

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

September 9, 2009

Members Present:

Chad Hargrave; Renee James; Sheryl Murphy-Marr; Paul Loeffler; Bria Oetiker; Brian Loft; Bill Jasper; Mark Frank; Gerald Kohers; Rebecca Bustamante; Leonard Breen; Melinda Miller; Mack Hines; Donna Desforges; Tracy Steele; Deborah Hatto; Darci Hill; Erin Cassidy.

Members Absent:

Emmette Jackson; Hee-jong Joo; Sam Sdu; Donald Bumpass; Bill Brewer; Andrew Lopenzina.

Call to Order:

Chairperson Edmonson called the meeting to order at 3:30pm.

Approval of Minutes:

The minutes of the May 7, 2009 meeting were approved as submitted.

Awards Ceremony:

Senators completing their terms were recognized by Provost Payne, and the new senators were welcomed by Chairperson Edmonson.

- x Out-going Senators: Bill Lutterschmidt; Yan Zhang; Mark Frank*; John Newbold; Bill Edgington; Debra Price; Tracy Steele*; Tamara Waggen; Tracy Bilsing; Ann Jerabek (* Re-elected for a subsequent three-year term)
- x New Senators: Chad Hargrave; Renee James; Hee-jong Joo; Donald Bumpass; Rebecca Bustamante; Leonard Green; Mack Hines; Donna Desforges; Erin Cassidy
- x Senate Administrator Awards were presented by Chairperson Edmonson. In her address, she explained that our "Friends of the Senate" awards recognize individuals in leadership positions who have been exceptionally supportive of the faculty and who have gone above and beyond in contributing to the academic life of the university.
 - f The Departmental Chair Award was presented to Dr. Debra Andrist from the Department of Foreign Languages.
 - f The award recognizing those in upper administration was presented to Provost David Payne.
- x Greetings on behalf of the president were offered by Dr. Payne; Dr. Gaertner had been regrettably detained. Provost Payne relayed the administration's appreciation for the harmonious and friendly relationship that has been maintained with the senate. He stressed the important and vital role of the senate on campus and his personal appreciation for our efforts. Following his remarks, Dr. Payne presented an award to Dr. Edmonson in recognition of her term in service as senate chair. Dr. Payne commented that she was a wonderful leader and always a pleasure to work with. He also congratulated her on her recent promotion to Acting-Chair within the College of Education.

Old Business:

Chairperson Edmonson provided a report on the status of various resolutions and recommendations made during the 2008-2009 senate year. A summary of this report is included as an attachment to the minutes.

New Business:

Passing of the Gavel

The traditional gift exchange between 2008-2009 Chairperson, Dr. Stacey Edmonson, and the 2009-2010 Chairperson, Dr. Paul Loeffler, marked the transition of the respective senates and the induction of the new senate chair.

Introduction of New and Old Senators

Special Guest: Dr. Debra Andrist, Chair of the Department of Foreign Languages. Dr. Andrist reviewed for the senators the role of foreign languages on campus and the many new efforts and activities. These include the introduction of new course offerings, such as ASL and Arabic, as well as efforts to provide outreach to our students, such as on-line German and Spanish, and "practice tables" manned by students as part of their service-learning course requirements. Her detailed handout is included as the second attachment to the minutes.

Election of Chair-Elect:

Dr. Mark Frank, from the Department of Economics and International Business, was unanimously elected as chair-elect for 2009-2010 year, and as chair for the 2010-2011 year.

Committee Assignments:

Chairs for each committee were determined during short meetings. Academic Affairs – Renee James; Committee on Committees – Gerald Kofers; Faculty Affairs – Brian Loft; University Affairs – Melinda Miller.

Special Senate Election

Due to resignations and a sabbatical, the Co

Senate Input:

- x Several senators reported growing faculty concerns related to the limited availability of on-campus parking during peak-demand hours. The Faculty Affairs Committee agreed to consider complaints related to the shortage of available faculty and staff parking, as well as the cost of parking in the Parking Garage. The University Affairs Committee agreed to consider complaints regarding the traffic on Avenue I between the Lee Drain Building and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and Avenue U between the Parking Garage and the Music Building.
- x A general discussion ensued over the 2009 major adjustments. Concerns were raised over the lack of clarity in the criteria for allocation of these funds.
- x Senator Murphy-Manley raised the issue of tuition support for children of faculty and staff who attend Sam Houston State University.
- x After a general discussion, the Faculty Affairs Committee agreed to consider concerns over the transparency and administration of the Faculty Excellence Awards.
- x Chairperson Loeffler raised concerns over the level of involvement of the Faculty Senate in the review of policies put forth by the university.

Senate adjourned at 5:10pm

Respectfully Submitted,
Paul Loeffler, Chair
Mark Frank, Chair-Elect



