

LSUS FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2019, 3:00 PM
WEBSTER ROOM, UNIVERSITY CENTER

I. Present: Helen Wise, Cory Coehoorn, Doug Bible, Tom Dubose, Harvey Rubin, Brian Salvatore, Adel Darrat, Zsolt Lenvarszky, Russ Perry, Laura McLemore, Dai Yong.

II. Call to Order: 3:05 p.m.

III. Approval of Minutes: There being no corrections, the minutes were approved by acclamation.

IV. President's Report: Doug Bible reported that he had attended a lot of meetings. We will have a report from the Faculty Research & Development Committee later in the agenda. He attended at least one Provost's meeting. He announced the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates (ALFS) meeting at LSUA on February 29; the governor will be there. He also mentioned the ALFS faculty survey and encouraged all LSUS faculty to respond. The Instruction and Development Committee will meet soon, with Rhonda Failey, Director of Online Learning. In response to questions about the administrators' evaluation process, information about that from Scott Hardwick went out with the January 2020 faculty senate minutes. He announced that Grace Nichols needs three senators for the Student Conduct Board and referred to his email sent today asking for volunteers on Thursday, February 28. The Student Conduct Board hearing will require about two hours.

V. Administrator reports:

a. Chancellor: Dr. Clark reported that we still have not closed on housing. We could close any day but are still waiting. He announced that LSU Interim President, Tom Galligan has a message to go out to students, staff and faculty. He was pleased with what he saw on his recent visit. His message basically reiterates what he said when he was here. Dr. Clark thanked all who came to the brief reception for President Galligan in the University Center. He reported that we have a number of projects underway. He has reports from architects on how many we can get done by June 30. The second round of equipment requests are due from the deans on Friday. He believes we have the ability to make major purchases. Dr. Clark reported that on his recent visit to South Carolina for the Southeast Decision Sciences Institute annual conference, he observed that Binshan Lin is very well known and highly regarded by the Business School group. We have hosted four events focused for high school students and one for our students: Social Studies Fair, Junior ROTC students, a play, *My Soul is a Witness*, on February 3 in conjunction with Black History month, and a speaker and panel for Black History month coordinated by Angel Martin. That was for our students. The others targeted Caddo schools, particularly high school students. Another event was a sustainability conference sponsored by LSUS, Shreveport Green and the Garden Study Club. It was an excellent program and represented the kind of community partnerships we are looking to have. He reported that we have good prospects for students coming in the fall, particularly making some inroads at Caddo Magnet.

Doug Bible asked about redesign of the campus entrance and the stop light. Clark said he had separated the walking path project from the ring road project. The changes to the entrance intersection will involve the state. It probably will involve taking down or moving the obelisk. It would not be done by June 30. He is waiting for state and city to have a conversation about it, but something must be done, because it is a serious safety issue. He said the jogging path would not go all the way to the front of the

campus but would cut across in front of the library. He would like to see crosswalks marked off across Youree Drive, but the state has not seen fit to do it. If student associations and faculty senate show support for that, it will be helpful. He asked the senate to consider a resolution. A discussion ensued. Doug said he would survey and have something before the next meeting. Doug asked about the trees. Barbie Cannon said the contractors have their insurance, and they're looking to kick off on Monday at the row of trees near the HPE building. Brian Salvatore asked if the ones near the road could be trimmed before acorns start to drop, because the acorns can do damage to car windshields.

b. Provost: Helen Taylor reported that LSUS enrollment is 8,528. She noted that she has not heard from the Faculty Senate about moving common hour to noon. Doug said he'd like to see this change. Students would prefer it. Doug said he'd check with all the senators and get back to her. Dr. Taylor reported that she sent a change in the Mass Communication degree to the board of supervisors. The degree, currently a B.A., would change to a B.S. so students would not have to complete the extra requirements for the B.A., which include foreign language, an additional history course, and an English course. She said it was what the department wanted, and it would help with transfer students coming in. With regard to strategic planning, as part of the Ruffalo-Noel-Levitz initiative Helen is asking departments to do curriculum review to make sure it's up-to-date. She is also looking at undergraduate certificate programs in digital humanities and museum studies. Museum studies is connected to LSUS' acquisition of the Spring Street Museum so students can have a hands-on experience working in a museum. Search for Dean of Arts and Sciences is at the "Skyping" candidates stage. Candidates will be brought to campus around March 1 and an appointment should be made by the end of March.

