

LSUS Faculty Senate Meeting January 25, 2016

President Tom Du Bose called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM.

Present:, Tom Du Bose, Mary Hawkins, Chengho Hsieh, Zsolt Lengvarszky, Michael Meeks, Brian Salvatore, Kay Stebbins Slattery, Carl Smolinsky, Lynn Walford.

Absent: Beverly Burden, Yong Hwang, Jim Ingold, Kevin Krug, Alexander Mikaberidze, Cheryl White.

Approval of Minutes of December 10 Faculty Senate Meeting

A motion was made and seconded (Hawkins/Meeks) to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.

President's Report

President Tom Du Bose gave the following report:

- At his monthly meeting with Chancellor Clark, they discussed a number of issues, such as salary equity and the possibility of increased student fees to fund faculty raises. They also discussed the Shreveport-Bossier Business Alliance for Higher Education (SBBA) summit, to be held on January 26. He will not be able to attend because he will be in class, but has asked for volunteers to go in his place.
- He met twice with the Planning Council: last Friday to discuss the budget crisis, and the previous Friday to discuss the International Student Initiative, proposals for reaching out to Barksdale AFB, and other issues.
- He had an additional meeting with Chancellor Clark, Vice-Chancellor for Business Affairs Mike Ferrell, SGA President Dennis Henderson, and Director of Student Activities Angel Martin, to further discuss the student initiative to increase their fees to fund faculty raises.
- He had several conversations with faculty about matters such as pay equity, the budget, the International Student Initiative, bookstore issues, and the LSUS Foundation.
- He met with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to draw up the agenda of this meeting.

Administrators' Reports

Chancellor

Chancellor Larry Clark gave the following report:

- He reported that the Board of Regents instructed all chancellors to provide a report of specific steps each university would take to respond to the impending 32% reduction in state funding. He added that he purposely did not give a long report, and turned it in without hard numbers for reduction of faculty, staff, programs, or course sections, since they could not be implemented this year but must be based on projections for 2017. His report included the following:

- Immediate furlough for all faculty and staff, equivalent to a 5-10% reduction in hours worked per week, directly impacting service to and support of students.
- Elimination of labs, as well as academic support services, which would delay student registration, financial aid applications and processing, and increase waiting periods for required classes, thus delaying time to graduation.
- He announced that the LSUS Alumni Association and LSUS Career Services would host a Dress for Success seminar on February 3.

During discussion President DuBose commented on how bizarre it was for the chancellors to be given such a short time—from Friday to Monday—to submit their plans for dealing with possible budget cuts. The Chancellor said that he expressed his dismay at the unrealistic expectations, but that most of the others remained silent. Senator Meeks asked where LSUS stands politically, since three separate systems are reporting to the Board of Regents, and also asked why the issue surfaced in the middle of January. Chancellor Clark replied that the Governor held a meeting on higher education last week, which he was told he need not attend. Those who did attend were not told of the Friday-Monday deadline, and added that it seemed strange that no one was given notice. He said that strategic plans should take time, and that choices made hastily can have unintended consequences. Senator Hsieh asked if the Chancellor knew what was discussed at the meeting, and the Chancellor replied that the problem of higher education was addressed in a very general sense. He asked the senators to give him, through President DuBose, their thoughts on the merits of budget forums.

Academic Affairs

Provost and Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs John Vassar gave the following report:

- He reported that five new Graduate Certificate Programs have been approved: Biology, Evaluation and Assessment, History, English, and Leadership in Higher Education.
- He said that a Letter of Intent for a Doctorate in Psychology has been prepared for submission this semester, and that it will take the place of the current Specialist in School Psychology program.
- He reported that the dean searches are going forward for the College of Business, Education, and Human Development, for the Library, and for Continuing Education, and said that all the candidates are scheduled to come to campus. He added that his only concern is that some candidates might withdraw due to the uncertainty of the budget situation, and said he would invite them to discuss the issue with him or the Chancellor.
- He reported that a fourth cohort has been added to the Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) program, and said that the program has been a great success. He said that 160 students have completed the program, with a 98% pass rate on the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX). He added that the LPN program, along with the Doctorate in Psychology, will emphasize LSUS' commitment to health care.

During discussion there was much conversation about the state's use of one-time dollars to temporarily address problems. Senator Meeks asked how long the budget cycle would last, and the Chancellor replied that the special session would last three weeks. He added that we would know if solutions were reached during that time, but that there was no guarantee—budget talks might run through the regular legislative session. Vice Chancellor Ferrell reminded the senate that funding for our summer session comes from next year's money, and Provost Vassar added that some solutions might only get us through June. Senator Meeks commented that we will be in limbo just as we

are trying to schedule summer and fall courses and hire new faculty. Chancellor Clark said that new hires cannot be laid off before they start, so in the case of financial exigency existing faculty would be laid off first. He added that he would pay close attention to what is said privately about possible strategies, and commented that twelve members of the Board of Regents are strong supporters of the policies of the former Governor.

Business Affairs

Vice-Chancellor for Business Affairs Mike Ferrell reported that Rave Alert, the emergency text messaging system we now use, has been upgraded to Rave Guardian, which operates from cell phones and allows users to call the police or other responders from any location to warn of possible danger. It is a free app that must be downloaded, and uses GPS to allow responders to track the caller's location. More information will appear in next week's *News and Notes*.

