

## **LSUS Faculty Senate Meeting May 9, 2016**

President Tom Du Bose called the meeting to order at 3:01 PM.

*Present:* Beverly Burden, Tom Du Bose, Mary Hawkins, Chengho Hsieh, Jim Ingold, Kevin Krug, Zsolt Lengvarszky, Michael Meeks, Carl Smolinsky, Lynn Walford, Cheryl White.

*Absent:* Yong Hwang, Alexander Mikaberidze, Brian Salvatore, Kay Stebbins Slattery.

### **Approval of Minutes of the April 14 Faculty Senate Meeting**

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

### **President's Report**

President Tom Du Bose gave the following report on his activities over the past month:

- He met last week with Chancellor Clark, and they discussed the following:
  - The LSUS Commitment Plan, because a faculty member had expressed concern about proposed changes in and emendations to it.
  - The Pilot-Palooza event and the need for faculty and students to be more involved and engaged in such events.
  - Possible changes in the Calendar Committee to create more faculty input.
  - The reasons for the changing around of the Financial Aid and IT offices and suites, followed by a tour of the facilities.
- He met last week with Provost Vassar, and they discussed the following:
  - The Calendar Committee issue and possible changes.
  - The proposed changes to the policy on promotion and tenure. The provost suggested that they meet with Policy and Personnel Committee Chair Michael Brendler to discuss the changes.
  - Ways to give faculty teaching in the Nursing Program representation on the senate, including the possibility of an *ex officio* seat.
- He met with Dean of Graduate Studies Sanjay Menon about the establishment of a formal Graduate School. Dean Menon suggested that he confer with Senator Hsieh about working

together to create a proposal for the senate to vote on. They did so, and President Du Bose said he will submit the proposal to the senate at the appropriate time in today's meeting.

- He conferred via email with the members of the Executive Committee to hammer out the agenda being addressed today.
- He and immediate past Faculty Senate President Jorji Jarzabek attended the latest meeting of the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates (ALFS) in Alexandria. The presentations by colleagues from around the state were diverse and interesting. Dr. Joseph C. Rallo, Commissioner of Higher Education in Louisiana, suggested in his report that we should expect little or no improvement to the Higher Ed situation in our state for the next five to seven years.
- He worked with Vice President Beverly Burden, Chancellor Clark, and Dr. Pat Doerr to coordinate Faculty Senate elections to replace senators whose terms expire at the end of this academic year.
- He and Senator Alex Mikaberidze represented the LSUS faculty at the latest meeting of the LSUS Foundation.
- He attended a special meeting of the Planning Council.
- He received communications from colleagues by email, telephone, and in person about diverse concerns such as Faculty Senate elections, the LSUS mission statement, the separation of BPCC from LSUS, along with other matters.
- He attended the Alpha Garde luncheon, at which Chancellor Clark reported on events planned for LSUS' fiftieth anniversary in 2017, and Rob Hatfield, Center Director for The Language Company (TLC) discussed his language program for international students.

## **Administrators' Reports**

### Chancellor

Chancellor Larry Clark gave the following report:

- He said that the legislature still has not resolved all the issues regarding the Higher Ed budget, particularly TOPS, and said that we were asked—once again with little time to prepare—to submit our plan for how to address a 6.1% - 7.1% budget cut. He added that the situation is still not dire, but that if cuts reach 10% or more we will have to begin thinking about canceling classes and programs.
- He said that while other campuses have declared hiring freezes, we are still conducting searches because of the need to fill positions so that classes can continue to be held. He added that although we are taking something of a risk, it is within the range of what we can handle, and that we cannot in good conscience abandon searches that have already begun, or eliminate positions of people newly hired.

- At the latest Board of Supervisors meeting, he presented the LSUS Commitment Plan (*see note below*), which “outlines a detailed and specific process to accelerate the continued development of LSUS as a major university presence in the region.” The plan addresses the following topics:
  - Areas in which LSUS has received much greater support from LSU than in the past, including support from the leadership; assistance with financial, HR, and legal issues; public safety support; support for PR, marketing, and branding; and support for SACS COC re-accreditation
  - Major academic changes, including closer linkages to sister institutions, and the first LSUS doctoral program
  - An improvement in the mix of undergraduate/graduate enrollment
  - A statement of the priorities for LSUS’ role in Northwest Louisiana, including collaboration with other entities in the academic and business community
  - The continuing success of the Louisiana Preparatory Program (LaPREP), along with plans to explore other programs to work with K-12 education
  - Increased support of and collaboration with Barksdale Air Force Base
  - Reorganization and re-focusing of the Division of Continuing Education
  - Discussion of potential new undergraduate and graduate programs
  - Creation of the Student Success Center

*Note: Attached is the PowerPoint on the Commitment Plan that Chancellor Clark presented to the Board of Supervisors.*

- He said that we need greater undergraduate enrollment—particularly more on-campus students, and said that improvements to student life, as well as increased student housing, are necessary. He added that the increase in international students is positive, but that we also must find ways to encourage our local students to study abroad.
- He expressed concern that we are losing some of our best faculty because of low salaries, salary caps, and the lack of raises.

