

Faculty Senate Meeting
Wednesday, Nov 7, 2012

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 PM in the Webster Room of the University Center.

Faculty Senate Members Present: LaWanda Blakeney, Matyas Buzgo, Amy Erickson, Mary Hawkins, Mary Jarzabek, Carl Smolinski, Marjan Trutschl, Raymond Taylor, Trey Gibson, Larry Garrison, Chris Hale, Kevin Krug

Faculty Senate Members Absent: Robert Leitz, Emre Celebi, Harvey Rubin

A motion was made by Senator Gibson to approve the minutes of the Oct 9, 2012, meeting. This was seconded by Senator Taylor. The minutes were unanimously approved.

President Jarzabek started out by thanking all who supported and assisted with the Red River Forensics Classic Debate held at LSUS. She also thanked the FORCE Committee for working to make registration a success. She then announced that our administration requested that Mass Communications create commercials to promote LSUS in an effort to increase recruitment. These commercials have been completed and will air Nov 19-22 and Dec 3-9. Next, President Jarzabek announced that Senator Garrison has stepped in as Chair of the Programs and Collaboration Committee, and that a revised report was sent out correcting and detailing Senator Buzgo's communication with Sci-Port.

Administrators' Reports:

Chancellor – Dr. Paul Sisson announced that he has seen the three commercials created by Mass Communications and that they are very impressive. Two were shown during Pilot Preview Day and went over well. Student Josh Hale played a significant role in their production.

Dr. Sisson then went on to state that he did not know much more about the AGB report since the last Faculty Council meeting on Oct. 31. He did mention that the Board of Supervisors (BoS) met the Friday after our Faculty Council meeting, during which they decided to appoint committees to determine the direction in which LSU should move with respect to unification and how quickly any changes will occur. These committees will largely be information-gathering teams as opposed to a committee that decides on the specific details of the process. Dr. Sisson will serve on one of them that addresses specific details. He also expressed optimism about moving in a positive direction; however, he pointed out that both the Law School and LSU-HSC have concerns about becoming one LSU, which may change after the details have been worked out. Town Hall visits will be set up in the future where President Jenkins can meet with LSUS, LSU-HSC Shreveport and NO, and LSUA.

Dr. Sisson then described an upcoming visit that he and Mr. Mike Ferrell will make to Baton Rouge to address a joint session of the legislature on our higher education budget. All campus heads are expected to appear and identify how their respective universities are using their state funds. The LSU System put together a 120 slide Power Point presentation, of which about 15 pertained to our campus. These slides reported that 50% of state appropriations have been cut since 2008-2009, a 40% increase in tuition and fees, along with a 20% reduction in staff. In addition, LSUS has a small amount of reserve funds.

Dr. Sisson mentioned that Ms. Christianne Wojcik met with the FORCE Committee, some faculty, and Tracy Burrell. Twenty people were responsible for calling students in an attempt to retain students. Students that were contacted included students that attended LSU in the past but currently are not enrolled and students that are currently enrolled but have yet to register for Spring 2013. Students that have registered but who do not pay their dues by the deadline will be contacted as well. People involved in contacting these students are ascertaining what we can do to help them so they can register.

Dr. Sisson also thanked all who were involved in and attended the first tailgate party. He announced that it was a success with 359 attendees. He also mentioned that the Pilot Preview Day went over well and that our soccer team won their match.

Senator Taylor reiterated his concern, mentioned during the last Faculty Senate meeting, that we get a signed letter from President Jenkins documenting the guidelines we should use for the Search for Chancellor. His concern is that without such a letter, faculty members may question the process. President Jarzabek responded that at that point she had yet to receive anything written from President Jenkins, which may relate to the joint session of the legislature.

Senator Buzgo inquired as to the status of the state economy and how that is expected to affect the budget. Dr. Sisson replied that the country as a whole is doing better but LA may or may not be doing better. He said that he is not concerned about the national fiscal cliff but what the state will do for political reasons. To date, he has not heard any rumors regarding upcoming cuts, while typically, if cuts are planned, people are whispering about it at this time of the year. Mr. Mike Ferrell also has not heard anything regarding upcoming cuts. He stated that the cut that came in June was based on corporate income taxes but they were way down. In September, they were up with a \$140 million dollar surplus, so there should not have been a cut in June, as there was a surplus. The Revenue Estimating Board (one expert from the legislative side and one from the budget office) will project forecasts in December. Thus, we likely can expect decisions to be made as far as whether there will be a mid-year cut in December. In addition, future budget projections will be made that will assist the Governor in establishing the executive state budget. This may extend to February to get more data before they and we know anything. E-mail commentary from Dr. Jeffrey Sadow in response to the unapproved minutes: Constitutionally, Louisiana must present a balanced operating budget. On Oct. 1, it issues the State Budget, which serves as a wrap-up of sorts for the previous year's actual budget and provides guidance to the current budget in place. According to it, general fund revenues (where we get our money from the state, which) from FY 2011-12 were down about \$161 million on reduced general fund expenditures of about \$215 million. Higher education received about \$66 million less, to now total just under \$1 billion. No taxes were raised throughout the year.

