

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

October 4, 2012
3:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Austin Hall

Called to order at 3:30 p.m. in Austin Hall by Chair Tracy Steele

Members present:

Don Bumpass (COBA); Tracy Bilsing (H&SS); Kevin Clifton (FA&MC); Donna Cox (COE); James Crosby (H&SS); Mark Frank (COBA); Richard Henriksen (COE); Joan Hudson (COS); Bill Jasper (COS); Gerald Kohers (COBA); Hayoung Lim (FA&MC); Paul Loeffler (COS); Dennis Longmire (CJ); Joyce McCauley (COE); Sheryl Murphy-Manley (FA&MC); Dwayne Pavelock (COS); Debra Price (COE); Lisa Shen (NGL); Tracy Steele (H&SS); Stacy Ulbig (H&SS); Doug Ullrich (COS); Walton Watkins (FA&MC); Rick White (COS); and Pam Zelbst (COBA)

Members not present:

Randall Garner (CJ), Helen Berg (COE), Renee James (COS), Jeff Crane (H&SS), Diane Dowdey (H&SS), Nancy Baker (H&SS), Debbi Hatton (FA&MC)

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Minutes for July 17th and September 6th approved with 2 abstentions. The minutes for September 20th will be addressed at the next meeting on October 18.

Chair's Report:

The Chair and Chair Elect's scheduled meeting with Provost Hebert was cancelled due to the death of Dorothy Roberson, the Provost's Assistant and friend to the Senate. Senators discussed Dorothy's valuable contribution not only to SHSU but also to the greater Huntsville community. In respect of the family's request that "In lieu of flowers, the family has requested any donations be made to the Calvary Baptist Church Children's Choir, POB 1577, Huntsville TX, 77342," it was noted that Senators may wish individually make cash donations. The Senate will send a message of condolence to the family.

Chair Steele presented a request from a graduate student from another university to conduct a survey of SHSU Senators on the role of faculty in the budget making process. Senators declined based on their lack of expertise in this area after reviewing several of the survey questions.

Travel Reimbursement – A concerned faculty member reported to Chair Steele that several junior faculty members had failed to be reimbursed for university-related travel for reasons such as staying at a university dormitory for a conference (which was cheaper than a hotel and arranged by the Conference Organizers). In at least one case, the period for reimbursement flowed into the next fiscal year. Hence, it was

understood that in those cases, faculty were to be reimbursed by one-time payments which means that tax and other deductions would reduce the amount to be reimbursed. This issue was assigned to the University Affairs Committee. University Affairs was also asked to consider this in reference to the efficiency committee's report from last spring

Update: HAVEN LGBTQ Training Fall 2012 – Chair Steele e-mailed to Senators the announcement and application for Fall Training. For additional information, Faculty should contact training leaders Maryam Ilahi, Shannon Reed, or Jenna Wright at org_haven@shsu.edu or call (936)294-1720 for more information or to view the flyer<http://www.shsu.edu/mailler/Haven_Flyer.pdf>.

Chair Steele asked for questions to be submitted to Texas Council for Faculty Senates. Sheryl Murphy-Manley's Academic Affairs Committee has prepared several questions with particular focus on Low Performing Programs.

CORE Report:

Debbi Hatton was ill, but filed a report and clarifications for deadlines for courses to be submitted for consideration for the CORE Curriculum. Senator Hatton's report was given by Chair Steele. Paperwork for the proposed CORE courses goes to Dean Tayebi. The paperwork is due on Oct. 22. Direct and indirect assessments are still under discussion. Debbi Hatton will send out further clarifications as necessary.

Committee Reports:

Academic Affairs Committee:

The Senate accepted the Academic Affairs Committee's report (see document) presented by its Chair, Senator Sheryl Murphy-Manley. Chair Steele will put forward the Committee's questions on Low Performing Programs to be addressed in Austin at the Texas Council of Faculty Senates (TCFS). Provost Hebert will be invited to address the Senate to discuss "dissolving" faculty lines and other issues. The committee plans to investigate Online Instruction across the campus. The committee encourages anyone who teaches online and would like to discuss with the committee their experience are welcome to contact of its members. The Senate endorsed the Committee's recommendation that representatives from IDEA should visit the campus. Senator Price reported that the CAD had already approved this decision. The Committee has a number of issues that it wishes to put forward and the Senate requests that time be set aside for Faculty to meet with IDEA representatives when they are on campus.

University Affairs:

Committee Chair Tracy Bilsing noted that the certificate or sticker given to faculty or staff has attended the HAVEN LGBTQ Training. There is concern that individuals who do not post such stickers may be perceived as not being "safe" for students seeking support or advice. The Senate accepted the Committee's recommendation that David

Hammon, Associate Vice President for HR and Risk Management, to discuss hostile workplace issues with the Senate. Senator Bilsing will make arrangements.

Faculty Affairs:

Committee Chair Mark Frank reported the Faculty Affairs study of overloads and independent studies. The Senate accepted the Committee's recommendation that Vice President for Information Technology, Mark Adams, be invited to the Senate to discuss SHSU policy on the number of devices faculty are allowed and other issues related to IT. Chair Steele noted that Senator Hatton had submitted an item related to IT, specifically the Security Training then being carried out online by an outside company that often arrives in "spam" files. The Senate would like to discuss this with VP Adams also.

Old Business:

Senator Sheryl Murphy-Manley reported on the President's Roundtable held on October 3rd on Customer Service. Faculty discussed a number of areas where students deserve better customer service including insuring that their transcripts are accurate and shortening the lag time between when a professor posts course grades and when, days later, grades are available for review by students.

The Senate had previously voted to express support for a SHSU Food Pantry. Senator Baker who initially introduced the matter to the Senate, forwarded an article from "The Houstonian" dated October 2, 2012, noting the Senate's support.

New Business:

Senators reported ongoing issues with Degree Works and Banner. Of particular concern were errors that prevent students from being able to graduate.

Publicity for the Senate – It was agreed that the dates and times of the meetings will be updated on the Senate website along with the speakers once they are scheduled to appear. Senate meetings are open to Faculty and the entire SHSU Community (except during a closed session at the end of the meeting). This information will be given to Cathi Gillette to be included in Academic Affairs Weekly E-mail.

Adjourned at 4:40 PM