

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING AGENDA
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY**

November 21, 2024
3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Austin Hall

Senators Present (19) Irfan Ahmed (COBA), Michael Arrington (CHSS), Traci Austin (COBA), Emma Bullock (COSET), Jennifer Child (CHSS), Miltonette Craig (CJ), Lindsay Clark (COBA), Brandy Doleshal (COSET), Dustin Gross (COSET), Owen Kelly (COM), Nick Lantz (CHSS), Kenneth McIntyre (CHSS), Audrey Murfin (CHSS), Jill Pagels (COE), Todd Primm (COSET), Bradley Seaberg (CHSS), Zachary Valdes (NGL), Rebecca Wentworth (COE), Willow Yang (COBA).

Senators Not Present (11): Miriam Akoto (CHSS), Patrick Buzzini (CJ), Kevin Crouch (CAM), Magdalena Denham (CJ), Debbi Hatton (CAM), Victoria Lantz (CAM), Kimberly LaPrairie (COE), Ricardo Montelongo (COE), Erica Pasquini (COHS), Xiaobo Belle Wang (CHSS), Darren Williams (COSET).

Call to Order

3:30 PM

Special Guests: Rozlynn Kieschnick, Executive Director of Hospitality and Auxiliary Services, Laura Turner, Director of Hospitality and Auxiliary Services, and Alison Oneal, Administrative Coordinator, Hospitality and Auxiliary Services

Ms. Kieschnick discussed issues and challenges related to the Bearkat Bundle and the activities of the Faculty Bookstore Committee. The committee includes a faculty representative from each college as well as Faculty Senate representation (Senators Craig and Pagels). The committee found challenges related to communication, and responded with the *Compare, Confirm, Collect* slogan. Initiatives to improve communication include

- emphasizing that students can compare the cost of the Bundle to buying outright
- yard signs through campus
- presenting the Bundle at Bearkat Kickoff to freshmen as well as parents
- promoting the Bundle as convenient and potentially cost saving rather than affordable.

Other initiatives implemented to improve success are

- increased percentage of books ordered at each classification to cut down on backordered books.

For prompt delivery, the Bookstore would prefer that students put in their order 7 days before class. Students shouldn't (ideally) be confirming on the first day of class. Some delays in students receiving books are produced by last minute class changes.

For physical books, students must come to pick them up: 2,000 orders were not picked up 4-6 weeks into the semester. For online books, change to Ultra caused some students difficulty in finding books. Working with SHSU Online and faculty will help.

Opt-out rates for the Bundle are decreasing, 30% originally to 14% now.

Senators asked questions about helping students navigate the Bundle, since often students tell faculty they cannot get the books. Some students opt out of the Bundle and realize on the 12th-class day that they have lost access to course materials that they originally had. There are sometimes difficulties with getting the common reader—last year we were the largest order of the common reader.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes for the October 24, 2024 and November 7, 2024 meeting were approved.

Senate Committee Reports

Faculty Affairs Committee

- APS 791221 – *Faculty Participation in Commencement*

Note: Faculty Senate recommended rescission of this policy in May 2023. CAD reviewed and rejected the rescission request. As Senior Reviewer, Faculty Senate is asked to draft a revision.

Faculty Affairs has drafted a policy for review. Faculty are strongly encouraged to attend one commencement per year; departments are encouraged to develop a rotation. Issues discussed were 1.) should faculty on nine month contracts be expected to attend summer commencement? 2.) should online faculty be exempt? and 3.) difficulties and expense in acquiring regalia. The decision was made to wait to vote on the policy until everyone has had a chance to read it.

Unfinished Business

Faculty Senate Website Discussion: Senate decided to list upcoming policies for review in our newsletter. The Faculty Promotion and Salary Adjustments page is out of date. Senate voted to remove this from the faculty website.

New Business

Senate will not meet on the optional date of December 5.

Senate discussed the new pilot program from Teaching and Learning Center, to increase the presence of tenured and tenure-track faculty in lower division courses. Senators were concerned that DFQ rates would be used to evaluate faculty for the program.

Provost Stephenson asked Senate to discuss the pilot of the short version of IDEA. Academic Affairs would like to move forward with just the short or the long version. There is a small improvement in response rates with the short form, and strong correlation of scores between forms. Senators noted that the short form no longer contains the option to select and be evaluated on course objectives. Senators reported that some departments were happy with the change, while others still want to select the objectives.

Chair's Report

The attendance policy (APS 800401) went into open comment period without incorporating Senate's suggestions. Dr. Gaillard has stated that she will still incorporate Senate's feedback, and there will be a new draft put into open comment period.

Announcements

- Faculty Senate Holiday Reception with Dr. White on Tuesday, December 3, 2024. RSVP by Monday, November 25, 2024.

Adjournment: 5:00 PM.