

Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, May 9, 2013

The meeting was called to order at 2:08 PM in the Webster Room of the University Center.

Faculty Senate Members Present: Amy Erickson, Mary Jarzabek, Carl Smolinski, Matyas Buzgo, Trey Gibson, LaWanda Blakeney, Chris Hale, Mary Hawkins, Robert Leitz

Faculty Senate Members Absent: Kevin Krug, Harvey Rubin, Larry Garrison, Marjan Trutschl, Raymond Taylor, Emre Celebi

A motion was made by **Senator Gibson** to approve the minutes of the Apr 11, 2013, meeting. This was seconded by **Senator Smolinski**. The minutes were unanimously approved.

President Jarzabek mentioned that the email she sent summarizing her comments on her meeting with Dr. F. King Alexander should be added as an addendum to the minutes. She congratulated the Staff Senate and Staff Senate President Daniel Miller for organizing the Faculty and Staff Spring luncheon to which Dr. F. King Alexander was invited and attended. She also thanked Dr. F. King Alexander for coming to LSUS and engaging faculty and staff. President Jarzabek stated that she met with him after the luncheon and discussed the Chancellor Search. While she had heard that the search should be placed on hold, Dr. Alexander stated that serious candidates would be concerned about an ad being released prior to a system President officially being chosen. He suggested that we send him the ad we have written for the position, and he is now reviewing the ad. He also suggested that we move forward with campus and community information sessions. President Jarzabek took this opportunity to remind everyone that on May 17th, following the End of the Year Meeting from 9-11am in the UC theatre, the Faculty Council will meet from 11am-12pm in the SLA to hear Faculty Senate standing committee reports, results of Faculty Senate elections, news on the Chancellor Search, and then to get faculty input on candidate qualification and discuss potential questions we should ask candidates and questions they may ask us during the interview process. She also said the Staff Senate would be discussing the same thing.

Next, President Jarzabek stated that we need to reach out to area legislators concerning the budget and that we would be looking at cuts if we do not do so. She followed by saying, that with the aid of Dr. Sisson, she, Senator Gibson, Ms. Christianne Wojcik, and the LSUS debate team put together a packet documenting how LSUS will be hurt by proposed cuts. While the debate team is being honored by the state legislature for their achievements, they plan to pass out the packets to legislators while in Baton Rouge. President Jarzabek again thanked the LSUS Foundation regarding the River Bend Review and announced that some items be auctioned as part of a silent auction. She also thanked them for their role in awards ceremony honoring service and long-time faculty. In particular, she emphasized Mr. Decker Moore's 45 years of service, and **Dr. Sisson** stated that he was one of the original faculty members when LSUS first opened. President Jarzabek then congratulated the baseball team for making it to the playoffs and the debate team for being honored by the state legislature and receiving a Congressional Record Mention for their achievements. She said they are an excellent example of the leadership we are providing for our population.

Next, President Jarzabek restated that she called on our leadership at our last meeting to aid in the recruitment, fundraising, and in building our public image 24/7. She added that faculty and staff also must sell LSUS 24/7. She stated that we are offering a product in a free market, while receiving little state support, so we need to sell our product and make ourselves more attractive to students. She then challenged each of us to bring in one student for the Fall of 2013 to help make up for the budget shortfall we expect. Given that every student creates \$3,500 of revenue, if every faculty member brought in one student, that would yield about \$350,000 in revenue and help to make up for a \$250,000 cut we are facing right now. To do this, she encouraged us to speak with people while we are out in the community about opportunities at LSUS. **Senator Buzgo** inquired whether our university rankings related to affordability have changed given rising tuition in response to budget cuts. Previously, we were ranked as the most affordable four-year college/university in the state. Dr. Sisson said that

we are now second, following Southern in New Orleans but that we are still the most affordable four-year institution in Northern LA. He also cited that we lost our ranking on another survey of affordability, which related largely to the fact that this one took cost of living into account and the cost of living in Shreveport is on the rise.

Senator Gibson suggested we amend the schedule. He announced that he would have to leave early, and we would lose our quorum concerning elections that were part of the agenda. Senator Buzgo moved to change the schedule and this was seconded by **Senator Leitz**. President Jarzabek then solicited nominations for the Faculty Senate Officer positions. Senator Gibson nominated the four current officers for the same positions. President Jarzabek clarified that the two Executive Members at Large would be recommended by the Executive Committee. Senator Leitz questioned whether it would be better to hold the election over email so the absentee senators would have the opportunity to vote. **Senators Erickson** and Buzgo and President Jarzabek replied that this was their chance, and President Jarzabek stated she was interested in moving forward with it given it was on the agenda. She inquired whether there were any more nominations, to which there were none, after which she motioned to close the nominations, which was seconded by Senator Gibson. Elections took place by secret ballot. While there was one abstention, seven senators voted to keep the same officers; thus, the officers for the 2013-2014 academic year will be: President: Ms. Mary Jarzabek, Vice-President: Dr. Harvey Rubin, Parliamentarian: Dr. Carl Smolinski, and Secretary: Dr. Amy Anne Erickson. President Jarzabek announced that the Executive Committee recommends Senator Garrison and the newly-elected Senator Boucher to become Members at Large on the Executive Committee. She then announced newly or re-elected Senators for the 2013-2014 year including: Science: Dr. Kui Chen, Dr. Gary Boucher, Dr. Beverly Burden, Liberal Arts: Dr. Alexander Mikaberidze, Dr. Lynn Walford, Dr. Cheryl White, Education: Dr. Larry Garrison.

