

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

16 April 2015
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Austin Hall

Members Present (22):

Irfan Ahmed (COBA), Tracy Bilsing (CHSS), Nancy Baker (CHSS), Don Bumpass (COBA), James Crosby (CHSS), John Domino (CHSS), Diane Dowdey (CHSS), Karla Edison (COE), Mark Frank (COBA), Randy Garner (CJ), Deborah Hatton (COFAMC), Mark Klespis (COS), James Landa (COHS), Jeffrey Littlejohn (CHSS), Paul Loeffler (COS), Dennis Longmire (CJ), Sheryl Murphy-Manley (COFAMC), Diana Nabors (COE), Gary Oden (COHS), Lisa Shen (NGL), Stacy Ulbig (CHSS), Tony Watkins (COFAMC)

Members Not Present (9):

Helen Berg (COE), Jonathan Breazeale (COBA), Madhusudan Choudhary (COS), Donna Cox (COE), Richard Henriksen (COE), Joan Hudson (COS), David McTier (COFAMC), Dwayne Pavelock (COS), Douglas Ullrich (COS)

Called to Order: 3:35 pm in Austin Hall by Chair Nancy Baker

Minutes Approved: MHad ()i3(r)-2(N)2 /] 5(H)2(ad):1(h)2yd ()T DougAheTp]TJril .9(ppr)-u[>4 DC (Mook2aiIT4lt. Bh 2015.

On Apr(i)-2(s)2(i)s)2(p4.k2ai(ni)look2 f)44ltmT4m t(o)5hH(3-S)5.k2U(3- (s)3B(3-ar(ni)-))-es &ook2 N(3-o)U

students to “sell your notes and get paid.” The email also stated that the Bookstore has partnered with FlashNotes to create an “Academic Mentor Program” (see Appendix A).

This issue was brought to the Faculty Senate’s attention by a concerned student, who shared the email with a faculty member. Since faculty were not informed of the Bookstore’s partnership with FlashNotes, and Dr. Baker then contacted Mrs. Tickner and arranged for representatives from FlashNotes and the Barnes & Noble University Bookstore to visit Senate on April 16th.

Dr. Baker also contacted TSUS Attorney Rhonda Beassie for her legal opinion. Upon initial review of the bookstore email and the FlashNotes website, Ms. Beassie commented that:

- a. If the materials for sale were created by the student (e.g. notes in their own words from a lecture or the textbook), then it would not infringe upon intellectual or copyright laws.
- b. If the materials were created by the professor (e.g. study guides, direct transcriptions of a lecture), then the students would be violating the professors’ intellectual property rights.
- c. If the materials posted for sale were created by the professor using the publisher’s materials (e.g. test bank questions or publisher-provided lecture slides), then the material would be in violation of the publisher’s rights.

Discussion

Mrs. Tickner introduced the CEO of FlashNotes, Mike Matousek, who co-founded the company while studying at Kent State University in 2010. Mr. Matousek provided a brief overview of the service and stressed that the mission of FlashNotes is to provide high quality, student-created material to encourage peer-to-peer learning and academic success.

A senator inquired whether FlashNotes is not-for-profit, and how would its service differ from free resources offered by non-profit organizations such as Khan Academy. Mr. Matousek indicated FlashNotes is a for-profit company, and compared to resources from Khan Academy, the material and tutoring services

collegial practices of notes sharing and peer support are now only offered to those willing and able to pay.

Questions were then raise

Appendix A –

**Faculty Senate
Chair's Report
04-16-2015**

Flashnotes



Senate Recommendation for Creation of Loading Zones on Campus

IDEA Teaching Evaluation Short Form

Policy Revisions Update: Tenure and Promotion, FES, Merit Pay

Graduate Faculty Policy