

**LSUS FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Thursday, April 8, 2021, 3PM
Zoom**

CALL TO ORDER: 3:02 PM

PRESENT: Laura McLemore, Cory Coehoorn, Helen Wise, Doug Bible, Minsum Kim, Aadel Darrat, Claire Joa, Allen Garcie, Syed Zaidi, Roger Zhao, Russ Perry, Harvey Rubin

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

President Doug Bible asked for and corrections to the minutes of the March meeting. Prof. Siska brought up changes he wished to be made to the minutes. He stated that he believed his comments had been misrepresented. Doug Bible made a motion to correct the minutes. The motion failed for lack of a second. The minutes were approved as written.

III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: President Doug Bible welcomed everyone and wished them well. He encouraged senators to ask questions of the administrators when they make their reports. He is hopeful that the fall schedule will go back to face-to-face as well as Senate meetings. Elections for the various schools will be taking place in the next few weeks. The next and final Faculty Senate meeting will be May 7 at 3:00 p.m. on Zoom. He noted that Dr. Brian Salvatore and Dr. William Yu have been awarded patents for novel scientific research. Discussions are ongoing with the administration regarding the college of business graduate programs having to do with admissions and standards for the students. College of Business dean search is underway. Discussion of candidates will begin next week. Dr. Bible is serving on the search committee. The planning council has approved plans to close the swimming pool and renovate that portion of the HPE building. In reference to previous discussions regarding the swimming pool, he recalled that there had, in fact, been a wall surrounding the pool patio area at one time.

IV. ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORTS

a. Chancellor: Chancellor Clark reported that he would be creating a multi-recreational events venue task force and he will ask the Faculty Senate to provide recommendations for a seat on the task force. Representation will come from Academic programs, Athletics, and Students. The goal is to have a facility that attracts and retains face-to-face students, linked more towards our residential housing. The task force will make contact with students to determine their needs as we go forward. He asked Dr. Bible to make a recommendation. He will make an announcement of the required task force involved with Title IX under PM-73. Dr. Clark referred to the Husch-Blackwell report (linked to the Planning Council agenda). He said he was asked to provide a report to Baton Rouge today about what we are doing as compared to other universities. The repercussions from the Husch-Blackwell Report and what has happened at LSU are continuing. He is on the search committee for the new LSU president, which will meet on Saturday morning, April 10, in Baton Rouge. He expects to learn more but little has been disclosed to search committee members at this time. The Board of Supervisors will also

meet Saturday morning following the search committee meeting. He will announce a third task force, a staff activity task force, following the recommendations of Staff Council.

The Chancellor commented on the campus event with Huntington High School, April 7, hosted by Kenna Franklin, Assistant Provost of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement, on the History of the Negro Baseball League and complimented her on the job she was doing with that office. In the absence of Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs, Barbie Cannon, he offered to take questions regarding budget matters. He stated that Cares Act disbursements to students will probably be made next week. Graduate students online will be eligible to receive money this time. The awards are needs based. Saturday morning, April 10, he will sign the MOU with LSU Online to move LSUS from Academic Partnerships. There is a "performance expectation" provision in the MOU to allow LSUS to exit the agreement if, after a number of years, performance for LSUS has not been satisfactory. This provision is unique to LSUS. We are continuing to move forward with LSU Online and will see how it goes. He is hopeful but will closely monitor how well it works.

Doug Bible asked how the Cares Act and how disbursements will work. Dr. Clark asked Julie Lessiter to respond. She said she did not know the exact amount, but students will get a credit on their account that they may apply either to an outstanding balance or a refund. Dr. Clark said the amounts ranged from \$575.00 to \$175.00 depending on categories. He will have to get exact information and will provide it to the Faculty Senate. Dr. Bible asked if other items, such as laptops, were provided with Cares Act money. Dr. Clark said some money is designated for students, and then there are institutional dollars. He said some of the institutional dollars will be put toward students. He has not yet determined any purpose for the remaining dollars. They cannot go directly to the conversion of the swimming pool to a multi-purpose recreational space. There may be some things that can cover some costs indirectly, but no dollars can be used that come directly from the Cares Act. He is still looking at how the institutional dollars can be used. The total amount received was \$3,754,000.00. LSUS is going to distribute \$2.2 million, leaving \$1.5 million. The required distribution to students is \$912,943.00; we are going to distribute \$2,228,050.00. That will leave \$1.5 million to be used for other purposes. Dr. Bible asked if that had to be spent in a particular time period. Dr. Clark said it does, and he believes we have through the end of this calendar year.

b. Vice Chancellor for Strategic Initiatives: Dr. Julie Lessiter reported that she continued to work toward fall enrollment and graduation this year. Her office has been very busy with lots of projects going on. Dr. Bible asked about Pilot Preview Day. Dr. Lessiter said it was a virtual event and received about 400 views on Facebook. New student orientation is coming April 23 and will be a hybrid event. She said they were trying to remain flexible during COVID.

c. Associate Director of IT Services: Scott Hardwick responded to a question from Doug Bible about a recent IT problem during registration. Scott indicated that the problem had been addressed and some changes had been made to insure that specific issue did not happen again.

