

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

April 27, 2017
3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Austin Hall

Members Present (20). Irfan Ahmed (COBA), Donald Albert (COSET), Jonathan Breazeale (COBA), William Carroll (CHSS), Madhusudan Choudhary (COSET), Donna Cox (COE), Brandy Doleshal (COSET), Andrea Foster (COE), Randall Garner (CJ), Donovan Haines (COSET), Michael Hanson (NGL), Debbi Hatton (FAMC), William Jasper (COSET), Santosh Kumar (COBA), Eric Marsh (FAMC), Melinda Miller (COE), Stephen Rapp (CHSS), Stacy Ulbig (CHSS), Anthony Watkins (FAMC), Ryan Zapalac (COHS)

Members Not Present (8). Burcu Ates (COE), Donald Bumpass (COBA), James Crosby (CHSS), Jennifer Didier (COHS), John Domino (CHSS), Diane Dowdy (CHSS), Karla Eidson (COE), Renee James (COSET), Karen Miller (FAMC),

Called to Order. 3:32 PM in Austin Hall by Chair Donna Cox.

Approval of Minutes. The March 30 and April 13 minutes were unanimously approved.

Special Guest. Dr. Richard Eglsaer, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs

Tenure and Promotion.

- There were 12 candidates for Tenure/Promotion from Assistant to Associate Professor. Ten were granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor. Two were denied.
- Three faculty hired as Associates applied for tenure. All three were awarded tenure.
- 14 Associate Professor candidates put forth their packets for consideration for promotion to Professor. Eleven candidates were promoted. Three candidates were denied.

With the legislative focus on cost cuts, a merit increase would be a slap in the face of the legislature. Sam Houston State would potentially stand to lose (politically) in the future. While we will not be allocating money to merit, if the House of Representatives bill goes through, there will be some money, but it will be for market raises and support monies.

One senator asked about the President's roundtable point made by Dr. Hoyt who asked for the tuition increase in order to give merit raises to faculty. Dr. Eglsaer said that tuition freezes are still possible at the state level, so tuition prices are not set yet.

One faculty asked why there is no merit pay when we are starting new programs. Dr. Eglsaer said that the money for the College of Osteopathic Medicine was coming from a different source.

Dr. Eglsaer then specifically addressed the questions faculty raised at the town hall meetings with Dr. Henley regarding the College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Dr. Eglsaer then informed the Senate that the policy review process was not proceeding as fast as is necessary to be completed in time for the 10-year SACSCOC Accreditation. He then asked if Senate would allow a committee of 4 or 5 Senators to work during the summer on “non-controversial” policies to provide recommendations on the policies on behalf of the entire Senate. Dr. Eglsaer mentioned that there would be a stipend for the work.

A final question from a Senator asked about searches for key positions across campus, and Dr. Eglsaer gave an update on current administrative hiring efforts.

2017 Faculty Survey. Dr. Melinda Miller, Chair of the Committee on Committees, distributed the results of the faculty survey. She reminded Senators that comments must be returned prior to departure but are available for review at any time in her office or the office of the Senate Chair.

The format of the survey results was different this year due to the use of Qualtrics. Dr. Cox gave Senators several minutes to review the results prior to discussion. Faculty returned the survey comments to Dr. Miller.

Election of Chair-Elect. Dr. Cox opened the floor for nominations. Two nominations were made prior to the meeting – Dr. Donovan Haines and Dr. Melinda Miller. Another nomination was made for Tony Watkins. Dr. Watkins accepted the nomination. Each nominee spoke to the Senate for a few moments. Ballots were then distributed. Senators marked their votes and cast their ballots. Tony Watkins received a majority of the votes and will assume the role of Chair-Elect in fall 2017.

Chair’s Report. Dr. Cox asked for volunteers to serve on the committee to review policies over the summer. She collected a group of names and will approach those who were willing to serve.

Committee Reports.

Faculty Affairs:

1. APS 860915 (Faculty Absences on Religious Holy Days). Faculty Affairs recommends a small change. In section 2.01.b., the committee recommended allowing faculty to assign an alternative assignment rather than being required to find a substitute. A motion was made. A second was received. The motion was unanimously approved.
2. APS 081217 (Consortial and Academic Contractual Agreement Review). Faculty affairs recommended to accept the policy as provided to the Senate for review. The full Senate voted to approve as is.
3. APS 791221 (Faculty Participation in Commencement). A great deal of discussion ensued with regard to participation in commencement. A motion was made to delete paragraph 3. A second was made. The motion carried unanimously.

Academic Affairs:

1. APS 800521 (Department/School Academic Distinction Program Policy) – Academic Affairs has not had a chance to review the policy yet.
2. APS 921007 (Academic Advisory Councils). Academic affairs recommended changes to improve clarity and flow. No material changes are recommended. A motion to accept the recommendation was made. A second was made. The motion carried unanimously.

University Affaris:

1. APS 940317 (Academic Fresh Start) University affairs recommended to accept the policy as provided to the Senate for review. The full Senate voted to approve as is.

Committee on Committees:

1. APS 810213 (Procedures in Cases of Academic Dishonesty) Dr. Melinda Miller provided a recommended change to the policy with regard to self-plagiarism. A motion was made and seconded to accept the recommendation. The motion passed.
2. APS 030502 (Acceptance of Foreign Language Courses) – Senate voted to wait on a recommendation to hear back from Academic Affairs on why CAD recommends elimination.

New Business. None

Adjournment: 4:53 PM