

Faculty Senate Minutes  
September 27, 2022

Members Present: Beverly Alwell, Bernard Gallagher (alternate), Cynthia Thomas, Rusty Gaspard (via phone); Sarah Barnes; Guoyi Ke; Carol Corbat, Julie Gill, Mary Kay Sunderhaus, Melissa LaBorde, John Marks (alternate)

Members Absent: Kerry Ordes, Hal Langford, PJ Gurjar,

Guests present: Paul Coreil, John Rowan

Call to Order:

Meeting was called to order at 3:02.

Minutes:

J. Gill asked if there were other edits to the minutes in addition to the ones she had received. M. LaBorde moved to accept the minutes with edits.

B. Alwell seconded the motion.

Motion carried 11-0-0

J. Gill called on **Dr. Coreil** to give his report.

Dr. Coreil indicated the he always tries to come to the Senate meetings to show his report. He has been getting more information from the ALFS group. Their meetings are very informative and are held on our campus. Kevin Cope (from LSU) sent him a thank you for providing lunches at previous meetings.

Dr. Coreil recently met with chairman of the Tunica Biloxi tribe about an MOU to be able to contribute to the tribe. It was an interesting conversation. The tribe has resources because of the casino. A senator asked what it would take for LSUA to be a Native American Serving university. Dr. Coreil did not know, but said it sounded like an interesting prospect. He mentioned that NSU has rented space in the tribe's Cultural Center and is offering classes. LSUA is having a facility at Fort Polk with Starbase which will be up and running soon. This is our door to get back into that market. He is excited about the opportunity. One last note: Shrimp Jam was a successful event. DD Breau did a great job. Our athletic director, Tyler Unsicker, did a great job and has been working through a lot of problems. The athletic program is in good shape.

J. Gill recognized J. Rowan to give his report: He repeated his request for a copy of the minutes when they go out to the Senators. ALFS is working to set the dates for their meeting. No meetings are scheduled at this time the Legislative committee on post tenure review. The ALFS meetings are informative and great networking. They are also able to identify concerns. B. B. Gallagher agreed with the value of the ALFS group. Dr. Rowan referenced Phillip Auter from the UL system who had shared an idea about self assessments, the bottom up assessments on administration and that we are not doing that here but hope to do those according to policy soon. He asked about the possible self-assessment of the Senate. Also suggested individual meetings between the Senate with deans, department chairs and some specific one-on-one times. He feels those kinds of meeting would be worthwhile.

B. Gallagher clarified that the ULL President's intent was for the Faculty Senate Presidents to consider individual meetings with Deans and Department Chairs.

Dr. Rowan then asked if he would be allowed to stay in the meeting to which J. Gill responded that all are welcome at the meetings. She reiterated that, in an earlier meeting with the chancellor and Dr. Rowan, she had mentioned that Dr. Rowan's presence at the meetings often intimidates untenured faculty and impedes open discussion. He added that he was a tenured faculty member and member of the Faculty Council and should be able to attend the meetings. J. Gill and additional senators added that he was absolutely correct, but that he should understand that his position to approve or deny promotion and tenure impacts the dynamics of the meetings. J. Rowan then suggested perhaps we needed a list of others who might be intimidating if they attended the meetings. One senator added that no other SLT members were interested in attending or had attended Faculty Senate meetings. J. Rowan then moved on to his next item.

Dr. Rowan indicated that the overload situation caught the chancellor's attention. Faculty are up to 20 hours or more with one faculty member even teaching 39 credit hours. He added that the practice is now going to be if a faculty member is going to teach an overload, that's fine. The second overload requires approval of the dean. Anything more than that will require the approval of the provost. In some cases overloads will be necessary. This will include courses not just at LSUA but beyond LSUA. We have people teaching for multiple universities. One senator added that this is already written into the teaching load policy but apparently it has not been followed. J. Rowan agreed that we need to continue hiring faculty and the Academic Affairs team is talking about priorities. Dean and department chairs are advocating for the positions they need. They are going to discuss and decide. Another senator added that this has been budgeting practice for equipment and other areas over the years through the Planning Council and we are glad to see it being used to set academic-wide budgeting priorities.

Dr. Rowan then moved to mention that the QEP process, which is needed for SACS, will begin work in the near future. We have 18 months until the report and 24 months the visit. Rob Wright and Cheryl Bardales are going to be leading the QEP identification effort. We hope to have this worked out in the next 15 months. As provost fellow, Thomas will be joining the chancellor and the provost along with, Scott Colley, Rob Wright, Deron Thaxton, and Cheryl Bardales to travel to Atlanta for the SACS conference.

