

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

November 6, 2017

Present: Beverly Burden, Michael Chikeleze, Tom Du Bose, Kevin Jones, Jason Macowiak, Laura McLemore, Kyle Pierce, Harvey Rubin, and Carl Smolinski

Absent: Doug Bible, Jim Ingold, and Zsolt Lengavarszky

President Michael Chikeleze called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.

Approval of Minutes of the October Faculty Senate Meeting

A motion was made by Senator Jones to approve the minutes. Senator Smolinski seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

President's Report

- Oct. 20, attended LPC meeting.
- Oct. 25, participated in faculty senate executive committee.
- Oct. 25, participated in policy & personnel committee.
- Nov. 1, participated in faculty research & development committee.
- Nov. 2, attended Higher Education Forum at SUSLA Metro Campus

Administrators' Reports

Larry Clark, Chancellor

- The Chancellor recently attended a meeting of AASCU where people from various regional campuses in the area discussed having some people like the Noel Levitz organization come to their schools to discuss ways to attract students and increase enrollment. One of the schools involved in the meeting was Southern Utah University, which has problems pertaining to undergraduate recruitment similar to ours. People from Noel Levitz came to SUU, and even though the first NL person was not very helpful, the second person the organization sent was outstanding, and the results of following this person's advice were amazing. The Chancellor feels that even if we decide not to go with the Levitz people, we should find a similar organization or group that can help us the way the NL people did with SUU.
- Chancellor Clark spoke of the recent meeting of the Planning Council. The main purpose of the meeting was to solicit input from people who work in the various buildings on campus to see if any other buildings need to be added to the list of structures requiring serious repair and renovation. He discussed the problems in the HPE building, where classes had to be moved out because of the leaking and mold. One possibility is to use LSUS funds to correct the problems; however, the Chancellor would rather avoid that if it

were at all possible. Barbie Cannon pointed out that she has received some helpful responses after having requests out to various people about possible sources of funds. The Chancellor continued by saying that the Planning Council had voted to continue looking for non-LSUS funding. He added that we would not be getting any funds from LSU in a timely fashion due to the requisition and approval process. The situation continues to be a serious one: so far, nothing has been done about the dire roofing issues in the library, and we could actually end up losing the HPE building to mold. However, the Chancellor is committed to getting it fixed. He intends to use feedback from the Planning Council as leverage to try to get something done on the matter. The IT building has been added to the list of edifices needing repair work, and there are also leaks in the Administration Building. Other projects in this regard include Disaster Recovery efforts and “chillers” for air-conditioning units.

- The Chancellor then spoke about discussions tomorrow with Byrd High School. For sixteen years, they have had an agreement with LSUS about using our stadium without paying rent, and the Chancellor feels changes need to be made for the sake of appearance and traffic safety. He said that the stadium might be converted to a women’s softball venue in future, but at present the cost is too high.

Julie Lessiter, Vice-Chancellor and Interim Provost

- The Provost told of a gathering last Friday at which five professorships were announced. The meeting went well, and there was a productive discussion about research. We intend to continue to offer professorships in future. The Provost thanked Laura Perdue for providing this year’s funding for the professorships. There have been many applications for the \$15,000 grants, and the Provost thanked Bin Shan Lin for his work on the committee overseeing these matters. Perhaps additional funds may be available in the future.
- Asked about the Strategic Plan, she said that the Strategic Planning Council is going to meet with various groups of faculty to get feedback from them about the plan. November 10 is the deadline for people to send in feedback on the plan.
- The Provost attended a higher education forum at SUSLA last Thursday where many concerns such as TOPS and funding worries were discussed. She would like to look into hosting another forum to bring business leaders and local citizens together to discuss what sort of programs the community needs and wants.
- On the topic of general-education requirements, she said that the Board of Regents changed these recently. Linda Webster is chairing a committee to bring LSUS into sync with the new requirements. The changes will effect existing degree programs.
- Concerning Student Workday, the Provost said that we really do not know much about it yet, but that on Friday she and the Director of Admissions should be receiving further information from the people in Baton Rouge.

- President Chikeleze asked the Provost about enrollment on whether it was accurate that we have an enrollment of 6,000 students. She replied that we are four short: 5,996. We have had huge growth at the graduate level and have more first-time freshmen this fall. We already have 216 freshmen applications for Fall 2018.
- Senator Jones asked about research funds: Have you considered dividing funds based on research and travel? Binshan Lin replied that the committee recommends checking with administrators on this possibility.

Barbie Cannon, Vice-Chancellor for Business Affairs

- The Vice-Chancellor began by providing some financial statistics—stating that projections of fiscal year revenue exceeded expenses, and therefore we are trending well for the year.
- She said that training sessions in effective budget planning will begin on campus the week after Thanksgiving. Other such sessions will take place in the spring. Also, Bill Wolfe is putting together an A-to-Z plan for getting through a fiscal year at LSUS.
- VC Cannon said that a committee is working on hiring an advertised Event Director. So far, 112 applications have come in, and these were narrowed first to ten and then to five.
- On the subject of the HPE building, the Vice-Chancellor said that she and the Chancellor have been discussing ways to search for funding that would avoid our having to use LSUS dollars. As of now, there are four items of ours on the LSUS emergency list of 25. The Vice-Chancellor added that Senator Barrow Peacock has been a tremendous help to LSUS with this concern. The Chancellor spoke up to say that the fact that we had real numbers (\$4.4 million dollars of expenses) to present to the Senator was one of the things that bolstered his support for us in this regard.
- In response to a question from President Chikeleze about whether, there has been changes in the way LSUS does budgeting and funding allocations. VC Cannon replied “No,” but added that changes may be implemented in the future.
- She informed the Senate that another enrollment management request for vendors will go out on November 9 and that Bill Wolfe is working on a final bookstore proposal.

