

LSUS Faculty Senate
Minutes of the Meeting
Wednesday, January 21, 2022, 11 AM
Zoom

I. CALL TO ORDER 11:01

II. PRESENT: Cory Coehoorn, Allen Garcie, Matyas Buzgo, Laura McLemore, Aadel Darrat, Doug Bible, Minsun Kim, Roger Zhao, Syed Zaidi, Harvey Rubin, Lee Purvis. **Absent:** Felice Williams, Cassandra Williams, Cheryl White, Alex Mikaberidze, Brian Salvatore.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Cory Coehoorn moved to approve the minutes of the December 2021 meeting. Matyas Buzgo seconded. There being no corrections, the minutes were approved.

IV. PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Allen Garcie congratulated Cheryl White, Department of History and Social Sciences, on her work with *The Five Priests* documentary film. He noted the return to campus coming up on Monday and encouraged everyone to keep themselves and their students safe. He reminded everyone they have a limited time to speak. He emphasized that he is happy to chat with faculty at any time.

V. ADMINISTRATORS' REPORTS

a. Chancellor—Dr. Clark observed that we will be back to face-to-face classes on Monday. He acknowledged that Covid is still a threat. The decision to return to face-to-face was based in part on the fact that many students have chosen face-to-face and need to be on campus for various reasons, including hands on learning, e.g. labs and access to specialized technology. The testing center and mask requirements are continuing. Weekly assessments of conditions will continue. The pandemic has been a factor in our enrollment which is down for spring. We're down about \$1.5 million in revenue this year. He is concerned but expects to manage successfully through the end of the year. He is approving all tenure and promotions that have come to his desk. Lee Purvis asked why faculty did not have a choice whether to teach online or face-to-face. Larry said some students complained that they have scheduling difficulties when the face-to-face and online classes shift back and forth. Dr. Helen Taylor added that the Provost for LSU said, throughout the system, of faculty given the choice, only 18 percent chose to teach online. She also said that students who signed up for face-to-face classes told her if they had to go online, they would go somewhere else. Matyas Buzgo reiterated the need for students to be face-to-face for labs. If we have to close down again, he asked that exceptions be made for lectures and labs that can't be done online and thanked the Chancellor and Provost for their consideration. Allen Garcie noted that the local American Advertising Federation tried for the past two years to plan student events as usual, but found that it was not practical. They realized they needed to evolve their thinking to meet the changes we're dealing with. He believes that is what we will have to do as a campus. Dr. Clark said if we had to go back to online, they would be looking at the possibility of exceptions.

b. Provost—Helen Taylor wished Cory a happy birthday. She thanked faculty, deans, and associate deans for their extra work on the two-week online start-up. Deans are currently looking at classroom capacity and shifting around for maximum social distancing. She noted that an addendum to the syllabus is coming out with classroom protocols and suggestions

about how to handle situations that might arise. She noted that they have Kaltura recordings of classes, and faculty can make them available to students as they find necessary. Her office is planning for summer and fall. They want to think more about how to schedule classes so that students can follow their degree path straight through. Jennifer Hart left as director of First Year Experience. They are trying to decide how to reconfigure that position to maximize student success initiatives. They are going to advertise for a broader position, possibly with a different title. Details haven't been decided yet. Dr. Taylor encouraged anyone with ideas about how to better support first year students to contact her.

