

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
JANUARY 19, 2006**

Chair Debbie Price called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m.

Members Present: Christopher Baldwin; Jerry Cook; Doug Constance; Steven Cuvelier; Jim DeShaw; Jerry Dowling; Stacey Edmonson; Mark Frank; Mary Gutermuth; Debbi Hatton; Lady Jane Hickey; Joan Hudson; Rosanne Keathley; Gerald Kohers; Brian Loft; Philip Morris; Valerie Muehsam; Debra Price; Patricia Williams; Jay Whatley; Chris White.

Members Absent: David Bailey (professional conflict); Linda Cook (professional conflict); Peggy DeMers (professional conflict); Paul Loeffler (professional conflict).

Invited Guest Presenters: Associate Vice Presidents Richard Eglsaer and Mitchell Muehsam (Invited to attend beginning at 4:00 p.m.).

Purpose:

This was a special meeting of the Faculty Senate to discuss assessment issues related to SACS reaccreditation.

Background:

On December 8, 2005, Senate Chair Debbie Price emailed a report to all Senators about the discussion of SACS reaccreditation at the previous day's APC meeting. Chair Price reported that SACS requires assessment measures; the University needed to make some decisions about the best way to make these assessments; and the Faculty Senate would have a role in this discussion. This report generated many questions from the Senators. Therefore, a special meeting of the Faculty Senate was scheduled and Provost David Payne and Associate Vice President Mitchell Muehsam were invited to address these questions.

Opening Remarks and Discussion:

Immediately after calling the meeting to order, Chair Debbie Price made a few remarks concerning the reason for the meeting and informed the Senate that due to illness Provost Payne would not be able to attend but Associate Vice President Eglsaer would attend in his place. Then, there was a general discussion among the Senators related to SACS, accreditation, and assessments.

Question and Answer Session:

At 3:57 p.m., Associate Vice Presidents Eglsaer and Muehsam arrived and a question and answer session began. As a result of this session, the Associate Vice Presidents provided the following information:

- In order to receive Federal money, the University *must* be accredited by a *regional* accreditation organization. Theoretically, it doesn't have to be SACS; but for practical purposes SACS makes the most sense for SHSU.
- SACS has four (4) standards that are related to assessments. These assessments should be integrated, systematic measures of *student learning*.

- There are three (3) areas of assessments in SACS:
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