

LSUA Faculty Senate
Minutes of a Meeting (via ZOOM)
12 May 2020

Senators Present: Kent Lachney, Carol Corbat, Michelle Riggs Waller, Missy LaBorde, Jennifer Innerarity, Melissa Whitley, Kerry Ordes, Melissa Parks, Prakash Ghimire, Richard Elder, Deborah Wood

Guests Present: John Rowan, Paul Coreil, Monica Aguilera, Ricky Brazell

Call to Order: Whitley called the meeting to order and established a quorum at 8:01 a.m. She then called on Dr. Coreil to give a report.

Chancellor's Report: Coreil expressed congratulations on the success of Scholar Day. He said that the State is beginning Phase I of return from the stay-at-home order on Monday. A few people will come back to campus in enrollment management, finance, and accounting. Facilities never left but custodial will be coming back. The Legislature is back in session. They are estimating a \$1 billion shortfall and looking to replace that shortfall with federal Coronavirus relief dollars. It will be a decision of the Governor's office as far as what qualifies for those funds. A letter went to LSUA students regarding CARES funds for students. We are distributing those monies but it does have limitations such as going to students with needs. Graduation will be virtual on Thursday at 10:00 a.m. Tomorrow, ALLH and NURS will hold pinning ceremonies. Regarding LSUA helping to produce PPE as had been previously mentioned, the Governor's office has been slow on making that decision, so we have decided not to participate.

Senator Cassidy has asked the LSU System to do a study with faculty, staff and students for COVID-19 antibodies. There is a 25% capacity standard for classrooms right now with faculty and students wearing masks and frequent cleaning. We can do outside activities on campus, but there has been no word on sports events. We have lots of support from donors for students who have emergencies such as fire, illness, etc.

The Enrollment Task Force is coming back to life. Online numbers are strong and growing but he is concerned about on-campus students. We need to focus on them and make that our major priority. We have a goal of 5000 students by 2025 but it needs to be a mix of online and on-campus students. Coreil has some innovative ideas he'll share later.

Whitley asked about a tuition discount for remote classes. LSU did one for summer. Coreil said LSUA already has such cheap tuition we can't afford it. We are trying to get the message out about our affordability.

LaBorde asked about re-opening for fall and whether there was the possibility of blended courses. Coreil said some of the larger sections may have to remain online. The earliest for Phase 2 would be mid-June and we could possibly have Phase 3 by fall.

Lachney asked about the downturn in on-campus enrollment – was it in new or continuing students? Coreil said we need to look at retail and groceries. A rural campus could have advantages during COVID. We need to get into the high schools more and get the word out in local high schools. We are updating housing. There will be no food service over summer.

Parks said we need to ask students also what they want. Coreil agreed. He said we need to look at other rural campuses also. He also noted that international enrollment will be a challenge with COVID.

Whitley then called on Dr. Rowan to give his report.

Provost's Report: Rowan said congratulations to the new Senate leadership. He wants to meet with them to look ahead. He said that we need to make sure we don't lose on-campus students. We need excellent programming and activities for the campus community.

Rowan said he wanted to make sure everyone knows the good things that have been happening. Biological Sciences obtained a grant for over \$400,000 from the Board of Regents. Nursing obtained a grant for over \$400,000 from Blue Cross. LSUA's online RN to BSN program is the top in the state. He said we need to share when we have good news. We are struggling with our on campus population and in 5-6 years we are slated to have a drop because of declines in high school graduates.

Rowan indicated we are submitting more grant proposals from LSUA. He will send out a reminder about the process.

Advising for summer is still going to be needed. All faculty need to have email/phone information for their advisees to be directed to where they can get advised over summer.

Under Phase I nothing will change for faculty. We will continue to work remotely. The Registrar may have people online. Even under Phase 2, which would be June 8 at earliest, a lot of us would still be working off campus.

At the LSU System Academic Affairs meeting, they discussed faculty research. An extension of the tenure clock is possible if research was interrupted by COVID. Faculty may request this.

For summer classes, LSUA will pay for proctored exams, but Rowan is asking faculty to use Proctor U Review +. If faculty need to use Proctor U Live they should please check with him.

For fall, they are planning for 50% of space capacity. Some classes may have to move online. We also have to have contingency plans to switch to online at any time. Elder noted that moving F2F classes to 16-weeks online rather than 7 weeks might be helpful. Lachney noted that there should be provisions for faculty/staff with health issues that would be impacted by classroom teaching and for whom teaching remotely may be the best option. Whitley asked if the bookstore was shipping books. Rowan didn't know. Waller reminded everyone that there are online texts available and if anyone wanted to use them to talk to a librarian. She also asked about technology. Rowan said the digital divide has been discussed but they don't have any solutions.

