

Faculty Senate Meeting
September 13, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Jarzabek at 3:03 pm in the Webster Room of the University Center.

Members Present: Julie Bergeron, LaWanda Blakeney, Matyas Buzgo, Amy Erickson, Chris Hale, Mary Jarzabek, Kevin Krug, Robert Leitz, Lonnie McCray, Harvey Rubin, Carl Smolinsky, and Raymond Taylor.

Absent: Emre Celebi, Mary Hawkins, Marjan Trutschl

Approval of Minutes of May 12, 2011, was suspended until the next meeting.

President's Report: **President Jarzabek** addressed the Faculty Senate Summits which are open to all faculty, staff senators, legislators, and community members in Louisiana. The next meeting is Sept. 24th in Alexandria at 10 AM. Laura McLemore, Noel Library Archivist, will address the group. President Jarzabek would like for another representative from our campus to attend the meeting. Persons able to attend are to contact President Jarzabek after the meeting. President Jarzabek mentioned that Thomas Carmody (legislator) may be attending. The message that LSUS would like to send is that we need representation on the LSU Board of Supervisors and the Board of Regents.

President Jarzabek discussed Dr. Purcell's comments from his summer meeting . The primary message that she took from his comments was that Louisiana legislators are expecting universities to attain their own funding. She stated that we would discuss the Promise Program later in the meeting.

[President Jarzabek added to these minutes that the Dean of Enrollment and Registrar, Mickey Diez, has been conscientious in complying with the Faculty Senate request from Spring 2011 in setting the dates for the SRTE.](#)

Administrators' Reports: **Dr. Sisson**, Provost and Vice Chancellor, welcomed all and thanked senators for their service. He thanked President Jarzabek for her continued service as president. He touched on the financial situation eluded to earlier by stating that in previous years the state provided 60% of the funds needed by the university, and the university collected the other 40% from tuition. This has now reversed with universities needing to realize 60% of their funding from tuition with the state providing only 40% of the necessary funding. He emphasized that partnerships with community businesses would be necessary. He gave the following updates:

- The 14th day list was issued on Friday, Sept. 9th. Fall enrollment was up by 300 due to the large number of dual enrollment students (881 from 13 high schools in 3 parishes). First time, full time freshmen counts were down. Transfer students were up. Graduate enrollment has remained stable. Dual enrollment has been positive for all. Not only does it increase our enrollment, but it allows us to work with area schools and their curriculum.
- The Partnership for the Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) was briefly discussed. This is a consortium of 25 states that is attempting to build a partnership between the universities and the community. This program relates

directly to dual enrollment as one goal is to have universities help to design high school assessments which can serve as indicators of preparedness for university work.

- WEAVE is the LSUS online database for assessing and reporting. It will become very important over time. We will use it for our SACS review in 5 years. It will also be used to collect Grad Act data for the Board of Regents and data for our other accrediting agencies.
- Retention is a very important part of the Grad Act. LSUS barely met the established goal for first and second year students. The campus will need to work hard to retain these students in the third year. He asked **Julie Lessiter**, Associate Vice Chancellor in Academic Services, to address this issue. Ms. Lessiter stated that a survey completed by Dr. Menon last fall revealed that 100% of all freshmen who were not retained reported that they had no contact with their advisors or faculty members outside of the classroom. She discussed new tools that Shelby Keith, Information Technology Services Chair, has been preparing- namely, The Steps to Success. Four week grading will open Monday, Sept. 19, through Sunday, Sept. 25th. Emails will be generated to the students with low grades and to their advisors for them to meet. President Jarzabek mentioned the College of Arts and Sciences Advising Committee and asked if the counseling and advising help that was discussed in a memo from her department was available to all. Ms. Lessiter commented that the chairs are Elizabeth Liebert and Linda Webster and that the committee was not university-wide. However, Dr. Sisson stated that training would begin shortly on steps to improve retention. President Jarzabek stated that she will invite these two to address the Faculty Senate and discuss processes that they plan to put into place. Dr. Buzgo asked what could be done about the unmotivated student. Dr. Sisson replied that the training in freshman sessions should be helpful. Dr. Smolinsky asked for the number of dual enrollment students who actually enroll at LSUS as freshmen. Dr. Sisson stated that last semester 11% from the previous semester enrolled. However, Ms. Lessiter stated that better tools are needed as this number did not include those who were enrolled in dual enrollment in the fall. LSUS would also like to determine if the dual enrollment students fare better in college than those who did not take college courses in high school.
- The reorganization of several offices in Academic Affairs has led to the hiring of Christianne Wojcik as Director of Academic Services. She handles dual enrollment and and graduate student recruiting. Dr. Sisson stated that some of the high school teachers will need graduate courses to meet requirements to work with dual enrollment students. He expects to see an increase in graduation numbers this spring.

