**Faculty Senate Minutes**

February 25, 2025

3:00 PM

Live Oaks 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, Lisa Bradford

**Members Absent:** Jialin Lei

**Guests Present:**

Dr. Paul Coreil, Chancellor

Dr. Elizabeth Beard, Provost

Dr. Robert Wright, Department Chair, Psychology

**Welcome and Determination of quorum:** The meeting came to order at 3:04 p.m.

**Brief guest updates:**

Dr. Paul Coreil

* Two faculty members, Dr. Sammons and Dr. Bardales, received awards from LSU Online for teaching excellence
* The LSU Board of Supervisors approved two new degrees and the land lease for the public/private partnership for apartments on campus
* We officially hit 7,000 enrollment last week, with over 66 jobs created in the last year at LSUA
* He reiterated his pride in the university for being ranked #4 university in the state by Niche.com
* The Advocate in Lafayette gave us a free, full-page ad due to our success
* We will have close to 600 graduates this spring
* The final report to the SACS reaffirmation has been submitted
* Campus edge project: 170 apartments and 350 beds
* He asked to support the LSUA basketball programs at the RRAC conference tournament at the Rapides Coliseum this weekend
* Spring Commencement: May 15, 2025, at 10 AM; the speaker is Thomas Ryder, an alumni of Bolton High School and accomplished business executive
* All indications are that the funding for the downtown Health Campus should be approved, with LSUA having secured $8 million in donations and being moved higher up the priority list from 26th place to 6th place

Dr. Elizabeth Beard

* LSUA employees should receive an invitation to a town hall meeting to highlight the presentation given to the LSU Board of Supervisors
* Disaster Science and Emergency Management and Cybersecurity were approved as standalone BS degrees by the LSU Board of Supervisors
* Discussion ensued about the relaunching of the Director of Research and Program Assessment office
* She was proud of the quality offered by the university in education and ability to be flexible and innovative for meeting student’s educational needs
* There is work ongoing to accommodate more online students in the Testing Center to ensure academic rigor and integrity via proctoring;
* She strongly recommended that objective tests that account for large portions of the grade of online classes should be proctored to ensure the programs remain rigorous and to ensure academic integrity
* Discussion ensued about the delivery of courses online, rigor, academic integrity, and academic freedom

**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes:**

* Motion to Accept Minutes from 2025-02-11 Meeting:
  + Motion: B. Alwell , Second: L. Bradford
  + Approved: 12-0-0

**Report of President:**

Dr. Cynthia Thomas reported the following:

* Dr. Beard, Teresa Seymour, and Dr. Thomas are working to meet to discuss the feedback on GDM
* PS 254 will get voted on in the next Cabinet meeting

**Reports of Committees**:

**Ad-Hoc Committee Reports given by Julie Gill**

**Courses and Curriculum Committee:**

* Motion to Accept Minutes from 2025-02-05 Meeting:
  + Motion: M. Stokes, Second: B. Alwell
  + Approved: 12-0-0
* Motion to batch approve English courses
  + Motion: M. Stokes, Second: J. Gill
  + Approved: 12-0-0
* Motion to batch approve Nursing courses
  + Motion: J. Gill, Second: J. Innerarity
  + Approved: 12-0-0
* Discussion ensued on review of the English course proposals
* Motion to accept and approve the proposed English courses
  + Motion: J. Gill, Second: M. Stokes
  + Approved: 12-0-0
* Discussion ensued on the review of the Nursing course proposals
* Motion to accept and approve the proposed Nursing courses
  + Motion: J. Gill, Second: L. Bradford
  + Approved: 12-0-0

**Review of courses submitted by C&C**

ENGL 3021

ENGL 3024

NURS 3000

NURS 3020

NURS 3030

NURS 4005

NURS 4020

NURS 4032

**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:**

* Motion to Accept Minutes from 2025-01-27 Meeting:
  + Motion: B. Alwell, Second: G. Ke
  + Approved: 12-0-1
* Discussion ensued on the contents of the minutes from the ICC meeting

**Old Business:**

P**olicy Statement Revisions**

**PS 209:** Not Discussed

**PS 202:**

* The Senate leadership has been working on wording changes, and it should soon be sent to the Provost for further review

**PS 254:**

* Discussed in Report of the President

**AI Policy:** Not Discussed

**GDM Feedback**

* Discussed in Report of the President

**Introduction of new business:**

1. **Senate Funds**

* Discussion ensued on how much of the Faculty Senate funds have currently been spent
* The senators agreed that they would want to open the proposals for funds again to ensure that all the money was spent if it appeared that there would be funds leftover
* Senators all agreed to reassess the funding that has been spent to know whether the proposals for Faculty Senate funds can be reopened

1. **Engaging Online Students for Earning Letters of Recommendation**

* Discussion was opened about writing letters of recommendation for online students
* Some faculty members expressed that it is difficult to do so when you may not know their character and have not spent time with them; some online students expected LORs without putting in extra effort
* Discussion ensued about how to ensure that online students understood that they had to go above and beyond in their courses to earn a letter of recommendation from a faculty member
* Numerous faculty members expressed their opinions on how to enforce this with different parameters of online and on-campus students
* It was stressed that recommendation letters should always be done at faculty discretion
* We will get feedback from the faculty and will discuss at the next meeting

**Announcements/Looking ahead**

Next meeting: March 11, 2025

**Departmental accomplishments or planned events:**

* W. Franklin discussed the QR code that will be sent to faculty to access the Speaking Center for on-campus classes
* S. Kumar 90% passage rate for AMLS students
* R. Gaspard discussed his Tank Talks film discussion series
* J. Gill promoted the steps challenge programs for the KINS department

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

Vote: 12-0-0;

The meeting adjourned at 4:59 p.m.