

Faculty Senate Meeting
August 22, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.
Mulder 302

Members Present: Beverly Alwell, Carol Corbat (Vice President), Rusty Gaspard, Julie Gill (President), Guoyi Ke, Matthew Stokes, Cynthia Thomas, Elizabeth Azua (alternate), Jacob Whitmore, John Marks, Jialin Lei, Cole Franklin (Secretary)

Members Absent: Lisa Bradford

Guests Present: Paul Coreil, Elizabeth Beard, Beth Whittington, Michelle Riggs-Waller, Holly Wilson, Cathy Cormier

Call to Order: At 3:00 pm a quorum was established, and the meeting was called to order.

J. Gill asked for motion to move to new business to elect a new parliamentarian.

J. Gill made the motion

C. Corbat seconded the motion

Vote: 12-0-0

Election of Parliamentarian

J. Gill nominated Cynthia Thomas for parliamentarian. B. Alwell moved that nominations cease. E. Azua seconded the motion. Cynthia Thomas was elected parliamentarian unanimously 12-0-0.

Approval of minutes

J. Gill will send the minutes of the August 14 senate meeting to members and is asking for an electronic vote to approve minutes by Friday of this week.

Brief guest updates

Julie Gill introduced Dr. Elizabeth Beard

Dr. Beard thanked the Senate for their work She noted that the Dean's council is making recommendations for the evaluation section of PS 202 that will be used in annual plans in the fall and evaluations in the spring. The deans made a few superficial changes to the Faculty Plan to be used for the 2023/2024 academic year.. Those have been sent to Julie Gill. Dr. Beard noted the smooth start to the semester. Some classes had to be shuffled, but things seem to be going well. She asked the Senate to please let her know if they hear of anything that needs to be addressed. She also noted that she and Dr. Halpin are working closely and deliberately on policy revisions.

Dr. Beard also addressed the QEP. She thanked the QEP leadership team for their work. Results of the latest QEP survey have been a success. Almost 250 responses have been received thus far. The campus community seems very interested in a QEP addressing career initiatives and supporting a career mindset throughout a student's time in college with an emphasis on soft or durable or transferable skills that are needed to make graduates successful.

Dr. Beard also noted that LSUA is the host school for the Starbase program that provides high impact technology-based instruction for 5th grade students. The program is based at Fort Johnson (formerly Fort Polk) and is fully funded by the Department of Defense.

Julie Gill introduced Dr. Paul Coreil.

Dr. Coreil addressed the progress on the funding for the new student success center. He said the state committed \$300 million more in priority one funding than the state has money for. The state needs to trim \$300 million. He is working with the bond commission and legislators to obtain the expected state funding, but will not know anything specific until September 21.

He noted that the environment is very political now with a new governor and new legislators being elected in the fall. We will have a new LSUA state representative after the election. Dr. Coreil thanked Governor Edwards for his support of LSUA in the past. He is meeting with gubernatorial candidates as he can.

There is good news this fall in terms of enrollment. Enrollment for the fall stands at 4,913 right now. LSUA is getting a great deal of support from students and the community.

At this point Drs. Beard and Coreil exited the meeting.

Report of President

Reports of Committees

The Senate reviewed the minutes of the April 17, 2023 meeting of the Admissions and Standards Committee.

M. Stokes moved to accept the minutes.

C. Thomas seconded the motion.

Vote: 12-0-0.

A review of the Admissions and Standards Committee minutes from April 17, 2023 yielded a number of discussions. C. Corbat discussed an addendum regarding the maximum course load for students during, regular semesters and summers, suspension warnings and suspensions. C. Corbat noted that students suspended cannot attend other state universities while they are suspended from LSUA. The Admissions and Standards committee recommends striking statements about a third indefinite suspension for students.

A discussion regarding the First Drop program also ensued. Discussion centered around the number of hours one can take in a regular semester or summer session. C. Corbat recommended removing the language regarding third suspensions.

C. Corbat made a motion to strike the third suspension language and mandate that students under a second or subsequent suspension not be allowed to enroll at LSUA for a period of one year.

J. Whitmore seconded the motion.

Vote 12-0-0.

Discussion ensued regarding the maximum course load revisions for regular semesters and summer sessions. J. Gill asked if the Senate needs more clarity from the Admissions and Standards Committee. C. Corbat said she believed the Senate can create clarity with separate bullets points and requirements for all different sessions.

C. Corbat made a motion to change the first bullet to “21 hours for any combination of full session courses, first session courses and second session courses”, changing the second bullet to read : “21 credit hours for a combined total of E-Learn 1 and E-Learn 2 sessions in any semester.” She also noted that the second bullet should change “semester “hours to “credit” hours. M. Stokes said we should review these again at next Senate meeting.

C. Corbat moved to continue the discussion under the old business section at the next Senate meeting.

M. Stokes seconded the motion.

Vote: 12-0-0.

Old business

PS 269:

C. Thomas noted that changes have been sent to Dr. Beard and she is waiting to hear back.

Faculty Senate Travel, Research, & Field Trip funds ‘23/24:

R. Gaspard recommended giving travel fund priority to non-tenured, junior faculty and those presenting at conferences.

C. Corbat and B. Alwell volunteered to review how funds for research and field trips should be distributed and report back.