Helen Wise asked whether there was a rubric or guidelines for departments to use when assessing their curriculum. The Provost responded that she would like departments to see what similar degree programs across the country have and how they compare with our curricula. Doug commented on Business School adjustments to curriculum to further job readiness. The Provost pointed out that our master plan called for emphasis on job preparation. Doug asked if student IDs should have pictures of the students. Scott Hardwick said they're going to have a picture on them, but he doesn't know of a rule requiring students to have an ID card. Beverly Burden suggested withholding parking permits or something else as incentive. Discussion ensued. Security and faculty being able to see who the students in their class are were the two main issues. Scott said something could be put in place but it's above Scott and Angel's authority to establish policy. Doug said he would check with faculty senators. Doug asked about faculty and staff. Scott said they are preparing new cards for faculty and staff and maybe a requirement should be on them, too.

c. VP of Business Affairs: Barbie Cannon reported that tree trimming is moving forward. After the cut-through road, they will do the ring road since it is so wet. There will be some lane closures, and she asked all to be aware. She meets frequently with Art and Justin trying to get as many projects completed as possible. She said we've been asked to look at ADA compliance. We have architects working on ADA bathrooms in Bronson Hall. As we move forward, she will communicate with what will happen to faculty bathrooms in Bronson. She reported that the jogging trail will go to bid March 31. The Education Resource Center on the second floor of the Business and Education building will go to bid immediately. Exercise Physiology for the HPE building has gone for bid. Projects for Athletics went out for bid, but bidding has been suspended until the proposal can be reengineered and sent out again. They are looking at classroom renovations and that requires asbestos abatement. Great things are going on with LSUS Foundation and Spring Street Museum, and the Foundation received additional endowments for professorships. Cory Coehoorn asked about the HPE building. Barbie said it was scheduled to be finished by June 30. Cory asked about the roof completion. Barbie said it would probably be April because of rain delays. She announced that the state has decided to pick up the cost

of the roof. The Science Building, Technology Building, and the bridge to campus housing are in the state budget, H.B. 2, and we will get state money to do those.

VP Cannon announced that we are up for both internal and legislative audits and should expect to have auditors on campus in the coming weeks.

d. Director of Rec, Sports & Student Activities: Angel Martin reported on a change in the Professor of the Year Awards. Previously, the awards have been based on a numbers vote of the two colleges. Now, we have three colleges, and the SGA is revisiting the entire process. She yielded the floor to the SGA President who explained that they decided on a two-step process to provide selection based on more than a popularity contest. They will chose two finalists from each college (six total). There will still be one Professor of the Year chosen, but the other five will receive honorable mention recognition.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

a. Faculty Research & Development Committee: Binshan Linn reported on faculty awards. He distributed a handout with a summary for Fall 2016-Fall 2020. The total budget is \$110,000 for one year. We now have a long-term commitment so that people can go to conferences in the summer and fall without being reimbursed retroactively. Beverly Burden emphasized how important this will be for faculty needing to go to conferences. Binshan thanked the Chancellor, Provost, and VP for Business Affairs for making that possible. He explained that Table 1 shows the budget. Tables 2 and 3 show the breakdown by college. Binshan noted that this committee's work is a burden for committee members who have to read all the applications. Doug asked about the Outstanding Faculty Award. Binshan responded that there are five awards of \$5,000 each. Anybody can nominate anybody but must designate for teaching, research, or service, and only one category per nomination. In response to a question about relevant years of service, Binshan said that the policy says that it must be within the last two years. The Provost announced that there will be an event on April 1 to award outstanding faculty. Doug expressed appreciation to the committee for its hard work.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

a. Policy & Personnel: Doug Bible reported that changes in the Student Conduct Committee are still under review by Policy & Personnel, and hopefully we will have a report by the March meeting.

b. Senate elections and Committee assignments: Doug reported that elections will be in April for the 2020-2021 academic year. Because of changes in colleges and schools, there will need to be additional elections in some areas.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

a. Proposal for FYS 100 course: Provost Helen Taylor reported on the new First Year Seminar course, noting that it is a faculty senate initiative. The basic idea for changes is the work Jennifer Hart has done. The purpose is to help retention. Freshman Seminar would be one course with multiple sections. The topic would be chosen each year by the director. The course would be based around problem-solving and general education learning outcomes. The Provost has taken the initiative to get this moving. Jennifer Hart explained that her proposal is based around research about first year seminar and also her experience with designing these courses, giving LSUS the benefit of the best practices in these courses. The Provost is looking for a recommendation from the Faculty Senate for Old Business next meeting. Jennifer said that interdisciplinary is definitely what has been shown to be most effective. Brian Salvatore asked about an alternative for the term "wicked problems" that does not have a negative connotation. Jennifer said the term "wicked problem" has been around quite a while and is still widely in use. It is used to denote a complex problem with many variables. Doug asked about faculty

input. Jennifer said there isn't currently a process for faculty to make suggestions for these courses. She wants to move to a first-year experience committee that would be interdisciplinary and university-wide. She noted that Freshman Seminar exists outside the colleges right now. Mary Lois White described discussion about this within the C & C Committee. They feel another interdisciplinary committee would be redundant. Cory Coehoorn said he could make a motion to have Freshman Seminar curricular changes go through the C & C Committee. Helen Wise seconded. The motion passed. Mary Lois also said faculty senate never voted on this before, so the C&C Committee needs a vote on the record that the senate wants C&C to move forward.

IX. OBSERVATIONS AND CONCERNS

Brian Salvatore asked when the money we now have is going to be invested in academic courses and not just infrastructure. He noted that the lack of improvement in teaching is detrimental to morale. Helen Taylor said they couldn't do anything about it because the money could only be spent for one-time expenses.

X. ADJOURNMENT 4:34 p.m.