

DRAFT: FACULTY SENATE MINUTES
SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY

7 November 2013

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TSUS Meeting (October 25, 2013)

- System enrollment is up by 2.5%; we are the third largest system in the state, and the 19th largest in U.S.
- THECB changes – going forward, they will be a coordinating body, not a governing body.
- The legislature set up a \$30 million fund to help reimburse schools for the Hazlewood Act.
- Tuition Revenue Bonds (TRBs) and outcome based funding both lost traction in the last legislative session.
- The next legislative session could be much different; 5 of the 6 top positions will be open.

TCFS Meeting (October 25 26, 2013)

- Presentation by Gaines West
 - Your faculty office is not your own. There is no expectation of privacy in your office or on university owned computer equipment.
 - For faculty who sue their university, expect a personal cost of around \$250 thousand, and a strong likelihood that the university will prevail.
 - Faculty have protection only with regard to discrimination laws and First Amendment free speech laws.
 - The time limit to file for a discrimination claim in Texas is only 180 days after the incident (and 300 days for filing at the federal level)!
- Future of Tenure Discussion
 - Public mistrust of the tenure system continues to rise. There is a strong need for faculty to police themselves (the worst 1% of faculty give the other 99% a bad name).
- Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) Update
 - The sunset bill (SB215) significantly diminished the authority of the THECB.
 - THECB will now focus on making recommendations to each university's Board of Regents.
- Shared Governance Discussion
 - It is critical for the faculty senate to gain full control of the university's curriculum, grievance, tenure and promotion policies.
 - The faculty senate should also re write the committee charges so that the senate has control of university committees.
 - For the university budget – the faculty senate should appoint a permanent faculty member to attend meetings. A faculty member from the Department of Accounting would be ideal.
 - UT System controversy (UTS Policy 180) – requires all faculty to disclose the type and amount of all personal and professional compensated activities outside of work, and to request permission to engage in any volunteer activity involving leadership. Some provisions also extend to the disclosure of activities by immediate family members. See: <https://www.utsystem.edu/bor/procedures/policy/policies/UTS180.pdf>

Respectfully submitted,
Mark Frank