FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
OCTOBER 14, 2004

Chair Marsha Harman called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

Members Present: David Bailey; Christopher Baldwin; Jim Carter; Jim DeShaw; Mark Frank; Mary Gutermuth; Marsha Harman; Deborah Hatton; David Henderson; Lady Jane Hickey; Joan Hudson; Joe Kirk; Gerald Kohers; Paul Loeffler; Bill Lutterschmidt; Holly Miller; Philip Morris; Valerie Muehsam; Gary Smith; Chris White; Patricia Williams.

Members Absent: Steven Cuvelier (professional conflict); Peggy DeMers (professional conflict); Stacey Edmonson (professional conflict); Tom Kordinak (professional conflict); Debra Price (professional conflict).

American Democracy Project:
      Frank Fair presented an overview of American Democracy Project (ADP) activities currently taking place among Faculty, Students and Administrators at SHSU. Dr. Fair noted that a large number of faculty members responded to a call by Provost Payne to meet and discuss the possibilities of SHSU participating in the ADP and that some of those attending had been appointed to an ADP Steering Committee. Most of the members of the Steering Committee took the opportunity provided by Provost Payne to attend ADP Conferences in either Tulsa or Albuquerque.
      Dr. Fair noted that in its simplest version the ADP is concerned with "educating students to be citizens." A large amount of current literature addresses what some people have seen as an increasing detachment and apathy particularly among younger citizens. Robert Putnam, a former President of the American Political Science Association received a great deal of attention for his book Bowling Alone which describes a declining level of participation in almost all forms of community activity including bowling leagues.
      Dr. Fair noted that encouraging and teaching civic engagement is more than simply participating in politics. It also involves taking responsibility for your community in a variety of other ways including social, cultural, artistic and economic outreach activities. Civic engagement is the appropriate relationship between the University, the students, the faculty, the administration, and the community.
      As Dr. Fair noted, the ADP is in many ways a recognition of activities, events, and programs that already exist on the SHSU campus. ADP may sometimes mean simply more coordination and visibility for those activities. It may also mean raising our collective consciousness about our many contributions to our community and it certainly means more intentionally fulfilling the service part of our mission at SHSU.
      Addressing issues of academic integrity and ethics in the classroom are also an example of the ADP. Another recent development in support of the ADP are co-curricular transcripts which identify and validate the lists of service activities and leadership roles that students have been involved in while at SHSU.
      Another recent example of ADP work is the successful voter registration drive on campus spearheaded by Dr. Tamara Waggener, Frank and Janet Fair, the NAACP, and

the SHSU Democratic and Republican campus organizations. Approximately 900 students were registered in time for the election this November.

Two other examples are the Mock Political Convention being prepared by Professor Mike Yawn to take place sometime at the end of the fall semester and, of course, the SHSU RTF and Mass Communication Departments continuously provide programs that inform the SHSU community about local issues, events, activities and opportunities.

Dr. Fair concluded by noting that the ADP is a very successful, ongoing program at SHSU and that over time there will be more activities and more members of the SHSU community will be involved in it.

Provost David Payne's Visit With The Faculty Senate:

Provost Payne:

1. noted and expressed appreciation for the strong attendance of the Faculty, Staff, and students at the 125th Anniversary celebration.

2. reported that SHSU had an increase in student enrollment for the fall semester 2004 of approximately 900 students.

3. expressed his appreciation for the way the faculty has responded well to various changes and adjustments required over the past several years and that he continues to welcome the thoughtful, constructive input of faculty as well as other members of the University community.

4. reported that the creation of a fifth College has worked very well and that the search for a new Dean is continuing with a cut made to eleven candidates.

5. noted that there is progress in implementing the two track system and that the agreed upon method of implementation was to start by designating new hires and junior faculty first for the research track and to work upward in seniority as budget restraints allow. He also noted that there is approximately a five year time line for implementing the two track system and that there is a need, and the University is working, to interface the two track system with Post Tenure Review, the merit system and possibly other University policies as well.

6. reported that new college promotion and tenure policies have been submitted by the Deans and that all contained both philosophical statements and principles as well as some specific guidelines and requirements.