President Jarzabek motioned that we move to an informational session given that the Senate lost its quorum with the departure of Senator Gibson. This was seconded by **Senator Hawkins**. Senator Smolinski announced seats on the Faculty Senate standing committees that are still open and seats that have been filled but will need to be voted on by the Faculty Council (please see the addendum).

Administrators' Reports:

Chancellor – Dr. Paul Sisson reminded everyone of the End of the Year meeting on Friday, May 17 from 9-11am in the UC theatre. He stated that he would go into more detail about the budget at that meeting. Then he stated that the Budget Crisis Committee met this past Monday because the Friday before the legislature asked them how they would respond to an additional cut of \$208,000. He stated that if all the cuts that have been discussed so far in this legislative session were to happen, there would be a decrease in state dollars of \$1.15 million from this year to next year (which includes the \$208,000 previously referred to by President Jarzabek). Consequently, Dr. Sisson upped the challenge by asking each faculty member to bring in three students for Fall 2013 to cover the deficit. He did state that these cuts are changing every day and nothing is final yet and stressed the importance of informing our legislators and educating them every chance we get. He said we will know more when the legislative session ends.

Dr. Sisson then thanked the Staff Senate, and everyone who was involved in putting it together, for a great luncheon. He also stated that he was pleased Dr. F. King Alexander was able to join us. Dr. Sisson said we got some good PR in the Shreveport Times based on his visit. Dr. Sisson stated it was a good visit and that he and Dr. Vassar had a 45 minute discussion with Dr. Alexander. Dr. Sisson brought up eight items, two of which were LSU 2015 and LSUS Accelerated (the eight-week term idea). Dr. Sisson said lots of good things can come out of LSU 2015 and that Dr. Alexander was supportive of LSUS Accelerated and that Dr. Alexander even said that if it successful, he may push the Baton Rouge campus to pursue it. Dr. Sisson stated that he liked the idea that we may lead the Baton Rouge campus in this rather than following it. He said he would be happy to discuss this more at the End of the Year meeting. Senator Leitz cited an article in a Monroe Newspaper and inquired whether merger with LA Tech was going to be an issue during this legislative session. Dr. Sisson said this does not seem to be coming up in this session.

Academic Affairs – Provost John S. Vassar congratulated Dr. Bill Peterson who was named Humanist of the Year by the LA Endowment for the Humanities (LEH) for his lifetime of work with LEH and spreading the cause of humanity across the state. He also stated that he would be sending the response to the Board of Regents on the Doctrine on Education degree in Leadership Studies. This was one of the items that Dr. Vassar discussed with Dr. Alexander during his visit. That evening while attending a fundraiser for the medical center, it was conveyed to him by area superintendents how important this degree is for our community. It is on his radar and he was requested information on the degree from the system. Dr. Vassar stated we have support from all four system in the state (Northwestern, Southern, BPC, and LSUHSC) stating that this is something vital for our community. Dr Vassar reminded us that administrator evaluations are still going on Moodle on through May 15th. He also said that as we prepare for SACS accreditation, we will have to prepare additional policy statement updates (such as defining a credit hour and other items on which we have nothing formal) over the summer that will be sent to us.

Dr. Vassar stated that in discussions with LSUS departments, the Board of Regents, and community leaders, one thing that kept coming up was having a well-articulated strategic plan for our institution. To that end, he has been meeting with other universities in the state that have undergone this process to review best practices. He will return this Fall with some developed thoughts on this and likely request support from the Faculty Senate and faculty at large. He said that it can be something that we refer back to repeatedly for our vision of what this institution will look like in five years.

Dr. Vassar also met twice with Senator Krug on faculty and student surveys regarding LSUS Accelerated. He commented that Senator Krug has put significant time into researching the topic. Senator Krug suggested expanding the survey off-campus, targeting BPC, Southern, and dual enrollment students (current and future ones) to get their feedback, which was supported by Dr. Sisson. Dr. Vassar said they would meet with colleagues to see how this can be implemented.

Finally, Dr. Vassar addressed the Academic Sub-Committee's meeting for LSU 2015. He stated that one united SACS accreditation for the system is out and accreditation for individual campuses is back in (as accreditation is awarded currently). He stated that the SACS President was invited to speak with the system as far as what they can and cannot do concerning accreditation. Dr. Vassar explained that if accreditation is for the system then admissions standards would have to be the same across all institutions. He stated that admissions standards are set by the Board of Regents and that to change these standards, legislative changes would be required, which would likely require too much effort and energy. This recommendation would prevent harm to our athletic programs. He reminded us that the sub-committees would make recommendations to the Transition Team, which is a sub-committee of the Board of Supervisors. The Transition Team will then accept or reject recommendations. He also mentioned that Student Experience Sub-committee met here last Friday, at which Dr. Sisson gave a presentation on LSUS Accelerated which was well received. Senator Buzgo inquired about the status of the soccer teams, and Dr. Vassar deferred to Dr. Butterbaugh.

Senator Leitz inquired what the fees would be for the doctoral program. Neither Dr. Sisson nor Dr. Vassar were sure off-hand but stated it was in the proposal. Dr. Sisson agreed it will be a lucrative program, and Dr. Vassar stated that there is considerable interest in it (about 300 individuals). Dr. Vassar feels we have reached a critical mass of interest when examining what is going on in area school systems. This also would be a feather in the cap of Dr. Alexander who has expressed interest in the program. Dr. Vassar thinks many things have come together to get this passed through, and he expects that it will be on the agenda of the Board of Regents this May.

Business Affairs – Mr. Michael Ferrell, CFO, was unavailable for this meeting.

Student Affairs – Vice Chancellor Dr. Randy Butterbaugh announced that the theatre is online and the fire marshall has approved it for occupancy. The End of the Year meeting will be held in the theatre on May 17th. The fact that it is online helps from a revenue standpoint as it can be rented out. Dr. Butterbaugh encouraged all

faculty members to make an effort to attend commencement and said that efforts are much appreciated. He stated that a new phone system is being installed that will be more customer-friendly, should allow callers to get help more quickly, and reduce hold times. This has been funded by the Foundation and he expressed his thanks and appreciation. He also stated that Admissions is generating a suite of brochures: a search brochure, LSUS degree programs, a college comparison checklist, a guide to admissions for prospective students, and a viewbook. Progress is being made on the search piece and LSUS degree programs and thousands of these will be pushed out over the next month. He also acknowledged the financial support for Admissions, to aid in recruitment activities, received from the Chancellor. Concerning the soccer program, he said that they wanted to be careful what they said about the program because there was some confusion at first, so all communication has been routed through the Athletic Director to the students. At this point most of the confusion/issues have been resolved. Athletic scholarships for soccer players have been extended for one year to assist them with transition. As long as they are NAIA eligible, their scholarship will be extended for one year along with their non-resident waiver, which is a goodwill gesture and something that the university hopes will help the students. Senator Buzgo asked if that means the soccer program is folding. Dr. Butterbaugh confirmed that they did not raise enough money to save the program. Senator Erickson asked how much was raised. Dr. Sisson responded they raised \$10K out of \$70K needed to save the program. President Jarzabek asked whether there was anything in NAIA rules about having seven vs. six sports if they wanted to continue their fundraising efforts. Dr. Sisson said there are some other regulations that we would have to abide by (i.e., Title 9). President Jarzabek mentioned that we would have to have eight teams (because we would have to have both a male and female team). Dr. Sisson said that it is a little more complicated but that that is a safe way of perceiving it. Senator Buzgo inquired whether we will lose soccer students. Dr. Sisson said we will lose some but we do not know how many. Some will stay, some will graduate, and some may go to other universities. Dr. Butterbaugh mentioned that hopefully the one year extension of the scholarship will be an incentive to stay. Dr. Vassar stated however that in the past, after eliminating athletic programs, some have been revived in a better fiscal climate. Senator Erickson asked by when the soccer program would need to raise the \$70K to play this Fall, and Dr. Sisson said it was this month per NAIA's deadline to inform them of the sports we would be participating in this upcoming year. President Jarzabek stated this would be only fair given having to find coaches.

LSUS Development – Ms. Laura Perdue, Executive Director, LSUS Foundation was not able to attend. President Jarzabek again expressed thanks to the Foundation for the River Bend Review, and to all who participated in making it happen. She stated that it was an important PR event for LSUS.

Old Business

- a. **Faculty Senate officer elections** – covered above
- b. **Chancellor Search Committee** – covered above
- c. **8-week session survey update** – covered above in Dr. Vassar's report
- d. **LSU 2015 Transition Advisory Team Sub-Committee Reports** – Mr. Shelby Keith's report stated there was nothing new to report for the Administrative Services and Technology Sub-Committees. Dr. Dalton Gossett, who is on the Research and Discovery Sub-Committee, stated in his report that they would be drafting their report soon. Dr. Vassar covered this topic in his Administrator's report.

New Business

- a. **Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates (ALFS) April Meeting – Dr. Brian Salvatore** attended the meeting and presented information on what was discussed at it (minutes prepared by Dr. Salvatore are attached as an addendum – below are some highlights). Dr. Salvatore commented on talks given by Dr. Sandra Woodley (President of UL), Dr. Larry Jarrell (Faculty Senate President of LA Tech), Dr. Michael Walker-Jones (Executive Director of Louisiana Association of Educators), and Dr. Jim Purcell (LA Commissioner of Higher Education).

President Jarzabek inquired whether Dr. Woodley addressed both K-12 and higher education to which Dr. Salvatore responded just higher education. Dr. Michael Walker-Jones addressed Senate Bill 117, which Dr. Salvatore said sounds like it may be a potential replacement for the GRAD ACT. President Jarzabek stated that as more money is taken away from higher education, she is frustrated that legislators would expect to have more regulation over what we do. President Jarzabek pointed out that Dr. Walker-Jones is a union representative who is interested in unionization of faculty in LSUnited. She said Dr. Walker-Jones speaks about faculty concerns and the state of higher education and she thinks there is some real lobbying going on for faculty and higher education. She cited that dues that must be paid when joining LSUnited, and she offered to put faculty members in contact with Dr. Walker-Jones should anyone be interested. Dr. Purcell stated that 2/3 of LA's higher education budget is one time funds. He stated that Senator Appel's new funding formula (SB 117) cannot trump the state constitution, and he said that the \$40 million and \$80 million deficits that exist for the Shreveport and New Orleans health science centers, respectively, due to the sale of the hospitals, will now require more money to be taken away from higher education and put toward health care. Dr. Purcell also referred to Senator Broadwater's bill on creating local taxing authorities for higher education, citing that such a bill will lead to inequities in quality of higher education. Dr. Salvatore stated that the accreditation agencies seem to be on our side now. They are the only force we have left - they say "you do this and we will cut your accreditation." Dr. Salvatore also mentioned that House Bill 401 is dead, putting his support behind SB 117, which looks very dangerous. President Jarzabek stated that Dr. Walker-Jones is trying to get faculty as private citizens to contact their legislators to really take a look at this bill. Dr. Salvatore also gave a presentation at the ALFS meeting on his involvement with the After School Program for Innovation and Respect for Education (ASPIRE) (that he also gave at national meeting in New Orleans and this past week for the Caddo Parish School Board). Dr. Salvatore mentioned he is continuing to work with public schools and that he had been asked by District 9's Caddo Parish School Board Member Barry Rachal to serve as the Representative of District 9 on the search committee for the new superintendent. Dr. Salvatore also offered to share his presentation with anyone interested in it. President Jarzabek applauded Dr. Salvatore for all of his hard work with the community.

Observations and Concerns

- a. May Faculty Council Meeting – President Jarzabek** reminded everyone again about the May 17th meeting in the SLA at 11am, after the End of Year Meeting at 9am.
- b. Advising efforts – President Jarzabek** asked all faculty members to reach out to their advisees and try to get them signed up for the summer and fall. Senator Buzgo inquired what we should do as advisors when classes that students need are full. Dr. Sisson said we should speak with our chairs and deans about this and that additional sections may be needed but that there is no more money to hire additional faculty members. Senator Buzgo wanted to mention this because we need more students. President Jarzabek stated that if you look at a student's transcript very rarely do they have to take a given course within your department. They likely can substitute a course in another department. She said that as long as you get your student into some section of some class, you are helping them with their degree. Senator Erickson said this is not a problem of getting a student into one class or in a class within one's own department, but a problem at orientation where several courses are full across multiple departments and there are still many students who need to get into them. President Jarzabek reiterated that we should start with department chairs. Senator Buzgo stated that this pushes professors into overload. Dr. Sisson again suggested talking with chairs and deans and if there is someone who is a road block keeping class loads artificially low, then speak with him or Dr. Vassar. Dr. Sisson also stated we are a private business now and we have got to make sure we are profitable. Dr. Vassar said should peak times fill up, then look at alternate possibilities. President Jarzabek said there are three plans: higher caps, alternate classes, and additional sections. Senators Buzgo and Erickson

said we do that. President Jarzabek said among all three of these options, department chairs and deans should be able to come up with the best solution.

- c. **Pilot Golf Classic – President Jarzabek** stated that this event was an important outreach event sponsored by the Alumni Association. She congratulated all involved. Dr. Sisson said it was a well attended event that raised funds for LSUS.

President Jarzabek stated that the Executive Committee would send an email with a list of the standing committee membership for which we are seeking official approval. Someone is still needed on one committee from Business. There was no further business; thus, President Jarzabek ended the informational session at 3:16 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Amy Erickson.