**Faculty Senate Minutes**

October 23, 2024

Live Oaks Room

**Members Present:** Cynthia Thomas (President), Julie Gill (Vice President), Rusty Gaspard, Matthew Stokes, Jacob Whitmore (Secretary/note taker), Jialin Lei, Cole Franklin, Beverly Alwell, Sona Kumar, Guoyi Ke, Christof Stumpf (Parliamentarian), Jennifer Innerarity, Lisa Bradford

**Members Absent:** None

**Guests Present:**

Dr. Jay Callegari, alternate Senator for Criminal Justice

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

**Brief guest updates:**

Dr. Liz Beard:

* Dr. Beard thanked the faculty for their hard work thus far.
* The AEA metrics are working as desired for financial purposes.
* SLT had a great outreach meeting with the school system of Sabine Parish, receiving positive feedback from the community.
* The PS 209 revisions should be both fair and sustainable.
* We can expect lots of action in the near future for hiring faculty and staff positions.
* Conversations have been moving forward and are awaiting quick approval for a new campus apartment facility by the Spring 2025.
* She reiterated the importance of our Command Your Career model.
* She mentioned that there will be more emphasis on capping classes and compensating faculty appropriately for teaching additional sections.
* RSI is a federal mandate for online instruction for distance learning.
* Questions were asked about internal vs. External job searches and who determines who makes the call as to what is done. Dr. Coreil said it is his and SLT’s decision and it is often more efficient and effective to do internal vs. external searches. We want to reward internal advancement for qualified individuals but are not opposed to either.
* There could be positions open to aid in assessment, reporting, policies, etc. To keep full-time faculty from being overloaded with these types of tasks.

Dr. Paul Coreil:

* SACS was fantastic and were very impressed with our work on the QEP.
* There could be more opportunities to engage with the personnel at Ft. Johnson for education for Soldiers and their families.
* There is a tax session in the legislature coming up that could negatively impact higher education. Any cut could impact us, but not nearly to the extent of what happened in the past.
* He reiterated the importance of moving quick in hiring.
* We are pushing for a large capital outlay for the Downtown Health Campus to go to construction by this time next year. We have a large non-state match (approx. $8M), which is why we will get support from the state. We have $3M in Federal funds, with the total cost being approximately $40M overall.
* Motion to Accept Minutes from 2024-10-09 Meeting:
  + Motion: B. Alwell, Second: C. Stumpf
  + Approved: 13-0-0
* Motion to Accept Minutes from 2024-09-25 Meeting:
  + Motion: M. Stokes, Second: B. Alwell
  + Approved: 12-0-1

**Report of President:**

* **Cynthia Thomas Discussed the Following:**
  + No report since her meeting with the Chancellor and Provost is tomorrow morning, Thursday, October 24, 2024.
  + HR has indicated that the Chancellor does have the right to approve or disapprove faculty teaching at other universities. The HR Director is still searching for other policies and procedures in the LSU system for further guidance.

**Reports of Committees**:

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

* J. Gill reached out for all the minutes for subcommittee officer elections

**Courses and Curriculum Committee:** Alice Blackwell as Chair and Sandra Purifoy as Secretary

* Motion to accept C&C minutes
  + Motion: M. Stokes, Second: C. Stumpf
  + Approved: 13-0-0

**PS 209 Ad Hoc Committee:** Not Discussed

**PS 202 Ad Hoc Committee:** Not Discussed

**Admissions & Standards Committee:** A. LeJeune as Chair, J. Rogers as Secretary

* Motion to accept A&S minutes
  + Motion: S. Kumar, Second: B. Alwell
  + Approved: 13-0-0
* A&S approved change to ACT score for English to align with LSU
  + Motion to Accept ACT Score Change
    - Motion: B. Alwell, Second: M. Stokes
    - Approved: 13-0-0

**FPPC Committee:** J. Gill indicated minutes were not received.

**PR Subcommittee:** T. Greenhouse as Chair, K. McClure as Secretary.

* Motion to accept PR Committee minutes
  + Motion: M. Stokes, Second: J. Innerarity
  + Approved: 13-0-0

**Budget and Review:** K. Lachney as Chair, J. Callegari as Secretary

* Motion to accept Budget and Review Committee minutes
  + Motion: B. Alwell, Second: S. Kumar
  + Approved: 13-0-0

