

Faculty Senate Meeting
September 5, 2023 at 3:00 p.m.
Mulder 302

Members Present: Beverly Alwell, Carol Corbat (Vice President), Rusty Gaspard, Julie Gill (President), Matthew Stokes, Cynthia Thomas, Lisa Bradford, Jacob Whitmore, John Marks, Sona Kumar, Jialin Lei, Cole Franklin (Secretary)

Members Absent: Gouyi Ke

Guests Present: Elizabeth Beard

Welcome and Determination of quorum

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

Approval of minutes

1. 8.14.23: Minutes of the August 14 Senate meeting were distributed to Senators prior to the meeting for an electronic vote. In the electronic vote, C. Thomas moved to approve the minutes. M Stokes seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by a 9-0 vote.
2. 8.22.23: Minutes of the August 22 Senate meeting were reviewed by Senators. C. Corbat made a correction to the list of members absent and noted that the words Faculty Senate should be capitalized in the minutes. B. Alwell moved to accept the minutes with the edits. C. Thomas seconded the motion. The minutes were approved by a vote of 11-0-1.

Brief guest updates

J.Gill introduced Dr. Elizabeth Beard

Dr. Beard thanked the Senate and specifically C. Thomas for helping to review policies including Online Education, Distance learning, and several others.

Dr. Beard highlighted the hiring of the new Tutoring Center coordinator, Cielia Adams. She has a great deal of experience at several other institutions. Dr. Beard noted the center will be a work in progress and asked Senators for input regarding what students need and identifying students who might be a good tutor. The Tutoring Center is part of library so tutors will be paid from the library budget and Dr. Lillian Purdy is the director.

Dr. Beard noted that it appears curriculum to career will be the focus of the QEP. What needs to be done in and beyond classes to advance career preparation? The direction of the project is taking shape and the committee members are working.

Dr. Beard reported that LSUA has enough endowed professorships that it is possible for almost 1/3 of faculty to potentially hold a professorship at a given time. Work is ongoing to streamline the process for rewarding professorships and the reporting process. Plans include to increase flexibility in the spending of research funds to be sure faculty have the support they need in areas such as spending money and receiving expenditure approvals. Nate Sammons will be assisting those holding professorships with paperwork in an effort to streamline the process.

First year professorship reports are due June 30.

At this point Dr. Beard left the meeting.

Report of President

J. Gill reported that she met with Dr. Beard regarding the faculty representation and academic structure issue discussed at the August 22 Senate meeting. She reported that Dr. Beard will bring the issue to the next meeting of the Senior Leadership Team. J. Gill will continue to follow up with her.

PS 202: C. Corbat and J Gill have met to discuss the revisions to PS 202.

J. Gill is working to meet with Dr. Coreil soon.

J. Gill met with Connie Cooper, Staff Senate President regarding suggestions for a joint resolution of appreciation of equity raises to be presented to Dr. Coreil at the next cabinet or all campus meeting. C. Corbat recommended that each Senator share it with departmental members and report back to the Senate.

Reports of Committees

Admissions and Standards 4.17.23

Course Load: C. Corbat presented proposed wording changes to the course load section to allow a maximum of 21 hours to be taken in each of the fall, spring, and summer sessions. Senate reviewed the proposed changes.

B. Alwell moved to send the new wording as a catalog change.

C. Thomas seconded the motion.

Vote: 12-0-0

First drop program: C. Corbat noted that the maximum number of hours students in the program can take has been changed from 6 to 12 with no faculty input. J. Gill indicated she would check with registrar to clarify the maximum number of hours allowed.

PS 210: Minimum class size: J. Gill suggested the decision to keep or cancel a class should be made before classes start instead of end of first week of classes. Discussion ensued. Many Senators expressed dissatisfaction with low enrollment classes possibly being cancelled after classes have already started and the need for increased consistency on deadlines and the lack of faculty input. J. Gill offered to ask the registrar's office about deadlines. C. Corbat noted it does not take 10 students to pay for a class. C. Thomas presented a recommendation that deans/directors be allowed to seek a waiver of the minimum class size from Academic Affairs. S. Kumar noted many professional program courses must be offered on a regular rotation even if there are not 10 students to enroll. J. Marks suggested the minimum should be 8 instead of 10. C. Corbat said there should be more flexibility in determining the minimum number of students. J. Gill asked if a waiver could come from a director or only a dean. J. Gill also asked why summer faculty compensation varied depending on faculty rank. She suggested that faculty that teach across all summer sessions should be considered 12-month employees instead of 9-month employees. She indicated that faculty teaching across summers need a break or to be

compensated more appropriately.

C. Corbat moved that the Admissions and Standards suggested word changes go to Academic Affairs.

M. Stokes seconded.

Vote 12-0-0

Old business

PS 269: Policy on Policies. The current policy requires each university policy to be reviewed every 3 years. C. Thomas recommended that it be changed to every 5 years but noted that the Chancellor's office can initiate a policy review within the 5-year period. C. Thomas reported that the recommendation from Academic Affairs is that 45 days be allowed for relevant groups to review policies and make suggestions and comments for consideration. J. Gill asked if a policy review rotation schedule should be included as an addendum to this policy. B. Alwell suggested that information regarding where policies are housed, and continuity needs to be improved and clarified. J. Gill stated she would discuss this with the Chancellor.

