

**FACULTY SENATE MEETING AGENDA**  
**Wednesday, March 17, 2021, 3PM**  
**Zoom**

**I. CALL TO ORDER:** 3:03 p.m.

**II. PRESENT:** Cory Coehoorn, Doug Bible, Allen Garcie, Laura McLemore, Brian Salvatore, Claire Joa, Roger Zhao, Helen Wise, Aadel Darrat, Harvey Rubin, Minsum Kim, Syed Zaidi

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** There being no corrections minutes of the February 25, 2021 meeting were approved.

**IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT:** Doug Bible welcomed everyone to the meeting. He spoke briefly in regard to the update on Graduate Studies policies listed on the agenda, specifically College of Business programs. In light of rapid growth, large size, and upcoming self-study and accreditation, the College of Business is concerned with maintaining a high-quality program and has proposed some changes with respect to transfer credits, incompletes, and independent. These should be reflected in the 2021-2022 catalog. Due to the fact that there are still ongoing discussions about this, Doug is withdrawing that topic from discussion for today. He will report on the progress on or before the next meeting. He reminded everyone that the May graduation 2021 will be virtual, and expressed hope that by December we will be back in person. The Planning Council will meet Friday, March 19, and Doug invited everyone to observe. The biggest topic of discussion will be conversion of the swimming pool to a general recreational area. He observed that there are still a few Senate elections needed for expiring terms. He hopes to have those taken care of in April or May. He encouraged faculty to join the meetings and to contact their respective senators to put items on the agenda.

**V. ADMINISTRATORS' REPORTS**

**Chancellor:** The first matter of discussion was the Husch Blackwell report. Dr. Clark attended the hearing. It was very difficult to hear the presentation by Husch Blackwell about what happened at LSU. The presentation exposed a real failure in the culture at LSU for what happened, particularly in Athletics. He has asked LSUS leadership to read the report with particular attention to their areas. Discussion of it will be on the agenda at the Planning Council meeting and what might be changed here in light of the report. He said what we are doing is much more compliant than what is happening in Baton Rouge. He noted that there is a link to the report online.

The Planning Council will also discuss Cares Act money. There are three different amounts of money given to the university under the Cares Act. We have already disbursed the first round. Dr. Clark will introduce the plans for disbursement of the second round at the Planning Council meeting on Friday. He announced that there will be direct dollars to LSUS students through the Cares Act money. This time it will go to online students as well as onsite students. He acknowledged the work of Chelsey Chance in Financial Aid and Barbie Cannon, Vice President of Business Affairs, in putting together the plan. Regarding the swimming pool: In 2008 a proposal was made to decommission the pool and convert it to a recreational space.

Nothing happened subsequently. Now the swimming pool equipment is failing; it is obsolete; the pool is not attracting face-to-face students. Therefore, he is looking to develop the space into an event venue in addition to a recreational area. That will be on the Planning Council agenda as well. He is working on an impact statement for the College of Business to anticipate the scope of admission standards changes. He said there was general agreement that we need to slow the rate of growth in the MBA program. He would like to see enrollment in the university spread over all programs and disciplines. He is trying to increase attractions for onsite students. Peter Siska asked about the Science Building and whether any remodeling is actually going on. Dr. Siska wanted to know about making the Science Building attractive to students. Dr. Clark said right now the focus is on the HVAC system, so painting and other cosmetic work will come later.

**Provost:** Helen Taylor reported that LSU has made a change to Permanent Memorandum PM-35, involving review of faculty ranks and due process. She circulated it to deans and administrators, and LSUS has no objection to the change they are making. Doug Bible said all they did was add that if we wanted to make it stricter, we could do that. Dr. Taylor announced that the Fall and Summer Schedule is live. She thanked everyone who helped get it up. Registration begins on April 5. The last day to drop this semester is March 31. She noted that Spring break is next week. She has talked to a lot of new faculty and is impressed with their interdisciplinary and collaborative spirit. Doug Bible noted that MBA graduate courses have some number changes for courses in the fall. Dr. Taylor thanked Scott Hardwick and Shelby Smith for their help with the registration process.

