

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

March 04, 2021
3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.

Remote via Zoom

Senators Present (23).

Samuel Adu-Prah (COSET), Mario Aschauer (CAM), Siham Bouamer (CHSS), Timothy Brown (COE), Valencia Browning-Keen (COHS), Patrick Buzzini (CJ), Rhonda Callaway (CHSS), Brandy Doleshal (COSET), Jamie Durán (COE), Debbi Hatton (CAM), Damon Hay (COSET), Soo-Yeon Hwang (NGL), John Lane (CAM), Lee Miller (CHSS), Carolyn Moore (CAM), Jan Taylor Morris (COBA), Benjamin Park (CHSS), Mary Petró (COE), Kevin Randall (COHS), Stephen Rapp (CHSS), Karen Sherrill (COBA), Aneika Simmons (COBA), Susan Skidmore (COE), Kyle Stutts (COSET).

Senators Not Present (7).

Natalie Baker (CJ), Maria Botero (CHSS), Kevin Lord (COM), Geraldine Monjardez (CJ), Dwayne Pavelock (COSET), Debbie Price (COE).

Called to Order.

3:31 P.M., Remote via Zoom, by Chair Lee Miller.

Approval of Minutes.

The minutes of the February 4 meeting were approved.

Chair's Report.

The chair led a discussion of the Chair's Report. Some of the topics discussed included the following.

Spring enrollment is up 0.32 %, but student credit hours are down almost 2%. The breakdown of classes between in-person, online, and hybrid was 23%, 23%, and 48%, respectively. For comparison, the breakdown for Fall 2020 was 8%, 23%, and 69%, respectively.

Academic Affairs is seeking to have a group of faculty and administrators research a new faculty activity documentation/reporting platform (The current one is Talent Management). The idea is looking for something better than what we are currently using.

"CARES II" funding is going to direct student aid, institutional recovery (revenue losses, e.g., from parking, residence halls, food service, etc.), and also to support COVID testing and vaccination efforts.

Regarding the proposed policy on scholarships for dependents, Dr. Hernandez clarified that fulltime adjuncts who have also been fulltime for the previous year are eligible for the scholarship.

There is cautious optimism that there will be no additional budgets cuts or major changes in budgets. President White asked the legislature for equity funding (i.e. closer to same level as other campuses in Texas), funding for a Homeland Security Institute (CJ), and two tuition revenue bonds: one for an Allied Health Sciences building, and another for an Active Learning Center.

The Chair & Chair-Elect attended the Texas Council of Faculty Senates conference (virtually). The THECB's Harrison Keller was the guest speaker. Further commentary will be given later.

The Chair announced that the Conversation with Administrators has been moved to March 29. It will feature Lenora Chapman from Finance & Operations, and Daniel Harper from the TSUS office.

The Chair announced that the Honor's College Undergraduate Research Symposium is scheduled for April. Deadline for submissions is April 1.

Unfinished Business:

Senator Morris, chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, gave an update on its work on shared governance. The draft letter to President White which was shared at the previous meeting will be left intact or possibly shortened to simply ask the President to commit to the process described therein improving shared governance at SHSU. The committee wants to hear more comments from the full Senate. Please copy Senator Rapp on any emails with suggestions on language, etc.

The Chair asked for further comments or questions regarding the proposed policy on scholarships for dependents, and remarked that Cabinet seems ready to move forward with this, and that this could be in effect for Fall 2021.

Regarding the Modified Instructional Duties for Significant Life Events policy, the Senate received commentary from the Director of HR as well as responses from the Interim Vice Provost. The TSUS general counsel is looking at it now. The Chair asked if there was any further Senate input.

The Senate also received from HR some proposed changes to the Leave Policy. The Chair asked if there was any input from the Senate.

New Business:

There was some discussion of the Governor's changes to COVID protocols. One major concern was that all planning was based on assumptions of mask-wearing and social distancing. Another concern was the communication from the university on its response to the Governor's announcement. There were announcements on social media, but there seemed to be no official communication on the matter. Not everyone is on Social media. It was also reported that some communication was posted on the university's COVID response webpage.

Senator Simmons, on behalf of the Faculty Affairs Committee, presented a proposal on hybrid administrative positions. (See the attached proposal.) Senator Browning-Keen moved that

Senate approve and move the proposal forward. The motion was adopted. Included in the discussion was the topic of workload for faculty performing administrative-type duties

Senator Moore, on behalf of the Committee on Committees, presented language to be added to the Faculty Preference Survey regarding diversity, equity, and inclusion, in the form of an extra survey question: "University Committees and Faculty Senate are involved in discussions, decision-making processes, and crafting recommendations that impact staff, faculty, and/or students with various backgrounds and identities. If you feel comfortable doing so, briefly describe any experience or aspects of your background or identity that would help you advocate as a committee representative or Faculty Senator for consideration of diversity, equity, and inclusion in your service work. Your answers to this and the other survey questions will be kept confidential." There was also some discussion about adding committee descriptions in the survey, as well as an idea of how much work the committee requires.

Announcement:

The Chair asked that senators keep the tentative May 6 Senate meeting date on their calendars.

Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at 5:00 P.M.