

LSUS FACULTY SENATE
Minutes of the Meeting
Tuesday, March 15, 2022
11:00 a.m.
Zoom

I CALL TO ORDER: 11:02 am

II. PRESENT: Allen Garcie, Laura McLemore, Doug Bible, Cory Coehoorn, Aadel Darrat, Cassandra Williams, Felice Williams, Lee Purvis, Syed Zaidi, Roger Zhao, Matyas Buzgo, Harvey Rubin.

ABSENT: Minsun Kim, Cheryl White, Alex Mikaberidze, Brian Salvatore

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Lee Purvis moved to approve minutes of the February meeting. Matyas Buzgo noted a correction to change “Agenda” to “Minutes” in the header. He then seconded the motion to approve. Minutes of the February meeting were approved as corrected.

IV. PRESIDENT’S REPORT: Allen Garcie noted the summer program email that came out and encouraged people to check out the summer programs. Allen shared that he is not wearing a mask and is glad LSUS moved in that direction. He brought up the Russia and Ukraine conflict and observed that current events directly affect faculty and staff and students who have family in those regions. He feels it’s important to leave ourselves open to students who want to discuss it in class even if the discussion is not related to class topics. He encouraged all faculty to be supportive.

V. ADMINISTRATORS’ REPORTS

Chancellor: Dr. Clark talked about the expanding scope of HR150. He asked that merger with Louisiana Tech be struck from the EAB or Board of Regents’ study. There is no interest in our legislative delegation nor from Louisiana Tech for a merger. Allen asked if there was anything the Faculty Senate could do. Dr. Clark said he did not want to begin building a case that might give people the idea that a merger could happen. He thinks a merger with LSUHSCS is the only one that makes sense. He wants to see Allied Health move over to this campus. Matyas Buzgo said LSUHSCS is forming courses that could take courses away from us. Dr. Clark is aware of undergraduate degrees that have come in through unconventional means. He is concerned about undercutting our programs. Helen Taylor said her office is working on an MOU with LSUHSC about the Bachelor of Science in cardiovascular technology. Dr. Clark said the course approval process was conducted without us. We will be involved in the future. We will be at the capitol with legislators on Monday night (March 21) and LSU/LSUS will host a reception for them. They will be discussing cyber dollars coming to this area. There is a greenhouse with equipment in the allocation and also funds for the Life Sciences Museum. Projects could start in the 2022-23 budget. Dr. Clark commented on the Scholars Program and on Alex Mikaberidze’s presentations on the war in Ukraine. He said Sylvia Hoffman might be commencement speaker this spring. Summer graduation will be either September 9 or September 26. Dr. Clark also commented on what Men’s Basketball has been doing. LSUS is in the conference tournament again. Matyas asked about soccer students who are stuck in Mexico because they can’t get student visas due to Covid restrictions. The government is holding tight on how they are going to allow in refugees. Matyas Buzgo spoke up advocating for taking in refugees. He said Russians are trying to get out of Russia also. Allen Garcie agreed with Matyas. Lee Purvis expressed support for every level of immigrant. Paula Atkins can give updates on particular students for those concerned.

Provost: Dr. Taylor reported meeting with legislators and the Commissioner of Higher Education, who wants to see increased post-high school credentials and preparing students for the workplace with a

goal of 60% of adults in Louisiana having some sort of post-secondary credential. Faculty is asked to look at course, curricula, and degree programs. Dr. Taylor announced that the Board of Regents has approved a new degree program in Exercise Science and Environmental Physiology. She has signed off on Courses & Curriculum paperwork for a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in media and film, a Bachelor's in Non-profit Administration and also some undergraduate certificate programs. She expressed appreciation for the faculty and Courses & Curriculum Committee for their work. Dr. Taylor said certificate programs could be stand alone or folded into the Bachelor of Arts curriculum.

VI. CONTINUING BUSINESS

A. CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS REVISIONS: Allen Garcie announced that the Faculty Council meeting will be held on April 4 at 11:00 am. Important business will be to consider updates to the Faculty Senate Constitution and By-laws. There will be a follow up meeting to vote on the changes on April 18 at 11:00 am.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. CHANGE IN R&D COMMITTEE GUIDELINES, FACULTY AWARDS – Binshan Lin discussed changes to Faculty Research & Development grant proposals. Faculty will be limited to one \$5,000 proposal per funding cycle and one \$1,500 proposal per funding cycle. This change was necessitated by changes in the Academic Affairs budget and the workload on committee members who are reviewing large numbers of proposals. There are also changes in budget proposal requirements. Binshan said the committee would like to have more nominations for the Outstanding Faculty Awards. Changes to the guidelines are posted on the Faculty Research & Development Committee page on Moodle and also on the “G Drive.” The Faculty Senate does not need to vote on these changes. The Committee unanimously approved the changes. Lee Purvis asked if faculty can send recommendations for more than one outstanding faculty nominee. Due date for nominations is March 26. Allen Garcie asked for thoughts concerning the fact that we don't know what faculty are doing, which makes it hard to know who to nominate. Beverly Burden said she thought outstanding faculty awards encourage cross-discipline communications. She encouraged faculty to ask fellow faculty members what they are doing. Sarah Mazur's memo about the question of what is “outstanding” in History compared to Chemistry was noted. Binshan said according to revised policy, a department chair may now nominate anyone in their department. Any faculty member may nominate any other faculty member. Awards will be announced on April 8, Friday, at 11:00 a.m. on 3rd floor of Noel Memorial Library.