PS 202B, and PS 245 have revisions forthcoming. They currently include language about the department chairs reporting to the provost, and information about terms and rotations. J. Rowan will send it out for feedback soon.

C. Thomas commented that overloads cause some problems, but most people take them because of the pay. Discussion of adjuncts and adjunct pay ensued which led to faculty and staff pay. When comparing pay scales to peer institution, our faculty are low, but our staff are even lower so the administration tries to balance the faculty needs and staff needs.

B. Gallagher commented that we need more faculty, but we have seen several ancillary positions coming on board (not that they aren't really needed) so it's important to make sure people understand WHY certain positions are being hired while new faculty may not be.

J. Rowan clarified that justification of new hires starts with the strategic plan and new hires should align. SLT found that faculty and staff are underpaid. Staff are even more underpaid. We are in a good position and we should not take that for granted.

A question was asked about deans being directed to have elections for college reps to administrative committees. It was shared that some deans did not have such elections, yet names appeared on the committee list that was disseminated. J. Rowan indicated that the deans would have to be asked about this issue as he did not lead the elections. The corrected administrative committees list will be disseminated soon. The Faculty Senate president and SG president names were not updated on the list that went out.

President's report: The report was also included in the calendar invite. J. Gill has had some difficulty making the cabinet meetings because they are scheduled during her class times, but B. Whittington and B. Gallagher are covering the campus faculty and sharing information. B. Gallagher emphasized that it is important for the administration to know what is on the faculty members' minds.

J. Gill continues meeting with the chancellor regularly. Curriculum meetings have continued and are scheduled on Fridays through October. The group is working very hard, but it is unlikely that the system will be ready by the administrative deadline that was set. Also, J. Gill indicated that she asked J. Weston to send the proposed academic calendar.

#### Committee Reports:

The Admissions and Standards Committee minutes were distributed.

M. LaBorde made the motion to receive the A&S minutes.

B. Gallagher seconded the motion.

VOTE: 11-0-0

Faculty Personnel and Policies Committee elected officers and then discussed IDEA evaluations. Their minutes were distributed.

M. LaBorde made the motion to receive the FPPC minutes.

B. Alwell seconded the motion.

VOTE: 11-0-0

Discussion ensued about the minutes from FPPC. M. Sunderhaus explained the part about IDEA evaluations and that they were looking for clarity of how the data was calculated and assessed. J. Marks explained that he is filling in from the lens of an untenured faculty member. He explained his concerns and shared a handout and explained his concern that as a faculty member, he has no control over student effort, whether their background prepared them, or whether or not a student wanted to take the course. He asked these questions because he will be going through the process. J. Gill explained how adjusted scores are given with the IDEA forms. Discussion followed. J. Marks asked if we had a university score for teaching. IDEA does break it down by department, college. The shorter version of the form doesn't give as much formative information or the summative info. Improvement of Instruction has been asked to look at perhaps a way to add questions to the IDEA forms. We also asked Improvement of Instruction to see if IDEA might have another form or if there might be another evaluation program that could perhaps work better for us. This discussion is set to be sent back to Improvement of Instruction as a charge this year.

J. Gill asked J. Rowan why we moved to the truncated form and he responded that student response rates were low. It was an attempt to increase student response rates.

B. Alwell made a motion to forward the questions and suggestions from the FPPC minutes to J. Rowan so he would have their perspective on PS 202B.

G. Ke seconded the motion.

VOTE: 10-0-1

C. Corbat shared that the Senate had been asked to approve two changes to the committee lists which were approved at a previous meeting because of scheduling difficulties with meeting times and class schedules. Psychology has asked to have Rob Wright as the representative on Admissions and Standards and Sandy Gilliland on Improvement of Instruction noting that both were being appointed to the committees as administrative faculty.

B. Gallagher made the motion to approve the appointments.

C. Thomas seconded the motion.

VOTE: 11-0-0

Old business:

Advising

ENGH has had some issues with advising as there was change over in the Advising Office. The ENGH students are not turned over to a faculty advisor until they have 75 credits; the department believes it to be helpful to advise students prior to 75 credits in order to help them with writing recommendations and to assist them with career trajectory. Professional advisors can be helpful, but students have no idea that they can ask for a faculty advisor. They also recommended that students are released from the Advising Center after 50 hours are completed.

PSYC would like to see Session 1 and Session 2 indicated in degree navigator to assist with advising. C. Thomas is not sure if anyone has made a request to Andrew Hirschak to address the issue.

NURS transfer students are coming in with no GPAs (mostly P's) which is causing problems with advising, particularly in determining if students have the appropriate prerequisites for specific nursing courses. The transfers coming in with degrees are problematic and causing much more transcript evaluation than needs to happen. It causes great lag time and makes it difficult to get people into programs.

