

## **LSUS Faculty Senate Meeting November 10, 2016**

President Michael Meeks called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM.

*Present:* Beverly Burden, Michael Chikeleze, Tom Du Bose, Chengho Hsieh, Jim Ingold, Kevin Krug, Zsolt Lengvarszky, Michael Meeks, Kyle Pierce, Brian Salvatore, Kay Stebbens Slattery, Carl Smolinski, Cheryl White.

*Absent:* Jason Mackowiak, Lynn Walford

### **Approval of Minutes of the October 17 Faculty Senate Meeting**

A motion was made and seconded (White/Du Bose) to approve the minutes as read. The motion passed unanimously.

### **President's Report**

President Meeks said that he will turn in a written report. He added that he had been charged with following up on issues previously resolved at senate meetings, and said that Provost Vassar had responded to his request with the following information:

- A list of classes supported by face-to-face or online tutors in the Student Success Center.
- A timeline for completion of the campus website re-design.
- Conversations with chairs regarding administrative support for faculty on sabbatical.

He added that Provost Vassar will provide more information in his report.

### **Administrators' Reports**

#### Chancellor

Chancellor Larry Clark gave the following report:

- He still cannot give concrete information on the proposed state budget cuts. We receive approximately \$7,000,000 from the state, which has now been cut 10%, or 700,000. We had set aside \$350,000 to make up for cuts made during the last year of the Jindal administration. Governor Edwards has said that there will likely be a 10% cut to all state agencies, but that the amount might be different. We are hearing that it might be 4% for the end of the last fiscal year, and 3% for this year. Commissioner of Higher Education

Joe Rallo indicated that the cut for last year might be a one-time cut; however, that appears not to be the case. He said that if the budget cuts are more than we had anticipated, the number of new faculty positions he approved at the beginning of the semester might have to be adjusted. He commented that if the state had been able to come up with a budget, we would be in a good position to work within it; however, the instability of the state budget makes it difficult.

- He said that Commissioner Rallo had a series of private and public meetings with the Chancellors and President of LSU, and commented that Representative Cedric Glover has been pressing hard for LSU to live up to the commitment plan. He added that Representative Glover said that, given the difficult circumstances we are in, the proposed merger with Louisiana Tech might have been a better plan. The Chancellor said that the merger will not happen.
- He emphasized the need to increase enrollment, especially at the undergraduate level. He added that part of the decrease was due to the decrease in dual-enrollment students, but said that low enrollment was a primary concern that needed to be addressed. He said that the Strategic Planning Committee is working hard to come up with ideas.
- He said that he had met with the Noel Foundation. They are offering 38 scholarships at \$400 each. The Foundation has available \$4,600, which the Chancellor proposed be divided into \$500 grants for students who have lost TOPS for the spring semester. They agreed, and suggested that the first grants go to graduating seniors, and that the grants also be based on financial need.
- He reported that campus planners will be here next week to look at the housing needs of students. They are expected to consider ways the lease with University Court can be renegotiated, or at the possibility of building new housing on LSUS property.

During discussion, President Meeks asked how students would be informed of the grants to replace TOPS. The Chancellor replied that they will not have to apply for the grants, but that the rubric for awarding them would be explained to them. Chief Information Officer Shelby Keith stressed that the grants would be awarded to graduating seniors only, and the Chancellor added that students must be pre-registered in order to qualify.

There was also discussion of new programs to be added, and Provost Vassar said that some new programs were included in the Commitment Plan and then tabled for different reasons. He said that programs must be evaluated for feasibility and included in the Strategic Plan. The Chancellor added that the Board of Regents has not signed off on all programs included in the Commitment Plan.

## Academic Affairs

Provost John S. Vassar gave the following report:

- He added to the discussion of new programs by saying that some of our new programs, such as the MS in Biology and the Ed D programs, have been successful, and added that if we can demonstrate a need in the community they can be done.
- He said that through surveys, and work by President Meeks, the Administration, and business and community leaders, information is being compiled for the Strategic Facilitation Team, which will have intensive meetings to analyze what they receive.
- He said that the faculty searches are moving forward, and that the Dean of Library position has been filled after two of the three candidates withdrew. He congratulated Brian Sherman on being named to the position. He said the application process for Dean of Arts and Sciences has begun.
- He said that the web design process is in place, and the advertisement for web designer is out. He added that Scott Hardwick will begin soon to meet with faculty and chairs who want to update their web pages. He also said that the student bridge is in process.
- He reported that SUSLA students who want to transfer to LSUS but do not fulfill our requirements are working together with LSUS so they can receive their Associate Degree from SUSLA and then transfer here.

During discussion Senator Krug asked about the status of parking decals, and about why the campus police are not issuing parking tickets. Chief Information Officer Shelby Keith replied that the delay is due to Workday, that the code had to be rewritten, and that decals should be out in one or two weeks.

Senator White asked who will be teaching the SUSLA courses offered on our campus. Provost Vassar replied that some are SUSLA faculty, but that most are LSUS faculty teaching as adjuncts for SUSLA.

Senator Hsieh asked that we be given a timetable for the process of updating web pages.

Director of Online Learning Kristie Weeks said that faculty must be trained, but that the training is fast and easy and can be done by video. President Meeks said that the faculty don't want to be trained, but want the problems fixed. Ms. Weeks replied that the software that had been ordered was designed for faculty to use to update their own pages. There was more discussion about who should be responsible for updating and maintaining faculty webpages, and Ms. Weeks said there will be a lot of flexibility in training with individual faculty pages. Provost Vassar commented that the effort was to avoid bottlenecks in the procedure. Ms. Weeks said that she wants to create

a faculty resource center, with both an online component and a physical space, where faculty can go for help with technological issues.

