

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

May 1, 2025
3:30 P.M. – 5:00 P.M.
Austin Hall

Senators Present (25) Irfan Ahmed (COBA), Michael Arrington (CHSS), Traci Austin (COBA), Emma Bullock (COSET), Patrick Buzzini (CJ), Lindsay Clark (COBA), Miltonette Craig (CJ), Kevin Crouch (CAM), Magdalena Denham (CJ), Brandy Doleshal (COSET), Dustin Gross (COSET), Debbi Hatton (CAM), 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), Rebecca Wentworth (COE), Darren Williams (COSET), Willow Yang (COBA).

Senators Not Present (5): Miriam Akoto (CHSS), Jennifer Child (CHSS), Kenneth McIntyre (CHSS), Erica Pasquini (COHS), Xiaobo Belle Wang (CHSS).

Guests: Volha Minich

Call to Order

3:30 PM

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the April 24, 2025 meeting were approved.

Senate Committee Reports

Faculty Affairs Committee

- APS 801007 – *Courses and Grades Applied to Degrees and Certificates*
Note: *Minor Revision*. This policy was formerly titled, "Courses and Grades Transferred from Other Universities." Content has been added to address several issues that have recently emerged.

Faculty Affairs moved to approve the policy with minor edits. All were in favor, with one abstention.

University Affairs Committee

- APS 891208 – *Use of Copyrighted Material*
Note: *Major Revision*. The content added to this policy revision was once partially contained in APS 090130, Intellectual Property, but the policy was rescinded in deference to the TSUS policy. It was later realized that the TSUS policy is silent on joint ownership of copyrightable materials, so a new SHSU policy (APS 230301) was developed to address this gap, in collaboration with the work group. In response to concerns from CAD, and upon the recommendation of Erin Owens (University Copyright Officer, Newton Gresham Library), some content was moved from APS 230301 to this policy.

University Affairs moved to approve the policy with edits to remove definitions and material specific to TSU. All were in favor.

Committee on Committees & Surveys

- Reporting on 2024-25 *Committee Preference* and *Faculty Perception* surveys.

The Faculty Perception Survey closes tomorrow at 5. A reminder was sent out yesterday. There are currently 204 responses, which is more than last year. The Committee Preference Survey currently has 133 total responses.

Unfinished Business

Faculty Affairs Committee

- APS 250402 – *Faculty Presence* - (Revised 4/28 based on Faculty Senate feedback)

Note: *New Policy*. A new policy is proposed in support of TSUS Rules & Regulations, Chapter V, section 7.4 regarding in-person teaching, on-campus office hours, and campus engagement. Additional revisions were incorporated 4/28 based on Faculty Senate discussion and feedback.

Senator N. Lantz, presenting for Faculty Affairs, noted Dr. Gaillard's generous revisions, which addressed Senate's concerns from the last meeting, including the addition of exceptions for online only programs, exceptions in case of a global emergency such as COVID, and an amendment stating that within the expectation there have to be occasional absences permitted.

Senate discussed the policy further, introducing questions about a blanket protection against abuse, and the applicability to part time employees (the TSUS policy only applies to full time employees). The listed titles are usually full time, but this was not consistent across all colleges. Senators also noted that the TSUS policy refers to in-person teaching and questioned its application to online teaching.

Senators are seeking clarification on the lines "duration of the semester" because it might apply to summer (4.03). Senators want clarification on the office hours because today's students prefer online office hours. Senators also worried that the statement that department chairs and deans can establish expectations is overly broad (4.01). However, others noted that department chairs want a policy that empowers them to deal with people demanding only online classes, and some senators noted that deans are not backing up chairs when this happens. Many senators wished to add the wording "reasonable" and "in consultation with faculty" (4.01).

A motion was made to approve the policy with the stipulation that the word "summer" was removed from 4.03 and to ask about other concerns. 22 in favor, 2 opposed, 1 abstain.

New Business

- Election for Faculty Senate Chair-Elect (2025-26): Senator Kevin Crouch accepted the nomination. Senator Crouch was elected unanimously to the position of Chair Elect.

Chair's Report

Provost search: They have conducted screening interviews and are doing due diligence background check. Senators shared information from public statements on the search, sharing that 5 candidates will be brought and that there were 89 applicants. Faculty will have a 1 pm time slot to meet the candidates.

FES Scope for Merit Consideration: Senate leadership got a report from Amanda Withers but we haven't had an opportunity to meet with her team to discuss the interpretation. Those who led the study reached out to other institutions and found that very few had a mechanism to address this.

Faculty Perception Survey: Summer in-person meetings available for senators interested in reviewing results

Recent Faculty Questions and Concerns: A faculty member submitted a question about Remote Work Bill TX SB2615 and its impact on SHSU. We will ask Dr. White how the bill affects SHSU.

TSUS-CFS Report (Chair-elect): Chair-elect report on information and updates from 4/25/25 TSUS-CFS meeting with TSUS officials and component representatives. TSUS officials discussed the potential changes to SB-17 and ways it might impact curriculum and Faculty Senate. Several senators expressed concerns about how SB-17 will affect the operation of our senate. Senators Valdes and Murfin will be meeting virtually with the Texas Council of Faculty Senates tomorrow.

Announcements

- Dr. Irfan Ahmed (COBA) and Dr. Miriam Akoto (CHSS) have announced their resignation from Faculty Senate. We thank both members for their dedication and efforts this year, and wish them all the best in their upcoming ventures.

Adjournment: 5:00 PM.