

University Faculty Senate Minutes
April 10, 2003

Members present: Bill Abbott, Joanne Ardovini-Brooker, Terry Bilhartz, Leonard Breen, Ted Creighton, Mary Lynn DeShazo, Mary Gutermuth, Marsha Harman, Jeff Harwell, Penny Hasekoester, Deborah Hatton, Joan Hudson, Ann Jerabek, Joe Kirk, S. Thomas Kordinak, Paul Loeffler, Holly Miller, Valerie Muehsam, Debra Price, Kandi Tayebi, Tamara Waggener, Gene Young

Member absent: David Henderson (professional conflict), Gerald Kohers (professional conflict), Victoria Titterington (class conflict)

Approval of Minutes

The minutes for March 16 were approved with emendations.

Dr. Mary Evelyn Collins, Chair of the Standing Faculty Tenure Committee

Dr. Mary Evelyn Collins met with the Senate to discuss the Standing Faculty Tenure Committee's document on tenure and promotion. She stated that the committee had looked at several peer institutions, worked closely with Dr. David Payne, Vice President of Academic Affairs, and participated in open discussions sponsored by TACT and AAUP. A copy of the report is on the Faculty Senate website. The Faculty Senate discussed the following issues:

1. Implementation of the new policy, including who would be grandfathered in. The Faculty Senate argued that only new hires should be evaluated by the new policy in order to be equitable. Faculty already hired would still be required to meet new guidelines for other promotions. There was considerable concern about the problem of increasing scholarly expectations at a time when teaching loads are increasing due to larger classes and lack of reassigned time. Faculty who were hired with certain policies in place should be evaluated under the conditions on which they agreed when hired.
2. Since tenure is faculty driven and promotions are administration driven, will tying the two together take away the input of faculty on the tenure decisions?
3. How does the university benefit by pushing through the new policy so quickly?

The Faculty Senate accepted the Standing Faculty Tenure Committee's document for tenure and promotion with the following changes:

1. **The first paragraph on implementation provisions will read "The provisions of this policy concerning tenure shall apply only to probationary faculty whose initial contract with the university is promulgated in an academic year following implementation of this revised policy."**
2. **In section 3.02 part b will be deleted and the Master of Library Science degree will be added to c (terminal degrees) as is stated in the SACs report.**
3. **In section 4.01, all colleges except for the College of Criminal Justice will be deleted since they are not tenure units.**

The vote was 16 in favor and 4 opposed.

The Faculty Senate expressed appreciation for the outstanding job done by the Standing Faculty Tenure Committee.

A majority of the faculty (11 in favor, 8 opposed) also voted to pass a resolution deploring the linkage between tenure and promotion.

Chair's Report

Name Change

Chair Muehsam requested that Senators discuss with faculty the possibility of a name change for Sam Houston State University. Since Southwest Texas State University wants to change their name to Texas State University, a proposal has been presented to the legislators to change all the university names in the system to Texas State University at (name of city or hero). Our university would become Texas State University—Sam Houston. Senators expressed concern that a name change could mean a lot of money needed to change signs, stationary, etc. *See Section below for vote taken by e-mail and voice mail after the Senate meeting adjourned.

Honor Societies and Graduation

Chair Muehsam stated that a number of honor societies have requested that they be recognized at graduation in the same way that Alpha Chi is now. Senators expressed concern that the ceremony not be lengthened. The Faculty Senate in the interest of equity, approved the following recommendation to be sent to the Convocation Committee (1 abstention, 1 opposed, and 18 in favor):

The Faculty Senate recommends that acknowledgement of any honor society on stage at graduation be discontinued in order to help with time constraints and equity and that honor societies be recognized in a printed insert to the program.

Texas Council of Faculty Senates' Resolution

The Faculty Senate agreed unanimously to endorse the Texas Council of Faculty Senates' Resolution. The resolution will be available on the Faculty Senate website.

Old Business

Restructuring

The Faculty Senate discussed once more the concept of restructuring the colleges. Senators did ask whether we wanted to give the administration an open check to restructure the colleges, and it was stated that the administration should come back to the Senate with details. * See Section below for vote taken by e-mail and voice mail after the Senate meeting adjourned.

Ad Hoc Committee

An Ad Hoc Committee was formed to begin looking into budget cuts for the next two years.

Committee Reports

There were no committee reports for University Affairs, Academic Affairs, or Faculty Affairs.

Committee on Committee

The Senate accepted the Committee on Committees proposed changes to the Faculty Survey for 2003 as emended.

Faculty Senate Elections

Faculty will soon receive the nomination forms for Faculty Senate. Ballots will be distributed after nominations are received. All of the colleges have openings on the Faculty Senate.

Respectfully submitted,

Kandi Tayebi, Chair-Elect

Votes Taken after the Meeting Adjourned by E-mail and Voice Mail

Name Change

The Senate voted overwhelmingly (16 opposed, 2 in favor, and 2 abstentions) to reject a name change.

Restructuring

The Senate voted overwhelmingly for the following resolution (20 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstention): **The Faculty Senate supports the restructuring of the colleges when funding permits.**