Mr. Mike Ferrell, Vice Chancellor of Business Affairs, discussed the following:

- Every state agency has been cut following guidelines established in the State Preamble. LSUS lost \$125,000 in funds which would have been used by the Office of Group Benefits. We were initially told that this money would be reinstated, but now it is clear that it will not be returned to LSUS. It will instead be sent to the flagship fund for LSUBR. This information was not known by our chancellor until the public knew.
- The state travel card is being abandoned. It is not clear when this will go into effect. Travelers will need to either ask for reimbursement or get a travel advance.
- Mr. Bill Wolf was appointed the Director of Human Resources. He was in attendance and was congratulated on this new position. Open enrollment for health and dental

insurance will begin shortly. Although the premiums have not been established yet, it is known that the insurance coverage will move from the fiscal year to a calendar year.

- It is unknown whether or not there are any changes at this time in the state budget as they affect LSUS. This will likely not be known until after elections have been held.
- Although June 30 investments are usually used for calculations for the funding of professorships, August investments were used after consulting with the LSUS Foundation Investment Committee due to the current financial difficulties. Funding for about 60% of the professorships/chairs was reduced. This left three professorships without any funds. However, donations received from Bruce and Steven Simon several years ago – about \$3,000- was used to provide \$1,000 to each of these three professorships. Therefore, all professorships/chairs will have a minimum of \$1,000 spending allocation. The spending limits of all professorships/chairs has been sent to the Deans. If investments improve, there is a possibility that the professorships may receive more funding in January. Dr. Leitz asked expressed concern over the low return of investments. Mr. Farrell stated that returns ranged from 0 – 4.25%. Dr. Leitz asked about representation on the Investment Committee by the faculty. Mr. Ferrell stated that he would make that recommendation.

Old Business:

- a. **Online Student Evaluations** – President Jarzabek stated that she wished to table this item. She will ask Dr. Sibylle Mabry to report on progress on this item at the next meeting.
- b. **FPR Review**- President Jarzabek asked if faculty representation could work with the deans to improve FPR. She suggested either two from Faculty Senate or two from the Faculty Policy and Personnel Committee. Dr. Smolinsky suggested that we have one from the Faculty Senate and one representative from the Faculty Policy and Personnel Committee. This was put into a motion by Dr. Leitz and seconded by Dr. Erikson. Motion passed unanimously. Dr. Sisson will bring this recommendation to the deans.
- c. **Retention and Recruitment**- President Jarzabek asked if any further discussion was needed since this was covered in the Administrators' reports. There were no questions.

New Business:

- d. **Student Affairs Committee** – President Jarzabek stated that she received an email from the Board of Student Conduct stating that there had been issues of attendance and breach of confidentiality with student representatives on the board. There were similar problems with the Financial Aid and Scholarship Committee. Both committees voted to eliminate student participation. Bylaws of the Constitution of the Faculty Senate require student representation on the Board of Student Conduct . President Jarzabek stated that the ~~Finance~~ **Financial Aid** Committee does not fall under the Faculty Senate bylaws. President Jarzabek stated that she will notify the Student Affairs Committee that the Faculty Senate will hear their recommendation but that no change can be made unless there is a change in bylaws. Dr. Smolinsky stated that there is a problem with attendance on this Admissions and Standards Committee. Student representation on committees was discussed. President Jarzabek said she would speak with P.J. Harrington

concerning the importance of student participation on committees, especially in these trying times. It was generally agreed that most students would not want to lose their representation on these committees.

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- e. **Private funding under the Promise Program** - President Jarzabek asked for 5 volunteers to form an adjunct committee to conduct research on activities completed by other committees in states that have begun a Promise Program. This is a partnership with businesses to seek private funding for universities. Dr. McCray, Dr. Erickson, Dr. Buzgo, and President Jarzabek will serve. Dr. Taylor suggested that we include Dr. Johnette McCrery, Vice Chancellor of Development, on this committee. President Jarzabek stated that she has already made initial contact with her. She asked that this ad hoc committee have a report ready for the next meeting.

Observations and Concerns – There were no other comments.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05