

Minutes of the September LSUS Faculty Senate Meeting

October 17, 2018

3 p.m. in Red River Room in UC

Present: Doug Bible, Beverly Burden, Tom Du Bose, Kevin Jones, Zsolt Lengvarszky, Jason Mackowiak, Laura McLemore, Russ Perry, and Cheryl White

Absent: Harvey Rubin

President Mackowiak called the meeting to order at 3:02 p.m. He welcomed everyone and then asked for approval of the minutes of the September Faculty Senate meeting. The motion was made to accept the minutes, and the motion was seconded. The senate voted unanimously to approve the minutes.

President's Report

The president said that he has been attending a number of meetings lately. For example, he has been meeting with Provost Jordan about articulation agreements and more cooperation between LSUS and SUSLA. Similar talks and meetings will soon take place in regard to LSUS and BPCC.

Chancellor's Report

The Chancellor began by commenting on what President Mackowiak had just said about SUSLA and BPCC. It is hoped that soon agreements may be worked out by which students come to take classes at LSUS and then transfer back to SUSLA or BPCC.

He then spoke of the Planning Council has been discussing how to allot two million dollars in one-time money from Baton Rouge that has been committed to make improvements on the LSUS campus. He read from a list compiled by the Planning Council which contained eighteen suggestions, including upgrading lighting on campus, restriping the parking lots, updating classrooms and labs, and providing professional development for faculty and staff. Vice-Chancellor Barbie Cannon worked with LSU for LSUS to receive these funds. The Chancellor gave the Senate Secretary, Senator DuBose, a copy of the list of suggestions.

The Chancellor then went on to discuss the need for equipping the campus more efficiently to deal with inclement weather, especially rain. Senator Jones asked the Chancellor if there was any way to predict whether we might receive similar amounts of money in future, and the Chancellor said he was not sure whether we

could. President Mackowiak asked how changes at LSUA&M had affected that campuses admissions and enrollment. It seems that a small exception pertaining to ACT scores has resulted in five thousand more enrollees this year.

Academic Affairs

Dr. Helen Taylor spoke on behalf of Academic Affairs. She explained that two candidates are being considered for the new position of Associate Vice-Chancellor and Director of Online and Distance Education. Searches are also underway for a Vice-President of Academic Affairs and a director for an institute for non-profits. The Provost is looking to institute holistic curricular and co-curricular programs on campus.

Senator Perry asked what the duties would be of the Associate Vice-Chancellor/Director of Online and Distance Education. Dr. Taylor explained that the Associate Vice-Chancellor would have broad oversight concerning all on-line and distance learning. Mr. Bill Wolfe offered to send Senator DuBose, Senate Secretary, a copy of the job description. Senator Bible then asked about the duties of the Business/Cost Center Manager for Academic Affairs. Among the duties of this individual will be helping to prepare and manage operating budgets.

Vice-Chancellor Barbie Cannon

The Vice-Chancellor began by going into more detail about some of the improvements for which the two million dollars will be used. She mentioned improving external lighting. She also mentioned employing cards to get through doors, and she will be meeting with someone tomorrow afternoon to discuss what we need to do in regard to this change. The Chancellor spoke up and reminded the Senate about the importance of campus safety, and he also mentioned that Shelby Keith has been working to standardize classrooms across campus in regard to IT capability. He also mentioned the need to remove dead trees and bushes around the LSUS campus. Vice-Chancellor Julie Lessiter said that some students have asked for some covered seating outside the UC.

Vice-Chancellor Cannon also brought up the restriping of campus parking lots. The facilities people have already discussed this issue and gotten quotes for prices. The repainting will be expensive. A coffee shop may open in the library. Furthermore, we need to upgrade equipment used by our custodians and yard people. We have acquired a new street sweeper and two new mowers. Also, we are obtaining a new police car.

Senator Burden suggested that while these improvements were being implemented, we should take care to provide added texture to sidewalks because of the dangers of slipping. Vice-Chancellor Cannon said she would pass this suggestion on to the facilities people.

Senator Perry spoke up about the lamp-posts in the Business and Education parking lot. Some of them are leaning. They look bad and might not be safe. Vice-Chancellor Cannon said she would pass this concern on to the facilities people, too.

Strategic Planning

Vice-Chancellor Julie Lessiter spoke next. She revealed that our overall enrollment is now 7173. She recalled how just three years ago we were only at the 4000 mark. She remarked how this increase is an incredible accomplishment and that it generates excitement about our university.

She then moved on to discuss various projects currently underway. It looks as if the veterans' center will be finished around December 15. The Welcome Center in the UC and the Think Space area are also being planned. Another project under consideration is a running/walking path around the campus. The SOC is excited about these possibilities, and the students would also like more bike racks around LSUS. She also mentioned how the Noel Levitz people are evaluating various things for us, including our webpage.

The Vice-Chancellor then asked for questions and comments. Senator Jones remarked that the running path around campus is an excellent idea and that it will draw locals to LSUS. Senator Bible asked about television sets. Vice-Chancellor Lessiter explained that a license was necessary to show programs other than news and sports in such public spaces. Senator Burden asked why we were having Pilot Preview Day on the Friday of Fall Break. The Vice-Chancellor replied that she was uncertain how this event came to be scheduled this way but assured the Senate that such a scheduling would not happen again in future.

Development

The Chancellor told the Senate of two alumni who are online grads of LSUS who were interested in attending sports events. He said that he wanted the Senate to know about these grads because they demonstrated that online students do feel commitment to our school.

Old Business

The Senate discussed again the policy changes in the hearing panel and student affairs. The President said that it appears that we are in a holding pattern as we await the advent of new rules and regulations from Baton Rouge but that we should bring up these matters again at an upcoming meeting. Parliamentarian Senator Burden reminded the Senate that a motion to do so was now needed. President Mackowiak so moved, and Senator Perry seconded the motion. The Senate then voted unanimously to revisit the issue in future.

New Business

There was none.

Observations and concerns

There is money available (deadline: October 26) for \$15,000 and \$5,000 grants. Everyone should remind colleagues of these grants. Senator Burden reminded the Senate that Dr. Helen Taylor had been working with new faculty at LSUS and urged her to encourage newcomers to apply for some of these grants.

President Mackowiak reminded the Senators that we needed to elect a Vice-President. Senator Burden reminded the Senate of the duties and obligations that come with the office of Senate Vice-President. Senator Perry expressed his interest in becoming Vice-President. Senator Burden nominated him, and Senator Jones seconded the nomination. Nominations were closed, and the Senate elected Senator Perry as Vice-President unanimously.

Shelby Keith was asked about Student Moodle. Mr. Keith said that there had been no update about this matter. He then explained that the email exchange server was about to be updated/upgraded. There will be a new look when people go into their e-mail accounts. Senator White mentioned that she had been having trouble receiving e-mails from colleagues with whom she has been corresponding for years. She wondered if the problem was being caused by a spam or phishing filter of some sort. Mr. Keith responded that this sort of problem is not uncommon. He asked that Dr. White and other faculty let people in IT know about specific addresses with which they are experiencing difficulties. The IT people will try to help. Senator Lengvarszky remarked that perhaps it was the size of the mailbox that caused problems. Mr. Keith said that when we have the update/upgrade, there will be no quotas or limits on numbers of items in e-mail accounts.

When there were no more comments or questions, President Mackowiak moved to adjourn. Senator White seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:07 p.m.