

Faculty Senate Minutes
For 10.12.21:

Members Present: Beverly Alwell, Deborah Wood, Matthew Stokes, Purujit Gurjar, Richard Elder, Rusty Gaspard, Sarah Barnes, Tanya Lueder, Carol Corbat, Jennifer Innerarity, Hal Langford (alternate), David Shanks (alternate), Julie Gill

Guests Present: John Rowan, Paul Coreil, Randall Dupont

Call to Order:

C. Corbat called the meeting to order at 3:31p.
J. Innerarity determined a quorum

H. Langford moved to accept agenda.
D. Shanks seconded the motion.
Vote: 12-0-0

Minutes:

Motion was made to approve
R. Elder made the motion.
M. Stokes seconded the motion.
Vote: 12-0-0

Brief Guest Updates:

Report from Chancellor:

Dr. Coreil mentioned \$1 billion surplus in the state budget; the state constitution has provisions that dictate specific funds, but \$500 million will be available to distribute across the state. He stated that this speaks well for Higher Education and this is due to federal dollars added to the treasury.

- The highest priority is faculty raises and the funds may assist with the building of the Student Success Center, as the funds will be a one time expenditure.

He spoke on the progress of the drainage project and that although it may appear to be worse than better, he thanked everyone for their patience during the process. Dr. Coreil acknowledged challenges with parking for those on the closed roadway.

The School of Nursing received continuing accreditation until 2029. He acknowledged their hard work towards accreditation.

Dr. Coreil stated that CREST Industries committed \$100,000 for the “Accountants for the Future” program (over 4 years). These funds will be used to help with the salary of another accounting instructor/professor as enrollment is growing for the accounting program.

Adam Lord was hired as the new Assistant Vice Chancellor for Strategic Communication. Dr. Coreil asked that all departments work with him regarding strategic planning for their departmental communication.

Dr. Coreil emphasized his open door policy.

Dr. Coreil also discussed how fall 2021 enrollment is looking good and that it also positively affects us, financially. He again stated that he is happy to see that more faculty were hired.

He mentioned that there are a few challenges, facility wise, but the surplus will help. One item to consider is needed updates to the Bolton Library that will help modernize the building.

H. Langford reported to the Chancellor that several junior faculty members have reported that they have been intimidated by members of the Faculty Senate. H. Langford stated that he cannot confirm that this is true or not, but he asked that Dr. Coreil have Chief Collins investigate the potential bullying. He stated that it is irreprehensible and illegal. Dr. Coreil responded to his request and stated that there is training that addresses power based influence.

C. Corbat stated that there were avenues in place to address any grievances by faculty; H. Langford stated that it was an illegal behavior. J. Innerarity stated that as an officer for the previous 20 years, that there must be criminal activity for law enforcement to become involved. The Chancellor stated that he would speak with Human Resources to determine how to progress with the request.

H. Langford stated that they (junior faculty members) were intimidated with their future at the university. T. Lueder asked if the situation was a civil matter if it was not criminal behavior. H. Langford retorted that he would have a private attorney to file suit.

R. Gaspard asked what the avenue would be, regarding H. Langford's request. C. Corbat stated that there was a Faculty Grievance procedure, but the Faculty Senate Could also ask Dr. Coreil to consult with HRM.

T. Lueder asked if it was members who are on the Faculty Senate. H. Langford stated that junior faculty have reported to him that they were threatened by those with tenure who could vote against them. No other senate member indicated knowledge of any such issue.

T. Lueder directed a statement to Dr. Coreil regarding the receipt of CARES Act money by students. Dr. Coreil responded that students did receive funds and he also reported that some of the money was used for the Library. He went on to state that there is increased activity on campus and there is a vibrance felt with students across campus. J. Gill asked about whether or not the CARES Act money could be used for student debt at a university. Dr. Coreil stated that funds can now be used, by students, to pay off student debt to universities.

Dr. Coreil stated that COVID vaccinations will be required in January 2022. Faculty/staff may opt out for religious/medical reasons while students may opt out for religious/medical/personal reasons. If one chooses not to be vaccinated, the university will test them as often as possible,

but tests are still limited. T. Lueder asked what happens if they do not test? He stated they are looking at that right now.

Report from Provost:

Dr. Rowan mentioned enrollment and the recent press release regarding the fall 2021 enrollment. He stated that people are congratulating us regarding the increase. Dr. Rowan reported that the increase was all online while on campus enrollment was “flat” for the semester. He stated that we are doing better than average when compared to the nation and the state. Nationwide the trend is that enrollment is down by 3.3%; in La = 1.3%; LSUA enrollment is positive, at this time.

He reported that the number of First Time Freshmen (for 2021) is down 35 students from 2020 (more than 5% down) and that administration will look at how online First Time Freshmen have affected his enrollment.

Dr. Coreil reminded everyone that Fall 2nd session begins next week and he asked that everyone be available to assist students, as needed. Fall registration also begins on Monday, Oct 25, 2021.

He mentioned the LSUA Open House on Saturday, November 13, 2021; he asked everyone to remind their departments to have interesting materials and be prepared to recruit students & parents.

He also offered congratulation to the School of Nursing for their re-accreditation accomplishment.

He discussed the new trainings that will be offered through the Office of Diversity, Inclusion, & Equity. Starting in 2022, all full time employees will be required to attend at least one workshop per year. The office will host 2 workshops on November 18, 2021 and these workshops will count for 2022.

Dr. Rowan also mentioned that C. Slider will be in her new office on Mon, Oct 25th. Jennifer Parish will be the new assistant in that space and C. Slider will help her with the transition. C. Slider will assist with WorkDay Trainings for all academics, but will not be responsible for completing tasks for faculty/staff.

President’s Report:

C. Corbat presented M. LaBorde’s report; M. LaBorde sent her report electronically as she is away at a conference. There was no discussion regarding the President’s Report.

Committee Reports:

C. Corbat presented the committee reports that were submitted, thus far. No standing or sub-committee reports have been received, but the following committees elected the following faculty members as their respective chairs.

Admissions & Standards - Christof Stumpf

Courses & Curricula - Alice Black

Faculty Policy & Procedures Committee - John Marks

Budget & Review - Bernard Gallagher

Improvement of Instruction - Cathy Robinson

C. Corbat also reported that the Public Relations committee has not met, but R. Gupta, senior faculty member, will schedule a meeting.

C. Corbat stated that there were two Ad-hoc Committee Reports to receive.

1. Policies & Procedures

R. Elder moved to receive the minutes

H. Langford seconded the motion

Vote: 12-0-0

2. Constitution and By-Laws Committee

R. Elder moved to receive the minutes

T. Lueder seconded the motion

Vote: 12-0-0

C. Corbat asked if T. Lueder would send out dates/times for the Constitution and By-Laws Committee meetings so that other faculty can attend. T. Lueder reported that the committee will meet every other week on the opposite Tuesday of the Senate meetings. The committee will meet at 2:00p in Mulder 232.

C. Corbat asked if everyone would look at the link she sent regarding C&C access. She stated that it should be available to all at this time.

Old Business:

C. Corbat stated that J. Rowan had requested recommendations for the Bolton Award for Teaching Excellence application and that J. Gill reported that the documents were not on record/file. J. Gill stated that J. Rowan did forward the e-mail that was sent the past 2 years requesting recommendations for the award. Discussion ensued regarding contact with the Chancellor's Office for original paperwork. J. Rowan stated that he would like feedback regarding the process.

C. