

**FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

DRAFT

September 19, 2024
Austin Hall

Senators Present (19) Emma Bullock (COSET), Patrick Buzzini (CJ), Jennifer Child (CHSS), Lindsay Clark (COBA), Miltonette Craig (CJ), Kevin Crouch (CAM), Magdalena Denham (CJ), Brandy Doleshal (COSET), Dustin Gross (COSET), Debbi Hatton (CAM), Nick Lantz (CHSS), Victoria Lantz (CAM), Ricardo Montelongo (COE), Jill Pagels (COE), Todd Primm (COSET), Bradley Seaberg (CHSS), Zachary Valdes (NGL), Rebecca Wentworth (COE), Willow Yang (COBA).

Guests

Volha Minich (COSET)

Senators Not Present (9) Irfan Ahmed (COBA), Miriam Akoto (CHSS), Diana Brown (COBA), , Owen Kelly (COM), Kimberley LaPrairie (COE), Kenneth McIntyre (CHSS), Audrey Murfin (CHSS), Erica Pasquini (COHS), Darren Williams (COSET).

Special Guest: David Glaser, Chief Strategy Officer

Called to Order

3:30 PM by chair, Zachary Valdes

Discussion with Special Guest

Major Glaser spoke about the University's Strategic Plan. In particular, he focused creating a student population that can move into professional work with a focus on service, on the expansion of business within the state and specific industries and potential connections to programs, and on the expected growth and population in the Gulf Coast region over the coming years.

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the September 5, 2024 meeting were approved.

Senate Committee Reports

Academic Affairs Committee

The Academic Affairs Committee reported on its review of APS 240430, Course Structure and Management, and recommended that the policy be rejected until major revisions were completed. The committee was concerned with prescriptive language around LMS, office hours, grading, lack of nuance/flexibility for variety of classes and pedagogical approaches offered. The committee identified problems with BB Ultra that make heavy reliance on this LMS

difficult. They expressed particular concerns with telling faculty how to hold office hours. In the ensuing discussion, senators raised additional concerns, noting that the policy exceeds its associated TSUS policy is concerned with much more than the LMS. Faculty Senate voted unanimously to reject the policy.

Faculty Affairs Committee

The Faculty Affairs Committee reported on its review of APS 801014, Graduate Faculty Status. The committee recommended the policy be approved with minor edits. Faculty Senate voted to approve the policy.

University Affairs Committee

The University Affairs Committee reported on APS 860904, Academic Credit of Experiential Learning. The committee recommended the policy be approved, with edits to clarify some terminology. Faculty Senate voted to approve the policy.

Committee on Committees

The Committee on Committees offered an update on last year's Faculty Perception Survey. Qualitative data specific to colleges will be delivered to the deans this year following last year's vote to do so. The quantitative results have been submitted to IT and will be posted imminently.

New Business

The chair provided updates on new subcommittee assignments for the following policies in review:

- Academic Affairs Committee
 - APS 110511, Appointment, Workload, and Evaluation of Chairs
- Faculty Affairs Committee
 - APS 820317, The Faculty Evaluation System of Tenured and Tenure-Track Faculty
- University Affairs Committee
 - APS 800722, Merit Increases in Salary
- Committee on Committees
 - Administer special election to identify a CHSS senator replacement. Election is anticipated to run the week of 9/23-9/27.

Other Business

- Commencement ceremony revision proposal (Dr. White)
- Senators discussed whether interim chairs can serve on Faculty Senate. No vote was called but senators generally felt not.
- Faculty perception survey: Senators wishing to review the qualitative data should make an appointment with the chair. Deans were receptive to the qualitative data.

Chair's report

At the AAC council meeting, two policies came up for review that Faculty Senate had previously reviewed. All suggested revisions were incorporated. Chair will continue to provide reports on how revisions are being handled in Academic Affairs.

There is a proposal for a faculty senate representative on the IT advisory committee. The committee is already composed of faculty members, but representing their colleges, not Faculty Senate. The Provost said he'd support the inclusion of a FS rep on the committee, but it comes down to Dr. White's decision.

Ongoing concerns about Bearkat Bundle, frustration with lack of data from B&N. Pres White doesn't believe they're in position yet to provide these reports.

Zach Valdes and Audrey Murfin will be attending Texas faculty senate council next week. Prominent topics will be: looking at SB 17, shared governance, other topics.

Announcements

Senators are requested to send headshots to Audrey Murfin for inclusion on the webpage.

Senators are reminded of the President's reception on September 24.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5 pm.