Whitley asked about bottom up evaluations of administrators. Rowan said he would check. She also asked about the P/W option that was in effect for spring and the number of students that had taken advantage of it. Rowan did not know the number.

Minutes: LaBorde moved approval of the Minutes from the April 28, 2020 Senate meeting as well as the minutes from the Senate's Election meeting that same day, with the addition of Lachney's name to those present. Motion passed 11-0-0.

Committee Reports:

FPPC Minutes of 4-13-20: Lachney moved approval and Elder seconded. Corbat noted that there was a section that was in error and suggested the minutes needed to be sent back for correction. Under the recommendation on PS 211 (Salary Scale for Part-time Faculty), #3, the statement referred to is not in PS 211 but in PS 233 (Part-time Faculty). Lachney and Elder amended their motion to send the minutes back to FPPC for correction. Motion passed 11-0-0.

Budget and Review Minutes of 3-12-20: Elder moved approval. Corbat asked about a bullet under committee discussion that referred to "Personal Resource Budgets" in PS 237 (Computing Resources and Policies for Use). Lachney, who is on the committee, said he had emails out trying to find out what that meant. Motion passed 11-0-0.

Old Business:

Remaining Chancellor's Funds: Whitley reported no updates on this and referred requests to Rowan.

PS 230 & PS 242: Admissions and Standards had recommended combining PS 230 (Persons with Disabilities) and PS 242 (Students with Disabilities) at their meeting on 31 March 2020. A&S wanted to align the policies with LSU's PS 26. Waller noted that Daniel Manuel was already working on revising these policies. Corbat noted that faculty committees normally didn't re-write these policies but passed on recommendations for changes to the administration. Motion to pass on the committee's recommendation and allow Manuel and administration to draft new policy was approved 11-0-0.

Admissions and Standards had recommended adding the timeline from PS 278 (Grievance Procedure policy) to a grievance procedure to be included for the revision of PS 242 and 230. Corbat made a motion to recommend to administration to incorporate a similar timeline in the revision of PS 242. Motion passed 11-0-0.

PS 213: Improvement of Instruction had recommended in their minutes of April 2020 that PS 213 (Professional Ethics): language be updated with regard to gender pronouns and noted that the AAUP had a more current statement. Also in those minutes was a suggestion that wording be changed under #3 in the policy where specific responsibilities of faculty are addressed. Corbat pointed out that the language in the minutes was awkward and suggested the following substitute language, "A teacher will design and deliver course information in an appropriate method/format, engage students in discussions, conduct laboratory demonstrations and perform other activities that are related to, and meet the requirements of, the courses." Corbat then made a motion to recommend to administration to update PS 213 with the new AAUP statement and the revised wording noted above for faculty responsibility #3. Motion passed 11 – 0 – 0.

PS 237: Corbat made a motion that the Senate delay recommendations on this policy until Budget and Review gets information back from Deron Thaxton. Lachney said he will follow up with Thaxton and Jason Normand. Motion passed 10-0-0.

New Business:

Transition to fall: Whitley said that Corbat had asked for this item to be added to the agenda and asked Corbat to explain. Corbat explained that her thinking was that faculty should have input on the decisions made on the transition to a fall semester with COVID. In the spring, everything was done in an emergency situation and there was no time to think things through and get input, but going into fall, we have time. We have an opportunity and a responsibility for better planning so that students get the best possible experience. Elder asked if the Senate should continue to meet over the summer. LaBorde said she didn't think that we should limit the input to just the Senate as there may be some especially challenging areas we might want to include. Someone suggested that Teresa Seymour should also be included. Rowan said that faculty input would be great and he would be fine with the Senate establishing a committee. He said he would be grateful to the Senate for being willing to participate. He suggested we could each request information from constituents on obstacles that occurred in the spring as well as unique ways of doing things that worked. Senate decided to meet again by ZOOM on May 22nd. Each Senator should collect information on issues from their department and how much we should ask of faculty versus insuring quality.

Other Business:

Rowan reported that he had found out while the meeting was going on that bottom-up evaluations are organized by HRM and that they are only being done every 2 years. Elder made a motion that we recommend bottom up evaluations be done annually. Motion passed 10-0-0.

Elder asked if there was federal funding available for new things needed such as special software or technology for teaching labs remotely. Rowan said LSUA can do what it wants with CARES funding but LSUA is using it to offset state budget cuts now and he expects that we will probably have to act without knowing if we will be reimbursed.

Meeting adjourned at 10:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by
Carol A. Corbat, Secretary