During discussion, Senator Smolinsky asked if there is any more information regarding BPC’s separation. Chancellor Clark said that he is disappointed at the decision, but that he is exploring opportunities to partner with other area colleges and universities. Senator Krug asked for information about LSUS’ relationship with Barksdale Air Force Base. Chancellor Clark said that it is very strong and that he has asked the Board of Supervisors to allow fee waivers for family

members of active duty military. He added that he has met with veterans; there are currently forty in the program, and he hopes to increase the number to two hundred.

### Academic Affairs

Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs John Vassar led the senators in welcoming Senator Ingold back, and gave the following report:

- He said that students within one point of the ACT or SAT scores required for admission to LSUS can take remedial courses here, but they cannot be taught by LSUS faculty. Now that BPCC faculty will no longer be on campus, the Administration is considering other options.
- He thanked Chancellor Clark and Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs Mike Ferrell for their decision to support faculty searches and for understanding that searches already begun should not be interrupted. Searches recently completed or still in progress include:
  - Management/Marketing
  - Graphic Design/Animation
  - Computer Science (two positions)
  - Mathematics (instructor position)
  - Community Health
  - Dean, College of Business, Education, and Human Development
- He said that LSU is working on creating a central website for online learning, where all online degrees in the system can be accessed. He said that their goal is for every campus to have an equal number of online and face-to-face courses, and added that LSUS is currently ahead of the other campuses.
- He said that on Saturday, June 4, a backup generator for the IT system will be installed, and that while the installation is taking place the university will be taken completely offline for the entire day.
- He urged faculty to complete the administrator evaluations, which have been put on Moodle. He added that implementation of a new system is being discussed with the Scantron company, and that he hopes it will be in place by next year.

During discussion, Senator Burden commented that summer enrollment looks low in every area. Provost Vassar said that statewide uncertainty over the future of Higher Ed is partly to blame, but that now the situation does not look as bad as previously. Dr. Burden also commented that the LSUHSC Medical School and Centenary College do not accept online courses, and Provost Vassar said that they accept General Education courses but not courses in the student's major or primary area. Senator Hawkins asked how one can determine whether a course is online, since there is no indication on the student's transcript.

## Business Affairs

Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs Mike Ferrell said that his office has sent an email to the faculty regarding the new Workday pay system. He said that summer faculty will not be affected because the new system will not be implemented until fall. He added that since Workday does not have the means to handle academic withheld pay for faculty being paid on a twelve-month schedule, he will individually contact faculty on that schedule to discuss options.

## Development

There was no report.

## **Old Business**

### Follow-up report from Calendar Committee on issues regarding scheduling

A motion to table the report until the August meeting (White/Hawkins) passed unanimously.

### Vote on approval of proposal to create a formal Graduate School

President Du Bose read the statement he and Senator Hsieh prepared for the Senate to vote on:

*The Faculty Senate of LSU approves the foundation of a Graduate School within our university with the stipulations (1) that it does not enlarge significantly total administrative expenditures, and (2) that staff and faculty assigned to duties within the Graduate School not be sequestered there in such a way that they cannot adequately assist with undergraduate programs.*

During discussion, Senator Meeks said he has heard concerns from faculty who say that other needs are more important, and that he is not yet ready to vote. Senator Smolinsky commented that it will be hard to enforce. Senator Hawkins pointed out that the role of the Faculty Senate is not to enforce, and President Du Bose added that our role is to voice recommendations. Senator Ingold said that we have lost graduate students because of the absence of a center, and that it looks bad to have graduate students but no graduate school. Senator Smolinsky asked if we should wait until the new budget is out. Senator Burden said that we should have approved this proposal before now; that since graduate programs continue to increase we must invest in them. Senator Hsieh asked Dean Menon to explain why we must do this now, and Dean Menon replied that it will open the way for more grants and research opportunities. Senator Meeks said that since graduate enrollment is growing and undergraduate enrollment is shrinking, he is concerned that resources for undergraduate programs will be used for graduate programs. Chancellor Clark pointed out that much of the decrease in undergraduate enrollment is due to the drop in dual enrollment. Senator Meeks asked if undergraduate programs will suffer because of new hires for graduate programs, and Provost Vassar said that three hires are for graduate programs, one for undergraduate programs, and one for both. He added that we need to hire more faculty at every level. Senator Burden said that since we have more applicants for graduate school, we need more faculty, and added that if undergraduate applications increase, we must find ways to hire more faculty.

