

LSUS Faculty Senate Meeting

March 16, 2016

President Tom Du Bose called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM.

Present: Tom Du Bose, Mary Hawkins, Chengho Hsieh, Kevin Krug, Zsolt Lengvarszky, Michael Meeks, Kay Stebbins Slattery, Carl Smolinsky, Lynn Walford.

Absent: Beverly Burden, Yong Hwang, Jim Ingold, Alexander Mikaberidze, Brian Salvatore, Cheryl White.

Approval of Minutes of February 16 Faculty Senate Meeting

A motion was made and seconded (Hawkins/Smolinsky) to approve the minutes as corrected. The motion passed unanimously.

President's Report

President Tom Du Bose gave the following report:

- He communicated with various faculty members through email and private conversation about various issues, primarily the budget, the plan for the graduate school at LSUS, calendar issues, and the fate of the Noel Collection.
- He communicated via email during the time of the flood with the members of the Executive Committee to set up the agenda for this meeting.
- He represented the faculty at a meeting of administrators and security people to discuss the recent events on campus pertaining to guns and other illegal activities.
- He met with the Chancellor for their monthly meeting. They discussed the budget, the plan for the graduate school, calendar issues, and the needed work on the library and HPE buildings. They also discussed the recent incidents of criminal behavior on campus.
- He spoke with a former colleague that many will remember, Dr. Merrell Knighten, who commiserated with him about all the woes facing higher education in Louisiana. Dr. Knighten asked him to let everyone know that he is very happy to have retired when he did before this deluge of threats and losses. President Du Bose's response was "Blessed art thou amongst those of us in higher ed in this state."

Administrators' Reports

Chancellor

Chancellor Larry Clark gave the following report:

- He said that following a recent incident in the Science Building he called a safety meeting, during which it was determined that the campus should have been informed of the incident sooner. He called it a learning opportunity, and said that after the incident he met with President Du Bose, Staff Senate President Lance

Cole, SGA President Dennis Henderson, Police Chief Donald Wray, and Director of Student Activities Angel Martin to exchange ideas about what to do in the case of future incidents of this nature. He added that he is forming a committee to report on what should be done to create a safer campus, and asked President Du Bose to suggest someone to represent the faculty on the committee.

- He reported on another incident that took place at the University Court apartments, involving drugs and weapons. Fourteen people were arrested, including four LSUS student baseball players. None of the weapons belonged to our students. He said that Channel 3 reported on the incident prematurely, and added that the official press release would be out today. He said that LSUS Police Chief Wray met with LSUA&M Police Chief Lawrence Rabelais and representatives from the Louisiana State Police, and that they have coordinated their operations. He added that Homeland Security is also involved, because there is a link to drug dealers from Oregon, and said that the LSUS students have cooperated in identifying them. He said that the students will no longer be part of the baseball team, but that they will be enrolled in LSUS until their hearing before the Student Conduct Board.
- He reported that he had received no new information on the budget situation, and that there are still questions about when the new taxes can be collected, as well as about what new expenses might be incurred as a result of the recent flooding. He said that President F. King Alexander estimated that cuts would be around \$7 million, and that LSUS's share might be around \$300,000. He thanked Provost Vassar and Vice-Chancellor Ferrell for their wise management of resources, and said that because of their efficiency we will be able to finish the semester with no need to resort to furloughs or other drastic measures. He said that the next fiscal year might see a shortfall of up to \$750 million, and that it is not clear what will be done if that is the case. He added that he spends a great deal of time in Baton Rouge and communicates regularly with legislators because he thinks that it is important that he be present to represent LSUS during the budget hearings.
- He reported that representatives from Marts and Lundy fundraising consultants were on campus to help plan our upcoming fundraising campaign.
- He said that the LSUS Foundation asked if students would be available during Spring Break to help flood victims, but commented that there was little time to make plans or recruit volunteers. Senator Hawkins said that students in the Community Health Program will volunteer as part of their community service requirement for the degree.

Academic Affairs

Provost and Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs John Vassar gave the following report:

- He announced that Dr. Nancy Miller, who comes from Pacific Lutheran University in Spokane, Washington, has accepted the position of Dean of the College of Business, Education, and Human Development. He said that two positions in the School of Business have been filled, but that other ongoing searches will not be completed until we have received more information about the budget situation.
- He thanked the faculty for their help in coping with the missed classes during the flood, and also for their help in communicating to students the information that in the midst of the budget crisis classes would continue and that graduation would be held as scheduled. He asked the faculty to communicate to students that classes are scheduled for the summer and fall.
- He commented on the email he had sent regarding ways to make up the three days of classes that were cancelled during the recent storm, and said that the campus would be open on Saturday, April 9, for those who wanted to use that time to hold classes. He said that faculty should make their own arrangements in

coordination with chairs to make up the classes, and added that the Office of Academic Affairs is working on a policy for dealing with campus closure. He said the current policy is not being used, since it calls for taking days away from Spring Break, and because it was developed several years ago, does not take into account online classes.

During discussion, Senator Krug asked about the possibility of including two “dead days” at the end of the semester to allow for weather closure, and Provost Vassar said his office would be coordinating with the Calendar Committee. Senator Hawkins asked what the policy was at LSUA&M, and Provost Vassar said that they have fewer online classes than we do, and made up cancelled classes by cutting days from Spring Break.

Business Affairs

Vice-Chancellor for Business Affairs Mike Ferrell said that nominations for the Sue Ann Kemp Award for Meritorious Service are open through April 5, that the winner will be announced at the Spring Luncheon, and that the \$1,000 award will be given at the Awards Ceremony.

Development

There was no report.

Old Business

Report from Policy and Personnel Committee on revision of policies on promotion and tenure

There was no report. Senator Smolinski said that the final draft of the revised policies should be ready by March 30, and will most likely be presented to the Faculty Senate at the April meeting.

