

LSUS FACULTY SENATE

Minutes of the Meeting

Monday, September 12, 2022

11:00 a.m.

Cyber Collaboratory and Zoom

I. CALL TO ORDER: 11:02 a.m.

II. PRESENT: Allen Garcie, Doug Bible, Harvey Rubin, Brian Salvatore, Debbie Shepherd, Alex Mikaberidze, Cheryl White, Cory Coehoorn, Felice Williams, Amin Saleh, Maggie Gifford, Cassandra Williams, Minsun Kim, Syed Zaidi, Roger Zhao. Absent: Laura McLemore

III. PRESIDENT’S REPORT: President Allen Garcie welcomed everyone back and remarked on the return to in-person meetings. He hopes to strike a balance between the advantages of meeting in person and the convenience of meeting via Zoom. He expressed concern about enrollment and urged everyone to do whatever they can to get involved with recruitment, making programs “relevant” to incoming students, and selling our programs. He suggested changing the culture of the classroom to meet their expectations. He also mentioned having a faculty senate/faculty-at-large coffee get together at Stacks on October 5. He would like faculty members to stop by and visit with faculty senate members, so he urged faculty senate members to attend if possible.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: No minutes.

V. ADMINISTRATORS’ REPORTS:

A. Chancellor—Dr. Clark announced that Alex Mikaberidze would be recognized as a Boyd Professor at LSU on September 20 in Baton Rouge. The event celebrates elite faculty accomplishments. Dr. Clark then made some remarks about the Covid pandemic. LSUS is not testing this fall even though the pandemic has not gone away. The cost was funded last year by the Cares Act, but the funding isn’t here this year. He announced the policy that anyone who wears a mask should be respected. There will be vaccines, including Monkey Pox, available on campus from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. on September 20. He recognized Kim Ramsey, who has returned to campus in the Chief of Staff position. This is a newly created project manager position, solving problems and doing different things around campus. Regarding the budget, we received \$1.8 million from the LSU System to help with the deficit caused by the move to LSU Online with lesser enrollment. We received money from the state for faculty pay raises. Both he and President Tate realize that it still does not put us where we need to be, but it is good to see the effort. Governor Edwards has mandated a Civil Service employee pay raise this year that the campuses will have to pay for. LSUS funded raises for unclassified employees at the same rate as faculty this year taking the pay floor up to \$35,000. The real challenge is the hourly employee wage that the state controls. We got additional money to complete the bridge across the ditch to the apartments and to work on the reskinning of the Science Technology building. LSUS received \$1.1 million more in formula funding from the Board of Regents and a one-time \$1M open-purpose appropriation that was made possible by the efforts and leadership of Sen. Barrow Peacock. Dr. Clark reported that enrollment

is 8,523, down 372 from last year. The number of new graduate students coming in is up from a year ago, which shows that LSU Online is beginning to catch up to previous levels of recruiting. We have received \$2.5 million from the legislature for cyber security to create a cyber security center as a result of what we've been doing with the cyber collaboratory. LSUS has a grant out for cyber security that will include computer science and other disciplines as well. The LSU Strategic Plan has been completed, and LSUS will now start the process for drafting a strategic plan to align with LSU's.

Brian Salvatore raised a question concerning meetings that took place about moving LSUS to Kings Highway. He said the faculty senate president was invited, but the Faculty Senate has not been kept abreast of the meetings. Brian asked what was driving this; who is organizing the meetings; why are the meetings always held off campus, why faculty senators were not invited, and why does LSUS's faculty senate not receive a copy of the minutes of these meetings since they are pertinent to us, and our own representative is attending? Dr. Clark said the talk had begun with "relocating" but was now "co-locating." This would involve LSUS having a role at the Health Science Center but not moving over there. He said he proposed moving Allied Health to this campus with a new wing for the science building. A new building on the Health Science campus is being completed. They have a plan to build another building subsequently that would be ten stories, and Dr. Clark proposed that two floors of the ten would be owned by LSUS, giving us access and use of the space for research. There is also the possibility of a nursing program. Whether that develops remains to be seen, but there would be space on those two floors for a nursing program. There has been no confirmation on the use of the two floors at this time. Dr. Clark noted that LSUHSC is offering undergraduate programs, which shouldn't be. LSUS provides general education courses for undergraduate students at LSUHSC. This may be incorporated in the co-location arrangement. We are currently working on the undergraduate education partnership. His opinion is that if we are to be true partners with LSUHSC, we should have real estate on that campus, but LSUS is not moving to Kings Highway.