Senator Gibson asked how higher education will be affected since Medicaid in LA will now be protected. Dr. Sisson and Mr. Ferrell are waiting to see if and how this influences future cuts to higher education and that we need an amendment to protect higher education. E-mail commentary from Dr. Jeffrey Sadow in response to the unapproved minutes: Senator Gibson may be referring to Amendment #1, the passage of which now protects the Medicaid Trust Fund for the Elderly. This prevents funds sweeps, or the appropriation of excess funds raised from dedicated revenue sources, to supplement the general fund from this fund which was established with federal dollars which, at present, has only about \$20 million in state money eligible to be swept now cordoned off, which is used to supplement federal Medicaid payments to nursing homes. There has been no statutory or constitutional change that affects Medicaid expenditures in general in the state, which now is the single largest general fund expenditure of \$1.9 billion annually. As with higher education, with the exception of the MTFE, it remains vulnerable to cuts. The 2011-12 State Budget, incidentally, does not reflect the roughly \$300 million in cuts to Medicaid provision the state had to endure shortly after FY 2012-13 began, courtesy of the sudden federal government decisions to cut funding to Louisiana.

Regarding potential unification of LSU, Senator Blakeney asked why units, such LSU-HSC, are not happy with the proposed changes while we are optimistic about them. Dr. Sisson replied that LSU-HSC is concerned they will lose control of the university and lose the position of their Chancellor. The Law Schools seems to be worried about salary and prestige. Dr. Sisson does not perceive moving toward One LSU will dramatically affect the structure of the system. He anticipates that there will be greater collaboration in programs among campuses.

Business Affairs – Mr. Michael Ferrell, CFO, reported that the tailgate was a success. President Jarzabek thanked the staff for setting it up. Mr. Ferrell mentioned that we had a top-of-the-line projection system. He next announced our baseball season started with a win. He informed us that open enrollment ended. He also

announced that as of Spring 2013, students will be able to pay payments via NELNET (a nationwide company that handles payments), which will allow them to make 5-6 payments over a longer period of time, as opposed to 2 over a shorter period of time. To use this payment plan, it costs \$45. Senator Trutschl inquired how this system will work for students who drop classes, to which Mr. Ferrell responded that students will be refunded and the money will return to where it came from. He also added that if students fail to pay by the end of the semester, their name will be sent to collections. After three years, anything that has not been paid is written off as a bad debt to Financial Aid. This typically amounts to about \$100,000 annually from tuition and may have resulted from failure to pay parking fines or withdrawing before the semester ends. Students with a bad debt cannot register, nor can they receive services from LSUS (such as requesting transcripts).

President Jarzabek then thanked Mr. Steve Sittenauer and Ms. Brenda Bartlebaugh for the 10% + 10% discount at the Port and Bookstore on LSU logo day.

Student Affairs – Vice Chancellor Dr. Randy Butterbaugh, announced that the UC is receiving a facelift and that there will be construction going on until Feb. 12. Any reservations we had for the facilities have been rearranged to accommodate the construction. If anyone has issues or questions, they should contact Aaron Suckle. Next, he mentioned that Walker Johanson from the Northumberland Group, who was retained to assess our student recruitment and marketing efforts, has completed part of his work. He has already conducted some telephone interviews with relevant individuals and will be visiting Nov 19 and 20. Dr. Butterbaugh also announced that they are in the process of launching a student opinion survey to evaluate the quality and effectiveness of programs and services. A Noel-Levitz instrument will be used to do this, which is being funded by the GRAD Act. It will allow us to compare perceptions of our students with students of other institutions. He ended with mentioning the upcoming Veteran’s Day Event where Dr. Gary Joiner would recognize students who have served or are serving in the military. This is the third year of this event.

LSUS Development – Interim Executive Director, LSUS Foundation, Ms. Susie Stinson, was unavailable for this meeting. President Jarzabek presented a resolution from the LSUS Foundation that calls for the formation of the Chancellor Search Committee. Senator Gibson motioned that it be accepted into the minutes. Senator Smolinski seconded it. Senator Blakeney questioned the use of the word “comprehensive” in reference to degree programs. Dr. Sisson suggested changing it “broader” and adding increased research and that it is possible we could ask Ms. Stinson to change it. When put to a vote, all were in favor of adding this draft into the minutes.

