

**LSUS FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Wednesday, November 10, 2021, 11 AM
Zoom**

I. CALL TO ORDER 11:02

Present: Cory Coehoorn, Matyas Buzgo, Felice Williams, Cheryl White, Doug Bible, Harvey Rubin, Roger Zhao, Minsun Kim, Allen Garcie, Syed Zaidi, Lee Purvis, Brian Salvatore, Laura McLemore

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Cory Coehoorn moved to accept the minutes of the October 2021 meeting as read; Lee Purvis seconded. The minutes were approved.

III. PRESIDENT'S REPORT: Allen noted that Veteran's Day is tomorrow (November 11) and thanked everyone who may have served in the military. He reminded everyone that there are some veterans' videos on the LSUS Facebook page. He encouraged everyone to watch some of those. He also announced that there is a women's luncheon for veterans today. He brought up the subject of diversity on campus, and expressed his gratification that we are having more multi-cultural events on campus and thanked the organizers of such events, such as the presentation hosted recently by the LSUS Foundation on the Choctaw-Apache tribe of Louisiana. By-laws update: the ad hoc committee (Allen Garcie, Gary Joiner, and Laura McLemore) has met and reviewed the By-laws and will be reviewing the Constitution as required. He reminded everyone of the rules regarding commenting or speaking in the Faculty Senate meeting and encouraged people to contact their senators in order to get on the agenda if they want to speak.

IV. ADMINISTRATORS' REPORTS

a. Chancellor: Dr. Clark followed up on Allen's remarks on diversity and encouraged everyone to read the Ebarb-Bronson book and also promoted Cheryl White's works on the yellow fever epidemic in Shreveport. He will be attending the Women's Luncheon today and noted that there will be a presentation on Veteran's Day tomorrow on the mall. Mark Bieger, new Vice Chancellor for Strategy at LSU will be coming to campus tomorrow and will be talking about H.R. 150 and strategic planning. Dr. Clark presented LSUS's seven strategic goals to President Tate and the LSUS planning council. One of LSUS's goals is building a health clinic and research center on campus. The planning council did not take formal action on the health center in September, but embraced the need for one. Dr. Clark remarked on the number of patents that have been awarded for research on this campus dealing with student health, citing one by Brian Salvatore. He is looking into including a health center in our previously submitted request for capital projects. He announced that commencements would be held on December 16 and 17, two each day. He brought up Centenary College's announcement that it will resume football and emphasized that we will not be having football on our campus. We have received a grant through the recently passed federal infrastructure bill for three charging stations for electric vehicles on the south side of the campus, and will be installing them in the spring.

b. Provost – Helen Taylor noted that early registration began yesterday. She has sent a follow-up to the deans because all students will have to be vaccinated for the spring semester or have registered a formal exemption from vaccination in order to register. There will be assistance for students to help with that process. Allen Garcie said he would like to know what students need to do, because he has two students who have had trouble with the process. Helen said Paula Atkins, Dean of Students, was the person students should contact. Matyas asked about where to report their vaccination. Bill Wolfe said that information reported on that website is available within two business days. Shelby Keith noted that it is now available the next business day. Helen noted that the pilot program at LSU allows students who don't meet ACT requirements to register. LSUS is requiring students admitted under that program to take co-requisite courses. She talked about how we are contacting those students. She also encouraged faculty with ideas for new degree programs to have discussions within their departments about bringing those ideas forward. Helen Wise is doing a lot with new faculty and new programs.

c. Faculty Research & Development report: Binshan Lin reported on the faculty research & development grant applications. He thanked committee members for their time and faculty senators for their support. He presented visuals showing grants awarded Fall 2016-Fall 2021, the breakdown of grant applications by college, and the breakdown of 39 applications received in Fall 2021, and noted how competitive it has become. Helen Taylor noted the work of the committee and thanked Dr. Lin on behalf of the faculty. Allen Garcie asked for Dr. Lin's insight about the low number of sabbatical requests this year, when there was only one application. The Chancellor responded that because we didn't do any hiring for several years, we don't have faculty in the category who would be utilizing sabbaticals. He also pointed to the emphasis on research and suggested the sabbaticals might be opened up for teaching. Allen Gracie noted different cultures within departments and the possibility that some departments push sabbaticals more than others. He observed that faculty teaching upper-level courses find it difficult to take sabbaticals because there is no one to replace them. The Chancellor noted that we are missing the cohort of faculty who would ordinarily be applying to sabbaticals because we didn't do any hiring at LSUS for so long. He also said that Helen Wise and the Provost have brought up the need for teaching focused sabbaticals as well as research focused sabbaticals. He encouraged the Faculty Senate and the Research and Development Committee to look into that possibility. He would like to see more sabbatical applications. In response to Allen Garcie's concern that students suffer when key faculty take sabbaticals. Dr. Taylor commented that planning course cycles in advance could help with that. Dr. Clark said there is money available to all three colleges to cover substitute faculty for those courses. Cheryl White asked whether there could be some reconsideration of this process, then, for Fall. Dr. Taylor stated that she and the Chancellor would like to hear from the faculty senate committee in this regard. Binshan commented that we do have research/education leave and so we already have sabbaticals for teaching, and maybe people don't understand that. The announcement next time could perhaps be clarified.

