

## **LSUS Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**

September 6, 2017

Present: Doug Bible, Beverly Burden, Michael Chikeleze, Tom Du Bose, Kevin Jones, Zsolt Lengvarszky, Jason Mackowiak, Harvey Rubin, Carl Smolinski, Cheryl White

Absent: Kyle Pierce

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

### **Approval of Minutes of the May 8 Faculty Senate Meeting**

A motion was made by Senator Burden to approve minutes and seconded by Senator White. The motion passed unanimously.

### **President's Report**

- August 9, speaker at the LSUS Student Leadership Summit.
- August 11, participated in the LPC meeting.
- August 18, participated in a meeting with Chancellor Clark.
- August 18, attended lunch with new faculty members.
- August 23, participated in faculty research and development committee meeting.
- August 25, attended the Freshman Convocation.
- August 30, participated in Faculty Senate Executive Committee meeting.
- Sept. 5, participated in the Courses & Curriculum Committee meeting.

### **Administrators' Reports**

Julie Lessiter, Vice-Chancellor and Interim Provost

- The enrollment at LSUS is at a record high—at present 5,778 students. We may reach an enrollment of near 6,000 by the end of the semester. Many of these high numbers of students are enrolled in graduate programs.
- SACS had made changes regarding dual enrollment. A committee has been put together to see that LSUS adjusts to these changes. Also, we need to take steps to make certain our campus meets the ADA requirements for students with challenges.
- Faculty need to be mindful of how they behave on social media. An adjunct instructor at a Florida institution has been dismissed over what many deemed offensive tweets about flood victims in Texas. LSUS is putting together a committee to set policies about on-line behavior for faculty.
- Julie Lessiter and Helen Taylor are working together to revise the Faculty Handbook. Faculty will be asked for suggestions and feedback. Especially needed are update to the handbook pertaining to online teaching.
- Senator Burden asked about accreditation of teachers in the Dual Enrollment program. Julie Lessiter responded that off-campus teachers must meet the same requirements as on-campus teachers do. Senator Burden also asked about the revamping of the Faculty Handbook and wondered if faculty could be advised about who is involved in the revision

so that faculty members can get in touch with them with concerns and questions. Lessiter said that she would supply the names of people working on the revisions.

Larry Clark, Chancellor

- Chancellor Clark handed out soccer schedules and pointed out dates of some important games.
- At the upcoming meeting of the Board of Supervisors, the LSU Strategic Plan will probably be approved. LSUS will be asked to submit plans to meet the six designated goals/areas. Chancellor Clark has expanded the number of areas to fit the needs and goals of LSUS. The BOS meeting will be September 22.
- There is good news about the budget in that \$12,000 has been added back. The bad news is that the 1-cent sales tax will soon end. Legislators seem resistant to maintaining taxes, and so a 5% reduction or more is possible. An Academic Excellence fee that could have been implemented by the Chancellor after the Governor said there would be no cuts to the budget this year. The Chancellor wished to save the students more cost if there were to no cuts coming.
- The names of people on the search committee for the new Provost will be announced next week. Barbie Cannon will chair the search committee. The Chancellor has consulted the Executive Council of the Faculty Senate and asked for their opinions about the search. The external search will be open to internal applicants as well. The Provost will not be a business school dean nor an academic person in business in order to avoid reduplication of area and expertise. A dean of Arts and Sciences will be chosen after a Provost is named, perhaps in February.

Sanjay Menon, Dean

- ADA compliance has come to the forefront because of the number of variously challenged students currently enrolled. We must be compliant by the end of next June. President Chikeleze asked that faculty be involved in the process of establishing compliance, and Menon asked him to forward to him nominations.

Barbie Cannon, Vice Chancellor

- Workday is becoming more accessible. The figures for the 2016-2017 academic year have been entered in Workday, and Cannon passed out to the senators copies of the proposed budget for the 2017-2018 school year. She will probably ask the Board of Regents for additional appropriations because of our increasing enrollment.
- Senator Burden thanked Barbie Cannon for her hard work.
- In response to a question about Noel Levitz Foundation, the Chancellor stepped in and said that the work for which the Noel Levitz people are under consideration will be bidded out, and so the Levitz Foundation may not be assigned the job.
- The Chancellor also informed the Senate that the work on the entrance to the Administration Building is being funded by donation from a family.
- Senator Jones then asked the Chancellor about the HPE building, and the Chancellor replied that the state has taken roof repairs off its list of priorities and that he does not like

to do a search before the money has been set aside. We will look at self-funding to repair the HPE building's roof. A stone roof would be too expensive.

- Barbie Cannon added that it will cost about \$300,000 to repair the HPE building's roof.

## **Old Business**

### Shared governance

The President brought up the concern many faculty have that decisions that will have an impact on faculty often seem to be made without faculty input. He especially mentioned the change in the schedule for Summer 2017, a change that seemed to have been made rather abruptly and faculty had difficulty adjusting.

Senator Burden asked who had made the decision to change and why. Julie Lassiter explained that the change was the result of the Calendar Committee's attempt to align our session and schedules with those at the Baton Rouge campus. There was some feedback from faculty. The Deans' Council thought that the issue should be submitted to the Calendar Committee.

