

Faculty Senate Minutes
for September 14, 2021

Members Present: Beverly Alwell, Deborah Wood, Matthew Stokes, Purujit Gurjar, Richard Elder, Rusty Gaspard, Sarah Barnes, Tanya Lueder, Carol Corbat, Jennifer Innerarity, Melissa LaBorde, Julie Gill

Guests Present: John Rowan, Paul Coreil, William Holmes

Call to Order: 3:34p

Minutes: The minutes were sent via e-mail by M. LaBorde; corrections were submitted by T. Lueder and changes were made prior to the meeting by J. Gill.

R. Elder made motion to approve the minutes with the corrections.

D. Wood seconded the motion.

Vote: 9-0-1

Brief Guest Updates:

Report from Chancellor:

Dr. Coreil provided a quick update on the potential weather and stated that he was waiting for a new report at 4pm to determine how the campus would proceed for the next few days.

Dr. Coreil stated that some, if not all, faculty/staff should have received their salary increase letters; letters had been mailed to home addresses.

Dr. Coreil stated that the COVID Vaccination requirement was approved by both the Faculty Senate and the Staff Senate. However, testing kits are needed and are in short supply and the LSUA Health Clinic cannot test without kits. Faculty/Staff/Students can opt out of the vaccine requirement for religious/medical reason, but they will need weekly tests to remain on campus. He brought up the fact that not only will the Health Clinic need to test those individuals, but they must test athletes, as well.

He mentioned that Administration was about to make an offer for the new Strategic Communications position.

Dr. Coreil discussed the success of Shrimp Jam and how it was a fantastic event that made over \$50,000 for Athletics.

Dr. Coreil also mentioned that the campus wide drainage project should not cause additional flooding on campus, in the event that we would receive rain from the weather event. The Student Success Center was also stated to be on track.

Report from Provost:

Dr. Rowan was pleased to announce that a new Endowed Professorship is on horizon. He stated that it is not official, but he felt comfortable with mentioning it; the focus will be on Experiential Learning.

Dr. Rowan stated that due to the new Academic Structure, there is a proposed policy revision for Promo/Tenure (PS 202) and that it will be going forward to the Chancellor's Cabinet the week of September 20th. He stated that along with the changes that relate to the responsibilities of the deans and department chairs, there is also a proposal to allow Instructors the opportunity to earn a promotion to Assistant Professor, which would include a \$2000 raise. He stated that he has unanimous support from the deans and chairs and the changes would be made effective for Spring 2022. He also stated that he has had positive feedback from Instructors who would be affected. He wanted Faculty Senate to provide feedback and he acknowledged that faculty should be contributors to the policy change. J.Gill asked if FPPC had the opportunity to review the document and M. LaBorde stated that the Faculty Senate would discuss this later in the meeting.

Dr. Rowan also stated that the Director of Career Development position has been delayed as the committee wanted to extend advertisement to recruit diverse applicants

Dr. Rowan also stated that the next Chancellor's Cabinet Meeting is scheduled for next Wednesday, September 22 at 10 a.m.

President's Report:

There is currently a Resolution on the Board of Supervisors agenda to abolish the Faculty Council. M. LaBorde sent a link to all senators for review of the resolution/proposal. She stated that we need to stay in tune with their (LSU) policy changes as we can be affected, also. C. Corbat asked if we need to contact someone at the Board of Supervisors office to state that the policy changes would/could affect all campuses.

Ad Hoc By-Laws Committee – There is concern regarding the Library representation on this sub-committee since they now fall under E. Halpin and are not listed with the academic units.

M. LaBorde spoke with the Interim Director of Library Services who felt that a representative was not needed but thanked the Senate for always including the library faculty members. Committee Members: M. Stokes, D. Wood, R. Elder, T. Lueder (Chair), J. Gill, J Rogers & R.Romero; The first meeting is set for 9/21 @ 2pm.

M. LaBorde stated that the conversation regarding course schedules are still on the Senate agenda. R.Elder reported that his Monday/Wednesday class was moved to 12:30pm; J. Gill also stated that her MW class was moved from 1:00pm to 12:30pm. as well. M. LaBorde asked Dr. Rowan to address the issue since he was in attendance; he stated that he was unaware of these schedule changes and that the noon hour can be opened in the Fall 2022 to ensure that classes did not occur during that time frame.

Committee Reports:

Approval of minutes for the P&P Ad Hoc Committee

- C. Corbat reported that the meeting with Shelly Gill was enlightening and S. Gill was forthcoming, open, and transparent with her conversation with the sub-committee. S. Gill asked for a campus policy to be developed and was very helpful with information to help formulate a policy.

R. Elder moved to accept the minutes from the P&P Ad Hoc Committee Meeting.

T. Lueder seconded the motion.

Vote: 11-0-0

Committee Appointments

C. Corbat discussed the list of Committee Appointments for 2021-2022.

M. LaBorde shared the list of Standing Committees and Sub-Committees

Changes to the lists included:

C&C – Tess Myers will replace Sarah Barnes

Public Relations – Rusty Gaspard or Michelle Waller will represent the library. Rusty will let us know. Student = Olivia Chapman

Budget & Review – Holly Wilson will represent Liberal Arts. Student = Tashia Monohan

M. Stokes moved to accept the list of Committee Appointments including those members who are chairs.

Purujit Gurjar seconded the motion.

