

Faculty Senate Meeting  
October 5, 2011

The meeting was called to order by President Jarzabek at 3:04 pm in the Webster Room of the University Center.

**Members Present:** Julie Bergeron, LaWanda Blakeney, Matyas Buzgo, Amy Erickson, Chris Hale, Mary Jarzabek, Kevin Krug, Robert Leitz, Lonnie McCray, Harvey Rubin, Carl Smolinsky, Raymond Taylor, and Marjan Trutschl.

**Absent:** Emre Celebi, Mary Hawkins

**Approval of Minutes:** Minutes of April 5, 2011, were approved. Minutes of September 13, 2011 were approved with the changes/details added by Dr. Sisson via email. Minutes of May 12, 2011, will be sent via email and approved/corrected via email vote.

**President's Report:** **President Jarzabek** discussed the SRTE and the cooperation given by Mickey Diez, Registrar. She then asked for Dr. Trutschl to report on the LSUHCS Senate Meeting with the LEA Representative. Dr. Trutschl stated that Mr. Michael Walker Jones of the LEA presented the idea of educators and staff uniting for the purpose of lobbying for education and providing a voice for higher education. He told us that approximately 15% of the LSU-BR staff had joined such an organization. Dues are \$550 for faculty and a little less for staff. However, the dues have been difficult to collect as the administration is not in favor of such an organization and has not allowed payroll deductions for dues collection. Dr. Trutschl stated that there were only a small number of people at this meeting (perhaps 10), but that Mr. Jones would be glad to meet with any group in person or via Skype. Dr. Trutschl stated that he would submit a typed summary of the meeting to the Faculty Senate

**Administrators' Reports:** Dr. Sisson, Provost and Vice Chancellor, was out of town for this meeting, but **Julie Lessiter**, Associate Vice Chancellor in Academic Services, spoke on his behalf concerning the first 4 weeks grades and the advising process for students with a D, F, or N in 100 and 200 level courses. There are over 600 grades given in 100 and 200 level courses and approximately 1/3 of these were failing grades. All students with these grades and their advisors were sent emails detailing the Steps to Success process to be used as an intervention. Ms. Lessiter praised the work of the College of Arts and Sciences Advising Committee headed by Dr. Liebert and Dr. Webster. Ms. Lessiter stated that she has received much feedback from both faculty and students. Most of the students involved are in denial, though they are able to see their grades on myLSUS. She doubts that there is any other university being as aggressive as we are in this area. She reiterated that changes are being made as the process is refined. For example, there is an effort to make students' grades available to advisors as well. An email will be sent to all clarifying what an N grade represents. Because midterm grades are due shortly, it has been decided that the next wave of advising for poor academic performance will be after fall break but before finals. Mr. Shelby Keith, Chair of Information Technology Services, stated that teachers are able to enter only some grades and the system will accept those (unlike final grading when all grades must be posted). Dr. Buzgo asked if financial aid could be withheld if students did not attend advising sessions after multiple notifications. Comments regarding the legality of such a move were raised. Ms. Lessiter feels that once students have been trained in the process things will go more smoothly.

**Mr. Bill Wolf**, Director of Human Resources, reminded the Senate that the second open enrollment of the year for health insurance will be held in early November. Representatives from the companies will be on campus Oct. 18<sup>th</sup> and an email will be distributed with details. The premiums have not been established yet, but it is estimated that there will be a 7% increase in premiums.

**Old Business:**

- a. **SRTE (Online Student Evaluations) – Dr. Sibylle Mabry** gave a report on the changes being made in both online and on site evaluation instruments. (See attached report). She recommends that the surveys be administered after the last drop. President Jarzabek stated that this policy was already approved by the Senate. Mr. Keith stated that the dates had been set. They are Oct. 31 – Nov. 16. (The last day to drop is Oct. 28<sup>th</sup>.) He also requested a copy of the changes to be made to the instrument. Dr. Mabry will supply those to him.
- b. **Student representatives on Board of Student Conduct Committee- President Jarzabek** stated that the Student Affairs Committee has met and decided to do away with student representation on the Student Conduct Committee due to privacy issues. This will require a change in Faculty Senate by-laws. President Jarzabek will bring in the wording to this change and invite Dr. Raines to attend the November meeting so that this issue can be resolved.
- c. **Ad hoc Committee – Promise Program. President Jarzabek** stated that she, Dr. Buzgo, Dr. McCray, and Dr. Erickson met to begin work for this committee. She commended the work of Dr. Erickson in researching other successful programs. The committee will meet with Dr. McCrery on Oct. 28<sup>th</sup> to decide future steps.
- d. **Advising Committee Report – Tabled Dr. Leibert** will be asked to attend the November meeting to report on the progress of their committee. Training has already begun with this committee training professors in other departments.
- e. **FPR Review**
  - Election of representative from Faculty Senate- Dr. Erickson** was nominated by Dr. Buzgo to represent the Senate. She was unanimously elected.
  - **Timelines for Deans’ Review/Results – President Jarzabek** noted the need to see that these are established for conformity throughout the university. She will bring this up when Dr. Sisson is in attendance.

**New Business:**

- a. **Presentation of Certificate of Support to Faculty Senate – Dr. Alan Gabehart**, NOEL Memorial Library, reiterated his thanks on behalf of the university to the Faculty Senate for their support of the LOUIS online resources. Due to the support of faculty and staff, LSUS funding from the Board of Regents had increased from \$500,000 the previous year to \$1 million this current year. However, this is still far below the previous funding of 2.7 million.

- b. **Faculty Senate Seminar in Alexandria, Sept. 24, 2011 – Dr. Laura McLemore** reported on this event. She told the group that Tara Hollis will be running for governor in the hopes of forcing Gov. Jindal into a run-off. She stated that Ms. Hollis is campaigning with an education platform. Dr. McLemore also addressed several problems that all of the universities seem to be encountering: fostering collaboration with universities outside of the state, difficulty with contracts, the disconnect between budget cuts and retention, the fact that distance learning classes cannot occur without online resources, etc. President Jarzabek stated that this report highlights the varied topics covered at the summit. She urged more senators to attend these events. The next seminar is slated for November 19<sup>th</sup> at 10 am at LSU-Alexandria.
- c. LSUHCS Senate Meeting with LEA Representative – Dr. Marjan Trutschl (discussed during President’s report).
- d. DUI Seminar – Ms. Amy Wren, J.D., had requested information be given to the faculty about the upcoming student orientation seminar on driving under the influence. Dr. Smolinsky stated that an email would be distributed with details of this event. He urged all present to encourage students to attend.

**Observations and Concerns** – Dr. Bergeron told the group that in the future she would continue to email minutes, but would not be bringing hard copies to the meeting as most senators printed copies and brought those with them. She apologized for sending the wrong May minutes out and will send 2011 minutes to all senators for an email approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00.