d. Provost: Dr. Helen Taylor reported that registration is ongoing. AP2 grades are due on Tuesday, May 4, at 10:00 a.m. and regular semester grades are due on Tuesday, May 11, at 10:00 a.m. She reiterated that these dates were Tuesdays, unlike in the past. Student evaluations will be administered online. They will be available on April 15 and results will be sent to instructors on May 18. Administrator evaluations will go out on April 19 and will be available for two weeks. She congratulated Dr. Salvatore and Dr. Yu for their patents. She

announced that we have received two grants from the Board of Regents Support Fund. Dorie LaRue received an Atlas Grant of \$14,000.00 for a collection of short stories portraying the New South. Dr. Amy Erickson received a Department Enhancement Grant for \$61,000.00 to provide GIS training to the LSUS community and northwest Louisiana. Dr. Taylor thanked everyone who applied. Faculty Research and Development grants will go out in the next week. Outstanding Faculty Award nominations deadline has been extended again. Face-to-face classes will continue to be recorded through Zoom to the end of the semester. Dr. Taylor said there should be a discussion about whether the practice will continue from the fall onward. She assumed it was a good practice that should be continued, but she is aware of the faculty concern that making Zoom recordings available is a disincentive for students to attend class. Dr. Taylor is open to suggestions from the faculty. She answered a question regarding the makeup of the General Education committee, explaining that because ninety-nine percent of the Gen Ed courses come from the College of Arts and Sciences, the Gen Ed committee is comprised of all the department chairs in the College of Arts and Sciences, the Academic Advisor, Dr. Hart, Director of First Year Experience, and the Associate Dean. The chairs in the College of Business and the College of Education and Human Development are no longer required to be on that committee as in the past. Dr. Siska commented that Amy Erickson was the main writer of the GIS grant proposal, but he helped on the first round, which was submitted while he was Dean in 2018, and with the successful second submission also. Dr. Bible commented that since we do not have to record classes due to COVID, there was a question about whether we should continue to do that. He indicated that he might develop a survey for the senators to get a feel for faculty consensus on that question. He expressed concern that we are trying to get students on campus, but the more chance we give them not to come to campus, the more they will have a tendency not to come to face-to-face class. He asked Scott Hardwick to weigh in on this subject. Scott said the decision was up to the faculty, but he thought the Zoom recordings had some utility for students beyond Covid that make it a useful tool, and that the university had invested a lot of money to develop the capability. He emphasized that if the decision was made to make selective use of recording, IT will need a programmatic way to know the preferences of each teacher in each department. Dr. Taylor suggested that there might be an option to record all sessions, but not make links available to students without the faculty member's approval. She favors continued recording, reiterating Scott Hardwick's point that it represented a significant financial investment, adding that it was student-friendly. She conceded the faculty's concern about the impact on class attendance. Further discussion ensued on the topic. Russ Perry commented on the excellence of the IT staff.

e. Associate Vice Chancellor of Human Resources and Purchasing: Bill Wolfe reported that they are having technical difficulties with the Title IX training video. He said anyone who can't print the score sheet can call Stella and report they've taken it and get credit for it. HR is working with IT to fix the problem. As of this meeting, 174 LSUS employees have had one or more of their COVID shots. He commended the faculty for getting vaccinated. Emphasis is now switching to younger staff and students. Getting vaccination numbers up is critical to getting back to normal semesters. He reported zero new cases on campus this week. Cory Coehoorn, citing University of Notre Dame, asked if requiring a vaccination for all students was being considered. Bill responded that from what he understood, we could not make that

requirement under emergency authorization. He is talking with students to get ideas about how best to motivate their peers.

f. Dean of the Library: Brian Sherman reported that he is planning an open house in the fall. There are twenty-five committees being established in the state under a grant. They are looking for librarians to lead cohorts of faculty in different subject areas to create open education textbooks. Three of our librarians have signed up. There is a vetting process but there will be overload paid for faculty involved in those disciplines. It will be a one to two-year process. The goal is to create education packages with tests, slide banks, and other resources to go with the open education textbooks. Helen Taylor noted that these are mostly Gen Ed courses that can be taught as dual enrollment. Brian added that they are also courses that could be used here.

V. CONTINUING BUSINESS: NONE

VI. NEW BUSINESS: NONE

VIII. OBSERVATIONS AND CONCERNS: Dr. Siska said he was glad to be at the meeting. He asked that what he had to say be recorded. He expressed regret that his corrections to the minutes were not approved because they were his own words, and he does not think the minutes represent what he said. He stated that he wished the minutes to reflect that he did not agree with the Senate not approving his own corrections. He did not say anything against anybody. All he said was that he was correcting the minutes to what he said. He wanted to mention that he had been in different meetings all his career, including his first assistant professor experience in Czechoslovakia, part of the eastern block under the Soviet Union. These minutes remind him of the same thing that was happening over there. It is an interesting situation and he doesn't think we want to be like a communist country. Secondly, he wanted to comment, as the Chancellor recommended, he downloaded the Husch-Blackwell report. It is very interesting. Definitely something to look into. He noted it was part of the broader abusive behavior and also the cover-up for abusive behavior, the question is it only happening at LSU or also in other parts. What about LSUS? That is something that definitely needs discussion. What he'd like to propose is the re-establishment of the Faculty Council and Executive Committee consisting of faculty and having the Faculty Council as an independent body that participates, and this is a process at universities that definitely helps to balance the power between administration and faculty and helps to avoid this type of problems of abuse that has been such a big issue recently at LSU and LSU system.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: Dr. Bible announced that the next Faculty Senate meeting would be Friday, May 7, and thanked everyone for their input and attendance. There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura L. McLemore, Secretary