

**LSUS FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
February 16, 2024
11:00 A.M.
Webster Room—University Center**

I. CALL TO ORDER 11:00 a.m. President Williams called the meeting to order.

II. PRESENT: Senator Cassandra Williams, Senator Felice Williams, Senator Widmeyer, Senator Noor, Senator Saleh, Senator Gifford, Senator Shi Chen, Senator Kim, Senator Mikaberidze, Senator Zaidi. **ABSENT:** Senator Zhao, Senator Yeh, Senator Garcie, Senator White, Senator Shepherd, Senator Salvatore. A quorum was present.

III. COMMENTS: President Williams opened the floor for comments from non-senators, who signed up to comment, under prescribed time limits. Per parliamentary procedure, only those present in the room may comment or vote. President Cassandra Williams asked for a roll to be taken and asked senators to introduce themselves.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Senator Chen moved to approve the minutes. Senator Saleh seconded motion, which was approved.

V. PRESIDENT’S REPORT: President Williams expressed hope that the faculty was doing well approaching week 8, and then briefly discussed Four Week grades that the faculty already submitted.

V. ADMINISTRATORS’ REPORTS

Chancellor: Dr. Robert Smith delivered the chancellor’s report. He discussed continued enrollment increase both for the fall and spring semesters; overall enrollment grew to 10,232 students, with graduate enrollment increasing by 21% and undergraduate – by 5% year-over-year credit hours enrollment is up also; Dr. Smith reiterated that reaching 10,000 students was an important threshold but challenges, especially with on-campus enrollment, remain. He commended LSUS faculty for developing new programs that contributed to the increased enrollment. Dr. Smith discussed a reduction in the state allocation but noted that an enrollment increase should compensate for it. The Chancellor spoke of the hiring of a new Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and of further campus changes that are planned for the new future. He announced the “Pilots Dining Out” initiative that will offer meal plans for students.

Provost: Dr. Taylor thanked the faculty for new program initiatives and discussed Meauxmentum and First Year Experience initiatives. She encouraged the faculty to attend the forthcoming ceremonies, including the State of University meeting in March, the Outstanding Faculty Awards in April, and the graduation ceremony in May.

VI. NEW BUSINESS: President Williams discussed the social media policy and asked for the faculty input; a brief discussion followed, with the senators seeking to clarify who has the authority to approve campus posts; the Provost answered that the Dean’s office of the respective building approves.

Discussion then switched to the issue of posting from private accounts in official capacity; when speaking on social media, faculty members must express opinions in their personal capacity and not in their official capacity. Senator Gifford inquired if the student organizations need to follow the same policy and who should manage their social media accounts. The Provost noted that faculty advisors should provide a general supervision of such organizations, including their social media activities.

Next issue involved the use of university facilities. President Williams discussed the policy and requirements for the use of facilities; discussion focused on the process of reserving a facility, with Senator Felice Williams suggesting including a statement in the existing policy on providing a response within 24 hours of receiving an event request.

VII. CONTINUING BUSINESS

President Williams discussed course loads and overloads, pointing out the need for a more standardized approach.

VIII. OBSERVATIONS & CONCERNS

President Williams inquired how Four Week grades are used and if there is any evidence of their effectiveness. The Provost replied that the point of this process is to improve student success. The reason for instituting it was two fold: to ensure that the faculty assigns enough graded work by mid-term; and to identify struggling students early on and provide sufficient assistance to them. One of the fundamental issues is the students; unwillingness to ask for help; the Four Weeks grades allow the university to do this proactively; existing studies from 2011-2023 demonstrate effectiveness in retention and increasing student success. Senator Felice Williams inquired what happens after Four Weeks grades are submitted. President Williams explained that the data is reviewed by the Dean's office which then reaches out to individual departments, faculty, and students to examine problems and identify ways to assist students. The Provost and the Chancellor noted that the administration is trying to centralize student advising strategies and procedures.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexander Mikaberidze
Secretary