

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

October 19, 2017

Present: Doug Bible, Beverly Burden, Michael Chikeleze, Tom Du Bose, Kevin Jones, Zsolt Lengavarsky, Kyle Pierce, Harvey Rubin, Laura McLemore, and Carl Smolinski

Absent: Jim Ingold, Jason Mackowiak, and Cheryl White

President Michael Chikeleze called the meeting to order at 3:03 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of the September 6 Faculty Senate Meeting

A motion was made by Senator Burden to approve the minutes which was seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

President's Report

- Sept. 5, participated in a meeting with Chancellor Clark.
- Sept. 7, attended the LSU Board of Supervisors meeting in Baton Rouge.
- Sept. 13, attended Staff Senate Meeting.
- Sept. 16, participated in Association of Faculty Senate (ALFS) Meeting in Alexandria.
- Sept. 18, attended 50th Anniversary Commemoration.
- Sept. 18, attended Kemp State of the University Forum.
- Sept. 20, participated in a meeting with Provost Lessiter.
- Sept. 22, participated in the LPC Meeting.
- Oct. 2, participated in meeting with SUSLA and LSUS leadership on partnerships.
- Oct. 4, participated in faculty senate executive committee.
- Oct. 17, attended LSUS Foundation gardens ribbon cutting/new endowment announcements
- Oct. 18, attended staff senate meeting

Administrators' Reports

Larry Clark, Chancellor

- LSU has been reviewing our capital request for maintenance and repairs on our campus. Senator Peacock has been present at the proceedings and very supportive of our school. Joe LaCour and Barbie Cannon, Vice-Chancellor, have been working hard in regard to these matters as well.
- Chancellor Clark recently went to Denver to participate in a seminar about Carnegie Community Engagement, as was mentioned in the latest News and Notes. We have a lot of engagement of LSUS faculty with the community, and we need to tout this and to seek CCE classification.
- In response to a question from Senator Burden, the Chancellor said that, yes, he did show the people from LSU the mess in the HPE building. He felt that seeing the mess there

definitely made an impression on the visitors, as did their beholding the problems in the former and the current library buildings. The problem of mold in the library must be addressed as does the matter of the discoloration of ceiling tiles there.

- The Chancellor has released to the deans the faculty positions to be filled. He wants to avoid advertising positions when we do not already have money for them. He would like money to be available before beginning the searches, and we may need to use some of the positional money to fund the building repairs.
- In response to a question from President Chikeleze, the Chancellor assured the Senate that the position of Provost has been posted in the Chronicle of Higher Education. Applications will be accepted until November 8. He has showed President Chikeleze members of the search committee, which has not been finalized yet.
- Senator Smolinski asked about the recent introduction of the River Monster mascot. The Chancellor explained that the River Monster was one of four possibilities including none of the above. The SGA was very taken with the Monster possibility, and it won out. The LSUS History Department helped create an origin story for the Monster set in the time of Captain Shreve. Digital Arts students at LSUS helped devise the logo and costume of the River Monster, and the costume was sewn by a company that works with professional sports teams, and the company was highly impressed with the work of our Digital Arts students on the costume. In response to a question from Senator Jones, the Chancellor said that the River Monster would be the mascot for all athletic teams here at LSUS. However, all our teams will still be called the Pilots.

Julie Lessiter, Vice-Chancellor and Interim Provost

- The Provost addressed the four concerns that President Chikeleze listed in the Observations and Concerns of the September meeting: the list of people on the Faculty Handbook revision committee; the list of committee members on the ADA policy committee; faculty involvement on the Calendar Committee; and the notification of faculty that LSUS will return to its old summer schedule in Summer 2018. All of these concerns have been met or in the process of being met.

Barbie Cannon, Vice-Chancellor for Business Affairs

- The Vice-Chancellor began by providing an update on the bookstore, which is about to be outsourced. An RFP will be put out soon, and she expects a good response to it. The contract date is February 1.
- LSU is in the process of reviewing the process of engaging an enrollment management company. They have identified a list of five potential groups among which aggressive recruitment is likely to be successful.
- VC Cannon said that the budget for the first quarter was \$17 million 500 thousand.

- In response to a question about a setting up a conference center on campus, VC Cannon said that this was to be one of the issues to be discussed on the SPC meeting tomorrow afternoon.

Development—The Chancellor

- Speaking on the subject of development, the Chancellor announced that LSUS has received seven endowments of late from contributors such as the SWEPCO Foundation.

Sanjay Menon, Dean, Graduate Studies

- Dean Menon spoke on the need to help faculty make their classrooms and activities 100 % accessible for all students in keeping with the ADA guidelines. We have until the end of June 2018 to achieve this accessibility.

Old Business

There was none.

New Business

MBA Program Textbooks

- A question has arisen about the MBA program and its use of only free textbooks in lieu of traditional hard-copy texts. Both Dean Nancy Miller and Provost Lessiter spoke on this issue. Dean Miller explained that the program did not really utilize “free books” but text sources that required no additional charges for students—Open Stax, Open Source, etc. According to the Chronicle of Higher Education, high textbook costs are contributing to high numbers of students dropping out of college. Because of this problem, Joseph Rallo here in Louisiana has introduced a guide to providing affordable texts for students in our state.
- Dean Miller reported that we need to provide alternative texts of the sort under discussion in order to be financially competitive with other schools and other programs. Both Dean Miller and the Provost mentioned that the library can license electronic materials for students to access and that Brian Sherman and other library personnel can help teachers choose cost-free sources upon which their students can draw. Dean Miller said that the faculty of the school of business had agreed to accept the stipulation of no-cost textual sources and that faculty were given six months to adapt to the new set-up. She further noted that many MBA faculty seem happy with the new arrangement. Also, people from the agency that gives accreditation to MBA programs responded well to the policy of cost-free texts/materials. AP provides some financial support for the program and seems happy with the policy, too.

- Senator Carl Smolinski and fellow business faculty member Bruce Wampler felt that restricting professors and instructors from employing traditional textbooks if they so choose was unfair and perhaps went contrary to statements from the AAUP. Senator Smolinski had previously provided senators via e-mail with a “Statement on the Freedom to Teach” issued by the AAUP on Thursday, November 17, 2013. He drew attention to this part of the statement: “The freedom to teach includes the right of the faculty to select the materials, determine the approach to the subject, make the assignments, and assess student academic performance in teaching activities for which faculty members are individually responsible, without having their decisions subject to the veto of a department chair, dean, or other administrative officer.”
- During discussion of this issue, the Senate weighed the possibility of voting on the matter and/or voting to approve the statement from the AAUP. That matter would be decided as part of the agenda for the November meeting.

Strategic Plan

- Asked about the Strategic Plan, Provost Lessiter said that it is currently in draft form and provided lists of things in the plan. She asked for feedback on steps to fulfill the goals and perhaps to add further goals and ways to prioritize the listed items and concerns. The Strategic Planning Council will be meeting tomorrow afternoon.
- Professor Brian Salvatore spoke about his concern about Strategic Planning. He felt that the planning process has been long and drawn out, and the committee had received some good feedback and gave a number of good ideas, but nothing seems to be developing as a result of the planning and the feedback. He felt that the outcome was a disappointment and asked what the Chamber of Commerce is doing to promote LSUS.

Observations and Concerns

There was none.

Around 4:45 p.m., a motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded, and the meeting ended.