B. PLAGIARISM MANUAL—Brian Sherman noted that many courses require Prentiss Hall's plagiarism handbook. Prentiss-Hall is no longer updating that handbook even though they still print it. A committee in the library, headed by Abigail McCoy, is working on creating or adopting an online plagiarism handbook. It would come at no cost to students. It would have interactive content to accompany it. The library will put additional topics in Moodle that faculty can copy or link to. The committee has reached out to the Director of English Comp, to Paula Atkins, and to Cindy Maggio in Student Advocacy inviting them to participate. The committee has also reached out to the Deans so they can forward information to their faculty. The library is encouraging feedback of all kinds to adapt this resource to specific needs. Brian said two objectives were to save students money and to create a handbook that is specific and relatable to situations our students are familiar with. Matyas Buzgo noted that the requirement in the catalog that students read and abide by plagiarism policy is no longer in the catalog. Allen Garcie asked about assessments. Brian said the committee was working on interactive activities. Assessment pieces could be included. It would be online and any desired interactive components could be added. Terry Harris commented that some instructors in his department offer their own quizzes on plagiarism. Do we really want a standard university-wide quiz? How will that be administered and who would be responsible for tracking implementation? Allen has had his students

use a plagiarism quiz from another university's website that he links to his course (with permission). He found it to be helpful. Dr. Harris wants to know how the students will be held accountable. If the quiz is standardized, which course would students be required to take it in? Matyas said if you put it in the catalog, that covers everybody. Matyas is concerned less with citation form and more concerned with actual cheating (like copying from another student). Brian Sherman pointed out that the student code of conduct addresses it as well. The online textbook would address various inter-disciplinary concerns. Elisabeth Liebert said she thinks it's really important to bring plagiarism into the classroom and assess mastery of it in some way. Matyas is concerned that when there's a policy and students violate it, they are not held accountable. When they say they understand it then violate it, they have not understood. Addressing their comments, Brian said this would be a resource that instructors could use as they chose. The library wants feedback on what faculty would like to see. The library plans to roll out a manual in the summer. Allen offered to help with a faculty survey. Beverly Burden suggested calling in the Professional and Instructional Development Committee to get involved and coordinate this effort so that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee can be freed up for other things.

C. CHANGES TO POLICY STATEMENT 2.15.00 (regarding faculty grievances)

These changes have been voted on in the past. Some legal adjustments were made and it has now come back to the Faculty Senate. Helen Taylor said LSU Council requires review of these changes in order to sign off on the policy, and it has taken some time to get it back. Matyas noted that two major changes were that a grievance may be reported to the Policy and Personnel Committee Chair instead of the Vice Chancellor and that a faculty member may submit a formal complaint to any Vice Chancellor (not just to the Provost). He asked why these changes were made. Dr. Taylor said the previous version specified the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, but that might be the person against whom the grievance was filed. Therefore, the complaint would need to go to another person at the same level. This will be tabled until the next meeting when Dr. Joiner can be present.

VIII. OBSERVATIONS AND CONCERNS

A. INVENTORY PROCEDURE CONCERNS: Specifically related to procedures involving staff conducting inventory raised by Dr. Salvatore, who isn't in attendance. Allen encouraged everyone to be supportive of staff and if you move something, let somebody know. Matyas said it seems we have to start from scratch every year. He wondered why, and why not have a database or Excel sheet? That would help a lot especially for faculty who have a lot more to do. Bill Wolfe said the inventory doesn't change from year to year. He agreed that the burden should not be all on one person. Purchasing doesn't know what is moved or surplussed. He offers training for Chairs on how to manage inventory process and make it less painful. LSU is transitioning to barcode scanning which should make inventory easier once it is properly implemented. With this program, when a barcode is scanned, it automatically goes to the proper department's inventory, which should help with equipment that is moved around or shared among labs and departments. However, he said inventory will probably be manual for at least another year. Bill Wolfe said Purchasing tries to allow as much time as possible but inventory dates are set by the state. He noted that unaccounted for property amounted to \$125,000 last year alone, about \$250,000 over the past three years. He offered to do another training for department chairs. Dr. Clark encouraged departments to clear out equipment that is no longer used. Bill Wolfe said everything needed for that is on the Purchasing website. Allen encouraged everyone to cooperate with Susan Gutierrez. Lee Purvis said he thought it would be good to add inventory procedure to new faculty orientation.

B. FACULTY SENATE ATTENDANCE: Allen thanked those who have been attending. He appreciates knowing when a senator can't attend a meeting. He expressed concern that some senators have not been attending the meetings. According to Art. 2 of the Constitution, senators have an

obligation. If someone can't serve, they shouldn't volunteer. He asked again that if a senator can't come to a meeting, please let him know.

C. Dr. Clark came back about our Ukraine student. The student wishes to remain anonymous. We will monitor the situation. If she wants support from Faculty Senate, she will come forward.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: 12:28 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura McLemore, Secretary