V. CONTINUING BUSINESS

a. Email policy: Felice Williams has presented a proposal to the Faculty Senate president to survey regarding faculty mass communication under new email policy. Allen asked for

thoughts. Matyas said one solution might be adjusting the faculty culture to get accustomed to sending fewer emails and to reading emails before replying to them, because the answers they seek are often already in the email. Matyas believes there is too much mass communication. Lee Purvis said one possibility would be an opt-in for those who want to still have that dialogue, and email is the best way to communicate. Matyas asked if the deans have the ability to reach the entire campus? Dr. Clark said yes, they do. Matyas said, then, anything you need to send to the whole campus, you can ask your dean, or specified other individuals, to send it for you. Felice Williams said the Faculty Senate was supposed to represent faculty and should do more to find out what the faculty thinks. Allen agreed. He suggested that if we sent out a survey to faculty, it could be broad to get more feedback than just email. Felice said the survey should be short and deal with one issue at a time, because no one has time to fill out lengthy surveys.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. Clarification of Covid safety policy regarding face to face teaching, testing prior to class attendance, and graduation. Allen noted that a faculty member who got tested before class was notified, after they'd already gone to class, that they had tested positive. He asked what we can do to avoid this kind of scenario. Helen Taylor said students and faculty should be encouraged to come early on their testing day. Bill Wolfe pointed out that in five weeks of testing we've had only three students and two faculty who tested positive. He is confident that the campus is as safe as it's ever been. Vaccination rates among face-to-face students are just under 70%. Among employees, faculty is at about 90%. Next week on the 17th and 18th they will be giving booster shots on campus from 10:00 am-2:00 pm. This will be Pfizer and possibly Moderna. He noted that the drive-thru site on Linwood has all the vaccines available and is a very efficient operation. Allen Garcia asked about what measures are in place for graduation. Dr. Clark said for graduation you have to wear a mask and social distance, but we are not requiring vaccinations, because we couldn't find any help to check cards onsite.

b. Allen Garcia asked about faculty attendance at graduation. Faculty are asked to attend at least one. Helen Taylor said they wanted faculty to attend both spring and fall graduations.

c. Two LSUS Workplaces—proposal to survey regarding faculty and student preferences. Allen asked for comment on the email he sent out to faculty regarding teaching online versus the classroom during the continuing Covid threat. Brian Salvatore expressed concern that students need a face to face experience in the Sciences. Students who are applying for jobs need hands-on experience on their resumes not virtual. He pointed out that there are not only effective vaccines but also effective treatments. Matyas agreed. He said we need to lead by example and faculty should follow policies. Allen Garcia said he believed the email that prompted this discussion indicated that we are not doing enough to be aware what is going on with individual faculty members.

VIII. OBSERVATIONS AND CONCERNS

a. Courses & Curricula Committee Approval Process—Dr. Brian Salvatore expressed the desire to find a more collegial way to get changes through the courses and curricula committee. He noted that there were problems with DocuSign, and wasn't sure if we really needed approval from essentially two committees. Faculty appreciate feedback and want to be able to

make corrections, but sending changes back from every typo was taking too long. He pointed out the loss of Jennifer Hart, which has resulted in us being back to square one in Freshman Orientation. He wondered if we could have a task force to look at this. Mary Margaret Lusk, chair of the committee, said she could understand the problems with DocuSign. She has been on the committee for some time and agrees that in the past there have been some nitpicky reasons for sending things back. She prefers working with faculty individually. She thinks we should just have patience with DocuSign until all the kinks work themselves out. Brian Salvatore expressed appreciation for her comments. Matyas pointed out that the Dean's committee should catch the errors before the Dean signs a change. It is important that the lowest level of review should catch the problems so they don't have to be dealt with at the upper level. That said, he does not have a problem with DocuSign. He has found that there are things he can do to fix problems without having to do the entire submission again. He recommends patience with ourselves, proof our work more carefully, and not expect to get everything done on the first draft. Brian Salvatore said he would like to know how to edit things in DocuSign. Matyas said you can't fix anything once it's signed but you can get it reviewed by all signers multiple times before anyone actually signs it. Allen Garcia said he is concerned about the process and suggested that we look at streamlining it. He doesn't understand how a course can't be good enough at the committee levels after it has been approved through the hierarchy in his department and school. Helen Taylor said she would bring it up in Provost's Council. Matyas said he thinks the faculty member should check with everyone up the chain whether a proposed course is likely to be approved. Allen thought it would be good if Helen talked about this in the Provost's council.

Allen reminded everyone to attend the veterans' ceremony tomorrow on the mall at 11:00 am, and wished everyone a happy Thanksgiving.

IX. ADJOURNMENT 12:45 P.M.