Brian Salvatore asked that when our faculty senate president goes to a meeting, the Faculty Senate receive a summary or meeting minutes after the meeting. Dr. Clark said ideally any proposals for relocation or co-location would have involved the Faculty Senate to begin with, but that didn't happen. He thinks co-location is a good idea. He said he had previously broached the subject of merging LSUS and LSUHSC with LSU. He believes one LSU in Shreveport would make LSUS stronger, but there was no interest in Baton Rouge.

A question was asked about the traffic from building the bridge to the apartments. Dr. Clark said there are some plans for brick dividers and lighting. He then described reskinning of the Science building. There is a plan to replace any trees that must be removed as a result. There will be some disruption, but he hopes classes will be able to continue. The stained glass will be incorporated somewhere in the building. Dr. Clark described several other construction projects that are in the works. There was a question about the tennis courts. Larry said we have been waiting on the insurance company. There was a question about whether the university had dug into the enrollment numbers to analyze the decline. Dr. Clark said, yes. Overall, we were not allowed into the public schools for two years. Recruiting visits are now resuming. LSUS has 96% occupancy in student housing. He is seeing positive developments in recruiting and enrollment.

B. Provost: Helen Taylor reported on an MOU just signed with LSUHSC. LSUS students with a 3.5 GPA and 505 on the M-Cat are guaranteed an interview with the medical school. LSUS students have shown interest. We are looking into 3 +1 and 3 + 2 in pre-professional programs such as Physicians' Assistant. These are part of the 3-year plan requested by the Board of Regents. LSUS now has

undergraduate degrees in Occupational Physiology and Non-Profit Administration. The focus now is on First Year Experience, Freshman Seminar and General Education. LSUS has a new Vice-Chancellor for Strategic Success Initiatives. LSUS is aligning committees to make sure we are giving first-year students the support they need in and out of the classroom with the goal of retaining them into the second year. Dr. Taylor announced that summer graduation would be at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, September 16, at Brookshire's arena. She reminded everyone that faculty were expected to attend. She said we have reintroduced 4-week grades in targeted classes as part of the student success initiative. She announced that the grand opening for the DICE office would be September 28th in the University Center. There was a question about why we do not have Trio or McNair scholars here for our first- and second-year students. Dr. Taylor said LSUS has applied for Trio in the past and was unsuccessful. The suggestion was made to offer upward bound here, which could bring in a lot of high school students.

