

## **LSUS Faculty Senate Meeting December 6, 2016**

President Michael Meeks called the meeting to order at 3:02 PM.

*Present:* Beverly Burden, Michael Chikeleze, Tom Du Bose, Chengho Hsieh, Jim Ingold, Kevin Krug, Zsolt Lengvarszky, Jason Mackowiak, Michael Meeks, Kyle Pierce, Brian Salvatore, Kay Stebbens Slattery, Carl Smolinski, Lynn Walford, Cheryl White.

### **Approval of Minutes of the November 10 Faculty Senate Meeting**

A motion was made and seconded (Burden/Du Bose) to approve the minutes as read. The motion passed unanimously.

### **President's Report**

President Michael Meek submitted a written report of the following report of his activities since the last senate meeting:

- He attended the Veterans' Day flagpole ceremony on November 11, and the tree trimming ceremony on December 1.
- He arranged and attended the Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting.
- He met with Senate Vice President Carl Smolinski, Provost John Vassar, Vice Chancellor Paula Atkins and Director of Judicial Affairs Grace Nickels regarding the Student Conduct Board and the University Hearing Panel.
- He rewrote the proposal regarding the Graduate Council and the formulation of the Graduate Council Committee as a Faculty Senate committee.
- As part of an effort of the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates (ALFS) to fix issues with Workday, he put together a survey and asked Provost Vassar to send it to faculty and staff.
- He arranged for Vice President Carl Smolinski to fill in for him on the Outstanding Awards Selection committee.
- With Senator Brian Salvatore, he attended the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates (ALFS) meeting in Alexandria, and shared ALFS bulletins regarding TOPS with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee.
- He worked with ALFS members to create an online survey for faculty across the state regarding intentions to leave their universities.

- He met separately with Dean of the College of Business, Education, and Human Development Nancy Miller, Provost John Vassar, and Chancellor Larry Clark to discuss senate-related issues.

President Meek also submitted a written report of follow-up issues from the November senate meeting:

- He requested that the Chancellor share budget information with the Senate.
- He requested that the Chancellor give the Senate updated information on the status of the Noel Foundation and LSUS Foundation scholarships which were to be set up for graduating seniors, based on financial need.
- He requested that the Chancellor share with the Senate information about his meeting with campus planners looking at the housing needs of the students.
- He requested that the Provost update the Senate on the status of the Strategic Planning Initiative.
- He requested an update from the Provost on the status of faculty searches, and was told that all searches are ongoing.
- He requested an update from the Provost regarding the hiring of the Dean of Arts and Sciences, and was told that the position closes January 3.
- He requested an update from the Provost on the hiring of a web designer and was told that interviews were held last week and an offer was likely to be made this week. Associate Director of Information Technology Services Scott Hardwick will meet with faculty and chairs who want to update their web pages.
- He requested an update from the Provost on the status of the new web landing page, and was told that the videos have been completed, and the page will launch in the spring semester.
- He requested an update from the Provost on the clarification of sabbatical awards, and was told that awards for the spring have been made. He will work with the Faculty Research and Development Committee on 2017-2018 awards, and for faculty member of the year.
- He requested an update from the Provost on the status of parking decals, which were supposed to be available by the beginning of December, and was told that they are on the agenda for the administrative team meeting this week.
- He requested an update on the search for the Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs from search committee chair Shelby Keith.

## **Administrators' Reports**

### Chancellor

Chancellor Larry Clark gave the following report:

- He said that the search committee for the Vice Chancellor for Business affairs presented him with four finalists for the position, and that after he and the Provost had had extensive separate conversations with each he had decided not to accept any of them. He said that he is looking not only for someone with the necessary skills to be the Chief Financial Officer, but that the successful candidate must also have leadership skills, the ability to work with LSU and with state authorities, the ability to navigate the transition to Workday, and to develop a budget. He added that the VCBA will play an active role in the management of scholarships, in plans for student housing, and in other uses of our assets. He reported that Senator Walford has resigned from the search committee because of conflicting obligations, and that Senator Burden has agreed to take her place.
- He said that we still have not received any concrete information on any upcoming budget cut; some predict that it will be 5%, others say 10%. The cut will not affect the remainder of this academic year, nor will it affect sabbaticals awarded for the spring semester. Depending on the amount of the cut plans for hiring might have to be adjusted.
- He reported that the LSU Board of Supervisors will meet this Friday and will announce that VPBA/CFO Dan Layzell will be named Interim President/CEO of the LSU Foundation, replacing Stephen Moret, who has taken a position in Virginia. LSU has begun the search for the permanent President/CEO, who will likely also serve as VP for University Advancement. He added that until now each campus Foundation has been considered separate, but that this might change.
- He said that TOPS scholarships will be awarded to December or May graduating seniors who demonstrate financial need. He said that the Noel Foundation has identified 37 students who fall into this category. It was originally hoped that the scholarships would be for \$750, but are now set at \$500. The status of scholarships for the next academic year has not been resolved. He added that every university in the state except LSUAM is trying to raise money for scholarships, and that we will need \$600,000 to cover all our students.

