

FACULTY SENATE MEETING AGENDA
Monday, January 25, 2021, 3PM
Zoom

I. CALL TO ORDER 3:00 pm

Present: Doug, Cory Lee, Helen W., Aadel, Allen Garcie, Brian Salvatore, Claire Joa, Harvey Rubin, Minsun Kim, Roger Zhao, Russ Perry, Syed Zaidi, Matyas Buzgo, Laura McLemore

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There being no corrections, the minutes of the December 2020 meeting stand approved as read.

III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Doug commented on progress of various buildings around campus and the fact that it would not be possible without the increased enrollment in our graduate degree programs. Since 2013, we've gone from just under 1,000 graduate students to 7,000 in 2020. He recalled the bleak situation of that former time. He expressed appreciation for LSUS's tremendous growth and the desire to maintain both growth and high standards. He thanked the College of Business for its contribution to the tremendous increase in revenue. He then reviewed the agenda for today's meeting.

IV. ADMINISTRATORS' REPORTS

a. Chancellor: Larry Clark reported on the virtual graduation in December. For May 2021, we will again have a hybrid virtual commencement. There is a possibility of having two graduations in May and possibly thereafter: graduate and undergraduate. There were over 2,000 graduates this May and the commencement got very long. Thursday and Friday of this week, people from Baton Rouge will be Zoom for the LSU Online rollout. LSUS will receive Cares money; \$912,000 will be purposed for students and \$3.5 million will be coming for other things. Barbie Cannon will decide how those funds will be used. Originally, online students could not use the Cares funds but now they can. Many things are up in the air with the change of administration in Washington, D. C. LSUS has incurred a lot of additional costs because of COVID. If more information becomes available it will be shared in the upcoming Planning Council meeting.

The Louisiana Legislature is about to resume. Two important things for LSU are restoring university budgets to permanent dollars (instead of Cares money) and requests for faculty and professional staff pay raises. Dr. Clark does not know how optimistic to be about that.

COVID impacted men's basketball. They are now quarantined. Coach Kyle received his 200th win just prior to that. Women's basketball is doing very well.

Dr. Clark closed urging everyone to be mindful of what they need to do regarding COVID. He has COVID. He expects to be back by the end of the week. He urged everyone to get the vaccine as soon as they can. Lee Purvis asked a question about faculty and staff getting vaccine. Despite an attempt to move up, University campuses are not in a higher priority category. It is being discussed. The problem is vaccine distribution. Bill Wolfe said the Board of Regents is looking into ways of getting vaccine on campus. We have to have an external provider. We are working with LSUHSC, but supply is flat. Until production is ramped up, the process will be slow. We have had twenty-six cases already on campus this semester. No one has been seriously ill. Over the past week, there are more people leaving the hospital than

entering. He noted that Louisiana has been very efficient in distributing the doses it has gotten. He also talked about testing on campus. Matyas asked about being able to work closer with students after being vaccinated. Bill said the protocols will not change.

b. Provost: Helen Taylor noted that she was glad to see Dr. Clark back. She reported that the semester is off to a good start. She gave an update on searches. LSUS is hiring a search firm, Parker Executive Search, to help with the search for a new Dean of the College of Business. Dennis Wissing and Tibor Szarvas will work with Parker on this.

An MOU and transition plan are being worked on for the LSU Online kick off meeting. The SACSCOC report required update of some of our policies. Dr. Taylor has shared with the deans to update faculty on these changes.

Doug Bible asked regarding LSU Online, if we have a new degree we want to do on LSU Online, do they have veto power? Dr. Taylor replied that any new programs will have to go through Academic Affairs at LSU. Julie Lessiter said any new online program has to be marketable and providable as determined by LSU Online just as it had with AP, so nothing really changes in that regard. Matyas asked about the progress of the transition. Dr. Lessiter referred him to the kick-off meetings. The actual transfer to LSU Online will be February 1, 2022. Schedule 1D will be the first class.

c. Vice Chancellor Business Affairs: Barbie Cannon gave updates on the Science Building. LSUS personnel have identified chemicals in the building that needed to come out first. There is a twenty-three-page list of unneeded, unwanted chemicals in the building; pickup will be February 1 and 2. A company will come in to do cleaning of coils and duct work per consultants' recommendations. A safety committee chaired by Tibor Szarvas will plan actions necessary for handling and storage of chemicals going forward.

Vice Chancellor Cannon reviewed other ongoing projects. Work is moving forward with the HPE Exercise Science area. In the Technology Center, funds for work on HVAC in that building were secured with the help of Sen. Barrow Peacock; generators are being installed for the Technology Center and Science Buildings; soccer locker rooms and baseball locker rooms are being built. LSUS is forming a committee to look at adding softball. Work is ongoing at Pilots Pointe apartments. She has been working with the apartment management company and Sustainability Partners to provide internet for the apartments. Matyas asked about the swimming pool and showers. Barbie is hoping to get it in the budget for next year. Locker rooms will be renovated. The swimming pool is expected to be repurposed because use of it does not justify the expense of maintaining it.

d. Vice Chancellor Strategic Planning: Julie Lessiter reiterated LSU Online kick-off meetings. Doug asked when LSU Online will start to advertise for us. Julie said a lot of information needed to be transferred.

