

February 2007 Faculty Senate Minutes

Faculty Senate Minutes 2-7-07

Senators Present: Jack Meadows, Michael Matthews, Hank Wilson, Troy Hogue, Kevin Durand, Fred Worth, Martin Halpern, Brian English, Don Wells, Doc Gibson, Rafael Bajarano, Catherine Leach, Martha Dale Cooley, Lee Ann Alexander, Paul Glover, Angela Boswell, Paula Leming, Georgine Steinmiller, Gary Smithey, Maralea Gourley, Beverly Baker, Steven Carter, Carol Underwood and Linda English.

Senators Absent: Patrick Wempe, Rick McDaniel, Beverly Buys and Laura Storm.

Senate President Kevin Durand announced the quorum and called the meeting to order at approximately 3:15 p.m.

The January, 2007 Minutes were approved as distributed.

Discussion with Vice President Robert Houston:

- Prerogative of Instructor to drop a student from a course.
- Advising Workshops are being set up to help student retention.
- Students now must see their advisor to register until they have thirty (30) hours.
- How do we get students to visit their advisors after thirty (30) hours?
- The suggestion of an Advising Center was part of the discussion with Dr. Houston and Dr. Stephens.
- Our appreciation to Dr. Houston for meeting with us and his commitment to this process.

Discussion with Vice President Gail Stephens:

- When a student drops below twelve (12) hours, they cannot be maintained on parent's health insurance.
- Make sure students are dropped by the 11th day for never attended.

Dr. Stephens' office will not withdraw students for never attended after the 11th day. (Registrar will not drop).

Clarify drops after the 11th day as excessive absences per syllabus policy, not non-attendance. Non-attendance is being confused with never attended.

- Why do we backdate withdrawals?
 1. We may backdate due to the student's status regarding financial aid including loans.
 2. After the 11th day, only medical reason with proof will be accepted for backdating.
- What if a student attends the 11th day, but exceeds course absence policy afterwards?
 1. Financial Aid Regulations state that a student has to progress academically. A grade of F hinders academic progress as does dropping classes.

Discussion with Vice President Gail Stephens: (Continued).

- Faculty can still drop a student, but do not report it was because they never attended, if you drop after the 11th day.
- Recent e-mail needs to be restated to be more clear on the policy regarding dropping students after the 11th day.
- A clearer message will be sent.

February 2007 Faculty Senate Minutes

- Heart Start is being revamped into a two (2) day overnight session to allow more time for quality advising of students. Heart Start is considering using students to look over freshmen schedules during the registration process.
- Entertained advice from Faculty Senate as to how to improve student retention.
- El Dorado Matching Funds: Question: Are we going to be diverting scholarship money from competitive scholarships? Comment: It could impact scholarship budgets in the future.
 1. In the past, HSU applied the HSU scholarship first. If they had a large academic scholarship, they were refunded.
 2. Now, Federal Aid and New State Aid are applied first, then private non-refundable aid (Murphy), then HSU Scholarship, then refundable private scholarships and loans last. This should allow us to offer more scholarships.
- Inclement Weather Policy: Handbook deadline is 6 a.m. to post closing information. Penny Murphy will post a message in regard to open/closed status in the future.
- Our appreciation to Dr. Stephens for her attendance and commitment to these matters.

President's report:

The University has purchased two (2) airplanes for \$630,000.00. We are still leasing other planes. We will receive additional planes in April, thus reducing the number of airplanes being leased.

Faculty Evaluations: On-going. Process not uniform; Practice not uniform. President Dunn and Deans will work toward uniformity of process and practice.

Committee Reports:

Procedures Committee Report:

- Jay Deville is the alternate for Chemistry.
- Jules Mollere is the alternate for Physics.

Old Business:

- Excellence Awards will be done this semester.
- Election of Excellence Awards Committees will be done by the Procedures Committee right away.

There was a motion and second to increase the amount of the New Faculty Excellence Award to \$2500.00, effective Fall, 2007. Motion carried.

New Business: Suggestions for Advising.

President Durand referred "the Role of Faculty Advising" to the Academics Committee.

Senator Fred Worth, chair of that committee, requested that we ask our departmental faculties for suggestions for advising.

- An Advising Center was suggested.

President Durand referred "the dropping of students" to the Academic Committee for review and suggestions.

February 2007 Faculty Senate Minutes

- It was suggested from the floor that “Faculty be allowed input into Heart Start”.

President Durand referred the issue of “Incompletes and the use of the Incomplete Form” to the Academics Committee.

A discussion of last year’s Financial Emergency in the summer where Faculty received 75% pay for classes under the enrollment cutoff. The concern is that the “option was removed”.

This issue was first referred to the Academics Committee. After discussion, there was a motion and second to reiterate “Faculty should have the option to teach at 75% pay, but not be required to do so”. Motion carried.

There was a motion and second that the University cease from using the Social Security Number as a unique identification. Motion carried.

There was a discussion of student e-mail and the fact that students may not forward e-mail from Henderson accounts to other e-mail accounts. Also, if a student does not login to his/her Henderson e-mail account for sixty (60) days, the account is deleted.

There was a discussion of adjuncts not having Henderson e-mail accounts.

The Senate adjourned at approximately 5:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda G. English
Faculty Senate Secretary