

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

October 24, 2024
Newton Gresham Library

APPROVED

Senators Present (21) Irfan Ahmed (COBA), Michael Arrington (CHSS), Traci Austin (COBA), Emma Bullock (COSET), Miltonette Craig (CJ), Lindsay Clark (COBA), Kevin Crouch (CAM), Magdalena Denham (CJ), Brandy Doleshal (COSET), Dustin Gross (COSET), Debbi Hatton (CAM), Nick Lantz (CHSS), Victoria Lantz (CAM), Kimberly LaPrairie (COE), Audrey Murfin (CHSS), Jill Pagels (COE), Todd Primm (COSET), Bradley Seaberg (CHSS), Zachary Valdes (NGL), Xiaobo Belle Wang (CHSS), Willow Yang (COBA).

Guests

Volha Minich (COSET)

Senators Not Present (9): Miriam Akoto (CHSS), Patrick Buzzini (CJ), Jennifer Child (CHSS), Owen Kelly (COM), Kenneth McIntyre (CHSS), Ricardo Montelongo (COE), Erica Pasquini (COHS), Rebecca Wentworth (COE), Darren Williams (COSET).

Called to Order

3:30 PM

Special Guest

Dr. Alisa White, President, Sam Houston State University

Dr. White spoke to Senate and answered questions about enrollment, marketing, merit, and reallocation.

Enrollment and retention: Dr. White discussed some causes for lower than expected enrollment, including problems with FAFSA, weather emergencies, and changes to auto-admissions standards. The university also struggled with retention, and we need to look at graduate student retention. Senators asked about graduate and undergraduate student funding—the president will look into it, but we need more money.

Marketing: Several senators expressed concern about recent marketing initiatives, including a lack of marketing materials for departments to share, and a move away from SEO. The president noted that now that the brand guide is done, there will be more ability for the colleges to put out marketing materials.

Merit: Several senators asked about the lack of a merit raise last year and why merit is linked to enrollment. President White explained that 1 percent of merit costs 1 million and a half dollars. That money can come from increased enrollment or raising tuition, but we couldn't raise tuition. Using one time money for merit puts the University at risk. The Polytechnic college could be an

answer to increasing money from enrollment. The President stated that a merit raise is a priority for her.

Reallocation: Dr. White fielded questions about the reallocation process. If we can redistribute properly, use our resources to serve present and future students, and get overall enrollment up we'll have more money. Dr. White clarified that she is not currently part of the conversation about the process the committee will take.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the October 10, 2024 meeting were approved.

Senate Committee Reports

Academic Affairs Committee

APS 240430 – Course Structure and Management (second cycle)

Academic Affairs Committee appreciates the willingness of Academic Affairs Office to take their suggestions, but still had concerns about the policy. Senate decided to table the vote until Dr. Gaillard can come and talk to the Senate.

Faculty Affairs Committee

APS 900417 – Faculty Reappointment, Tenure, and Promotion for Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty

The committee moved to approve the policy as is. The motion passed.

University Affairs Committee

APS 800401 – Class Attendance

The committee initially moved to accept the policy with an amendment to add language similar to Incomplete grade clarifying students earned a grade of EA will not require additional instruction. During discussion, senators generally agreed with the changes in policy relating to Title IX and pregnant and parenting students, but raised concerns with the excused absence section and the grade of EA. Senators were concerned about how students would get the necessary instruction or practice, or demonstrate necessary skills in workshop-based or activity-based classes, and observed that the policies don't reflect holistic learning methods. Senate agreed to table the vote on this policy as well until it was possible to discuss these concerns with Dr. Gaillard.

Committee on Committees & Surveys

COC gave an update on work completed for university committee nominations. Senator Crouch has contacted possible candidates and will give an update when he hears from them.

New Business:

Senate Committee Assignments

Academic Affairs Committee

APS 890301 – *Hiring, Evaluation, Promotion, and Merit for Non-Tenure Track Faculty*

Note: Minor Revision. Changes made to align with recent revisions to APS 790601, *Faculty Workload*.

Faculty Affairs Committee

APS 130424 – *Faculty-Led Study Abroad and Study-in-USA Courses*

Note: Minor Revision. Changes made to align with THECB requirements.

Content added from APS 800107, *Out-of-State/Out-of-Country Resident Credit Courses*, for which rescission is proposed.

University Affairs Committee

APS 801215 – *Subsequent Master's Degree*

Note: Minor Revision. Information added to clarify that concurrent enrollment in two graduate programs (unless otherwise specified by a degree program) is prohibited.

Committee on Committees & Surveys

APS 800107 – *Out-of State/Out-of Country Resident Credit Courses*

Note: Rescission. Some content has been moved to APS 130424, *Faculty-Led Study Abroad and Study-in-the USA Courses*. Other content is incorrect and/or obsolete.

Announcements

- Coffee and Conversation with President Alisa White, November 4, 2024 – White Ballroom, Lowman Student Center

Adjournment: 5:01 PM.