Report from SGA President on student-led initiative to provide faculty raises

SGA President Dennis Henderson apologized for not attending the last Faculty Senate meeting. He said that the SGA is working on a bill to implement a student fee of \$36 which would be dedicated to allowing for a 2% raise for faculty. He said that the motion will require the approval of the student body, and that of the more than 200 students he has polled, all are in agreement. He commented that all the students have said they would not endure nine years without a raise. He said that he has spoken with the Board of Supervisor regarding the proposal, but that the motion has been tabled pending news of the budget situation. President Du Bose commented that colleagues from other campuses are surprised that students have taken such an initiative, and added that he was very impressed by the efficiency and level of seriousness of the SGA meetings he has attended.

Report from Calendar Committee on issues regarding scheduling

Provost John Vassar gave the following report:

He said that members of the committee are himself, Dean of Graduate Studies Sanjay Menon, Registrar Darlenna Atkins, Director of Financial Aid Chelsey Chance, and Assistant Professor of Graphic Arts Allen Garcie. He said that the greatest challenge the committee faces is how to coordinate the summer schedule with that of LSUA&M, since our classes meet four days a week during the summer, and theirs meet five days a week. He asked faculty to remind students that advising begins after we return from Spring Break, and added that the enrollment guide should be available online before then.

During discussion Senator Smolinsky expressed his opinion that there be more than one faculty representative on the committee; he suggested three members, and Senator Hsieh suggested one per school. President Du Bose asked senators to send him feedback on the issue, and added that the committee would meet after Spring Break. Senator Smolinsky asked if we should consider returning to a five-day week during the summer in order to coordinate with LSUA&M, and also suggested that the calendar be released to faculty one year in advance. Senator Meeks commented that he had heard from faculty in his school, and that no one wanted either ten-week or seven-week sessions during the summer. President Du Bose said he would send the faculty a blanket request for input on these issues, and added that it is important that they be resolved so that faculty and students can plan their summers.

Vote on approval of proposal to create a formal Graduate School

President Du Bose said that he had heard from faculty, and that many are concerned about funding. Provost Vassar said that the Faculty Senate should vote on the academic need for a formal Graduate School, and that the Planning Council would vote on the operational aspect. He added that Dean Menon hopes to have approval from the faculty before he presents the proposal to the Planning Council.

During discussion Senator Hsieh asked if some directors, such as Director of Online Learning Kristie Weeks, would work exclusively for the Graduate School, and Provost Vassar replied that she, as well as Director of the International Student Initiative Penny Lyons, would report to Dean Menon but would still serve undergraduate students. Senator Meeks said that he heartily approves of the concept, but that he and other faculty members worry that the changes cannot be made without additional cost to the university. Provost Vassar replied that most changes would consist of realigning existing personnel and services. Senator Hsieh commented that any financial resources should be used to strengthen teaching. Senator Lengvarszky asked if there are comparable programs in universities similar to LSUS, and Provost Vassar replied that he thinks the Graduate Council investigated other schools and found that most do indeed have Graduate Schools. He commented that if LSUS continues growing at its current rate, we will soon be the largest graduate institution north of I-10.

Senator Meeks moved to approve the notion of a Graduate School if it is financially feasible. After further discussion, Senator Walford suggested that Dean Menon be invited to the April Faculty Senate meeting to respond to questions and concerns. Senator Meeks withdrew his motion, and a substitute motion to table the issue until the April meeting (Smolinsky/Hsieh) passed unanimously.

New Business

Report from Campus Police Chief on recent incident in Science Building

Chief Donald Wray reported that different versions of the incident are circulating on campus, and said that the suspect was booked on nine charges, some of which include obscenity, sexual battery, possession of a weapon, resisting an officer, and attempted escape. He said that while he is out on bond, the District Attorney's office appears to be moving quickly, and that the campus police officer involved has already received a subpoena for April 4. He said that after such incidents there are always a lot of "what if" questions, and that not all outcomes can be predicted. He added that in hindsight, the suspect demonstrated signs that could have been reported, and urged all faculty and staff to report any kind of suspicious behavior to the campus police—to follow the "see something, say something" recommendation. Senators agreed in commending the campus police, particularly officer James Jones. Chief Wray also congratulated the staff member who handled the situation very well. He said that the suspect has been banned from campus, and that when he is called before the Student Conduct Board for his administrative hearing he will be escorted to and from the hearing by the police. *Note: It was later decided that the suspect would not return to campus, and that the administrative hearing with the Student Conduct Board would be conducted by telephone.*

Observations and concerns

- Interim Library Director Brian Sherman reported that there is a long crack in roof of the archive section of the library, which affects the reading room, not the archives themselves. He said that map cases and computers have been moved or covered, and that the Noel Collection is being carefully monitored. He said that the roofing contractor will be on campus in a week or so, and that meanwhile plastic is being put over shelves in case the leaks grow worse. He added that plastic sheeting is difficult to find, since many stores are sold out after the recent storms. Vice-Chancellor Mike Ferrell said that he will insist on a permanent fix to the problem, and that he commits to having it done. He said that the state used to have a roofing program included in the budget to ensure that repairs were made in a timely manner, but that during Governor Jindal's administration the program was eliminated. As a result, it is necessary to be put on an emergency list in order for roof repairs to be made. He said that both the library and the HPE Building are now on the emergency list.
- Police Chief Wray said that the Safety Committee will hold an after-action meeting on Thursday, March 17, at 9:00 AM in the Chancellor's board room.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be Thursday, April 14, at 3:00 PM in the Webster Room of the University Center. The Executive Committee will meet the week prior (date and time TBA) in Bronson Hall 224.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Walford
Secretary