

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

February 6, 2025
3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Austin Hall

Senators Present (25) Irfan Ahmed (COBA), Traci Austin (COBA), 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), Owen Kelly (COM), Nick Lantz (CHSS), Victoria Lantz (CAM), Kimberly LaPrairie (COE), Ricardo Montelongo (COE), Audrey Murfin (CHSS), Jill Pagels (COE), Todd Primm (COSET), Bradley Seaberg (CHSS), Zachary Valdes (NGL), Xiaobo Belle Wang (CHSS), Rebecca Wentworth (COE), Darren Williams (COSET), Willow Yang (COBA).

Senators Not Present (5): Miriam Akoto (CHSS), Michael Arrington (CHSS), Debbi Hatton (CAM), Kenneth McIntyre (CHSS), Erica Pasquini (COHS)

Guests: Volha Minich (COSET)

Called to Order

3:30 PM

Special Guest

Heather Caudle, Assistant Director of Student Success & Coaching, Academic Success Center, reporting on updates pertaining to ASC services and the formation of a Student Success Advisory Board.

The Student Success Advisory Board has a representative from every college, including Senate Chair Valdes, and four student representatives as part of peer to peer approach. If a student engages three or more times with Coaching and Academic Recovery we see 1 point increase in their GPA and they are 1.5 times more likely to persist. Ms. Caudle oversees the early alert system. Senators asked if they also serve graduate students—they do, through the ASC Writing Center programs.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the November 21, 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 new policy. Senate discussion concerned whether the policy should be rephrased to read “college” instead of “department” in section 2.01 B. Concerns about regalia will be brought forward to the administration instead of incorporated in policy.

The policy passes unanimously with minor edits.

Senate Committee Assignments

Academic Affairs Committee

- APS 810701 – *Instructional Overload Assignment*
Note: Minor Revision. Changes made to allow increased time for faculty to accrue overload credits. Minor edits from CAD.

University Affairs Committee

- APS 900407 – *Student Resignations*
Note: Minor Revision. The Office of the Registrar and the Financial Aid & Scholarships Office provided minor revisions for better alignment with current federal regulations and SHSU processes.

Committee on Committees & Surveys

- Begin plans to conduct 2024-25 *Committee Preference* and *Faculty Perception* surveys with targeted report distributions of May 1, 2025.

Other Business

FES and Merit Following Non-Merit Granting Years

Senate discussion regarding potential proposals for allowing significant accomplishments achieved in non-merit granting years to qualify for consideration in subsequent merit-granting years. Senators asked why FES scores cannot simply be averaged across several years. Senate Chair Valdes noted that President White doesn't want to do this. Senators noted that other schools use a “banking system” but senators raised concerns about the timing of such a system, and how it would work in departments where faculty are ranked. Senators expressed a desire to have President White come to speak to us on this issue.

University Committees Activity

There are reports of some University committees not meeting. Senate was asked to discuss thoughts and ideas on possible improvements, including feasibility of implementing a structure to facilitate iterative status updates. Discussion centered on what should be the role of Faculty Senate versus the role of Provost's office in investigating this. Senator Crouch and the CoC will begin the process of investigating these committees.

Watermark and FES

Senate discussed faculty feedback on Watermark functionality. Some faculty did not like the look of the Watermark created CV, and most reported having to fix errors in the auto-generated report. Faculty were concerned about missing accomplishments; they were also concerned about situations where Watermark reported material outside of the time period under consideration, or grants applied for but not funded, which might look as if they were padding their CV. Other concerns were that some faculty were still being required to upload documents to Talent Management, creating extra work.

Some faculty reported IDEA scores showing, while others had trouble with this function. IDEA scores did not include percentage responding or student comments.

Special Guests

Senators discussed recommendations for Special Guest invitations.

Chair's Report

The vast majority of our recommended revisions have gone through Academic Affairs Council. Senators report continued concerns about APS 800401 and the requirement for makeup work for excused absences. Many classes do not have an easy way to make up in class work. This is a particular problem for graduate classes.

Discussion of Senate Bill 17: SB 17 carves out exceptions for classroom teaching, faculty research, and student organizations. We are getting questions from faculty about whether we should be concerned about these rights and freedoms, but there is currently no guidance on this question.

The TLC pilot proposal was a great idea but the timing wasn't right. Faculty Senate should contribute to the conversation if it is reconsidered in the future.

Enrollment is slightly down for undergraduate, slightly up for grad, but applications are higher than they have been, perhaps because of lowering the standards for auto-admission.

Senators Valdes and Murfin will be attending the Texas Council of Faculty Senates this month.

Announcements

- Coffee and Conversations with Dr. White on Monday, February 17, 2025 at LSC White Ballroom. Registration requested via e-mail announcement distributed on 2/3/25.
- Senator Williams has an override that will make Blackboard recognize Excel columns to show students their overall grade. He is willing to share it with interested faculty.

Adjournment: 5:00 PM.