Update RE Revision of Policy Statements

PS 202 (A& B) PS 245

Members of ad hoc committee on PS 202 provided an update of policy changes and noted there are some typographical and wording errors and terminology inconsistencies. Significant changes were eliminating instructor and general librarians and putting them under a different policy. C. Cormier noted that there seemed to have been some confusion between faculty plans and faculty evaluations. The committee changed some wording on faculty plan and the annual evaluation to clarify some things. B. Whittington noted that merit points are different from faculty plan points. It seemed to the ad hoc committee that every department was doing something different in terms of annual evaluation.

J. Gill asked Senators for feedback they have received from departments.

R. Gaspard noted that page 8 of the policy regarding Associate Librarian states that it is desirable to have an additional graduate degree in addition to the Master of Library Science degree. He noted that the American Library Association recognizes the MLS as the terminal degree. Another master’s degree is not necessary because MLS is a terminal degree.

R. Gaspard exited the meeting.

J. Gill noted that Page 8, 5B needs to be eliminated as well as information on Page 7 regarding General Librarians.

M. Stokes addressed the term “appropriate” faculty and what that meant regarding faculty searches and faculty reappointment voting.

M. Stokes also discussed the definition of tenure in the LSU system as opposed to the UL system. He noted that the UL system only allows tenure in academic disciplines offered at the university. He asked what might happen regarding tenure if one’s academic program was eliminated from the university?

C. Corbat addressed the appropriate faculty allowed to vote on reappointments. The policy currently states that only tenured faculty members can vote on reappointments which could result in very few people being allowed to vote in many departments with few tenured faculty members.

G. Ke noted the information regarding salary adjustments for promotions from Assistant to Associate Professor and from Associate to Full Professor on page 20 need to be verified by Dr. Beard and Deron Thaxton. C. Corbat noted that one faculty member she spoke to said raises from one rank to another should be increased in the document when compared to previous raises.

C. Corbat said some faculty in her department liked the separate instructor pathway and the definition of scholarship changes, but some did not like the evaluation piece because all deans do it differently and rankings might be different from college to college. Another faculty member did not approve of annual evaluations at all. She noted that meeting faculty goals are not an assessment. Evaluation requires assessment. Corbat believes we need to work on the evaluation methods to create a clearer system. J. Whitmore noted that he would want an evaluation every year and the corporate world has similar evaluation systems and there is no perfect system.

J. Marks noted that performance-based management is not clear and believes the evaluation points need to be better quantified for clarification. C. Thomas noted that the current faculty criteria for merit raises and faculty plan is not quantifiable and needs improvement. C. Corbat noted that merit raise factors should only be tied to the faculty duties of instruction, scholarship, and service.

J. Gill said the section on page 7 under Assistant Professor states “evidence of potential”. This needs clarification.

J. Gill asked if the ad hoc committee examined the non-reappointment of non-tenured faculty and the one-year appointment and “free agent” clause and if that should be examined for legality

C. Corbat noted that the term academic unit could be the college so we need to differentiate between academic units and colleges and departments for tenure and promotion purposes.

C. Corbat and J. Gill thanked the ad hoc committee for their work in revising the policy.

J. Marks spoke to faculty members in his department, and some were concerned about the lack of specificity and detail in the ad hoc committee minutes. Some faculty were also concerned about individuals in a department without terminal degrees voting on tenure and promotion of other faculty that do have terminal degrees.

Administrative Committees List; vote

J. Gill said six individuals were nominated for cabinet. That vote will be held this week.

CurricuLog Update

C. Corbat noted that we are planning to use it this year for all curriculum changes. Training for deans and department chairs has occurred. She will bring it to senate soon to demonstrate it.

Introduction of new business

J. Gill introduced Michelle Riggs-Waller.

Michelle Riggs-Waller spoke to the Faculty Senate regarding her recent reassignment from the library to the museum. She stated that reassignment left her without an academic unit and without a faculty home. She asked that the Faculty Senate make a petition to Academic Affairs for clarification of her place in the current academic structure. She would like to know where her faculty home is. Discussion ensued. C. Corbat asked if J. Gill could investigate the issue. J. Gill asked for a motion to allow her to speak on Riggs-Waller's behalf to LSU Legal and Academic Affairs regarding the situation. Without any objection from senators, J. Gill indicated that she would proceed on the matter.

Treasurer

J. Gill asked if Faculty Senate should elect a Treasurer. The Senate may elect a Treasurer if it chooses. Should we think about this more or elect a position? A Treasurer will have numerous roles related to Faculty Senate travel funds.

PS 206

Student Class Attendance Policy: Dr. Beard will be sending information regarding this policy to senate soon.

COFA election

We need to have an election as Dr. Stumpf's two-year term is ending.

J. Gill noted that she thinks we should form a joint statement of appreciation with Staff Senate regarding our appreciation of the equity raises.

Announcements/Looking ahead

Next meeting will be September 5, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.

Please send Pats on the Back to J. Gill and/or share at Senate Meetings

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn: B. Alwell

Second: G. Ke

Vote: 11-0-0