She reported that spring enrollment is 9,538. This same time last year LSUS was at 8,751. We are not as close to 10,000 as we'd like to be but we are holding steady around 9500. Matyas asked about the ratio of online to on site classes. Dr. Lessiter replied that seventy to seventy-five percent are online.

e. Dean of Students: Paula Atkins reported that the biennial review of the campus-wide effort to address drug and alcohol abuse on campus has been completed and thanked everyone who had input. She has also completed the first draft of a campus-wide anti-discrimination policy, which is a formalization of current practice.

f. Associate Vice Chancellor of Information Technology Services: Shelby Keith reported on the audit of IT governance for all of LSU last year. As a result, the consulting firm made about fourteen recommendations for the LSU system. Several PMs are being drafted to address these recommendations. LSU system has started looking for a new student information system for all of LSU. The timeline is June of this year to select and procure product. The three products being considered are People Soft, Banner, and Workday. The new system will hopefully be in place by 2023 or 2024 for most campuses. Doug Bible asked about security on campus. Mr. Keith said additional cameras have been installed in some buildings. Consultation is going on for extending coverage to parking lots.

V. Continuing Business

a. Admissions & Standards Committee: Adjustment on CLEP scores

Proposal to change LSUS ACT score from twenty-six to twenty-five and accept CLEP from any campus. Cory Coehorn moved to accept this changed. Helen Wise seconded. Motion passed.

b. Report on First Year Experience:

Cory Coehorn reported on the recommendations of the ad hoc faculty committee (attached and incorporated by reference). Dr. Taylor asked whether he had consulted with Jennifer Hart. Dr. Coehorn affirmed that he had spoken with Jennifer and other faculty. Dr. Hart stated that she had not seen the recommendations prior to the Faculty Senate meeting. She noted that she had previously suggested the creating of an advisory committee for First Year Seminar. She is particularly concerned about the third recommendation regarding the academic nature of the course. She pointed out that the decision was made before she was hired to make this a three-credit course, and that, traditionally in first year seminar programs, when a course is three credits, it is much more an academic course than it is an extended orientation or “university life skills.” When courses are “university life skills,” they tend to be a one or two-credit course. She thinks maybe there should be more thought given to that part of it. Helen Taylor than asked about Recommendation Two, regarding faculty autonomy. She asked whether that ruled out having one course with multiple sections, because that was the idea behind revamping the course to begin with? “Cory stated that the faculty he spoke with expressed unwillingness to teach the course unless they had autonomy. Dr. Hart acknowledged that faculty needed to have buy in and needed to be teaching courses that they have some connection to, but the concern is that usually there is some body overseeing these courses to make sure there is consistency and parity across the courses. She noted that she has tried to build in flexibility. She pointed out that designing these courses is her background and area of expertise. She expressed understanding that there would be unfamiliarity for some and expressed a willingness to help with that. She does not want to dictate what faculty are doing but wants to make sure that . . . Cory interrupted to say that Recommendation Three was meant to address that. He does not see the committee looking at it as a pure university life skills course. They would like it to be “academic leaning” but they think there are academic needs of the students coming in, and this course is the opportunity to introduce them to those things. Dr. Hart agreed but said she is trying to manage expectations. She pointed out that this course would not magically turn students from who they are into who faculty wishes they were. If that is going to be the standard for judging the course, then the course will always fall short

of that expectation. Cory reiterated that the committee didn't think it should be purely a life skills course, but they would like there to be more emphasis toward life skills. Dr. Taylor argued that faculty are in the business of teaching critical life skills and academic competencies but that Dr. Hart was hired because she is an expert in best practices on these courses. Russ Perry suggested handing over the recommendations to the Provost and made a motion to that effect. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Mary Lois White jumped in at this point. She raised the question of ownership of the course. She supports creating an advisory council but if this is a Faculty Senate initiative, what is the goal of the course? Who is responsible for determining what the course is? Dr. Taylor pointed out that this was why we hired Dr. Hart in the first place. Mary Lois denied that her questions had been addressed and that only incremental changes within the colleges housing the courses were needed not redesign of the course. Dr. Taylor pointed out that the Deans have consistently said they don't want the [freshmen seminars] housed in the colleges. Mary Lois responded that, be that as it may, that is where the freshman seminar is, and if it is taken out of the colleges, who is responsible? She opined that it should be the Faculty Senate. Helen Wise pointed out that the committee was not tasked with answering the questions brought up today by Mary Lois. Matyas said from a Course & Curricula perspective, he wants to know what the outcomes are supposed to be. He wants to see more maturing outcomes. Lee Purvis said it sounded like the Faculty Senate has done its part. He pointed out that the Freshman Seminar course had outcomes from the project. Although instructors all had the same assignment, they had autonomy in how they taught. He suggested giving recommendations to Dr. Hart and then coming back and meeting again possibly. Cory agreed to do that. Doug observed that many of Mary Lois White's questions could be answered by the Provost. The course would eventually need to be approved the Courses & Curricula Committee. Matyas asked the First Year Experience Committee or Dr. Hart to send out formulated learning outcomes as of now.

VI. New Business

a. HPE Building progress

Elizabeth Liebert reported that the HPE building was equipped with ten faculty offices, one classroom, two teaching labs, and one student research lab. They have wipe dispensers and IT instructions at each teaching station. There have been reports of student athletes on the second floor without masks. Someone in Athletics needs to tell them they need to wear masks. Doug said that would be Lucas Morgan. Lee Purvis asked that we check next meeting on new faculty hired during COVID to make sure they are doing okay and have the info they need.

b. Science Building progress was covered in the Vice Chancellor for Business Affairs report (IV b).

VIII. Observations and concerns

IX. Adjournment 4:28 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Laura L. McLemore, Secretary