7. reported that because of the significant increase in student enrollment this fall and the implementation of the formula established last year by Dr. Gaertner for adding faculty in proportion to the numbers of new students enrolled, SHSU would be allocating 30 new faculty positions among the colleges over the next couple of weeks so that recruitment of new faculty can begin as quickly as possible. Provost Payne also noted that some part-time faculty positions are likely to be converted into full time positions and that this option for hiring new faculty would allow the new faculty salary funds obtained from student enrollment growth to have a broader positive impact.

The following information was also shared as a result of a dialogue between Provost Payne and Faculty Senators following his remarks:

1. that newly drafted College Faculty Reappointment, Tenure and Promotion Policies will remain open for input and possible modification as the Departments develop their own policies and guidelines.
2. that some consideration will be given to identifying senior faculty members with proven records of research and publication for possible inclusion in the research track even though new hires and junior faculty will remain the priority in designation for the research track.
3. that, in fact, Provost Payne believes that in some departments in some colleges some senior faculty may have already been assigned to the research track.
4. that the preferred policy for all Colleges and Departments is that reassigned time earned for supervising theses and teaching graduate classes be awarded as soon after sufficient credit is accumulated as is possible and with due consideration of the impact of the reassigned time on the resources of the department.
5. that the service component of University work is important and it is expected that faculty members in all Colleges and in both faculty tracks provide a reasonable amount of University and community service as part of their expectations for tenure, promotion, and merit. Provost Payne also noted that some review of the number of Committees currently in place at SHSU might be worthwhile.
6. that achieving smaller class sizes is important and that class size concerns are being addressed to some extent in the new buildings by constructing some number of smaller classrooms; that there probably is some optimal size for various classes and courses and that SHSU is working to achieve a better faculty student ratio.

Chair Harman thanked Dr. Fair and Provost Payne for their presentations and their willingness to engage in open and positive dialogue with Faculty Senators.

The minutes for September 30, 2004 were approved.

Chair Harman reported that the Research Council communicated with the Faculty Senate through Senator Lutterschmidt a request that the deadline for submitting proposals for the University Research Grants be moved from February 14 to February 1 to allow the Research Council more time to complete their work.

The Faculty Senate agreed to change the deadline to February 1 to assist the Research Council.

Senator Lady Jane Hickey noted that sample documents illustrating successful submissions for Faculty Development Leave are available in the Library's digital collection and can be accessed through the Library's catalog. She also reported that Faculty Development Leave Policy Forms and a policy link can be found at
http://www.shsu.edu/~vaf_www/aps/pdfpolicies/800328.pdf

Chair Harman provided a report on Scholarship Disbursements by College and Division in relation to an ongoing consideration by the Faculty Senate as to the best practices for awarding academically related scholarships.

Chair Harman reported that the subscription costs for the hard copy of the New York Times currently delivered to the SHSU campus is $5,400.
Senator Lady Jane Hickey reported that the Newton Gresham Library has the New York Times in print, microfilm and in electronic versions. The electronic versions are available on your desktop, simply by going to the library web page and clicking on resources.
New York Times available:
From 01/01/2000 to the present in Business and Company Resource Center, Student Resource Center Gold Edition and InfoTrac Custom Newspapers.
From 06/01/1980 to the present in LexisNexis Academic (same day availability)
From 1857 to 1001 in ProQuest Historical Newspapers
Chair Harman also noted that the American Democracy Project subcommittee suggested not subscribing to the New York Times in hard copy since students do not get copies for free as do faculty members and administrators.

Committee Reports:

Academic Affairs: Committee Chair Paul Loeffler reported that the Academic Affairs Committee is continuing to try to resolve issues related to a proposed new Faculty Grievance Policy and to address questions related to Post Tenure Review. Chair Loeffler also noted that Dr. Fernando Gomez, general counsel TSUS will be on campus November 11 particularly to assist in completing work on the new Faculty Grievance Policy and to provide perspective on Post-Tenure Review and as a guest speaker at the Faculty Senate meeting.
Members of the Academic Affairs Committee also visited with Dean Brown about implementation of the two track faculty classification system.

Faculty Affairs: no report.

University Affairs: no report.

Committee on Committees: The Committee on Committees nominated a faculty member for the Research Council and for the Admissions, Standards, and Applications Committee. The nominations were approved by the Senate and sent to the President.

The Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Jim Carter