Old Business

Status of open-source books for the MBA program

- President Chikeleze reminded the Senate that this issue was discussed as New Business at the October meeting. He also clarified that the correct language is no-cost textbooks rather than open-source. He introduced Dean of the Library Brian Sherman to explain some of the terminology involved in the initiative and that all could be used by faculty: OER (open-education resources); AER (alternative electronic resources), and LER (licensed electronic resources). Community colleges use a lot of OER, and that he tends to prefer AERs. He will be working to educate faculty about these various sorts of

resources. He also said that some disciplines lend themselves more readily to these innovative resources than others do.

- Provost Lessiter was asked to investigate this issue and report back to the Senate. She said that she had talked with MBA faculty and they had been frank and forthright in expressing their opinions to her. In some ways the use of redesigning courses to operate without physical textbooks or other materials that involve a cost is a burden on the instructors and involves a lot of work on their part. However, she thinks that the process by which the MBA policy was implemented was fair. She remarked that administration fell short in providing sufficient support services to faculty when the courses were being developed. Senator Jones asked if the MBA policy affected non-online classes, and the Provost responded that at present it affected only online courses. We will evaluate later the possibility of expanding it to include face-to-face classes. However, there is at present no plan to do that. President Chikeleze received confirmation that professors who develop classes with no textbooks have freedom to choose from any available electronic resource, including developing their own material, as long as it resulted in no cost of textbooks to the student.
- Senator Smolinski agreed that we do need to minimize costs for students, but when an instructor cannot find a suitable online source, why can't the faculty member still use hard-copy books? He indicated that AAUP supports instructors' right to select their own materials and resources. In addition, there seems to be confusion about whether the graduate faculty in Business voted on this issue. Some say that they did, while others seem to think they did not or that faculty were simply asked at a meeting if everyone was on board with the cost-free stipulation. Could the Policy & Personnel Committee review the online requirement and perhaps vote on the matter? It was suggested that the P&P Committee might conduct a vote amongst the business faculty but not rule on the issue themselves. President Chikeleze praised the hard work and innovation of the School of Business graduate faculty, resulting in the success of the MBA program, but added that he does support academic freedom. Senator Burden asked how many business-faculty members teach in the MBA program. Dean Miller replied that about 18 faculty participated as well as some adjuncts. Asked for percentage numbers, the Dean said around 60% or 65%. She added that no one is required to teach in the MBA program and that it is a privilege and an honor to take part in it. She said that class size has been reduced and that when she came to LSUS, only about 800 students were in the program and now there are about 2,200. Senator Jones pointed out that the AAUP statement on academic was expansive and covered various contingencies and that multi-level classes might constitute exceptions of some sort.
- Senator Smolinski then moved for a vote relating to the AAUP statement on academic freedom that he introduced in October (see minutes of that meeting). Senator Burden seconded the motion. Senator Jones asked whether each individual faculty member gets to decide about the choice of texts for his or her classes. The Provost said that in some

departments, instructors do not have a choice. Senator Burden remarked that they should have a choice.

- Senator Rubin asked where the Board of Regents stood on this issue. The Chancellor explained that the Board of Regents looks to support initiatives that drive down the costs of textbooks for students. Senator Burden, Senate Parliamentarian, explained to the Senate the possibility of tabling the issue/motion. President Chikeleze and Senator McLemore both expressed their opinion that tabling the matter would be wise. The Senate voted on tabling, with the motion passing with 6 in favor and 2 against.

New Business

Report on Faculty Research and Development Committee

- Dr. BinShan Lin, chair of the R&D Committee, presented a detailed slide show depicting the work of his committee. He remarked that many people apply for research and development funds, but only a few can be chosen; therefore, we obviously need an increase in R&D grants. Senator Burden informed the Senate that she was a member of Dr. Lin's committee, and she praised Dr. Lin for his hard work. She also thanked Dr. Helen Taylor for the work she has done for this committee.
- Senator Jones asked when an announcement would be made about the spring competition for grants. The answer was "soon." President Chikeleze asked whether we could agree upon a set amount for each faculty member to receive, perhaps \$1,000. The Chancellor replied that this was a good goal but differences exist from field to field that may need to be taken into consideration.

Observations and Concerns

Senator Smolinski asked if it were possible that the Policy and Personnel Committee could poll business faculty about the issue of texts in the MBA program. Dean Miller replied that she deferred to administration on this question.

Around 4:38 p.m., Senator Mackowiak made a motion to adjourn. Senator McLemore seconded, and the meeting ended.