

Faculty Senate Minutes
May 6, 2025
3:00 PM
Live Oaks Conference Room

Members Present: Cynthia Thomas (President), Julie Gill (Vice President), Matthew Stokes, Rusty Gaspard, Jacob Whitmore (Secretary/note taker), Cole Franklin, Beverly Alwell, Guoyi Ke, Christof Stumpf (Parliamentarian), Jennifer Innerarity, Sona Kumar, Jialin Lei, Lisa Bradford

Members Absent: None

Guests Present:

Dr. Paul Coreil, Chancellor

Dr. Elizabeth Beard, Provost

Dr. Jay Calligari, Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice

Dr. Tanya Lueder, Assistant Professor of Computer Science

Dr. Nathan Sammons, Dean of Sciences

Beth Whittington, Chair of Criminal Justice

Jan Schmitt, Command Your Career Coordinator

Welcome and Determination of quorum: The meeting came to order at 3:01 p.m.

Brief guest updates:

Dr. Paul Coreil

- Dr. Coreil met with Menard High School to begin forming a partnership between LSUA and the school
- The capital outlay for the downtown health campus has been approved for approximately \$16M, which should allow the project to go to bid
- We are still working on getting hiring freeze exemptions cleared to begin hiring for the fall semester
- Dr. Coreil indicated that the budget still reflected faculty merit increases, and summer pay raise increases, but they are still on hold due to the hiring freeze
- The golf course will close on June 1, 2025, with groundbreaking on the new campus edge project to take place on June 2, 2025
- Construction is also set to begin soon on the lighting around US Hwy 71 close to campus
- There are also plans to place a digital billboard in this area to advertise campus events

Dr. Elizabeth Beard

- Dr. Beard echoed the sentiments of Dr. Coreil regarding the budget
- She thanked the faculty and the C&C Committee for moving forward quickly with the AI curriculum. She expressed excitement for this new curriculum
- J. Gill asked whether this was driven by faculty or by administration. It was initially driven by the administration as part of the Meauxmentum framework
- However, she and N. Sammons stated that the computer science department was incredibly enthusiastic about a proposed AI concentration and minor since they have many faculty members that research AI. There were also some classes that already existed that were a part of this new concentration
- Concern was expressed by J. Gill that the faculty and the C&C committee may have been pressured into this against the governance procedures of the Senate and C&C and that this should have followed the deadlines set by C&C
- The administrators felt this needed to be expedited and sent forward now to get the advantage of being the first in the state to have the credentials to make it a standalone degree in the future
- Discussion ensued about pressure on faculty, the governance process, the precedent this sets, and the urgency of getting an advantage for having this new AI curriculum
- Dr. Beard acknowledged the faculty members that are retiring this semester: Melissa Parks, Michael Wright, and Kent Lachney
- She also discussed the logistics of initial reports of endowed professorships
- Discussion ensued about upholding academic standards to students and campus-wide recording of academic integrity issues
- Convocation is August 18, 2025, and new faculty orientation is the week before on August 14-15, 2025

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes:

- Motion to approve the 2025-04-22 Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
 - o Motion: B. Alwell, Second: J. Innerarity
 - o Approved: 13-0-0

Report of President:

Dr. Cynthia Thomas reported the following:

- She has indicated that SLT is working on summer pay, but they have not yet shared a number for the summer increase due to the uncertainty around the state budget
- SLT indicated that HR has always collected the feedback for the bottom's up surveys, even though the surveys are sent out by Daren Thaxton's email. C. Thomas then added that unless a faculty member self-identifies in the survey, the results of that survey would not be traced back to the faculty member

- A decision will be made soon on how the university will move forward with the costs of the new journals to the library
- The administration has indicated that due to continued growth, faculty and students will not be able to mingle prior to graduation as this impacts timely lineup. This makes it very difficult to smoothly run graduation. SLT asks that we strongly encourage students to attend the graduation reception the evening before.

Reports of Committees:

Courses and Curriculum Committee:

Review of courses submitted by C& C:

- Motion to batch approve the Disaster Science courses
 - o Motion: J. Innerarity, Second: M. Stokes
 - o Approved: 12-1-0
- The parts of these courses that the Senate had issue with at the last meeting do not require C&C approval. Thus, the Senate agreed to review approved changes from the department without first kicking the courses back to C&C.
- J Gill asked that the minutes show that special consideration was provided regarding the correction of the DSPR MCOs to move the courses through the approval process. The DSPR courses were entered into CurricuLog by the February deadline
- Review and Discussion ensued on the new wording that was submitted for the Disaster Science course Procedures to Evaluate the Objectives and Use of Results to Improve the Course for all the submitted courses

