

Faculty Senate Minutes
For: 12/12/2023 3:00 p.m.
Mulder 146

Members Present: Beverly Alwell, Lisa Bradford, Carol Corbat (Vice President), Julie Gill (President), Guoyi Ke, Jialin Lei, John Marks, David Shanks (alternate for Cole Franklin), Matthew Stokes (fill-in Secretary), Cynthia Thomas (Parliamentarian), Jacob Whitmore

Members Not Present: Sona Kumar, Rusty Gaspard

Guests Present: n/a

Call to Order: At 3:08 p.m. a quorum was established and the meeting was called to order.

Approval of Minutes:

11.28.2023

A few minor revisions were suggested.

B. Alwell motioned to approve the minutes with the suggested edits

J. Whitmore seconded the motion

Vote: 11-0-0

President's Report:

J. Gill stated that she met with Dr. Beard recently to consider verbiage for PS 202 before it comes back to Senate for revisions.

J. Marks commented that three universities have yet to respond to his request for how much faculty members earn when they are promoted. J. Gill acknowledged his update.

Committee Reports:

C&C 11/29/2023 minutes

C. Corbat motioned to receive the minutes

B. Alwell seconded the motion

Vote: 11-0-0

It was noted that C&C discussed a modification to the Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice degree. Necessary changes were made to reflect that the revisions be effective in the spring semester starting in January 2024. Senate reviewed documents in Curriculog and confirmed that the department had made the necessary changes on the form and C&C approved the changes.

J. Marks noted that CJUS 1107 Introduction to Criminal Justice is no longer a core requirement in the degree; it is now a gen ed course. He asked for confirmation that Criminal Justice students

could now make a D in the course and still continue in the degree. Some indicated this seemed to be the case unless it was specified otherwise somewhere such as in a course description. However, it currently does not appear to be specified anywhere.

C. Corbat pointed out that changes to CJUS 1107 is not up for a vote right now; the change in its status to becoming gen ed passed last year. However, changes could be considered in the future, but these must be initiated at the department level.

J. Marks made a motion to approve the modification to B.S. in Criminal Justice degree

Discussion ensued

C. Corbat seconded the motion

Vote: 8-0-3

Old Business:

C. Corbat made a motion to amend the agenda to add policy statements 232 and 213 to the agenda

J. Marks seconded the motion

Vote: 11-0-0

PS 213

C. Thomas said there were no changes to consider but there was a question: should consensual romantic relationships between faculty members and students be prohibited?

C. Corbat stated that she thought there was a Human Resources policy in which such relationships were frowned upon; however, such relationships have never been prohibited.

D. Shanks asked for clarification on the issue at hand. C. Thomas suggested issues may arise due to age differences and power dynamic issues. Some remarked that such faculty/student relationships have existed in the past.

D. Shanks asked about the stance of LSU main campus as well as other campuses on the issue of consensual relationships between faculty and students. Some remarked that other campuses have no policies against it as long as the relationships involves two consenting adults. However, in some cases, as a matter of practice, the relationships are frowned upon if the teacher is grading the student.

C. Thomas reminded all that someone had simply made the suggestion to her, so she was asking Senate whether we should include such a policy. Should we make changes to a policy that could potentially impact the behavior of two consenting adults?

L. Bradford stressed that such relationships could be an issue if the faculty member is grading the student. Many voiced agreement with this claim.

Discussion ensued.

M. Stokes made a motion to approve the policy with no additional changes, as no consensus had been reached by Senate on additional changes

B. Alwell seconded the motion

Vote: 11-0-0

PS 232

C. Thomas noted that no proposed changes were up for consideration

J. Marks made a motion to approve this policy with no modifications

It was noted that the Provost's title was listed incorrectly. C. Thomas noted that she would look at all titles and confirm their correctness.

J. Marks rescinded his motion

C. Corbat made a motion to approve the policy in light of C. Thomas' corrections to titles

J. Marks seconded the motion

Vote: 11-0-0

PS 206

C. Thomas reminded all that Senate had previously said they wanted a chance to further look at this policy. In the interim, she had some suggested changes.

J. Gill and C. Corbat expressed that they had some suggestions.

J. Gill remarked that some definitive statements put a lot of pressure on faculty. For example, J. Gill noted that the phrase "A student who finds it necessary to miss" is problematic, as it puts the ability to do make up work within the control of the student but does not give the professor the ability to say no. The language implies faculty must provide support.

Discussion ensued.

Some said faculty should not be required to "assist" absent students such as giving out lecture notes.

Discussion ensued

Edits were suggested to leave the decision with faculty members whether or not to assist absent students.

More discussion ensued.

D. Shanks left the meeting.

Discussion ensued on the nature of excused absences.

Fac Senate Travel, Research, & Field Trip funds

It was noted that the deadline for applications had been extended and we needed to consider an application for Jessica Ringo asking for \$1583.

C. Thomas made a motion to approve the application

J. Marks seconded the motion

Vote: 10-0-0

New Business:

Catalog Statements

Under the Scholastic Requirements section, the current wording of a student with a GPA that falls below a 2.0 being placed on Academic Probation is problematic, as it stipulates it is the “semester GPA” and not “cumulative GPA.”

Senate was asked to consider revising “semester GPA” to read “cumulative GPA” because of potential impact on students who have a high cumulative GPA but may do poorly in one semester.

Discussion ensued and the consensus was that it was in the interest of students to approve the change to the wording.

C. Corbat made a motion to approve changing “semester GPA” to “cumulative GPA”

B. Alwell seconded the motion

Discussion: J. Whitmore made a general comment that in this case, it is clearly in students’ best interest for Senate to approve a change that will take effect soon. However, he did caution against making it a practice to approve things that take effect in nearly immediate future. Many present agreed with his comment.

Vote: 10-0-0

L. Bradford left the meeting

Announcements/Looking ahead

Next meeting: January

Adjournment:

M. Stokes made a motion to adjourn the meeting

J. Gill seconded the motion

Vote: 9-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 4:57 pm