There was a motion (Burden/Hawkins) to approve the proposal. During further discussion, Senator White asked if reallocation of staff to graduate programs will hurt undergraduate recruitment, but added that she agreed that we should approve the proposal and should have done so earlier. Senator Lengvarszky asked if this change in enrollment should be considered permanent or a temporary trend, and Senator White commented that even a trend deserves a response. Senator Burden said that graduate programs require undergraduate support, and that the relationship between undergraduate and graduate programs should be synergistic rather than antagonistic. Chancellor Clark said that graduate enrollment will probably decrease because some programs are already oversubscribed, and added that we are continuing to focus on increasing undergraduate enrollment by working to provide more student housing and improve student life. Senator Meeks pointed out that recruitment for graduate programs is usually handled by other services, and does not add to our cost. Senator Krug asked if a fee can be added to graduate programs to help support undergraduate programs, and Vice Chancellor Ferrell and Chancellor Clark replied that such a fee must be approved by the Board of Supervisors. They added that a fee can be added to online courses.

The motion was approved by a vote of nine in favor, two against.

### **New Business**

#### Maintaining currency of information on campus website and social media page

President Du Bose said that he discussed the issue with Chancellor Clark, who sees the need to keep information current and told him that the issue must and will be addressed. Senator Burden commented that as long as the chancellor and other academic officers are aware of the extent of the problem she is confident that it will be corrected. Chancellor Clark said that he has discussed with Associate Vice Chancellor and Chief Information Officer Shelby Keith ways to redesign the website to make it easier to keep current. Senator Meeks said that not only the currency, but the overall look of the website must be addressed. Chancellor Clark said that the shortage of staff is a great part of the problem, since funds have been dedicated to faculty. He pledged to come up with improvements by the August meeting.

#### Process for following up on resolution of issues presented at previous senate meetings

President Du Bose said that when problems continue with an issue considered to have been resolved, the president and one other senator should follow up with the people involved. He said that rather than calling people to a “hot seat” in front of the senate, it will be more productive to discuss issues privately. He added that since the next president will have a download, he/she will have more time to pursue this.

#### Report on Pilot-Palooza

Provost Vassar reported that attendance included 35 faculty, 120 students, and 87 “future pilots.” Senator Burden asked how the event was publicized, and Provost Vassar said that it had been done through high school counselors and a TV interview on Channel 3. He said that the event is being reassessed, and that the Administration will compare it with other events and decide whether to continue it in the future or to make changes. Senator Burden commented that she was impressed by the weight lifters who taught their techniques to students and prospective students.

### Nomination of senate officers

The following senators were elected by their respective schools:

- Education: Michael Chikeleze
- Liberal Arts: Jason Mackowiack, Lynn Walford, Cheryl White
- Sciences: Beverly Burden, Jim Ingold

The following nominations for officers were:

- President: Tom Du Bose, Michael Meeks
- Vice President: Carl Smolinsky
- Secretary: Lynn Walford
- Parliamentarian: Beverly Burden
- At-large: Chengho Hsieh, Cheryl White

The following officers were elected:

- President: Michael Meeks (6 for, 5 against)
- Vice President: Carl Smolinsky (acclamation)
- Secretary: Lynn Walford (acclamation)
- Parliamentarian: Beverly Burden (acclamation)
- At-large: Chengho Hsieh, Cheryl White (acclamation)

### **Observations and concerns**

Senator Burden said that it was a pleasure to see the baseball team's victory at the recent tournament, and Chancellor Clark added that they had done so despite great adversity.

Senators Burden and Hsieh discussed excessive absences by senators, and said that attendance rules must be enforced. President Du Bose said that faculty should also be encouraged to attend meetings.

Senator Walford said that some faculty are concerned that the Honors Program is being phased out while a community service program is being promoted, and said that the concern is that academic studies are being replaced by workforce preparation. She asked that this issue be addressed at the August meeting.

Chancellor Clark commended President Du Bose for his service, saying that he displayed integrity and quiet strength, and was a champion of faculty, students, and staff. He added that he looks forward to working with President-elect Meeks.

President Du Bose said that he has enjoyed working with the Administration, and is pleased that they are genuinely trying to do what is best for our university.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:29 PM. The date of the August meeting has not yet been set.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Walford  
Secretary