

Minutes from HSS Faculty Senate Meeting on Wed., Mar. 29, 2023

Senators in Attendance:

Kelly Clark, Psychology

Colter Ray, Comm Studies

Alecia Long, History

Matt Freeman, World Languages

Mark Walker, Sociology

Mark Walker, Sociology, raised the issue of the deplorable state of most of the buildings in the main Quad which also house the majority of HSS Departments. A lively and descriptive discussion of just how disgusting those conditions are – including the presence of atmospheric sewer effluvium in one building – ensued.

President Baumister asked the Senators in attendance to query their colleagues and send him a list of problems/issues of concerns within their buildings so he could compile a report to send to the HSS Dean as a communal reminder of just how widespread and appalling conditions are in most HSS main quad buildings. Some conditions are so bad faculty are either advised not to work in their buildings for periods of time or feel unsafe doing so. Other departments have simply abandoned areas of their allotted space because inadequate maintenance has made areas uncomfortable, unsafe, or uninhabitable.

Before agenda items came under consideration, President Baumeister noted the paltry attendance of HSS Senators. He also asked the Senators to consider who might be willing to take over as President of HSS and how to identify that person in way that could create better synergy and communication with the campus Faculty Senate.

Coulter Ray, Comm Studies, then took up his agenda item which focused on his estimation that Comm Studies offers lower than acceptable salaries and makes lower than average initial salary offers. This complaint seemed to reflect a larger sentiment among the Senators that most salaries in HSS are lower than in other colleges, and lower than (even) the regional average. This was felt to be true for instructors in particular.

President Baumeister raised a related discussion of retirement options (TRSL vs ORP) for senior HSS faculty who are beginning to consider retirement.

Prof. Ray then withdrew the following items from the agenda:

Account service reimbursement delays – reasoning that these would just have to be accepted as the normal course of business

Issue regarding accounting for participants paid through Prolific. It's unclear why this agenda time was withdrawn.

Minutes compiled and submitted to President Baumeister April 5, 2023, by Alecia P. Long