VI. CONTINUING BUSINESS

Revisions to Constitution and By-Laws. Allen asked if the Faculty Senate needed to vote and By-laws and Faculty Council on Constitution. Laura McLemore said neither document specified that. She surmised that the Faculty Senate would vote on both and Faculty Council would approve the action of the Faculty Senate. Allen explained that an ad hoc committee comprised of him, Gary Joiner, and Laura McLemore spent considerable time reviewing both documents. The goal was not to fundamentally change either document but to update the language to reflect how things are being done now rather than how they were done twenty years ago. Allen asked for comments on the by-laws. Matyas commented that he was not familiar with the previous by-laws and only noticed changes in wording such as from "majority" to "plurality." Secretary Laura McLemore said all of the changes were mainly in wording. There was a lot of wording that had been carried over from the 1988 documents, which were not very clear to begin with and a lot of it no longer applied since the nature of the Faculty Council has changed since then. So the main purpose was to clean it up and get the stuff out of it that was not applicable anymore, and bring the wording up to date on the things that had changed. So, that's all. There were major changes. In the document she sent out, the original wording is underlined and the changes are in red. Cory said a faculty member in Education and Human Development had an issue with some of the language, and he asked if it were something the Senate should address right now. Dr. McLemore said they needed to be address right now because they needed to be voted on at the next meeting. Cory said the question was in Section 2, Article 6 (by-laws), why was the language "on the floor of the senate" removed? Dr. McLemore said that was because the committee was allowing for the fact that the Senate is now meeting virtually instead of in a room. Allen Garcie said it was not that the committee was trying to remove that as an option, it was just trying to make it a little more so whenever the senate gets back to face-to-face, it can be conducted in person, but did not want the language to be too limiting so that the vote could be conducted on Zoom if necessary. Dr. McLemore pointed out that the language could be simplified by saying the nominations "should be made at the Faculty Senate meeting" regardless of where the meeting was being held. She said what the committee was trying to do was not change the by-laws any more than absolutely necessary but accommodate the fact that we might not be meeting in person. There was general agreement with this suggested change. Helen Taylor pointed out that the Composition of the Admissions and Standards Committee, Art. 8 (6.1) (B) included administrative titles that were obsolete and would need to be changed.

Cory Coehoorn then presented additional coments: 1) an individual disapproved striking the language in Art. 7(2) regarding retention of election records; 2) Art. 8(1) regarding composition of the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate, refers to "Schools," which is

inconsistent with other sections, e.g. Art. 8 (2)(B) regarding composition of Senate Committees, which refers to “Colleges.” There appears to be an inconsistency in terms. Dr. McLemore pointed out that the Constitution used the terms “Faculty Senate” and “Faculty Council” interchangeably, which was made it unclear. Cory asked if we were to vote now on what to do with those recommendations. Dr. McLemore pointed out that there is not clear guidance in either document, Constitution or By-laws, as to procedure for agreeing on changes to be presented to the Faculty Council, so it was up to the Senate to decide next steps. Dr. Taylor pointed out that we must have a Faculty Council meeting this spring as we have not had one so far this year. Parliamentarian Doug Bible pointed out that amendments had to be brought up in the Faculty Council meeting, and then another Faculty Council meeting had to be held ten to twenty working days after the first meeting in order to approve the amendments. He stated that it would be the same for both Constitution and Faculty Senate By-Laws. Dr. Bible suggested that the changes be summarized and sent out to the senators, so they could be ready to vote on it at the next meeting. Doug said both documents could be proposed at the same Faculty Council meeting, discussed, and voted on at the next Faculty Council meeting where it would be voted up or down. Dr. McLemore asked what the procedure would be if there were issues with the revisions at the first Faculty Council meeting. Dr. Bible said things coming from the Senate could be voted up or down at the second Faculty Council meeting. Allen Garcie noted that right now it was necessary to get feed back from everyone and asked anyone with feedback to email it to Laura McLemore. Doug Bible agreed, noting that the Executive Committee would meet before the next Senate meeting and clear up what we want to vote on for the changes, send it out to the Senators, and then vote on it at the next Faculty Senate meeting. Cory Coehoorn asked if we could create a deadline for concerns so that when we get to the Faculty Council meeting, discussion can be had on the amendments, but no new concerns can be brought up. Doug Bible said he didn’t think that was possible. The amendments would be open to discussion, so there would have to be a discussion, but everyone would know ahead of time. He said hopefully the Senate will get everyone on board and present it to the Council and they will agree. If they don’t, we won’t approve it. Allen Garcie agreed this is what needs to be done. The changes are minimal. The only significant change in the Constitution is to better define what the Faculty Council is because there seems to be confusion when it comes to the difference between the Faculty Council and the Faculty Senate. He observed that we have the changes and just need to figure out how we can get everyone together and vote on it. He encouraged everyone to send any suggestions to facultysenatesecretary@lsus.edu. Dr. Clark said that he thought the changes were all reasonable and necessary, having been present when the Faculty Senate was originally instituted. He noted that the Faculty Senate was created because the Faculty Council became to unwieldy to do the business of the faculty. He complimented on the committee on its work. Dr. McLemore noted that the purpose of the revisions was to give a better understanding of how the Faculty Council and the Faculty Senate were related. Dr. Clark said he believed we had done that. There were no comments on the Constitution changes. Allen urged everyone to get feedback in if they had any.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

