**LSUS FACULTY SENATE**

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**November 15, 2023**

**11:00 A.M.**

**Webster Room—University Center**

**I. CALL TO ORDER 11:00 am**

**II. PRESENT:** Senator Cassandra Williams, Senator White, Senator Garcie, Senator Gifford, Senator Zaidi, Senator Mikaberidze, Senator Kim, Senator Chen, Senator Yeh, Senator Saleh, Senator Shepard **ABSENT:** Senator Noor and Senator Salvatore.

**III. COMMENTS:** President Cassandra Williams asked for comments from the floor. Dr. D’Mello addressed the faculty senate.

**IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** President Williams asked for motions approved minutes for September and October meetings. Motion was made and seconded to approve September minutes. The minutes were approved. A motion was then made and seconded to approve the October minutes. The minutes were approved.

**V. PRESIDENT’S REPORT—**President Williams urged faculty to complete the RWA and ITAstudent success surveys. She noted that Associate Vice Chancellor Atkins is working on an attendance policy. Anyone interested in being on the committee should let President Williams know.

**VI. ADMINISTRATORS’ REPORTS**

1. Chancellor**—**Chancellor Smith reported that undergraduate and graduate enrollment is up 11.6% year over year. Spring enrollment looks encouraging. He reported that he attended the Board of Regents meeting on capital outlay. He announced that several needs would be addressed, including Technology Center roof replacement and removal of the original temporary buildings. He noted that the Board of Supervisors has approved requests regarding the College of Business and the Red River Watershed Management Institute. Four new programs are up for consideration. The Chancellor urged everyone to attend commencement. He reminded senators about accreditation coming up and the tree lighting on November 16. He fielded some questions about the commencement ceremony and emphasized that sixty percent of LSUS graduates are first generation students.
2. Provost**—**Provost Taylor also spoke about graduation. She listed academic programs passed by the Board of Supervisors that included two master’s degrees and graduate certificates in counseling and dual enrollment. She spoke about degree programs LSUS is requesting in its three-year plan and about textbook adoptions. She urged faculty to adopt textbooks for their courses. Senator Cassandra Williams explained the process for textbook adoption online. There was a question and request for information, which the provost promised to send out to the faculty.

**VII. NEW BUSINESS**

Standing Committee Appointments: Committee appointments for Admissions & Standards committee, Instruction and Professional Development committee, Courses & Curriculum committee, Faculty Research and Development committee, Library committee, Policy and Personnel committee, and Student Affairs committee were separately voted on and each nomination was approved.

**VIII. CONTINUING BUSINESS**

 a. Election of Faculty Senate Secretary--President Williams called for nominations for secretary. After some discussion, Senator Mikaberidze offered to serve. His nomination was approved.

b. Follow-up: Tenure & Promotion – President Williams recommended that the Policy and Personnel committee revise the policy statement regarding tenure and promotion, and table a vote until the next meeting. Current policy (2.01.06) does not comport with practice. According to Permanent Memorandum 69, the decision now belongs to President of the Board of Supervisors, not our Chancellor (PM 69). Discussion followed.

c. Follow-up: Pay Equity and Overloads--pursuant to observations and concerns at the March 2023 meeting. President Williams presented the rationale for consensus on policy change and the Permanent Memoranda that control summer compensation. She asked if there was a way the faculty senate could have a say in that determination? The faculty senate could make a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors. Discussion followed. Associate Vice Chancellor Wolfe said LSUS rarely approaches its policy limits. Resolutions were proposed on recommendations to the Board of Supervisors on the policy, on prioritizing faculty retention, and on prioritizing quality instruction.President Williams suggested a survey of faculty on this issue and then a vote on the resolutions after evaluation by the Policy and Personnel committee. A motion to this effect was made and seconded. The motion passed.

**IX. OBSERVATIONS & CONCERNS**

 a. The need for Assistant and Associate Dean evaluations from was discussed. The provost said that would require a policy to cover it. She said that could be done in the spring. There were questions about the survey from a tech standpoint followed by more discussion.

 b. The need for a confidential/anonymous faculty survey to solicit faculty feedback was discussed.

 c. Senator Garcie brought up safety concerns in light of violence at Louisiana Tech. Discussion followed.

**X. ADJOURNMENT 12:09 pm**

Respectfully submitted,

Laura McLemore, Secretary ex officio