Courses to Review from C&C:

DSPR 2100

DSPR 2200

DSPR 2300

DSPR 2500

DSPR 3100

DSPR 3300

DSPR 3400

DSPR 3500

DSPR 4100

DSPR 4200

DSPR 4300

DSPR 4400

DSPR 4500

- Motion to accept and approve the proposed Disaster Science courses pending Senate to not release the courses for approval to the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs in Curriculog until the edits from the department are properly placed into Curriculog
 - o Motion: J. Gill, Second:
 - o There was no second to this motion and it was withdrawn

- Motion to accept and approve the proposed Disaster Science courses with the understanding that the department's modifications will be uploaded and ready for publication in the Fall 2025 catalog within two weeks
 - o Motion: J. Innerarity, Second: J. Gill
 - o Approved: 13-0-0

- Review and Discussion ensued on the Disaster Science degree itself
- Motion to accept and approve the Disaster Science degree
 - o Motion: B. Alwell, Second: J. Whitmore
 - o Approved: 13-0-0

- **Motion to accept C&C minutes from 2025-05-01**
 - o Motion: M. Stokes, Second: G. Ke
 - o Approved: 13-0-0

- Motion to batch approve the ARIN courses
 - o Motion: C. Stumpf, Second: G. Ke

- Approved: 11-1-1

ARIN 1000

ARIN 2000

ARIN 3000

ARIN 3200

- Review and discussion ensued on these courses, specifically on the wording of the “Use of Results of Evaluation to Improve the Course” having little to no variation across all ARIN courses
- The Senate had issues with the same things in the DSPR courses last meeting and brings up a discussion of how this sets a precedent for disapproval
- T. Lueder explained how their department ensures that the standards of the courses are rigorous and build upon each other in their programs
- N. Sammons asked for an example of what to change in the Results of Evaluation to Improve the Course to change across the ARIN courses
- Motion to accept and approve the ARIN courses so long as the Senate works with the department to improve the Results of Evaluation to Improve the Course being edited to not have the same wording across all ARIN courses within two weeks
 - Motion: C. Stumpf, Second: J. Innerarity
 - Approved: 12-0-1
- J. Gill asked that the minutes show that special consideration was provided regarding the correction of the ARIN MCOs to move the courses through the approval process

AI Minor- add to catalog

- Review and discussion ensued on the AI minor
- Motion to accept and approve the AI minor
 - Motion: G. Ke, Second: C. Stumpf
 - Approved: 13-0-0
- Motion to batch approve the CSCI courses
 - Motion: B. Alwell, Second: C. Stumpf
 - Approved: 12-1-0

CSCI 4750

CSCI 4760

CSCI 4770

- Review and discussion ensued on these courses
- The CSCI courses had similar issues that were present in the ARIN courses where the wording of the “Use of Results and Evaluation to Improve the Course” showed little or no variation
- Motion to accept and approve the CSCI courses so long as the Senate works with the department to improve the Results of Evaluation to Improve the Course being edited to not have the same wording across all CSCI courses within two weeks
 - o Motion: J. Whitmore, Second: G. Ke
 - o Approved: 13-0-0

Bachelor of Science in Computer Science – Modify for AI Concentration

- Review and discussion ensued on the AI concentration for the Bachelor of Science in Computer Science
- Motion to accept and approve the modification of the BS in Computer Science to add the AI Concentration
 - o Motion: G. Ke, Second: B. Alwell
 - o Approved: 13-0-0

PS 209 Ad Hoc Committee: Not Discussed

Admissions & Standards Committee: Not Discussed

FPPC Committee: Not Discussed

PR Subcommittee: Not Discussed

Budget and Review: Not Discussed

Improvement of Instruction: Not Discussed

Interdisciplinary Curriculum Committee: Not Discussed

Old Business:

Policy Statement Revisions

PS 209: Discussed in Report of the President

PS 202: Not Discussed

GDM: Not Discussed

AI Policy: Not Discussed

Faculty Senate Funds:

- There are approximately \$1,000 left in Senate funds
- Moving forward, we would like all applications and reports are submitted in the Moodle portal for ease of comparison for approval and actual spend

Senate Elections for AY 2025-2026

- Elections will be moved to next week for all future Senate members to be able to attend

Introduction of new business:

Announcements/Looking ahead

Next meeting: there will be two meetings next week in the week of May 12, 2025, for approval of any remaining courses and for elections. We will send a virtual poll of best times for next week.

Departmental accomplishments or planned events:

Motion to adjourn: J. Gill, Second: J. Innerarity

Vote: 13-0-0;

The meeting adjourned at 5:34 p.m.