

Faculty Senate Minutes
For 8.31.21:

Members Present: Deborah Wood, Laura Carroll, Matthew Stokes, Purujit Gurjar, Richard Elder, Rusty Gaspard, Sarah Barnes, Tanya Lueder, Cheryl Bardales (BIOL alternate), Jennifer Innerarity, Melissa LaBorde, Julie Gill

Guests Present: John Rowan, Paul Coreil, Haywood Joiner, Mary Treuting, Elizabeth Beard, & Randall Dupont

Call to Order: M. LaBorde called the meeting to order at 3:02pm.

Minutes:

The minutes from the April 27, 2021 meeting were approved electronically with a vote of 11-0-0 by the 2020/2021 senators.

Brief Guest Updates:

Report from Chancellor:

Dr. Coreil discussed how he would like feedback on an employee requirement of/for the COVID-19 vaccination. As with the student mandate, he stated that there will be exceptions for medical and religious reasons. He discussed the student vaccine requirement and did state that he has talked with several who are adamantly opposed. He did state that the university will continue to clean classrooms and require masks in buildings. Dr. Coreil also stated that there is a shortage of tests and cannot promise the frequency of testing for those unvaccinated.

He reported that over 70% of all LSUA employees are vaccinated and that over 100 students were vaccinated during the last week. The LSUA employee mandate would speak well with an example if students are required to have the vaccine.

M. LaBorde asked that the Senate move the item up on the agenda to vote. T. Lueder asked about students who are younger than 18 yo; Dr. Coreil stated that they would consider all aspects for any underage students.

It was stated, again, that non-vaccinated would be tested on a regular basis.

P.Gurjar asked if this would become a yearly vaccine. Dr. Coreil stated that there would be a booster available, soon, but it would be unknown after this year, dependent upon outside variables (i.e. new strains).

D. Wood made a motion that the Faculty Senate supports the LSUA Administration moving towards a COVID-19 mandate for LSUA employees with limited opt-out choices. J. Innerarity seconded the motion. As several senators reported that they had yet to discuss the potential mandate with their co-workers, the vote was tabled. M. LaBorde will ask for an electronic vote after all senators had the opportunity to speak with their peers.

Dr. Coreil did state that vaccination is verified via LINKS and encouraged all to complete the online survey.

Dr. Coreil reported that 17% of LSUA's students had been impacted by Hurricane Ida and lack of flexibility could result in reduced enrollment. He asked that everyone work with those affected.

Dr. Coreil also welcomes everyone to visit him and he thanked the Senate for their service to the LSUA campus. He is excited about the ability to hire new faculty and Dr. Rowan reported that LSUA hired eight new full-time faculty for the fall 2021 semester.

Report from Provost:

Dr. Rowan discussed several items of interest:

1) The most pressing issue was Hurricane Ida. Several hundred students have been negatively impacted and administration is currently in the process of contacting as many as possible. Unfortunately, they cannot reach all students at this time. Dr. Rowan requests that faculty remain flexible with those affected.

2) COVID – no significant issues, thus far in the semester, but he is informally seeking info from students, faculty, staff.

3) Looking ahead – A few items were presented:

a. There are several policy revisions that will be needed and he has shared a few drafts with Senate leadership. PS 202 needs to have the terminology aligned with the new university structure to include the terms of deans and department chairs appropriately. He would also like to see that there be an opportunity for full-time instructors to be promoted; he discussed the possibility of those with 10 years of service would be eligible to apply for promotion with a suggested \$2000 salary increase. He stated that this would not be automatic, but must be properly reviewed. He also mentioned that it would be a spring review compared to a tenure track fall review. This issue will need to be discussed at the appropriate Senate committees.

b. Endowed Professorships – He would like to see a simplified process of the requested materials; the current policy requires excessive paperwork.

c. Office Hours – He would like to see flexibility for those who are teaching online.

d. Faculty Awards – The current process does not always encourage faculty to complete the required materials. He would like to see the process of streamlining applications for nominees + the required materials submitted.

e. There is also a need for a policy for indirect allocations for grants (colleges, individuals, etc).

f. Dr. Rowan would also like to look at a fall semester event that highlights faculty scholarship (showcase or university lecture that is publicized).

g. He will also recommend who will serve on the upcoming Promotion/Tenure Committee to Dr. Coreil. The committee will be chosen from eligible faculty at full professor rank. He would like to know if anyone has any restrictions on the membership (PS 202 aspect) of the committee.

h. Dr. Rowan also spoke on the excitement of shared governance & faculty input; all must realize their full potential. He stated that he had served on Faculty Senate for six years and one year as chairman and understood the importance of shared governance. He mentioned growth mindset, as was mentioned at the Fall Convocation. He stated that faculty are the

backbone/soul of every university as administration comes/goes throughout the years. It is important that faculty and administration work together.

President's Report:

Requested that senators talk with our colleagues regarding any issues needed.

Committee Reports:

No minutes to approve.