VI. CONTINUING BUSINESS

A. COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS. Allen Garcie reported committee appointments for the College of Arts and Sciences and College of Business: Admissions and Standards-Dr. Zippy (CAS); Courses and Curricula: Dr. Buzgo, Dr. Dunnavent, Dr. Zhao (CAS), Dr. [Minseong] Kim and Dr. Yu (COB); Faculty Research and Development-Dr. Joiner, Dr. Burden (CAS), Dr. Shaughnessy (COB); Instruction and Professional Development-Dr. Zhao, Dr. Carpenter (CAS), and Dr. Sathya (COB); Library-Dr. Erickson (CAS), Dr. Dunn (COB); Student Affairs-Mr. Martin, Mr. Alford (CAS), and Dr. Yu (COB); Policy and Personnel-Dr. Gustavson (CAS); Admissions and Standards-Dr. Osmani (COB). These are new people who have been re-elected or elected to a new position that became open. There was a question about how many were elected to Policy and Personnel from the College of Business. Doug Bible said Mohamad Darrat and Kungu were appointed from the College of Business. Allen called for a motion to accept these appointments. The motion was made, seconded, and approved.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. ELECTION OF OFFICERS: Allen Garcie said he had received questions about reelecting committee members because there were no specific directions about electing committee members in the by-laws. Doug Bible proposed wording to add to the by-laws in Article 8, Section 2 (D): "It is the responsibility of each college and the library to monitor the Senate Committee appointments and vacancies and elect or appoint committee members as needed for the various senate committees. Appointments or elections for the upcoming academic year should take place in April and May as needed. The Senate Vice President is responsible for coordinating these efforts." Doug added that we should probably reiterate Article 8, Section 6.4 (B) that the Policy and Personnel Committee members must be elected and must have tenure. Right now, that is the only part that is in the by-laws. Cory Coehoorn asked for clarification that the deans and associate deans would monitor committee vacancies from their colleges and the Faculty Senate Vice President would be responsible for coordinating these efforts. Does that mean the elections? Doug said his idea was that the Faculty Senate Vice President would make sure the deans or associate deans were looking at upcoming vacancies ahead of time, so that elections would occur in April or May as required by the by-laws. Doug said they didn't all have to be elected; they could be appointed, but the colleges should be responsible except for Policy and Personnel. Allen said in his opinion the responsibility should fall to the chairs of the committees for keeping up with who is on the committee and who is rolling off the committee. He noted that all this came up shortly before this fall semester began as committee chairs began to realize that they had positions open. Committee chairs should be aware of who is rolling off the committee and that an election or appointment was needed. The Vice President could ask the committee chairs for an update. If they would send a note to the Faculty Senate Vice President, then he or she could follow up with the deans if necessary. Another

question for clarification was asked about whether the deans currently have the power to appoint or hold an election for committee members or whether that is what Doug's proposal is meant to do. Doug said he proposed to put that requirement in the by-laws. He hesitated to put the responsibility on committee chairs because that does not provide a remedy if a committee chair fails to follow up. You can coordinate with the deans to get positions filled. It was agreed that more discussion should be had and that some procedure for filling committee vacancies was needed.

VIII. OBSERVATIONS AND CONCERNS

A. FACULTY OVERLOAD PAY: Allen has discussed this with the provost but would like to look at the policy for how overload pay is governed for undergraduate and graduate courses before discussing it.

B. CLASS RECORDINGS: All classes are recorded, and recordings are saved on a server or in the cloud. Questions arose about how those recordings were being used. Allen said he had a discussion about it with the provost. He was under the impression that the recordings were not accessible to faculty, but if a dean wanted those recordings, they had to be shared. Dr. Taylor said we had this discussion about a year ago, and it was her understanding that the recordings belonged to faculty members. No one is looking at them. If a faculty member wanted to publish a recording, a copy of it would have to be moved to the gallery. If some event occurred in a classroom that later required police to view the recording, they could have it, but no one else is looking at it. Alex Mikaberidze commented that the recordings could be cancelled at the beginning of a class. Helen Taylor pointed out that IT had asked us not to touch those boxes because that messed it up for the next professor. Dr. Taylor said if the faculty member wanted to use a recording as part of a tenure application or share a recording with their dean, they could do that, but they would have to request it. It was then asked, again, whether a department chair or dean could watch your videos instead of coming to physically observe your class. An exchange ensued regarding the charge that all administrators have to do is add themselves to your Moodle class to get access to the media file. Scott Hardwick said the practice of moving all the videos to the media galleries in Moodle stopped after the discussion about this issue a year and a half ago. Faculty members present continued to challenge this explanation and were once again told that their concern had already been dealt with.

Allen then brought up the faculty website. He said the template for the faculty website was going to be updated so that the link to it will not be so hard to find. There was also a complaint about the directory on the LSUS website. The information comes from Workday. Scott Hardwick said if anyone pulled themselves up in the directory and the information was incorrect, they should contact Kristin Fiser so she can update it. Helen Taylor pointed out that individuals can update some of their information in Workday themselves. Allen reminded everyone to attend graduation on Friday. He also made clear that there was no private information from any meetings that he didn't share with faculty senators. He vowed to share directly with senators any information he learns at a meeting that he thinks needs to be shared directly with them. He emphasized that he is not invited to a lot of meetings and is not withholding any information.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: President Allen Garcie called the meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura McLemore, Secretary