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

Field Trips: B. Alwell noted that all titles need to be changed from Chancellor Funds to Faculty Senate Funds. She asked if funding would be available more than twice a year. J. Gill indicated that three allocations of funds per year would be available and recommended that the maximum amount individual faculty members be allowed to apply for be changed from \$5,000 to \$3500. J. Gill also recommended that students going on field trips and seeking funds should be required to report what fundraising efforts they have engaged in. Discussion ensued regarding if and how students should be required to pay for field trips, especially if the trip is part of a class requirement. J. Gill recommended that Faculty Senate field trip funds not be available for programs that have an existing budget. C. Corbat recommended that courses requiring field trips should be funded through the department's individual budget.

C. Thomas made a motion to accept the policy changes as reported.

R. Gaspard seconded the motion.

Vote: 11-0-1

Research Funds: C. Corbat suggested that funds sought for course-embedded research should only be considered if the course has no fees or if course fees have been exceeded. Non-research related materials should be purchased with department budgets. Research materials for CORE classes should be funded by the CORE budget.

C. Corbat asked if research funding should be considered more specifically for early career, tenure-track faculty working to establish a research program. J. Lei and J. Whitmore voiced agreement with this recommendation.

B. Alwell made a motion to accept the policy changes as reported

Second: J. Whitmore seconded the motion.

Vote 11-0-1

Travel: R. Gaspard suggested that the same consideration for early-career faculty travel be given as stated in the research fund policy. J. Gill recommended that the maximum travel funds allowed be increased from \$3,000 to \$4,000. J. Gill also recommended that the schedule for

awards be adjusted to allow for funds for travel in June, July, August, and September. J. Gill noted that conference attendance, serving on panels, and service on boards is considered scholarship at LSUA.

M. Stokes made a motion to accept the policy changes as reported.

C. Corbat seconded the motion.

Vote 12-0-0

Update Revision of Policy Statements

PS 202 (A& B): M. Stokes noted that wording changes he reported on tenure at the last Senate meeting was received from a member of the Faculty, Council, but not a member of his department.

J. Gill indicated she would type up all recommended changes and revisions.

PS 245: J. Gill said she would ask Dr. Beard about this.

Administrative Committees List; Faculty Representatives

J. Gill reported that Missy LaBorde & Susan Bowers were elected as faculty representatives to the cabinet, and they had already attended their first cabinet meeting.

CurricuLog Update: Curriculog officially started at LSUA effective September 1

Introduction of new business

Faculty without Academic Department Representation report: J. Gill reiterated that this issue will go to SLT soon.

Treasurer election:

C. Corbat made a motion that the Senate proceed with a vote to elect a Faculty Senate Treasurer.

M. Stokes seconded the motion.

Vote 12-0-0

Nominations for treasurer. C Thomas nominated B. Alwell as Treasurer. C. Corbat seconded the nomination. C. Thomas made a motion that nominations cease. L. Bradford seconded the motion. B. Alwell was elected Treasurer by acclamation.

PS 206 – Student Class Attendance Policy: There is nothing to report on this at this time.

COFA Council of Faculty Advisors election: J. Gill stated a new representative must be a tenured faculty member. She will publish a call for nominations and an election through Moodle.

PS 209 Ad-hoc committee: C. Corbat noted the Faculty Workload section needs to be updated to align with PS 202.

PS 202 Evaluation Ad-hoc committee: J. Gill stated that a uniform evaluation piece is not specified. She is seeking to create an ad-hoc committee to further study this.

At this point L. Bradford left the meeting.

Senate and Senate Committee Membership List: 2023-2024

J. Gill asked for motion to approve the administrative faculty members included in the list.

M. Stokes made a motion to approve.

B. Alwell seconded the motion.

Vote 11-0-0

Student nominations:

S. Kumar nominated Melissa Jumper for the Admission & Standards committee.

C. Corbat nominated Brooke Detamasso for the Improvement of Instruction committee.

No student was nominated for the Public Relations committee.

B. Alwell made a motion to approve the student nominations for committees.

S. Kumar seconded the motion.

Vote 11-0-0

C. Corbat noted one Faculty Senate member with a term ending in 2026 needs to be changed to 2025 to keep the Faculty Senate rotations equal. B. Alwell volunteered to change her term expiration year from 2026 to 2025.

C. Corbat noted that a similar change must be made to the Admissions and Standards term. R. Gaspard volunteered to end his term of the committee in 2025 instead of 2026.

J. Whitmore made a motion to approve all committees as listed.

R. Gaspard seconded the motion.

Vote: 11-0-0

Announcements/Looking ahead

Next meeting: September 19, 2023 at 3:00 pm

Pats on the Back: Jennifer Innerarity had her dissertation cited as a reference in two different publications.

Please send Pats on the Back to Julie and/or share at Senate Meetings
Departmental accomplishments

Adjournment

B. Alwell made a motion to adjourn.

C. Thomas seconded the motion.

Vote 11-0-0

Faculty Senate adjourned at 5:31 p.m.