**Improvement of Instruction:** S. Barnes as Chair, C. Bardales as Secretary

* Motion to accept Budget and Review Committee minutes
  + Motion: M. Stokes, Second: C. Stumpf
  + Approved: 13-0-0

**Old business:**

P**olicy Statement Revisions**

**PS 209:**

* Multiple Senators expressed the need for clarification for Dean/Director or Department Chair for certain responsibilities stated in the policy.
* Many expressed agreement with the summer pay proposals and that the historical notion of summer teaching is not our current reality.
* Discussion ensued about further responsibilities and pay for additional duties of research, scholarship, service, and other expectations.
* C. Thomas discussed her conversations with the Provost regarding pay, financial sustainability, academic assistants, and other ways we can negotiate. Some questioned as to what sustainability actually means given our growth and the push from LSU Online.
* Other discussion ensued on advising in the summer, pay for volunteer advising, the liability involved in it as a 9-month employee, and compensation.
* There was further discussion about how to quantify “service” for advising, especially for Instructors that naturally have a higher teaching load.
* We need further clarification and updates for the policy to clearly outline the roles and responsibilities of the Deans and Department Chairs. Several Senators expressed concern that there are no clear expectations for Department Chairs during the summer semester. There are older emails circulating that define certain standards, but there is no policy.
* Discussion ensued about how Academic Assistants are allocated to classes.
* We discussed the summer pay policy of LSUS. B. Alwell and C. Thomas discussed the summer pay of other universities and that we should include other universities in our discussions as an example of what others are doing.
* \*\* At end of meeting \*\* S. Kumar mentioned proper course caps and discussion ensued on language of how this can be implemented for different programs and their needs.

**PS 202:**

* Nothing specific from PS 202 Ad-Hoc Committee; we need to follow-up to see the work that was done regarding the separation of the evaluation forms from PS 202 and how to create the Annual Evaluations for merit increase purposes
* The PS 202 revision needs final edits, then go to LSU Legal. It will then come back to the Senate and then send it to SLT for final approval.

**PS 254:**

* This policy was changed with no faculty input about responding to students within 24 hours. C. Thomas will discuss the 48-hour change with SLT at her meeting tomorrow.
* Motion to move forward with the changes in the language
  + Motion: J. Innerarity, Second: J. Gill
  + Approved: 13-0-0

**Introduction of new business:**

1. **AI Policy**

* The university has no formal AI policy, but we were given guidance by Academic Affairs.
* J. Callegari discussed his previous experience with AI detection tools and how they were not as reliable as plagiarism detectors. He presented research that discussed their lack of validity and how other universities have stopped using these tools. He also discussed the risks of assigning grades based on these AI detection tools and how we as a university should handle it as a whole.
* Discussion ensued on whether we need to move forward with drafting a policy.
* Motion to take this discussion back to the departments for review and discussion
  + Motion: J. Gill, Second: L. Bradford
  + Approve: 13-0-0

1. **CurricuLog Workshop on November 8th at 2:30**

* C. Thomas said that a request to reschedule the meeting will be discussed with Dr. Beard. She asked all Senators to attempt to attend.
* Motion that L. Pitman be the CurricuLog Designee for Nursing
  + Motion: B. Alwell, Second: J. Gill
  + Approved: 13-0-0

1. **Policy on Internships**

* This is something covered in PS 209, but faculty discussion is desired.
* Discussion ensued about work hours vs. credit hours and the feasibility of the wording in the current policy, especially regarding on-campus vs. online students.
* J. Gill asked if we were consistent with what other universities require for their internship classes.
* B. Alwell also stated that this same concern was expressed during the meetings of the PS209 ad-hoc committee.
* \*\*Dr. Jialin Lei left the meeting at 4:57 PM\*\*
* Motion to ask A&S to review the internship policies of other universities and make suggestions for these practices for both on-campus and online courses
  + Motion: C. Stumpf, Second: J. Innerarity
  + Approved: 12-0-0

1. **Section Splitting**

* There was a lack of communication about sections being split.
* If they are split, they are to be treated as two separate classes and will appear as such on Moodle.
* C. Thomas expressed that SLT is trying to make incremental changes.

**Announcements/Looking ahead**

Next meeting: November 13, 2024

Departmental accomplishments or planned events:

* M. Stokes mentioned that several faculty from Liberal Arts presented papers at a conference this past weekend.

Motion to adjourn: C. Stumpf

Second: M. Stokes

Vote: 12-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 5:09 p.m.