

**LSUS FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
JANUARY 11, 2024
11:00 A.M.
Webster Room—University Center**

I. CALL TO ORDER 11:01 a.m. President Williams called the meeting to order.

II. PRESENT: Senator Shi Chen, Senator Kim, Senator Widmeyer, Senator Zhao, Senator Saleh, Senator Yeh, Senator Felice Williams, Senator Mikaberidze, Senator White, Senator Garcie, Senator Zaidi, Senator Cassandra Williams, Senator Gifford, Senator Noor. **ABSENT:** Senator Shepherd, Senator Salvatore. A quorum was present.

III. COMMENTS: President Williams opened the floor for comments from non-senators, who signed up to comment, under prescribed time limits. Dr. D’Mello expressed his concerns with tenure and promotion review process and spoke of the need to protect faculty interests and uphold LSUS policy statements.

Per parliamentary procedure, only those present in the room may comment or vote. President Cassandra Williams asked for roll to be taken and asked senators to introduce themselves.

IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Senator Gifford moved to approve the minutes. Motion seconded and approved.

V. PRESIDENT’S REPORT: President Williams congratulated the recipients of the Faculty Research and Development Grants.

V. ADMINISTRATORS’ REPORTS

Chancellor: Dr. Robert Smith delivered the chancellor’s report, welcoming the faculty back to the campus. He noted continued enrollment increase both for the fall and spring semesters; overall enrollment grew from 7,876 to 9,150 students, with graduate enrollment increasing by 23%; Dr. Smith noted that other institutions of higher education face much greater challenges and commended LSUS faculty and staff for their work in attracting and retaining students.

Provost: Dr. Taylor thanks the faculty for attending the kick-off ceremony and spoke of the forthcoming training exercises to increase campus security; discussed the search for Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs position, which has selected three candidates for on-campus interviews, and asked the faculty to participate in meetings with the candidates; reminded the faculty to upload relevant course materials, including course syllabi, to Moodle and to submit four week grades by deadline.

VI. NEW BUSINESS: President Williams discussed the student survey policy in the College of Business, and recommended revising it or developing a new policy that would facilitate faculty’s access to student emails for surveying purposes. Senators Gifford and Zaidi discussed the survey approval process at the College of Business; Senator Gifford raised the issue of the faculty’s academic freedom to pursue research; Senator Cassandra Williams and Dean Mary Lois White of the College of Business

discussed options for revising the college policy or developing a university-wide policy that would facilitate faculty research and prevent 'survey fatigue' amongst students. Senator Zaidi pointed out that other institutions have additional resources, including access to databases, that LSUS currently lacks, which hampers faculty research. Senator Saleh spoke in support of a university-wide policy on surveying students. Senators Noor and Felice Williams agreed with this suggestion and spoke of the need to maintain balance between the faculty and student interests. Further discussion of 'email fatigue' and survey policies by Senators Noor, Cassandra Williams, and Dean White. Senator Mikaberidze inquired if this issue was unique to the College of Business only and what practical solution the Senate can recommend. Senator Allen then made a motion to request the Faculty Research and Development Committee to examine policies and procedures for conducting and sharing results of student surveys, and to make recommendations for a university-wide policy. Motion seconded and approved.

VII. CONTINUING BUSINESS

President Williams discussed the need for Associate Dean and Dean evaluations. Senator Gifford inquired who has access to evaluations of administrative personnel. Discussion followed between President Williams, Senators Gifford, White, and Felice Williams, along with Provost Taylor and Deputy Chief Information Officer Scott Hardwick, about assessment procedures and instruments, and the lack of faculty involvement in assessments; Senator White noted the lack of trust in current instruments that prevents faculty from submitting their assessments. Senator Felice Williams made a motion to develop improved assessment instruments. Motion seconded and approved.

President Williams suggested creating a committee to develop a faculty survey and asked for volunteers. Senators Felice Williams, Zaidi, White, Saleh, Minsun Kim, and Maggie Gifford agreed to serve on the committee. Senator Gifford made the motion to constitute the committee. Motion seconded and approved.

President Williams discussed tenure and promotion policies; noted that the Senate has been discussing this matter for the past three months and should now identify practical solution for discrepancies in tenure/promotion requirements between different colleges. Discussion followed between Senators Garcie, White, Felice Williams, Gifford, and President Williams; Chancellor Smith and Provost Taylor noted that a university policy on tenure and promotion sets a broad framework within which each college can draft its own requirements, and that annual faculty evaluations and promotion/tenure expectations should be aligned; Senator Widmeyer noted that library has often been omitted from the process but should be consulted. Senator Gifford made a motion for the Policy and Personnel Committee to examine tenure and promotion documents for complementary features and reflection of LSUS as a teaching university. Discussion followed until President Williams moved to table this issue.

VIII. OBSERVATIONS & CONCERNS

President Williams discussed the discrepancy between LSU and LSUS calendars and the issues related to scheduling courses in late afternoons; Chancellor Smith and Provost Taylor spoke of the need for standardized timeslots for courses.

IX. ADJOURNMENT: A motion was made and seconded to adjourn the meeting. The motion was approved and the meeting adjourned at 12:42 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Alexander Mikaberidze
Secretary