Standing Committees:

M. LaBorde presented the assignments for committees:

1) Admissions & Standards

a. a student member is needed (min 30 completed credit hours) – all were asked to forward the names of potential candidates

b. PSYC will send a name, but had concern as their original person is a Director;

M. LaBorde encouraged R. Elder to forward the name of their nominee and Senate can vote for approval

2) Courses & Curricula

a. T. Lueder stated that she should be the MACS representative; she will verify with her department and report back to M. LaBorde

3) FPPC

a. Susan Bowers's name was forwarded from BIOL and we will need a vote to approve her as a committee member as she is the Director of CTE.

R. Elder moved to accept the Standing Committee Recommendations as presented with the ability to make changes, as needed.

D. Wood seconded the motion

The motion passed with a vote of: 12-0-0

Old Business:

The initial discussion to keep noon hour open for students became a larger discussion as to why students are not on campus; ultimately, the campus needs to think outside the box.

Bolton Award – input requested last semester from Dr. Rowan; M. LaBorde asking for suggestions to be e-mailed to Dr. Rowan

By-laws Ad hoc Committee – let M. LaBorde know if interested in serving on the committee; this will be a working committee that will seek out feedback from peers

PS 220

PS 220 – Financial exigency – must be updated as there is not a standing committee to review; M. LaBorde is requesting that Faculty Senate provide feedback; she will send the document via e-mail. There are other committees that may need to be reviewed to ensure that there is not a conflict with changes from PS 220

Dr. Coreil is making a concerted effort that the university properly follow the Policy Statements or consider the elimination of unused policies.

Policies should be reviewed on a three-year rotation; Dr. Coreil has asked that we be patient as this can be time consuming with the backlog and all the changes.

R. Elder explained for the benefit of new Senators that the Senate makes recommendations to Administration regarding the Policy Statements because a previous Vice Chancellor changed policies during a summer without faculty input.

M. LaBorde presented Sub-Committees documents as requested from Carol Corbat; it was discussed that each sub-committee must have one representative from each college. The following committees were discussed:

Public Relations – has all positions filled;

Budget & Review - is missing someone from the College of Liberal Arts;

Improvement of Instruction - needs a representative from the College of Liberal Arts, as well

- P. Gurjar questioned if a Director can serve; M. LaBorde explained that the Senate can approve the exception on a case by case basis and encouraged him to submit name for a Senate vote.

T. Lueder made a motion to accept sub-committee recommendations as presented with allowance to add new members as needed. L. Carroll seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 12-0-0.

New Business:

The Chancellor's Cabinet Representative vote process was sent via e-mail with an electronic vote. M. LaBorde explained that the red flag was that Dr. Coreil reached out and asked for a collaborative vote, but this process is outside the established faculty voting process, therefore, the vote could not be taken at the last Faculty Council meeting. The new Chancellor's Cabinet will include two faculty in addition to the Senate president; M. LaBorde is working with Takeyra Wagner to develop an electronic vote to ensure that everyone has only one vote. M. LaBorde did state that the Chancellor's Cabinet is more of a reporting committee with updates from the members with an occasional vote on an issue. The meeting dates/times would vary dependent upon the Chancellor's schedule.

Electronic Vote = 12-0-0 (did not hear from 2 senators)

Chancellor's Funds = \$35000 to divvy out to faculty; \$15K for travel and \$15K for research equipment & \$5K for field trips although we have the flexibility to move funds from category to category if needed.

- will need sub committees, today; J. Innerarity asked if fall/spring would have 2 cycles for applications and M LaBorde said we would put out the first call and see what we get. M.LaBorde also stated that people have been reimbursed in the past and that may be an option for this year.

The following senators volunteered for the following sub-committees:

Field Trips – D. Wood, J. Innerarity, & J. Gill

Travel – T. Lueder, P. Gurjar, & L. Carroll

Research Equipment – S. Barnes, M. Stokes, & R. Gaspard

M. LaBorde will send instructions regarding how those will be assessed and decided.

M. LaBorde encouraged everyone to gather information from colleagues regarding the potential COVID -19 mandate.

J. Gill asked about the criteria for recent employee raises. Dr. Rowan stated that there was not a rubric; the deans made recommendations, but did consult with department chairs when possible. Consideration was given to: on-time submissions of non-attendance reports/university reports; faculty reports; faculty plans; and accreditation work. The dean recommendations were sent to the Vice Chancellor/Provost for approval and the Chancellor signed off of them.

A senator stated that the letters were not received the previous week, as stated at the Convocation Meeting. Dr. Rowan reported that Deron Thaxton had stated that letters were due at the end of last week. It was also mentioned that raises were already posted on Workday;

Announcements:

There was a request to meet at 4p on Tuesday afternoons to accommodate a faculty member who has a lab. A compromise was presented that we meet at 3:30p; faculty consented to the new meeting time of 3:30p.

Next Meeting: Meet in Mulder Room 146 on Tuesday, September 13th at 3:30p

M. LaBorde requested that Senate members keep 3:30p available for every Tuesday to ensure that we can meet campus needs.

M. LaBorde also mentioned the Senator retreat on September 7 @ 4p.

M. LaBorde asked for Pats on the Back:

- 1) Haylee Malone – WOW
- 2) Ethan Lipsey - Orientation

Departmental accomplishments:

N/A

Adjournment:

Motion made by T. Lueder @ 4:14p; D. Wood seconded the motion.