**Faculty Senate Minutes**

March 11, 2025

3:00 PM

Mulder Hall, Room 144

**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, Jialin Lei

**Members Absent:** Lisa Bradford

**Guests Present:**

Dr. Paul Coreil, Chancellor

Dr. Elizabeth Beard, Provost

Deron Thaxton, Executive Vice Chancellor for Administration and Chief Financial Officer

Missy Laborde, M.A., APR, Associate Professor of Communication Studies

**Welcome and Determination of quorum:** The meeting came to order at 3:03 p.m.

**Brief guest updates:**

Dr. Paul Coreil

* LSUA is on the agenda for the Board of Regents for the campus edge project and the new degrees at the end of March
* SLT met with a new Board of Regents member from Alexandria to discuss projects related to the future of the campus
* He stressed the importance of staying ahead of hiring additional faculty and staff the meet the needs of our student growth

Dr. Elizabeth Beard

* There is an SLT Town Hall on March 12th, 2025, to share the presentation that was given to the Board of Supervisors
* Academic leadership teams are meeting soon to continue discussions to move campus along
* Deans, Directors, and Admin Assistants will begin meeting regularly to open communications for improving campus
* The Drone Day was a huge success and an exciting opportunity for campus
* Continuing Ed announced several summer programs
* There is a book reading in the library for Matthew Stokes’ book next week
* A new George Rodrigue exhibit opened at the art museum
* Shakespeare on the Green is happening at the end of the month
* The International Women’s Day celebrations was a great success

Deron Thaxton

* Mr. Deron Thaxton came before the Senate to discuss the potential PS 209 changes regarding summer pay
* He presented a spreadsheet with calculations based on current salary and the proposed amounts requested for summer pay
* He gave estimates of what the changes would cost, indicating that it would cost approximately $860,000 of additional pay to enact the changes; this does not include additional adjuncts that may be needed to cover growth of enrollment
* Discussion ensued about the needs of the university and revenue forecasting
* Deron and the Senate had discussion about alternatives to the proposal and balancing the pay and revenue
* He also gave very detailed updates on the new funding formula and potential estimates of future budgeting
* After discussion, he indicated that he would like the Senate to present him with other options and he is very open to discussing them
* He presented the Senate with an extensive overview of the budgeting process for LSUA
* Discussion ensued on the open positions and the strategy for hiring instructors and tenure-track professors

**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes:**

* Motion to Accept Minutes from 2025-02-25 Meeting:
  + Motion: C. Stumpf, Second: R. Gaspard
  + Approved: 12-0-0

**Report of President:**

Dr. Cynthia Thomas reported the following:

* Faculty are allowed to teach one course at another university with permission if said university is not a competitor
* Lillian Purdy is continuing to work with faculty to discuss how faculty will work with students to use journal databases
* SLT is considering possibly naming Dr. Haywood Joiner as Professor Emeritus.
* She will discuss GDM feedback with the Online Distance Learning leadership to discuss how to improve the process
* The AI policy is still being developed, and she would like us to finish it before the end of the academic year

**Reports of Committees**:

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

**Courses and Curriculum Committee:**

* Motion to Accept Minutes from 2025-02-12 Meeting:
  + Motion: M. Stokes, Second: B. Alwell
  + Approved: 12-0-0
* Motion to Accept Minutes from 2025-02-19 Meeting:
  + Motion: J. Gill, Second: S. Kumar
  + Approved: 11-0-0 (C. Franklin briefly left the room)

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

NURS 3001, Nutrition and Health Promotion

NURS 3010, Ethical Dilemmas in Nursing

NURS 4040, Introduction to Nursing Research

NURS 4052, Leadership and Management Scholarly Project

PSYC 2272, APA Writing for Behavioral and Social Sciences

PSYC 4017, Advanced Research in the Social and Behavioral Sciences

PSYC 3017, Research Methodology

THTR 4024, Directing

ENGL 3011, American Poetry

ENGL 3026, Literary History

ENGL 3030, American Slave Narratives

ENGL 3173, Southern Literature

ENGL 4026, Studies in Poetry

ENGL 4040, Studies in the Novel

ENGL 4148, Studies in Shakespeare

ENGL 4231, Studies in Literature and Film

ENGL 4300, African American Cinema

ENGL 4593, Women Writers

ENGL 4674, Major African American Writers

* Motion to batch approve the Nursing courses
  + Motion: B. Alwell, Second: J. Gill
  + Approved: 12-0-0
* Discussion ensued on the review of the Nursing course proposals
* Motion to accept and approve the proposed Nursing courses
  + Motion: B. Alwell, Second: C. Franklin
  + Approved: 12-0-0
* Motion to batch approve the Psychology courses
  + Motion: M. Stokes, Second: J. Gill
  + Approved: 12-0-0
* Discussion ensued on review of the Psychology course proposals
* Motion to accept and approve the proposed Psychology courses
  + Motion: M. Stokes, Second: J. Innerarity
  + Approved: 12-0-0
* Motion to approve the THTR 4024 course
  + Motion: B. Alwell, Second: C. Franklin
  + Approved: 12-0-0
* Motion to batch approve the English courses
  + Motion: J. Gill, Second: M. Stokes
  + Approved: 12-0-0
* Discussion ensued on review of the English course proposals
* Motion to accept and approve the proposed English courses
  + Motion: M. Stokes, Second: J. Gill
  + Approved: 12-0-0

**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:** Not Discussed

**Old Business:**

P**olicy Statement Revisions**

**PS 209:**

* Discussed with Deron Thaxton at beginning of the meeting
* We will discuss potential solutions in the next Senate meeting
* C. Thomas requested all ideas by next Friday, March 21, 2025

**PS 202:**

* Discussions happened with the Provost for the language changes needed for this policy

**PS 254:**

* This policy was approved in Cabinet with the changes the Senate requested for responding to students within 48 hours or one business day

**AI Policy:** Discussed in the Report of the President

**Mid-Term Grades:**

* In the future, the mid-term grades will be required at a later date to accommodate spring break

**Faculty Senate Funds:**

* B. Alwell discussed the latest calculations of what has been spent on Faculty Senate funds
* She discussed the importance of reporting to her when money was spent to fully account for all potential funds remaining
* As of now, we are roughly $400 overspent and will have to investigate the SGA field trip fund matches to see if we can account for remaining funds

**Online Participation in Faculty Senate Committees and Meetings:**

* A Zoom or Teams link can be extended for participation and attendance of meetings
* However, Open Meeting laws do not allow for votes via electronic voting using such technology
* Discussion ensued about the ramifications of committee work for remote faculty and how to execute a meeting in this way
* We will now put a Zoom link on every agenda and the Faculty Senate Moodle page

**Introduction of new business:**

1. **Repeating Courses**
   * There have been incidents of students taking classes several times
   * The question was asked of how many times a student should be allowed to take a course
   * Discussion ensued about there being any fiduciary responsibility if we allow students to retake courses several times from both an ethical and financial aid perspective
   * C. Thomas will investigate if there is a policy that exists governing this issue

**Announcements/Looking ahead**

Next meeting: March 25, 2025

**Departmental accomplishments or planned events:**

* Louisiana Academy of Sciences will be held this Saturday, March 15, 2025 at LSUA

Motion to adjourn: J. Gill, Second: B. Alwell

Vote: 12-0-0;

The meeting adjourned at 5:30 p.m.