- President Tate and approval Faculty Tenure/Promotion – Dr. Taylor noted a change to PM69 by LSU system. This change goes back to former tenure/promotion policy in

which applications must now go through the whole hierarchy to President Tate. Ryan Landry is the Assistant Vice-Provost who oversees tenure/promotion approval for the LSU system. He sent her a list of the items that they actually want to see, one of which is performance reviews going back several years. She and the Deans are looking at how to standardize FPRs across campus. Matyas Buzgo said Biology had created their own promotion/tenure draft, and he wanted to know if it had been referred to her. He wanted to know if it was in sync with system requirements. Dr. Taylor asked if that was to be an addendum to the campus tenure/promotion policy drafted by the Policy and Personnel committee and approved by the Faculty Senate a few years ago. Matyas said some people had already made their applications and he was concerned they might not be acceptable. Dr. Taylor said she would follow up and seek a definitive answer to his question. Cory asked if President Tate would be giving any guidelines about what he was looking for. Dr. Taylor said she had not been told about anything specific President Tate was looking for. She said she saw this as an effort to have consistency across all the campuses not to dictate our processes and to make sure we follow our own policies. Dr. Clark said the change came about last spring from the Board of Supervisors wanting the president to oversee the tenure/promotion process because previously someone on one of the campuses had left under a cloud related to Title IX violations and then came back and was given his tenure back. This caused problems for LSU and the president of the Board of Supervisors wouldn't know about it. He thinks this is to make Chancellors accountable and is probably a good change. Dr. Taylor said it wouldn't really change our process. Dr. Clark said he had read all the applications and they were impressive. He wanted faculty to know that all were approved, and they should not worry about it. Allen asked when standardizing tenure packages would be coming. Helen said she is working right now on standardizing FPRs as ours is more complicated than LSU's. We are not simplifying ours. Allen commented that what Biology had done in standardizing what junior faculty needed to work toward for eventual promotion would be good for every department. Helen said that was up to department chairs and deans, not to the institution. Individual departments need to set those expectations the day junior faculty are hired.

- Enrollment Updates - Impact of COVID and switch to LSU Online on enrollment.

Dr. Taylor said we are done about 1,000 students from where we were at the first census date last year. She said total enrollment is 7,766 not including dual enrollment or AP2 for Spring. Nationwide, there's been a dip in enrollment. We are concentrating on increasing face-to-face enrollment. Lee asked if numbers were broken down at the graduate level as to Covid and the shift to LSU Online. Helen said she didn't know how to do that. The biggest downturn has been in the MBA program, but she didn't want to speculate about the cause. Allen asked what steps we are taking to gain enrollment. Helen said Julie would be talking more about that in the LPC meeting today. She is concentrating on face-to-face, and she is working on recruitment and enrollment. Hiring a new first year experience director is a piece of that. The University has an obligation to support first year students. Enrollment is the reason her team is seeking ways to serve our students better and retain them.

VIII. OBSERVATIONS AND CONCERNS

In Memoriam—Dr. McLemore observed that we had lost four faculty or former faculty members recently, and that having their names and death dates in the *News and Notes* did not

give current faculty much information about who they were. The deceased were Dr. Steven Lynch, professor of Biology with thirty years of service beginning in 1977; Dr. Jim D. Reed, professor of Management and Marketing from 1977-1999; Dr. Michael MacRoberts, Curator of the Herbarium for the Museum of Life Sciences for more than twenty years and Research Associate in the Red River Watershed Management Institute, and Dr. Robert Kalinsky, Professor Emeritus in Biology, whose service spanned thirty-three years from 1974-2007.

Allen Garcie noted that sometimes we don't even get a chance to know the people we work with. He encouraged everyone who has a story about what they or their colleagues are doing to send it with Wendell Riley so he can share with the campus.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:21 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Laura McLemore, Secretary