

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

February 23, 2017
3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
LSC 304

Members Present (20): Irfan Ahmed (COBA), Donald Albert (COSET), Jonathan Breazeale (COBA), Donald Bumpass (COBA), Madhusudan Choudhary (COSET), Donna Cox (COE), Jennifer Didier (COHS), Karla Eidson (COE), Andrea Foster (COE), Randall Garner (CJ), Donovan Haines (COSET), Michael Hanson (NGL), Debbi Hatton (FAMC), Renee James (COSET), William Jasper (COSET), Karen Miller (FAMC), Melinda Miller (COE), Stacy Ulbig (CHSS), Anthony Watkins (FAMC), Ryan Zapalac (COHS)

Members Not Present (9): Burcu Ates (COE), Nancy Baker (CHSS), James Crosby (CHSS), Brandy Doleshal (COSET), John Domino (CHSS), Santosh Kumar (COBA), Jeffrey Littlejohn (CHSS), Eric Marsh (FAMC), Stephen Rapp (CHSS)

Called to Order: 3:33 PM in Lowman Student Center (LSC) – Room 304 by Chair Donna Cox.

Approval of Minutes. The February 9 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Special Guest. Somer Franklin, Ed.D. – SACSCOC Reaffirmation & IDEA Forms

SACSCOC 10-Year Reaffirmation

Dr. Franklin distributed a draft SACSCOC Reaffirmation of Accreditation Report Timeline and discussed the due dates for some of the major hurdles. The big task for faculty is to develop and tell the story associated with a Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) topic. Dr. Hoyt is hosting a President's Roundtable on March 8 to discuss the QEP. Dr. Franklin also circulated a handout on the QEP and the requirements for an appropriate plan. Several Senators asked about items that may be precluded from being a QEP topic, and Dr. Franklin mentioned that the biggest constraint is that the plan cannot be implemented until Fall 2019.

IDEA

Dr. Franklin distributed several pages that summarized the initial roll out of the online IDEA administration. Our overall university response rate was 58.66% - compared with an IDEA suggested 70% response rate. Data was broken down by college and compared to the response rates from fall 2015. One Senator asked how we could close the gap between 58.66% and 70%, and Dr. Franklin suggested that faculty communication is most likely the key ingredient.

The following discussion revolved around improving responses by potentially requiring students to complete the evaluation before being allowed to access or view their grades/transcript. Many faculty support making evaluations a requirement, and there were several faculty members who opposed the idea.

A Senator asked Dr. Franklin effectively "what are the online evaluations telling us?" A faculty member approached the senator and said he had to get data from an online state site. Dr. Franklin

said that HB 2504 website does have some additional information, but the data received from now on will be more streamlined. The pdf attachments to the emails distributed in the fall will go away, and the data on the faculty portal will include the summaries. The data included at the HB 2504 website will be different going forward from what has been available until now.

A Senator asked about the previous Senate recommendation to give students the short-form IDEA survey versus the long-form. Dr. Franklin mentioned that the timing of this recommendation was immediately prior to her taking over the administration of the IDEA survey, and she never received the recommendation. Senator C. Renee James was Senate Chair at the time and volunteered to find the committee's report in which the recommendation was made and forward the original recommendation to Dr. Franklin.

One Senator went as far as to refer to the fall rollout of the online survey that were certainly "pushy" and even boarder line "threatening." Several Senators from multiple colleges recall the emails and were also not pleased. Dr. Franklin said that the university is trying to balance maximizing student participation with being overbearing. A follow-on question by the same Senator was with regard to the fact that IDEA has become a "competition" rather than as a useful tool for feedback and improvement. Several Senators mentioned that chairs and deans are just simply not using the IDEA data in the correct way – especially when it comes to compensation in the FES system.

Another Senator asked about performance and participation. Dr. Franklin said that she is unaware if IDEA has conducted any research about GPA and response rates or GPA and evaluation scores. She said that she would look for a study or studies that might shed more light.

Chair's Report

Updates from mid-winter Confab

To tie up the points from the mid-winter Confab:

1. Dr. Hoyt and Somer Franklin have visited Senate to discuss the issues of the D.O. School, IDEA and the SACSCOC Reaffirmation.
2. Dr. Henley will attend Senate on March 9.
3. Dr. Eglsaer said that he would also like to see an oversight and/or coordination committee for International study abroad (and other) programs.

Faculty Senate Survey

Consideration was given to add a question about the D.O. school on the annual Faculty Senate Survey.

APS 860425 – Designation of Distinguished Professors

A motion was made to accept APS 860425 as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

APS 890303 – Employment of Graduate Assistants

The Chair charged the Committee on Faculty Affairs to review APS 890303 and submit a report to the full Senate on March 9.

Dr. Cox then asked the following committees to review one policy each and provide recommendations to the full Senate at the March 9 meeting:

Faculty Affairs: APS 860915 (Faculty Absences on Religious Holy Days)

Academic Affairs: APS 860904 (Academic Credit for Work)

University Affaris: APS 890228 (Use of Tobacco Products in Classrooms and Facilities)

Committee on Committees: APS 810213 (Procedures in Cases of Academic Dishonesty)

Committee Reports. None

New Business. None

Adjournment: 5:00 PM