

Minutes
HSS Faculty Senate Meeting
September 24, 2021
3:00 p.m.
Acting President: Alan Baumeister

Agenda:

1. Election of Secretary of the HSS Faculty Senate
2. Election of representative to the LSU Faculty Senate
3. Standing committees

Present:

Christina Armistead -- ENGL
John Bardes – HIST
Alan Baumeister – PSYC
Joe Clare – POLI
Kelly Clark – PSYC
Laura Martins – ITDS
Steve Namikas – GEOG/ANTH
Colter Ray – CMST
Robert Tague – GEOG/ANTH
Matthew Valasik – SOCI
Clay Weill – ENGL

Call-to-Order:

- I. Alan Baumeister called the meeting to order in 102 Allen Hall at 3:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting:

- I. Minutes to approve were not available, as the HSS senate has not met in over one year due to COVID-19.

Agenda Items:

- I. Election of Secretary of the HSS Faculty Senate**
 - a. John Bardes volunteered to serve as Secretary of the HSS Faculty Senate, and was so appointed.
- II. Election of representative to the LSU Faculty Senate**

- a. Alan Baumeister announced that Matthew Freeman (WLLC) had previously volunteered to serve as LSU Faculty Senate representative but could not be present today.
- b. Motion to nominate Freeman to LSU Faculty Senate passed: 11 yeas, 1 abstention.

III. Standing committees

- a. Laura Martins presented her research findings regarding faculty pay. For much of the past decade, faculty pay raises have failed to keep pace with inflation and cost-of-living. Martins has drafted a letter regarding her findings, which will be forwarded to the HSS Faculty Senate via email at a later date.

Open Issues:

- I. Concerns were raised over low graduate student salaries in HSS. Group discussed the possibility of reducing the number of graduate students in HSS and using the available funds to increase their salary. Group was uncertain as to whether graduate student salaries were normed across HSS or determined by individual department. Group also discussed the absence of any money for graduate student travel. Alan Baumeister agreed to gather more information regarding the issue.
- II. Concerns were raised over low instructor salaries in HSS. Representatives raised concerns that instructor salaries were not competitive, yielding high turnover rates and persistent recruitment issues. Representatives discussed job security for instructors, and the possibility of providing senior lecturers with long-term contracts. Christina Armistead argued that higher pay, not job security, was of urgent need: in Armistead's view, instructors feel relatively secure in their jobs, given the low recruitment rates. Alan Baumeister agreed to gather more information regarding the issue.
- III. Representative asked whether the HSS Faculty Senate should draft a letter of support for the continued existence of the LSU Faculty Council, given recent debate within the Board of Supervisors to eliminate the body. The group debated the validity and usefulness of the Faculty Council, given that it rarely meets. Several representatives expressed the belief that the elimination of the Faculty Council had been proposed in retaliation for its vocal support for a mask mandate. Other representatives expressed the belief that a body which rarely meets is of little use.
- IV. Alan Baumeister volunteered to sort the topics of discussion into a list, to be presented at the next meeting, so that the group can discuss and organize next steps.

Adjournment:

Meeting was adjourned at 3:55 p.m. by Alan Baumeister. The next meeting will be held on October 22 at 3:00 p.m. in 102 Allen Hall.

Minutes Submitted by: John Bardes