

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

April 24, 2025
3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Austin Hall

Senators Present (26) Irfan Ahmed (COBA), Michael Arrington (CHSS), Traci Austin (COBA), Patrick Buzzini (CJ), Jennifer Child (CHSS), Lindsay Clark (COBA), Miltonette Craig (CJ), Kevin Crouch (CAM), Magdalena Denham (CJ), Brandy Doleshal (COSET), Dustin Gross (COSET), Debbi Hatton (CAM), Owen Kelly (COM), Nick Lantz (CHSS), Victoria Lantz (CAM), Kimberly LaPrairie (COE), Ricardo Montelongo (COE), Audrey Murfin (CHSS), Jill Pagels (COE), Erica Pasquini (COHS), Todd Primm (COSET), Bradley Seaberg (CHSS), Xiaobo Belle Wang (CHSS), Rebecca Wentworth (COE), Darren Williams (COSET), Willow Yang (COBA).

Senators Not Present (4): Miriam Akoto (CHSS), Emma Bullock (COSET), Kenneth McIntyre (CHSS), Zachary Valdes (NGL).

Guests: Volha Minich (COSET)

Call to Order

3:30 PM

Special Guests (arriving 4:10 PM)

Dr. Michael T. Stephenson, Provost & Senior VP for Academic Affairs
Dr. Anne R. Gaillard, Vice Provost

Approval of Minutes

April 10, 2025, Meeting. The minutes were approved with corrections to two typos.

Senate Committee Reports

Academic Affairs Committee

- APS 230301 – *Ownership of Copyrighted Works*

Note: *New Policy*. Faculty Senate reviewed a version of this policy in ISpring '24 and recommended approving with minor revisions; however, CAD had several major concerns. Most revisions involve 'Use of Copyrighted Work' content being moved into a separate policy (APS 891208 – *Use of Copyrighted Works*).

Academic Affairs recommended approval of the policy with no comments. The policy was approved with all in favor and two abstentions.

Faculty Affairs Committee

- *APS 250402 – Faculty Presence*

Note: *New Policy*. A new policy is proposed in support of TSUS Rules & Regulations, Chapter V, section 7.4 regarding in-person teaching, on-campus office hours, and campus engagement.

Faculty Affairs suggested several changes to APS 250402. The committee opened discussion on section 4.01, requiring faculty to attend “major events.” Senate debated the advisability of defining “major events.” Other concerns were about a contradiction between 3.02 and 4.02 on the issue of required faculty presence during online summer teaching. During Senate’s discussion, Provost Stephenson and Vice Provost Gaillard arrived [reported below]. After their departure a motion was made and seconded to leave the term “major events” undefined. Senate voted to leave the term undefined with 21 in favor and 5 opposed. A senator expressed concern about the language of faculty hired “explicitly” to teach online, and proposed the additional language “or in a fully online program.” Senator Murfin will discuss these suggestions with Dr. Gaillard. The vote on the policy was deferred to next week.

Committee on Committees & Surveys

- The *Faculty Perception Survey* is now active. Please remind your colleagues to complete it. The *Committee Preference Survey* will be out shortly.

Guests: Dr. Stephenson and Dr. Gaillard

Senators asked questions on the following topics:

Enrollment and Staffing: Will colleges will be ready for the expected growth in enrollment? Dr. Stephenson said chairs and deans will use one-time reserves to address staffing needs in COSET. In the future, this should not be an issue, with increased numbers generating additional income. (\$500,000 set aside for this.)

Budget reallocation: The results have not yet been released, but Dr. Stephenson said there are few surprises. Resources will be shifted to departments showing growth. There will be no reduction in faculty.

FO-71: Senators expressed difficulty with the requirements for 30 days advance notice on personal travel. Drs. Gaillard and Stephenson acknowledged the difficulty and stated the policy reflects the governor’s mandate.

ICE: Senators asked about conflicting information about how faculty should address ICE on campus. Dr. Gaillard will look into it.

Faculty Presence Policy: Dr. Gaillard stated that one impetus for the policy is that since the pandemic, some faculty are rarely here, causing frustration for those who then have to address emergencies. Some senators felt that the policy seemed punitive, or that it had potential for abuse by future leaders. Dr. Gaillard agreed that the policy needs flexibility and that the language could be tightened.

Classroom safety: In response to the shooting at Florida State, senators asked about training for emergencies and about door safety. Dr. Gaillard stated that there is a voluntary training on Talent Management and reported on efforts to make all doors lockable. Concerns were also raised about campus elevators.

New Business

Senate Committee Assignments

Faculty Affairs Committee

- APS 801007 – *Courses and Grades Applied to Degrees and Certificates*
Note: *Minor Revision*. This policy was formerly titled, "Courses and Grades Transferred from Other Universities." Content has been added to address several issues that have recently emerged.

University Affairs Committee

- APS 891208 – *Use of Copyrighted Material*
Note: *Major Revision*. The content added to this policy revision was once partially contained in APS 090130, Intellectual Property, but the policy was rescinded in deference to the TSUS policy. It was later realized that the TSUS policy is silent on joint ownership of copyrightable materials, so a new SHSU policy (APS 230301) was developed to address this gap, in collaboration with the work group. In response to concerns from CAD, and upon the recommendation of Erin Owens (University Copyright Officer, Newton Gresham Library), some content was moved from APS 230301 to this policy.

Senate Discussion

Communication Strategy and Structure by College

- COBA senators discussed college strategies for Faculty Senate communication, including distribution of scheduled e-mail updates, establishment of a COBA-specific shared e-mail account, and an anonymous Qualtrics form to receive questions and concerns.
- CAM reported that they attend departmental meetings in departments without a representative on Senate. They have visited all departments but one.

Chair's Report

Provost search is on schedule. Early enrollment figures are looking positive for a strong fall. Follow up on program directors' questions regarding missing website contact information: Dr. Hendrickson has said this will change again with the introduction of Sales Force, and program directors will be trained and integrated as case managers. Senate discussed two faculty questions:

one about the possibility of adding plus and minus grades, and the other about whether students can rent laptops from the university. Senator Murfin will attend the TSUS meeting with Vice-Chancellor Hayek tomorrow.

Announcements

- The 2025-26 Faculty Senate Chair-elect election is scheduled for May 1, 2025. Please submit nominations as early as possible.

Adjournment: 5:00 PM.