

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES**  
**SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**  
23 January 2014

## **Old Business**

### **Academic Calendar**

Dr. James reminded everyone that she sent all senators copies of the Calendar Committee's new academic calendar, which has no remarkable differences from prior years. Dr. James raised the discrepancy between Faculty Senate opinion at the November meeting versus that expressed via e-mail on whether to change the Fall semester start date from a Wednesday to a Monday. She asked if people could clarify whether they preferred one start date to another.

We must meet for 15 weeks in the Fall semester, even if we hold classes only for part of the week. The two days of Thanksgiving week that we currently hold classes are counted as a week. Final exams week is not counted as a week.

A student editor/reporter in attendance from The Houstonian was invited to share her thoughts on whether classes ought to start on a Monday or a Wednesday for the Fall term. She expressed the wish for a full first week of classes, and a full week off during Thanksgiving week to enable her to spend time with family.

A senator whose students are working professionals dislikes the May 29 start date for summer courses, as her students are still teaching

In the POLICY section, the language is too broad and invasive; there is a requirement to disclose the relationship (which feels like an invasion of privacy) and to cooperate in making alternative arrangements.

Paragraph 4: “supervisor will work with all parties to alter the conditions ....” This seems to give the supervisor too much discretion in handling the situation.

Paragraph 3 says that no relationships are prohibited by the policy. However, in the business world, when there is a conflict of interest due to a consensual relationship, in some cases, some people are expected to find another job.

The definition of a consensual relationship is incorrect.

If a chair is in a position to evaluate a faculty member who is his/her spouse, according to this policy, it is unethical and different arrangements should be made. Perhaps the language under POLICY needs to be changed to remove “unethical” and simply stick to “conflict of interest.”

Where is the idea of privacy? If a faculty member tells his chair, will the chair tell the dean, who tells the provost? If a faculty member is gay, this could be a potential further invasion of privacy. However, depending upon how complicated it is to make alternative arrangements, someone beyond the chair may need to know.

A senator said that her committee had talked to TSUS attorney Rhonda Beassie about this, and “collegiality” was considered a “fourth pillar” of tenure (along with research, teaching, and service). Ms. Beassie said that collegiality was not being met if someone was being “obstructionist.”

Another senator said that his college has two tenure reviews occurring next week, and collegiality is going to be a central argument in one case. He asked if there is any current language to guide this, and Dr. James said no. A senator said that he is distressed that we have an imminent tenure case being decided on collegiality when the Provost knows collegiality has not been defined clearly and feels the Senate ought to say something about it.

Another senator commented that Ann Holder evaluates all her faculty on collegiality, using three questions; the senator suggested that Dr. Baker ask Ann Holder for her three questions as possible guidelines we could use.

A senator offered that she has a book with guidelines on collegiality, and she suggested looking at this book for information to consider. Collegiality and Service for Tenure and Beyond: Acquiring a Reputation as a Team Player by Franklin H. Sil 0 0 Tm0.2 dons; af0.959cm BT 50 0

more seriously if it included men on the committee? A couple of senators were interested in knowing the history of

One of the senators who attended the meeting stated that he thought there was a need to put in writing issues re: intellectual property, especially with DELTA, so faculty know clearly what is theirs and what is the university's. Another senator said that there should be a written contract for every new DELTA course, as he knows some faculty members who have created new courses without receiving the \$2,000 course-creation compensation.

A senator asked, if you created an online SHSU course, could you offer the same course at a different university?

In the course of the discussion over how intellectual property is handled at SHSU, one senator referred everyone to Academic Policy statement # 090130 on intellectual property for the most current policy.

Dr. James will invite Rhonda Beassie to attend a Faculty Senate meeting to answer questions on intellectual property and possibly also collegiality. All senators are encouraged to send Dr. Donna Cox questions for Ms. Beassie to answer.

Meeting adjourned at 4:59 pm.

*Revised 02-03-2014, 12:11 pm*