During discussion, Senator Salvatore asked the Chancellor to elaborate on the changes to the position of the head of the LSU Foundation. Chancellor Clark replied that in his opinion the changes will be positive. He said that at present Executive Director of the LSUS Foundation works for LSU, not for LSUS. He added that if the new Foundation head has a good relationship with the Chancellor, there might be more opportunities for us to raise funds. Senator Hsieh referred to the need for money to repair the leak in the HPE Building. The Chancellor said that we now have some money available for emergency repairs.

### Academic Affairs

There was no report.

During discussion, Senator Salvatore commented that the Senate worries too much about small details, and that we should be more involved in strategic planning. He said that he was dismayed by the presentation by Commissioner of Higher Education Joseph Rallo at the meeting of the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates (ALFS). He said that the plan was poor and lacked vision, and added that we should not commit ourselves to the Rallo Plan, but must be proactive and come up with better plans. President Meek said that he wanted the Strategic Planning Initiative to work more closely with the Senate. Senator Burden asked what kind of questions should the Senate present to the Strategic Planning Initiative, and President Meek said they should be specific, such as “what are you going to cut?”

### Business Affairs

Chief Information Officer Shelby Keith gave the following report:

- He said that he had re-posted the search for the Vice Chancellor of Business Affairs and was waiting to receive applications from Human Resources Director Bill Wolve. He said that the committee will meet on December 14, and hopes to schedule telephone interviews for December 18. He thanked the faculty members serving on the committee for agreeing to work during their vacation.
- He said that the programming testing for the parking decals has been completed and that they are ready to be distributed. He added that the parking decal issue is on the agenda for tomorrow’s meeting of the Administrative Team.
- He said that an offer has been made for the web design, and that Director of Media and Public Relations Brooke Rinaudo has hired two students to create videos.

### Development

There was no report.

### **Old Business**

#### Freshman Seminars

Dr. Linda Webster, Chair of the Department of Arts and Media, reported that she has formed an ad hoc committee in the School of Liberal Arts to discuss concerns over the Freshman Seminars. She distributed the following outline of those concerns:

##### Faculty Selection

- No known process

##### Course scheduling

- Course uploaded to mainframe by dean
- Course/day/time/location determined by faculty member through department chair

#### Faculty training/orientation/assessment

- Informal
- Overseen by one FS instructor without any administrative authority
- No information about instructor effectiveness

#### Course content

- Some determined by Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
- Some determined by instructor
- No method for School input
- No reporting to School

#### Institutional Assessment

- No structure for data reporting (i.e., what is it that we are measuring?)
- No documentation re the purpose of the course
- No place for the course in the organizational chart

#### School Assessment

- Faculty not aware of the purpose of the course
- Assumptions about what is covered in the course; various instructors teaching different materials
- No information on whether the course supports retention or student success
- No information on how liberal arts students are supported with FS 103

#### Administrative Oversight

- No closed loops outside of FS instructors
  - Some input from VCAA
  - Some input from dean
  - No input from chairs
  - No input from School faculty
- Documents from Courses and Curricula Committee not helpful
  - Documents designed by different entities
  - Initial syllabi different
  - Faculty Senate having difficulty getting current syllabi from various sources

During discussion Senator White asked if the issue should be referred to the Courses and Curricula Committee, and Senator Burden said that in her opinion it should. President Meeks said that if we send it to Courses and Curricula, we should share the questions with them and let them collect the syllabi if necessary. Senator Salvatore asked if Courses and Curricula should hold open sessions. Senator Du Bose said that in his experience people are often invited to meetings to discuss specific topics, and Senator Walford agreed. A motion to refer the issue to the Courses and Curricula Committee with instructions to discuss specific concerns was made and seconded (White/Burden). The motion passed unanimously.

#### **New Business**

There was no new business.

**Observations and concerns**

There were no observations and concerns

The meeting was adjourned at 3:42 PM.

The next meeting will be on Tuesday, January 24 at 3:00 PM in the Webster Room

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Walford  
Secretary