Senator Smolinski asked about faculty involvement on the Calendar Committee. Senator Mackowiak said that there was one faculty member who is on the Calendar Committee. Senators expressed concern that more faculty should be involved with the Calendar Committee and scheduling matters. Julie Lessiter said that she would look into the issue and get back to the Senate on it. Senator Smolinski stated that someone from Faculty Senate should be on the Calendar Committee. Senator Burden felt that the extended lecture time last summer "killed the students." They found the lectures too long, and they had complained that they had not gotten the advantage of the dollars they had spent to take the courses. She said that the new schedule had an especially bad impact on science people because of its effect on labs. Julie Lessiter said that the problem had been brought up at the Deans' Council, and the council had listened and acted. Senator Jones asked if we could return to our previous summer schedule for Summer 2018, and Lessiter said yes and added that people would be notified of the change.

### Should Faculty Senate Officers, Especially the President, Be Tenured?

Senator Smolinski suggested that the President of Faculty Senate should always be tenured. The tenure would make the President less vulnerable. Senator Burden strongly disagreed, feeling that such a caveat would eliminate potential officers who would be willing to serve. She moved that no such caveat prohibiting non-tenured faculty from serving as President be created. Senator Mackowiak seconded her, and the Senate voted. The result was that the motion not to ban non-tenured people from serving as Faculty Senate president passed, with nine senators voting yes and two senators voting no.

## **New Business**

### Noel Levitz Consultants

The Chancellor was asked to elaborate on the school's calling upon the expertise of the Noel Levitz Consultants. He said that one challenge is that of undergraduate enrollment, which has declined from around 4200 in 1994 to 2400 now. Other schools are encroaching, it seems:

Louisiana Tech is setting up a Student Success Center to be built on the BPCC campus, bringing along with it 12 or 14 undergraduate programs from Ruston to Bossier next year. Another problem involves number of undergraduate majors. The Board of Regents wants to narrow the number of undergraduate programs that schools can offer. We are having trouble getting scholarships and aid to students in time to assure that they will come to LSUS. We need to get our scholarship programs under control and straightened out, Improvement with handling phone calls when people call Admissions will be a big help. We will be in trouble with the Board of Supervisors if we do not build up enrollment in our 21 programs. Already the English Department has had to appeal to maintain its major.

Senator Rubin asked about market studies of how many graduate from BPCC. Do we get many transfers from BPCC. Here in Louisiana, many community-college students do not go on to get further degrees.

Julie Lessiter pointed out that there are more jobs here in Louisiana for people with two-year degrees than for four-year degrees. LSUS has more transfers from BPCC than does any other local college. She also pointed out that we have less retention of scholarship students than we do of non-scholarship students. However, new scholarship software and our new Director of Admissions will both be of great help with recruitment and retention.

Senator Rubin asked about market studies pertaining to this issue.

The Chancellor stressed that the best course for LSUS would be to stress the importance of the four-year degree and the four-year educational experience.

Senator White asked why Louisiana Tech is going to BPCC if we are getting more BPCC grads. The Chancellor felt that perhaps the Tech people were eager to bring students to Ruston after they finish in Bossier, especially business and computer-science students.

Senator Rubin again mentioned the need for marketing, to which the Chancellor responded that we need to publicize ourselves and our successes more diligently. He described how students began clapping with delight when they saw our Success Center. We need to publicize what LSUS people are doing in research and development.

Julie Lessiter explained that high school counselors had told her that LSUS has a reputation for being “hard.” She added, though, that we offer students a good deal: a good product for \$30,000. She told of how the Noel Levitz people came out twice last spring. If people think that we could help ourselves without Levitz, we have already been doing so: 30 people have already been admitted for Fall 2018. However, the Levitz people have a high amount of expertise and experience, and they are blunt and clear when they detect weaknesses: ours are, they told us, admission, financial aid, and the website. We are already implementing what the NL people suggested that we should do, with an emphasis on continuation—getting students who come here to stay here.

Dr. Rubin suggested that profiling our market would be a good idea.

## **Observations and concerns**

Senator Smolinski said that in the MBA program, only free textbooks are allowed. Is this a violation of academic freedom? The Chancellor responded that this was an issue that needs to be closely monitored. Julie Lessiter added that professors in the business program can use textbooks that are free or open-access. The Chancellor said that he would ask the Interim Provost to look into this matter.

President Chikeleze reiterated four observations and concerns that had been brought up during the meeting:

- 1) He needed a list of people on the committee to revise the Faculty Handbook. Julie Lessiter said that she would supply it.
- 2) Committee members for the ADA policy committee need to be nominated. Sanjay Menon asked for nominations.
- 3) Faculty senators need to be added to the Calendar Committee
- 4) Faculty should be notified that the old summer schedule will return in 2018. Julie Lessiter said she would handle this.

Senator Mackowiak moved that the meeting be adjourned, The motion was seconded by Senator DuBose. The meeting was adjourned slightly before 5 PM.