

**LSUA Faculty Senate
Minutes of a Meeting
30 September 2019**

Senators Present: Michelle Riggs, Melissa Whitley, Rob Wright (alternate for Richard Elder), Melissa Parks, Bernard Gallagher (alternate for Missy LaBorde), Kent Lachney, Carol Corbat, Prakash Ghimire (late)

Guests: John Rowan, Provost and Deron Thaxton, Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administration

Call to order: Whitley called the Senate to order at 12:04 p.m. and noted presence of a quorum

Minutes: Lachney moved approval of the Minutes from 16 September. Motion passed 5 for, 0 against, 2 abstentions

President's Report: Whitley reported that information on applications for Chancellor's Fund monies was sent to all faculty on 20 September. LaBorde has contacted Senate committees and asked them to meet. At our next meeting we will be looking at policy statement review.

Provost's Report: Rowan reported that work is continuing on the strategic plan. He will have forums on this topic on Tuesday 15 October at 2:00 and 3:30 and an announcement will be sent soon. He also said there is a potential change to the powerpoint on academic restructuring where chairs would teach 3 classes one semester and 2 classes the other semester rather than 3/3. Rowan also asked for faculty input on prioritizing 3 items: 1) adding more faculty, 2) increasing salaries, and 3) increasing adjunct compensation. Senators were asked to poll their departments on these priorities.

Gallagher suggested that it would be good for each department to have a way to communicate among departmental faculty about Senate issues. Corbat mentioned Biology has a faculty Moodle site for such discussion.

Ad hoc Committees: Whitley asked if Senators had gathered departmental reps to be selected for the Academic Integrity Committee and the Workload Issues Committee. The following were named as being willing to serve.

Allied Health – Tess Meyers

Education – Conley Hathorn and Julie Gill

Business – Beverly Alwell (for Academic Integrity) and Long Li (for workload)

Psychology – Cynthia Thomas (for workload)

Library – Michelle Riggs (will serve as needed but can contribute more to academic integrity)

Biology – no volunteers for academic integrity

Committee Reports: There were none.

Old Business:

Whitley thanked Thaxton for attending to address issues brought up at a previous meeting. On the issue of backup for internet, Thaxton reported that historically we have had no backup for LONI. Eighteen months ago we partnered with Suddenlink for backup but at a slower speed. It is cost prohibitive to contract for backup at a similar band width to LONI. It would cost \$40-50K per year. There have been very few long term outages with LONI. However, LSUA is looking at the issue and the possibility of getting backup somewhere in a middle band width.

Regarding the quick timeout on MyLSUA, Thaxton said it was increased from 15 to 30 minutes but they are trying to keep accounts secure, so they have to log out users who are inactive. He said faculty and student time outs cannot be set separately. Moodle and Self Service have separate time outs.

Moodle maintenance may be a solvable issue. Upgrades are scheduled by the host – eThink. However, we have some latitude to get them to move them within a few days. Additionally, we may be able to get them to identify days of the

week they upgrade so faculty can plan around the upgrades or to specify certain dates each term. Senators noted that more notice on the outages would be helpful.

The issue regarding 9-month faculty who wish to spread paychecks over 12 months may not be solvable. Thaxton said that they are no longer working on this in Workday, so there is no solution at this point. He said faculty can split checks into multiple accounts so one could be a savings for summer months. Gallagher offered to take a resolution on this issue to the Council of Faculty Advisors.

Regarding Bookstore unresponsiveness, Thaxton reported that Chelsea is only here part time now and is leaving in December. Barnes & Noble is interviewing for her position. Thaxton asked if departments were considering open source texts. Corbat said Biology had looked at some for intro courses and had constructed its own lab manuals for some courses and provided them at no cost to students. Wright pointed out that some of the open source texts don't come with all of the accessibility features needed for online classes.

Thaxton was asked about a huge deficit in the athletics budget and acknowledged that over 6 years the deficit has grown to a little over a million dollars. Because athletics is an auxiliary, the overage is paid from the auxiliary fund balance since other auxiliaries make money. He further indicated that although there had been no monitoring of spending the past 4 years, they were now monitoring and trying to cut back on the spending. Senators were aware of the benefits of athletics to the campus and Thaxton indicated that the Generals Athletics Association was trying to find a group to champion fundraising for athletics.

Closed Session: The meeting did not go into closed session but Whitley explained that the reason she had put it on the agenda was that she was told that Dr. Alexander was considering appointing Dr. Coreil as our Chancellor (not interim) and not have a search for the position. Gallagher pointed out that was a disservice to Dr. Coreil, as he would be forever known for having been appointed without a search, as though he would not be able to compete if there was a search. Corbat pointed out that this seemed premature considering Dr. Coreil was only a few months into his interim position. She said we all feel better with him in the position because he's a nice person, but there hasn't been time for us to see what he can do with academics, the budget deficit, etc. Thaxton said he doubted that what Whitley had heard was true, but she said she had it on good authority.

At that point the meeting adjourned as it was 1:02 and some had already left for class.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Corbat, Secretary.

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY ALEXANDRIA

Faculty Senate

302 Mulder Hall

September 30, 2019 at 12:00 p.m.

AGENDA

- I. Determination of quorum – Call to order
- II. Approval/Revisions of Minutes (9/16/19)
- III. Report of President (see attached)
 - a. Update from Provost, Dr. Rowan
- IV. Report of Committees
 - a. None
- V. Agenda Business items (Old Business)
 - a. Concerns for Deron Thaxton (internet, moodle backup, logout myLSUA, bookstore, and faculty pay divided over 12 months.)
- VI. New Business
 - a. Search Committee for Chancellor (request closed session)
- VII. Adjournment



DATE: September 23, 2019

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Melissa Whitley, M.S.R.S., R.T.(R)
Faculty Senate President

RE: President's Report

1. After confirmation of funds, I sent out information and application for the Chancellor's Fund on Friday, Sept.20th.
2. M. LaBorde has contacted faculty senate committees to convene to elect officers and set meeting times.
3. Next meeting we should consult with Provost Rowan and get started on reviewing Policy Statements scheduled for this year.