**LSUS FACULTY SENATE**

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING**

**March 18, 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 Gifford, Senator Zhao,  Senator Si Chen, Senator Yeh, Senator Garcie, Senator Shepherd, Senator Kim, Senator Zaidi. **ABSENT:** Senator Mikaberidze, Senator Saleh, Senator Noor,Senator White, 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. No one signed up for comments. President Williams asked for a roll to be taken and asked senators to introduce themselves.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Senator Gifford moved to postpone approving the minutes to the last item on agenda. At the end of the meeting, Senator Gifford made the motion to approve. Motion seconded and approved.

**V. PRESIDENT’S REPORT:** President Williams asked the senators and faculty to remind students that nominations for the Professor of the Year were open and available on Moodle. She also discussed the need to make a decision on the evaluations of Assistant and Associate Deans by April 15 deadline.

**V. ADMINISTRATORS’ REPORTS**

**Chancellor:** Dr. Robert Smith was in Baton Rouge and could not attend the meeting.

**Provost:** Dr. Taylor presented the chancellor’s report. LSUS spring enrollment remains above 10,000 students. Discussion of the LSU Strategic Planning framework, including the Scholarship First agenda, followed; LSUS Leadership Planning Committee met on March 8, 2024, to discuss collaborative goal-planning exercises.

Dr. Taylor then presented the provost’s report. The Office of Academic Affairs is required to participate in the Board of Regent’s three-year planning exercises; LSUS three-year academic plan is available on the G-drive. Any degree LSUS plans to offer must be included in this plan so it is reviewed and approved. The Provost is in constant communication with the Deans and Associate Deans about the plan and what new degree programs can or should be developed, based on economic needs, student interest, workforce development data, etc.; there are several degree programs that LSUS requested two years ago but proposals remain incomplete and should be reviewed and finalized.

The provost then discussed hiring new faculty members and noted that the Deans have been asked to submit their recommendations by April 3.

The provost noted several upcoming events, including the Academic Awards Convocation ceremony on April 3 and the Outstanding Faculty Awards on April 10, 2024. The spring graduation ceremony will be on May 10.

President Williams asked the Provost if the Policy and Personnel Committee made any recommendations for changes in the overload/download policy. The Provost noted that a senate committee should make its recommendations directly to the Faculty Senate.

Discussion of student evaluation instruments, some of which are twenty years old. The Provost recommends that the Senate include a review of the evaluation instruments on the agenda for the next meeting.

**VI. NEW BUSINESS:** No new business this month.

**VII. CONTINUING BUSINESS**

Discussion of course loads and overloads policy; President Williams will seek information from the Policy and Personnel Committee.

Discussion of the need for a new survey policy in the College of Business. President Williams, Provost Taylor, and Senators Gifford and Felice Williams discussed the advantages and possible pitfalls of drafting a new, more permissive policy that might differ from the existing university or system policies; Senator Gifford inquired if the Faculty Senate can make a recommendation to the College of Business to revise or remove its current policy on the use of students in research surveys. Senator Garcie noted that the Senate could do it but preferred to see a broader, university-wide policy regulating this issue. A general discussion followed. The senators agreed to task the Faculty Research and Development Committee with developing a university-wide policy statement outlining procedures and/or guidelines for using students as research subjects in faculty-led surveys. Senator Gifford made the motion; Senator Felice Williams seconded. Motion was approved.

**VIII. OBSERVATIONS & CONCERNS**

President Williams noted that LSUS is scheduled to start the Fall 2024 semester a week earlier than LSU and other institutions. Discussion follows, involving the Provost and the registrar, about the academic calendar and scheduling issues.

**IX. ADJOURNMENT:** A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexander Mikaberidze

Secretary