Development

Laura Perdue, Executive Director of the LSUS Foundation, gave the following report:

- She said that the Foundation is submitting matches for two endowed professorships, and is working to find donors for scholarships. She added that they have been able to raise the number of scholarships from 72 to 108, which shows growing support from the community.
- She said that the Foundation has also funded a conference prepared by Dr. Alexander Mikaberidze, to be held in February.
- She invited senators to attend Foundation meetings, and said that current Foundation President Harold Turner would like to see students and faculty at the meetings so he can express the Foundation's gratitude for their hard work during difficult times.
- She said that President-elect George Fritze looks forward to working with Chancellor Clark, and emphasizes that the Foundation and the Alumni Association can be useful advocates for LSUS.

Sanjay Menon, Dean of Graduate Studies and Chair of the International Student Initiative Committee, gave the following report:

- He introduced Claudia (Penny) Lyons, who created a successful international student program at Southern Arkansas University, and said that she has been hired on a part-time basis as the Director of International Student Initiative. Ms. Lyons said that SAU began with fewer than 100 international students, and now has 900-1,000. She invited senators to visit her office in BE 119, and said that there will be an open house on February 15, from 3:00 to 5:00PM.
- He said that inroads are being made with international business and professional people from the community, and added that there are also plans for an exchange program with European countries.
- He introduced Bob Hatfield, Director of TLC (The Language Company), a language service company, also located in BE 119, that for 33 years has offered services throughout the country to improve the English language skills of students wanting to attend college or graduate school. Mr. Hatfield said that instruction consists of nine levels, divided into sessions of 28 days. Most students hoping to attend college begin instruction at the third or fourth level, and are considered eligible for admission after completion of the ninth level. He said he will discuss the program in more detail with deans and chairs, and will also meet with representatives from SUSLA, BPCC, Barksdale AFB, and the business and health care community. He

added that there is a home-stay program that pays faculty or staff members to provide lodging for an international student, and said that there is currently a need for housing for two Chinese students.

During discussion, Senator Salvatore asked if the program could be offered through Continuing Education. Dr. Menon replied that it could, and could also be offered through the Department of English and Foreign Languages. Senator Hsieh asked how students are recruited, and Mr. Hatfield replied that his company has a worldwide team of agents, along with recruitment materials designed for prospective students from different parts of the world and from different disciplines. Dr. Menon added that Ms. Lyons would have the responsibility of recruiting students for the LSUS program. Senator Meeks commented that hurdles usually include identifying prospective students, and the paperwork necessary for international transactions. Ms. Lyons said that they handle all the paperwork, including student visas, and that everything is done electronically.

Old Business

Update from Policy and Personnel Committee on review of equity of faculty salaries

The committee communicated that they need more information, and President DuBose said he would attend their next meeting and would provide the necessary information. Senator Salvatore commented that staff salaries must be considered as well.

Report from Policy and Personnel Committee on revision of policies on promotion and tenure

The committee communicated that they have not finished the revision, and that once they have done so Provost Vassar will have to approve it. They asked that their report to the Faculty Senate be postponed.

Update from bookstore

Director Brenda Bartlebaugh reported that although textbook adoptions for the spring semester were due On October 30, many faculty members didn't send in their requests until mid-November. She added that in some cases not enough books were ordered for a class because enrollment was much higher than that of the previous semester. She added that the shortage affected only one class, and that the problem has now been solved.

During discussion Senator Meeks asked if the deadlines were the same for 8-week classes and 16-week classes, and Assistant Director David Dinkins said that the deadline for both is 45 days prior to the first day of classes. Ms. Bartlebaugh said they were doing their best to keep up with the different schedules, that there had been in some cases a lack of information and communication, but they are working things out. Senator Salvatore commented that the bookstore has done a good job of saving students money, and of continuing to work out problems. Senator Walford asked if financial aid would pay for books bought from sources other than the bookstore, and Ms. Bartlebaugh replied that it would pay for books bought at some local outlets, but not for books bought online. Associate Vice Chancellor of Information Technology Shelby Keith commented that financial aid is not available *early* for books bought online, but that after the fourteenth day of classes it was available for books purchased from any source, including online.

New Business

Report on proposed student fee to provide faculty raises

Vice-Chancellor Ferrell said that SGA President Dennis Henderson has not yet made the proposal to the Student Senate, and that details are still being worked out.

Observations and concerns

- Senator Meeks asked Chancellor Clark for his opinion on the future of LSUS, and commented that there are a lot of programs and proposals that look positive in the midst of the budget crisis. Chancellor Clark said that he plans to continue with many plans, such as the proposed reinstatement of the soccer program, and that he is also looking into adding rugby and women's softball. Such programs, along with the International Student Initiative, will help with recruitment. He stressed that we are in better financial shape than we were a year ago, and said that the MBA program has been a great help in increasing revenue.
- Senator Hawkins commented on the number of well-placed, well-designed advertisements for LSUS around the city, and Chancellor Clark said that community response to the ads has been very positive.
- Provost Vassar said that at the previous Planning Council meeting it was announced that undergraduate enrollment is improving, and that fewer students are leaving before graduation. He thanked the faculty and staff for their efforts in making these improvements
- Chancellor Clark said that on Martin Luther King Day volunteers prepared thousands of meals for the community. He also announced the upcoming Balloon Festival, scheduled for July 14-15, and projected that up to 40,000 people would attend. The festival will mark the beginning of the fiftieth anniversary celebration of LSUS. There will be a party at what will be a new garden center in the mall, and the celebration will include concerts and other events.

The next meeting will be Tuesday, February 16, at 3:00 PM in the Webster Room of the University Center. The Executive Committee will meet Tuesday, February 9, at 1:45 PM in Bronson Hall 224.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Walford
Secretary