President Meeks asked if the procedure for awarding sabbaticals could be clarified. Provost Vassar said that he had discussed the issue with the chairs of the faculty who were awarded them.

### Business Affairs

Chief Information Officer Shelby Keith reported that the search for Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs is progressing well, and that there are now four candidates. He said that the search should be completed in a week.

Senator Ingold asked if budgets were available on Workday yet. Mr. Keith said that ITS is still working on the process, and added that the difficulties are not so much with Workday itself, but with the manner in which LSU is controlling it with no input from entities on their own or other campuses. Chancellor Clark commented that there is much information still not available to individual campuses. President Meeks commented that LSU hates Workday as much as we do, and suggested that we document all complaints, since he has heard from senators from other campuses that there is a move to revolt against the system. He asked that senators reach out to their constituents and asked that complaints be sent to him. Chancellor Clark commented that no one on this campus has missed a pay period, while other campuses have been faced with the problem.

### Development

Laura Perdue, Executive Director of the LSUS Foundation, reported that she had attended the LSU Foundation meeting. She said that the Board of Regents had requested changes to the way matching funds for scholarships and professorships were calculated. Previously they were based on \$60,000 from private donors, matched by \$40,000 from the Board of Regents. Now they will require \$80,000 from private donors, with a match of \$20,000 from the BOR. We still have two endowed professorships, and this year will have a new endowed scholarship at the graduate level, which will replace the endowed first-generation scholarship. She added that this is unfortunate, since according to Vice Provost of Enrollment Management Julie Lessiter, approximately 47% of our incoming students are first-generation.

### **Old Business**

#### Graduate School and Graduate Council

A motion to table discussion of the Graduate School and Graduate Council (White/Ingold) passed unanimously.

### Online Education Committee and Distance Learning Council

President Meeks explained that because online education is becoming a rapidly increasing segment of all education at LSUS, it is imperative that the faculty have a strong voice in critical issues related to distance learning and online delivery. As such, we have before us a written proposal to form an Online Education Committee as a permanent standing committee of the Faculty Senate. The discussion at our last Senate meeting focused on the current Distance Learning Council and the role it would play moving forward. After several meetings with the Director of Online Education, Kristie Weeks, the proposal was written charging the Distance Learning Council with administrative duties such as faculty training and Moodle web page review, with the option of the Distance Learning Council either being a subcommittee of the newly formed Senate committee, or a separate stand-alone committee. The floor was opened for discussion. Ms. Weeks provided a newly drafted policy statement redefining the role of the Distance Learning Council as administrative in nature, including responsibilities such as the aforementioned faculty training and Moodle web page review. President Meeks agreed to meet with Ms. Weeks and work out the details of how the Distance Learning Council would structurally form the new Online Education Committee. A motion was made and seconded (White/Ingold) to accept the proposal and form the new Online Education Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

### Student Conduct Board and University Hearing Panel

President Meeks opened discussion by arguing that the Student Conduct Board is a Faculty Senate Committee. The proposal that was discussed at the last senate meeting has the University Hearing Panel as an administrative subcommittee with the purpose of addressing Title IX cases. Members of the University Hearing Panel will be trained in Title IX issues. The proposal suggests that the Student Conduct Board include voting faculty members and non-voting staff member, and that it will have a quorum of three. Associate Vice Chancellor Paula Atkins stated that there should be only one committee, that LSU has indicted that the Student Conduct Board's name be changed to the University Hearing Panel, and that all committee members are to be trained in Title IX issues. President Meeks stated that the fundamental issue in question is that the Student Conduct Board remain a Faculty Senate committee, and as such, per the spirit of our Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws, any staff or administrator shall only serve as non-voting members. Vice Chancellor Atkins suggested that a non-faculty viewpoint is beneficial for non-academic issues. Provost Vassar commented that the recommendation that the committee be made a Faculty Senate committee must take into consideration legal issues concerning all LSU campuses. President Meeks said that he would meet with Vice Chancellor Atkins and Director of Judicial Affairs Grace Nickels to discuss this issue in more detail, and that he would return to the senate with a revised proposal. A motion was made and seconded (Hsieh/Chikeleze) to table the item. The motion passed unanimously.

## **New Business**

### Term lengths and term limits for Faculty Senate committee members

There was a suggestion that all Faculty Senate committee members be limited to two three-year terms, with possible exceptions.

### Creation of Senate Graduate Committee

In the absence of Graduate Dean Sanjay Menon, discussion of the issue was postponed.

## **Observations and Concerns**

### Status of Library Dean search

Addressed in the Provost's report.

### Increase in budget for faculty development and research grants, sabbaticals

Senator Hsieh said that we should request an increase in funding, since we have not had pay raises for so long, and since we receive little to no financial support. He said that with no financial support it is difficult to maintain standards. Senator Burden said that such a demand is insulting to the administration. She said that every request for grants was funded, although in many cases the awards were small, and that we should be grateful for the reinstatement of any funding at all under the present financial circumstances. Provost Vassar said he agreed with Senator Hsieh, and that Dr. Binshan Lin, chair of the Research and Development Committee did as well. He said that we need more research and development funds. President Meeks commented that the administration is doing the best it can, but that the funding is not always sufficient to cover the needs of the faculty. Senator Salvatore commented that he didn't believe that the university should commit significantly more of its budgetary resources to funding faculty research. He said that it is each faculty member's responsibility. He added that while he sympathizes with faculty members in some programs who have not been able to obtain sufficient outside funding to support their research, he thinks that whenever possible they should still try to pursue outside funding as independent investigators and not depend only upon the university to provide research support to them.

The next meeting will take place on Tuesday, December 6, at 3:00 PM in the Webster Room.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Walford  
Faculty Senate Secretary