Vote: 11-0-0

C. Corbat will send out calls for 1st meetings and include the committee charges for each Senate committee. She will ask for elected officers from each committee, also.

C. Corbat questioned the By-Laws, article III, section I, item D, Improvement of Instruction, Budget & Review, & Public Relations as each sub-committee does not have 5 senators from each college + members. Brief discussion followed about the ambiguity of the wording in the Bylaws and M LaBorde noted that this should be corrected in the rewrite. For this transition year, the committees will operate as presented.

Old Business:

M. LaBorde asked if any suggestions had been forwarded to Dr. Rowan regarding how to modify the application process for the Bolton Teaching Award. No one reported sending suggestions. She encouraged Senators to send suggestions to Dr. Rowan if they have any.

M. LaBorde asked for suggestions that need to be addressed for By-Laws Ad Hoc committee and asked that Senators forward suggestions soon.

Discussion ensued regarding Policy Statement 202B

M. LaBorde stated that the changes forwarded by Dr. Rowan included more than the changes of dean/department chair to align with the new academic structure. Yes, 202B – requires realignment with new academic structure but M. LaBorde has asked that the policy changes not move forward as faculty are questioning the changes, particularly the change regarding Instructors. M. LaBorde asked how Faculty Senate would like to move forward. J. Gill asked if we can receive the proposed changes to review. M. LaBorde prepared to present the proposed changes on the overhead screen while discussion continued.

Rowan stated that the Faculty Senate should represent faculty, but part of his role is also to represent the faculty. He asked for feedback on the instructor promotion issue by December. He indicated that C. Corbat proposed an interim policy that addresses the deans/chairs changes; but she indicated that she is concerned regarding other proposed changes outside of the Instructor promotion. She further indicated that the changes submitted were not on the record copy maintained by the Chancellor's Office and such changes must go through FPPC. Dr. Coreil, Chancey Slider and C. Corbat have established a process for updating policy statements that must be followed.

M. LaBorde – emphasized that we must vet 202B correctly; it is hard to see how policies are changed if changes are made quickly and she has concerns about getting away from processes. Rowan asked if the problem is that he wants Instructors to be involved in the promotion process. He asked for a straw poll from the Senate and M LaBorde denied the request because the Senators had not had time to solicit input from their colleagues. M. LaBorde stated that promotion and tenure are clearly under faculty purview and faculty input must be more than a hallway conversation. Faculty decisions should be done through the recognized channel which is the Faculty Senate. D. Wood stated that previous changes negatively impacted Nursing Accreditation, and proper review by faculty will prevent potential issues.

R. Elder stated that he wants to review the proposed changes before casting any type of vote. Rowan asked, again, if he can send the proposed changes to R. Elder and M LaBorde asked that he not send anything until the Senators and respective departments could review it.

C. Corbat cautioned that the changes must be on the current policy document so track changes could be viewed for documentation purposes as per Dr. Coreil's established procedure.

D. Wood added that without Senators bringing proposed changes back to each respective department, Dr. Rowan does not have full representation to move forward by Monday, September 20. M LaBorde asked that Dr. Rowan not move the policy forward until proper faculty input, through the proper channel, could be secured. She also asked that Dr. Rowan please not view the decision not to vote on the policy as being obstructionist, but as the Senate working as it should to garner faculty input.

M. LaBorde shared that 68 people have voted on the two Faculty Representatives for the Chancellor's Cabinet. She asked that we remind our department co-workers to vote by the Wednesday deadline.

M. LaBorde also stated that she e-mailed the information regarding the Chancellor's Funds and had already had faculty ask about the opportunity to apply for travel, field trips, and research funds.

M. LaBorde explained to the Senate that the new Endowed Professorship, as previously mentioned by Dr. Rowan, means that LSUA has raised \$60,000 to move it forward to the Board of Regents for a match of \$40,000.

New Business:

M. LaBorde asked if we want her to draft a letter to express concerns about the proposed revisions of the regulations of the LSU Board of Supervisors.

C. Corbat made a motion that would allow M. LaBorde to write a letter to the chair and the executive director of the Board of Supervisors indicating our concerns in their attempt to abolish the LSU Faculty Council. M. LaBorde will send a draft of the letter to all senators for comments prior to sending to the board.

D. Wood seconded the motion.

Vote: 11-0-0

Announcements:

Pat on the Back – Admission Recruiters

Walter Braun – VWR Vendor Representative for WorkDay

Purujit Gurjar stated that the Chemistry Department is looking for a new chemistry faculty member for the spring semester.

Next Meeting:

September 28 @ 3:30pm

Adjournment:

T. Lueder moved to adjourn the meeting at 4:33pm.

D. Wood seconded the motion.

Vote: 11-0-0