Old Business

- a. Chancellor Search Committee – Senator Taylor reminded us that we should have a written charge from President Jenkins. President Jarzabek mentioned that our scheduled conference call with President Jenkins had been cancelled and that she sent the minutes of our previous phone call with him to him to: 1) get a charge in writing, 2) get confirmation that the minutes were accurate, and 3) request funding for the process. President Jarzabek made several attempts to contact him. Senator Taylor mentioned that he is concerned the faculty and staff may question the process unless a written charge comes explicitly from President Jenkins with a signature. President Jarzabek said she would inform us via email when she received confirmation from the System President and she would work with his secretary to get a letter with information on selection of a Chair for the Chancellor Search Committee, as well as committee members. She then reminded us that the System President will have the final say as to who serves on the committee.

President Jarzabek stressed that we need to start this process now if we are expected to start the search in January. We were then informed that Brian Bond, on behalf of the LSUS Foundation, stated that they do not have funds for an outside search team but the Foundation can provide about \$10,000-12,000 for the interview process of the top 2-3 candidates. President Jarzabek then mentioned we need to determine the formula used to select committee members and accept

nominations for Chair. Senator Gibson motioned that we accept and discuss the proposed formula distributed by President Jarzabek to the Faculty Senate, which was seconded by Senator Smolinski. She announced that Dr. Stephen Banks expressed interest in the position of Chair and passed out an email she received from him with his CV attached. Senator Erickson inquired if he was interested in serving as Chair or as a committee member, as his letter stated the latter. Both President Jarzabek and Senator Gibson said they believed based on conversations with him that he was interested in serving as Chair. Senator Taylor suggested that before we adopt anything, it should be shared with the faculty. President Jarzabek announced that President Jenkins stated that the SGA President and Staff Senate President serve on the committee, as well as having someone from the Foundation and a number of senior and junior faculty serve it. He also recommended inclusion of someone from the Alumni Association and three local business leaders. It was also suggested to us that the committee be comprised of 18-20 people. As far as faculty members are concerned, she advocates having the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate and one representative from each school on the committee. Senator Blakeney questioned whether we have to follow the recommendations, since they were just that. She feels 20 people serving on the committee is unwieldy and suggests 15 members. She also suggested having one individual as opposed to two from the SGA and Staff Senate. President Jarzabek mentioned that inclusion of the Faculty Senate officers meets the criteria of representing junior and senior faculty and having representatives from different schools. Senator Blakeney suggested that selection of faculty members should be a bottom-up process where representatives of schools are elected as opposed to a top-down process where Senate officers are automatically selected to serve. She stressed the importance of transparency in this process.

President Jarzabek stated she would send an email to the campus regarding selecting a Chair and forming the committee itself. Further, she stated she would call for nominations for the Chair position and request that individual schools select a representative within 10 days (by Nov 19). She mentioned that one person from each school and the library should be selected. Mr. Ferrell added that other search committees for such positions typically have ~ 20 people on them. As far as the staff is concerned, the proposed formula includes the President and Vice-President of the Staff Senate. The question was raised as to whether members of the Staff Senate should be nominated versus appointed. There is a possibility that some appointed individuals may not be interested in serving, which would not serve the committee well to expect those individuals to do it if they do not have the time or interest. It was also suggested that individuals be able to self-nominate. Senator Taylor motioned that this be tabled for later discussion, which was seconded by Senator Buzgo, and passed by all.

New Business

- a. AGB report – President Jarzabek presented a resolution from the Faculty Senate on the AGB report calling for regional campuses to have a voice on the planning committees. She stressed the importance of letting the BoS know that regional campuses should have an equal voice and that we should encourage other campuses to do the same. Senator Gibson moved that we correct the resolution to reflect the formation of planning committees. He wondered whether the BoS will restructure the present organization of the LSU System. Senator Gibson motioned to accept the above resolution, which was seconded by Senator Smolinski, which then was passed after a vote by the Senate. President Jarzabek said she intends to send the resolution to the BoS and to the Faculty Senates of the other schools in the system. Senator Taylor inquired about the time table of replacing President Jenkins. It is stated at the last BoS meeting that they expect to select a new President in early Spring. President Jarzabek cautioned that we should select our Chancellor prior to the BoS identifying a new President, lest the new President change the process by which we are searching for and selecting a new Chancellor.

Observations and Concerns

- a. Training in new payment system – Mr. Eddie Samhan announced upcoming training in the new payment system for administrators and financial aid counselors on Nov 29. Attendees will be trained in how the new payment plan works. This new plan should make it easier to recruit students. President Jarzabek suggested that faculty be able to attend these training sessions as well.
- b. It was announced that President Jenkins would be visiting in the next few weeks so that may present an opportunity to get his signature as far the Chancellor Search is concerned. She also mentioned that the Foundation has questioned why there is a delay in starting the process, hence their resolution to us was written. Senator Garrison is concerned about the timeline of both searches. The Senate was then informed that President Jenkins said he wants us to have a Chancellor prior to him leaving.
- c. Senator Gibson reiterated his thanks to all involved in the debate tournament.

There was no further business. Senator Gibson moved that the meeting be adjourned. This was seconded by Senator Trutschl. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 4:09 PM.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Amy Erickson.