

Minutes of the January LSUS Faculty Senate Meeting

January 30, 2019

3 p.m. in Third Floor of Noel Library

Present: Doug Bible, Beverly Burden, Tom Du Bose, Kevin Jones, Zsolt Lengvarszky, Jason Mackowiak, Laura McLemore, Russ Perry, Harvey Rubin, and Cheryl White

President Mackowiak called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. The first order of business was the approval of the minutes of the December Faculty Senate Meeting. Senator Burden moved that the minutes be approved, and Senator Perry seconded her motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

President's Report

President Mackowiak reported on his attending the Long-range Planning Council meeting. He also has met with Rogers Martin from the Student Affairs Committee and BinShan Lin about distinctions between research and development in regard to Dr. Lin's committee on these matters. The President also mentioned that some issues of harassment may not be covered by existing rules, and he will be talking the people from the Policy and Personnel Committee about this concern next week. He said he would be reaching out to Human Resources about this issue also.

Chancellor's Report

The Chancellor began his report by describing the visit of the Board of Supervisors to the Noel Collection and mentioning how impressed they were with it. While the BoS was on the LSUS campus, Dr. F. King Alexander met with the Chancellors of all the campuses. Four of the thirteen board members went on a tour of the campus. At 9:30 a.m. on the day of the BoS visit, they attended the ribbon-cutting for the Veterans' Center. They also listened to Dr. Carlos Spaht talk about his work with LAPREP. The President of the BoS who spoke at graduation in December told the Chancellor about how much a student had bragged to him about the many good things going on at LSUS.

The Chancellor then distributed to the Senators a handout listing matters that the Board of Supervisors will be considering soon. (See addendum to these minutes.) He returned to a discussion of the tour the four BoS members took of the campus, adding that he had brought up to them the possibility of one-time pay raises for faculty. The four seemed responsive to the suggestion. He also talked about the

possibility of splitting up the College of Business. He also mentioned the issue of student housing, and told the Senate that he would be talking at 9:30 a.m. tomorrow with the head of housing. He said a possible lawsuit involving housing had been suspended, and that Byrd High School had not paid anything lately for their use of our playing and practice fields. He ended his report by telling how he had spoken about the 12 suggestions on his handout with three of the supervisors and that a key member of the BoS had expressed support for the suggestions.

The Chancellor then asked the Senators if they had any questions. Senator Perry asked about deans in regard to the splitting of the College of Business: Would there be two deans and two associate deans? The Chancellor replied yes: there would be added administrative costs. In response to a question about the timeline for the split, the Chancellor said that a number of factors could cause delays: For example, the Provost is a finalist for the Chancellorship of Pepperdine University, and also the Board of Supervisors must give their approval of the plan. The Chancellor estimated the division would probably occur within a year and a half. S

Senator Bible asked about Number 11 on the list of possible changes. The Chancellor replied that trimming the trees on campus needed to be carried out soon for safety reasons. Senator Lengvarsky asked about bicyclists using the proposed pathway for walkers and drivers. The Chancellor responded that he would like that, but that bicycles can be a problem in traffic. The Chancellor welcomed suggestions about this issue and about the split.

Provost's Report

The Provost began her report by following up on the Chancellor's comments on the split: there will be town-hall meeting across campus about this issue She will be meeting with the faculty of the four departments affected during the month of February, and she will be listening to concerns that people express. After the four departmental meetings, a campus-wide meeting on the split will occur.

She continued by explaining that she and President Mackowiak had been discussing FPRs: Should colleges and schools and departments have different criteria and procedures, or should LSUS employ a one-size-fits all approach?

She then brought up the matter of teaching portfolios. She commended Dr. Helen Taylor for her memo about how those going up for tenure and promotion can put together a reflective piece about their teaching that can also include peer evaluations. She feels that such an approach will help demystify the procedure.

She concluded by telling the Senate that the people from Noel Levitz will be on campus talking about strategic enrollment tomorrow and Friday.

Vice-Chancellor Cannon's report

The Vice-Chancellor began her report by saying that the past year has been full of projects. She mentioned that bids on repairs to the IT building are due by February 19. New offices will be set up on the third floor of the BE building. She has also been hearing from tree-cutting vendors. Accounting services continue to look for new ways to do things in a streamline fashion. She has been talking about improving energy efficiency with Joseph LaCour and people from Baton Rouge. The Chancellor spoke up and said that the work on the roof of the HPE building ought to be finished by November or December of 2019. Senator Jones asked if all the work on the HPE building will be concluded by December, and Vice-Chancellor Cannon replied that it might be the case that focus would be on getting the work on the roof completed because of the bad leaks that need to be fixed. Senator Bible mentioned the great amount of furniture and other fixtures that needed to be moved during the repairs and renovations. The Vice-Chancellor replied that the observation is certainly correct: many, many things needed to be inventoried and/or made surplus. There is currently only one driver who comes up from Baton Rouge to carry away surplus items, and so LSUS has had to hire movers to take extra stuff away. Bill Wolfe added that LSUS has moved incredible amounts of things that took four trips to haul away.

Vice-Chancellor Lessiter's report

The Vice-Chancellor had good news about enrollment. On the 14th class day, the census was 7,142. By now, the number is probably 7,350. The Chancellor added that both of these numbers set records for LSUS, but we still need to work to build up undergraduate enrollment. Vice-Chancellor Lessiter spoke of going out to talk to potential students off-campus.

The Vice-Chancellor went on to discuss the Junior ROTC meeting on campus Friday and the mission statement on which the Long-Range Planning Committee voted. Copies of the mission statement will be distributed soon. There will be many homecoming activities next week: a chili cook-off, a bonfire, a homecoming parade, a silent disco, and more. President Mackowiak asked about a safety issue pertaining to the running pathway: What can be done to make the Millicent Crossing intersection with Youree safer? The Vice-Chancellor replied that the people working on the running pathway will be looking into this matter.

Development

There was no report on development.

Old Business

The President said that Rogers Martin, chair of the committee, is willing to take any questions people have. The committee will be meeting soon. Senator Perry asked what the deans might think about be taken out of the process. The President said that we should look at Dr. Martin's letter and ask him if we have questions. Perhaps he can come again to a later meeting of the Faculty Senate and give a report. Senator Bible spoke up that deans would be pleased at being taken out of the process.

New Business

The first issue pertained to the procedure of hearing panels. Dr. Paula Atkins explained that several years ago, the process for student hearings changed: they could be heard administratively or they could go to the hearing panel. Legal advice at the time suggested that an impartial review be provided by a neutral party and not the reporting party. The reporting party can submit written information and make suggestions, and then the officer and the student confer and decide whether to proceed to the hearing panel.

Senator Burden said that she is currently on the hearing panel and that sometimes a faculty member feels that a panel of his or her peers is preferable to an administrator of some sort. If a student thinks that he or she is being treated unfairly, guidelines are in place in the code. Senator Burden urged senators to go back and talk to colleagues and see what they think on this issue. The President suggested that perhaps Dr. Atkins could make up a handout for senators on this issue.

The next issue pertained to the student code of conduct. The committee met Monday, but there were too many absences for business to be carried out. The President again suggested that Rogers Martin attend a senate meeting and answer questions. Senator Jones asked the President how Senators best could prepare for Dr. Martin's meeting with us. He suggested that we read the code of conduct and mark in yellow all revisions or innovations.

Questions and concerns

There were none.

Adjournment

Senator White moved for adjournment, and Senator McLemore seconded her motion. The President adjourned the meeting at 4:12 p.m.