (COHS), Brandy Doleshal (COS), Karla Eidson (COE), Andrea Foster (COE), Randall Garner (CJ), Donovan Haines (COS), Michael Hanson (NGL), Debbi Hatton (FAMC), Renee James (COS), William Jasper (COS), Eric Marsh (FAMC), Melinda Miller (COE), Karen Miller (FAMC), Stephen Rapp (CHSS), Stacy Ulbig (CHSS), Anthony Watkins (FAMC)

**Members Not Present (7):** Nancy Baker (CHSS) [on leave for fall 2016], Madhusudan Choudhary (COS), John Domino (CHSS), Santosh Kumar (COBA), Jeffrey Littlejohn (CHSS), Raymond Teske (CJ), Ryan Zapalac (COHS) [on leave for fall 2016]

**Called to Order:** 3:30 PM in Lowman Student Center – Room 304 by Chair Lisa Shen

**Special Guests:** President Dana Hoyt and Vice Provost Mary Robbins

President Hoyt and Vice Provost Mary Robbins attended the meeting to recognize outgoing senators and outgoing chair, Lisa Shen, for their service.

Outgoing chair, Lisa Shen, officially passed the Senate gavel to incoming chair, Dr. Donna Cox.

President Hoyt and Vice Provost Robbins spoke to a few pertinent issues including the on-going provost search, the search for the Dean of Osteopathic Medicine and Re-Imagining the First-Year Experience.

As is tradition for Senate in the first meeting of the school year, outgoing chair, Lisa Shen, and incoming chair, Dr. Donna Cox, exchanged gifts.

The outgoing chair is also a member of the Provost Search Committee. Lisa Shen provided the Senate with greater detail on where the committee stands in the search process.

**Senator Self-Introductions:** Senators took a brief moment to introduce themselves to the group.

**Chair's Report**

**Dean of Osteopathic Medicine Search.** After four candidate interviews, one candidate has been eliminated from consideration, and there is no clear leading candidate among the remaining three. The search committee did rank their preferences on the final three, and the committee's recommendation has been forwarded to the Provost. A decision is expected in the not-too-distant

future. One senator questioned why the interviews were conducted in the summer as opposed to waiting until the fall semester, but another senator said that the interviews were well attended and that the timeline for the search would not allow postponement. Another senator asked if we are certain whether or not the new college will actually exist, and Dr. Hoyt had addressed this question in her comments. Another senator asked about the list of questions that were submitted in the spring and whether or not they have been answered to the senate's satisfaction. The senate decided to invite Dr. Hoyt to visit a future meeting for more details on the proposed college.

**Senate Bill 20 – Outside Employment.** New law requires clear delineation of the nature and amount of outside work, and a cap on outside employment may be imminent. Other colleges and universities in the state have already adopted a cap on outside employment. No immediate action is required at this time, but TSUS is formulating a system policy to address the change in law.

### Old Business

**APS 801014 (Graduate Faculty Status).** Dr. Hendrickson will attend a Senate meeting in the near future to discuss his vision and entertain questions.

### New Business

**Standing Committee Selection.** Senators received a form where they could indicate their preference for committee assignments for the coming year. Senators indicated their preference and submitted the forms to the chair.

**Proposed Changes to the Grievance Forms.** It was noted that the proposed changes to the grievance form do not conform to the university policy requiring signage to be placed thirty minutes prior to the meeting. A motion was made to recommend that the wording of Section 3 be changed to include the requirement for signage to be posted thirty minutes prior to the meeting in accordance with university policy. The motion passed by unanimous vote.

**Committee Book.** One senator asked if there is a way the senate can promote greater continuity on university committees listed in the committee book when there is a change in membership. This will be an issue for Committee on Committees – once established.

**Travel Service System.** Many senators expressed concern that the new travel service system does not provide the lowest prices on airfares. Senators who manage study-abroad programs were expressly concerned about the higher prices for their students.

**Private Retirement Options.** One senator asked why there were so few options from which to choose.

Meeting adjourned at 4:57 PM.