Rowan interjected that LSUA has 49 students from Florida in online programs and asked senators communicate with fellow faculty members to please be flexible ahead of the storm.

B. Gallagher indicated that one would assume that if a degree is valid, one would think that the default is simply that General Education courses should be fine, but pre-req specifics should be reviewed. Not having transcripts evaluated impacts figuring GPAs for graduation and awards as well. M. Sunderhaus stated that the transcript evaluation should be the responsibility of the registrar's office. This was the consensus of the Senate.

J. Rowan left the meeting.

B. Alwell mentioned the P issue is incredibly problematic with their students coming in to earn the CPA certification. She mentioned the Reach system has been somewhat helpful because it is quicker than looking things up in Docubase. She reports that she and other accounting professors are spending an inordinate amount of time verifying courses that should have been evaluated by the registrar's office when the transcript arrived. She also pointed out that the number of advisees continues to climb and we will soon be unable to provide any semblance of customer service to our students. She shared an example of having to put students off on first

contact and sometimes on second contact while waiting to get transcripts evaluated to get the students into classes.

C. Thomas stated that she simply calls the registrar and asks them to put the transfer credits into degree navigator. She indicated that putting those credits into degree navigator is the registrar's job and they should be taking care of transcript evaluation.

C. Corbat explained how transcripts are typically evaluated using the transfer tables in PowerCampus.

The consensus of the senate is that undergraduate transcripts should be evaluated and that it is the responsibility of the registrar's office to complete them in a timely manner.

B. Alwell asked about transcripts from unaccredited institutions or graduate level work. C. Corbat explained how a 700 level course could be substituted for a 4000 level course on our campus and indicated that she had done those types of substitutions in the past.

B. Gallagher left the meeting.

J. Gill will take the issue of transfers to Dr. Coreil with some of the specific examples of why these things are happening and why they are problematic. She asked for permission to share the examples discussed at the enrollment management retreat, if appropriate.

Discussion continued. Senators were asked to please share specific transcript evaluation and advising examples along with potential solutions, at the next meeting.

The program Transferology on LSUA's website was mentioned as a tool that students can use to see how courses will transfer in to LSUA. Most of the senators present were unaware of this page on our site.

As discussion continued about advising, J. Gill reminded everyone that programs can ask for advisees to come to the departments at any point. It doesn't have to be at the 90 hour mark.

J. Gill then moved to the topic of the academic calendar and indicated that she is waiting to hear a response from J. Weston on this issue.

PS 202B was addressed earlier in the meeting.

PS 210 - class size: J. Gill has no new information on this policy.

The Administrative Committees list was distributed but was incorrect listing M. LaBorde as Faculty Senate president and M. Aguilera as Student Government president. It is J. Gill's understanding that a corrected list will be distributed.

J. Gill asked senators to encourage their peers to apply for the Chancellor's funds. The deadline is Oct. 3, 2022.

### **New business**

QEP chairs - Dr. Rowan mentioned earlier that Rob Wright and Cheryl Bardales would serve as co-chairs. We are glad to see this process moving forward.

Curriculog update - Friday meetings continue. Thanks to those who were able to come to the meeting last week. Discussion followed highlighting the many concerns with the software at this time. J. Gill shared that once C&C forms are approved by the chancellor, the information goes into a cloud database owned by the company (AccuLog) that owns Curriculog. There are many questions that need to be further investigated. In particular, we need to determine if we have access to the information after it goes into the cloud. There are still many issues to be addressed with Curriculog.

Academic integrity cannot be compromised. Only 3 people have access to curriculum...not one faculty member is an administrator for curriculum. This is a problem because we cannot access our own documents. We will continue the work on Curriculog. However, the following questions emerged:

What happens if we do not want to use this program in the future? Will we have access to our own data?

M. Sunderhaus says faculty obviously needs to have oversight of curriculum, but she is also thinking about the impacts of Curriculog on programs that are accredited and who have responsibility to the accrediting body concerning our curriculum. If we have issues that we cannot address promptly or properly, we could jeopardize accreditation. J. Gill added that we need to emphasize that anything we put through C&C, using CurricuLog, must be correct. We simply cannot overemphasize this.

Pats on the back and departmental accomplishments:

LAS (M. LaBorde) won two awards at the PR Conference she attended earlier in the month. One was for a 5 Star PR class project and the other was for the College of Liberal Arts/PRAL joint mini conference.

The next Faculty Senate meeting will be on Oct. 11, 2022 at 3 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:23.

M. LaBorde made the motion to adjourn.

C. Thomas seconded the motion.

VOTE: 10-0-0