

SAM HOUSTON STATE UNIVERSITY
Roundup Report
Spring, 2010

General Description

Sam Houston State University is the third oldest public university and fifth oldest continuously operating institution of higher education in Texas. It is one of eight institutions within The Texas State University System. With nearly 100,000 graduates, SHSU has touched the lives of generations of Texans by helping to shape the economic, social, and cultural development of this state and beyond.

The establishment of Sam Houston Normal Institute was authorized by Texas Governor Oran M. Roberts on April 21, 1879. On October 10 of that year “the Normal” opened with 110 students, four faculty members and its first principal, Bernard Mallon. Today there are four campuses: the main Huntsville campus, the Woodlands campus, the Gibbs Ranch Agricultural campus and the University Camp.

Although created to train teachers, today’s Sam Houston State University offers a broad range of academic programs leading to bachelors, masters, and doctoral degrees. Many of its academic programs and faculty have attained national and statewide recognition.

Enrollment

Full-Time Students (Equated), Fall Semesters 2005 through 2009					
	Fall 2005	Fall 2006	Fall 2007	Fall 2008	Fall 2009
Full-Time Students (Equated)	15,320	15,936	16,416	16,663	16,798

Presidential Search

During the fall semester President James F. Gaertner announced his retirement to Chancellor Matthews and the university community; his retirement will be effective fall-2010. The Board of Regents has established a widely represented search committee, and is currently accepting applications for the position.

New Programs and Degrees

Sam Houston State has 79 baccalaureate, 54 masters’ and 5 doctoral degree programs. The Department of Political Science in the College of Humanities and Social Sciences was recently authorized to offer the Master of Public Administration degree.

Construction and Renovation

There are multiple construction programs currently ongoing, recently completed, or in the approval process. Construction began in October 2008 on a performing arts building for Theatre and Dance. This building is expected to be completed prior to fall semester 2010. Site preparation for a new cafeteria has just begun, and a building for the Studio Arts / first-year

cohorts is well underway. Several renovations are also in various stages, two of which are of note: the conversion of a wing of the University Hotel into faculty offices for Criminal Justice, and the renovation of the Walker Education Center. The 2008 Campus Master Plan was accepted and published (see <http://www.shsu.edu/~masterplan/>). The university has also acquired property near The Woodlands, and will be breaking ground on a 150,000 square foot academic building in the summer of 2010. The facility will be adjacent to the University Center at Lone Star College, and will be used in conjunction with University Center activities.

Faculty Senate

Composition

Faculty Senate is composed of 25 members elected by each of our five colleges and library. Representation is based on FTEs. We have 7 senators from the College of Arts and Sciences, 4 senators from the College of Business Administration, 2 senators from the College of Criminal Justice, 4 senators from the College of Education, 7 senators from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and 1 senator from the Newton Gresham Library.

2009-2010 Highlights

We are continuing to explore issues related to faculty salary adjustments, faculty evaluations, teaching load requirements, campus traffic patterns and pedestrian safety, as well as procedures associated with academic policy review and revision.

Issues

- Role of faculty scholarship
- Calendar Committee function
- Campus bookstore and off-campus bookstore issues
- Faculty employment contracts: 3/3 vs. 4/4 load (comparison of merit and market raises on the two “tracks”; relative requirements for scholarship; transition schedule)¹
- University commitment to service (definition and evaluation of service; appropriateness of weights in the annual faculty merit/market review process)
- Need for a formal Math Tutoring Center (comparable to our Writing Center)
- Consideration for expanding Senate representation in anticipation of a new college.

¹ Faculty employment contracts: currently full-time, tenure-track faculty are employed under a two-tier system with different teaching loads and different apportionment of teaching, service, and scholarship weights in the Faculty Development System. Although the projected transitional period has expired, the two-tier contract system still exists. The senate is interested in the efficacy of the system and the general structure of the faculty as a collective body.