**Strategic Planning:** Julie Lessiter advised that the SACSCOC report was turned in and received. We will hear how we fared in June. She said the transition to LSU Online is now the focus. We will have to build the system. She reported that 9,785 students are enrolled for this spring, about 1,000 up from last spring but slightly down from the fall. She noted that Continuing Education is working on summer camps. She observed that April 1 is preview day for the Admissions Office, which will be a hybrid type preview of LSUS. Faculty may be asked to participate. Dr. Lessiter is getting feedback on disability and copyright training from the distance learning committee. LED grants are also a focus. Peter Siska asked when the LED grant was due. Dr. Lessiter said it was a three-year grant, so, it isn't "due" per se. It builds from one year to the next. In April the Deans will discuss the LED grant so that we are all on the same page. Dr. Siska asked who can be on the collaboratory committee with representation from each college. He wants more information about the committee's work and who is on it. Dr. Lessiter said it is a faculty led and faculty driven committee. If he had any ideas to offer, she would welcome them.

**Finance:** Barbie Cannon reported that she is getting ready to expend the second round of the Cares Act and will explain how it will go directly to students at the Planning Council meeting. The third round is \$6.8 million--half for students and half for institution--but institutional funds can be used for students if needed. There are limits on what funds can be used for: like technology, PAT team expenses, etc. She noted that the Legislature is in session, and we have no information right now, but the Department of Administration has put forth a budget that would restore the cuts from last year and regular funding to higher education instead of relying on one-time "Cares" money. Mandated costs will be more in 2021-2022, and the legislature is being asked to fund that increase. We also have some proposals for capital outlay. Whether

they get in HR2 remains to be seen. Ms. Cannon encouraged everyone to look at Beth Anderson's email about changes to travel. The Foundation is having a meeting of professorship holders to go over changes to how professorship money can be spent. Doug Bible reminded everyone about the DocuSign procedure.

**Human Resources:** Bill Wolfe reported that faculty and staff have still not moved up on the vaccination priority list, but most of the faculty and staff have found ways to qualify and he encourages everyone to get vaccinated who can. Qualtrics is setting up a way to track the number of employees who have been vaccinated. Human Resources is moving into a campaign to get anti-vaxxers vaccinated. He noted that the LSUHSC at the Fairgrounds is running smoothly.

**Information Technology Services:** Shelby Keith reported that LSU A & M has initiated an invitation to negotiate for a new student system. Other campuses will have the option at their own expense of joining in whatever system LSU goes with. By June, the vendor will be selected and implementation will begin in July to go live by April 2024. He is on the core committee. He will keep the campus informed about the selection process.

**Library:** Brian Sherman reported that Noel Library personnel are working on summer camps and accommodating the space for Student Development. He is also working on controlled digital lending, which will involve a massive scanning project on the second floor.

**Athletics:** No report. Doug Bible said that the basketball teams won their division championships but were eliminated in the NAIA tournament. He directed everyone to the Athletics website for updates on Baseball.

## **VI. CONTINUING BUSINESS**

**Update on Faculty Research and Development Grants:** Binshan Lin showed slides showing comparisons of grants by semester from Fall 2016 through Spring 2021. He noted that requests totaled \$98,249. Total money allocated and distributed this year was \$51,000. The second slide showed the breakdown by college. Dr. Lin noted the increase in applications for \$5,000-level grants for this spring to sixteen. He urged everyone to read all guidelines before applying. The committee will not read applications that do not comply with the guidelines. He said the committee discussed the small number of sabbatical applications this morning. He encouraged faculty to apply for sabbaticals. He noted that Outstanding Faculty Awards comprise five slots at \$6,000 each for a total of \$30,000 and encouraged people to nominate individuals for the Outstanding Faculty Award. Helen Taylor and Doug Bible thanked Binshan for all the work he does on these. Peter Siska pointed out that faculty need time to do research and use the money and asked the provost to respond. She agreed that grant writing is an additional burden on faculty but she sees it as an investment in order to get funding. Peter Siska said he appreciates the Faculty Senate being there but feels the faculty does not have a voice on the Senate. He doesn't feel the faculty voice is heard. Doug Bible said faculty who are not senators should have their senators bring up their issues at the meetings, and we will follow the current guidelines. Dr. Siska said he thinks the meetings should be at a different time so faculty can participate and calls for return to the Faculty Council model.

## **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

Graduate Studies Policies (see President's report above).

**VIII. OBSERVATIONS AND CONCERNS**

**IX. ADJOURNMENT:** 4:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura McLemore, Secretary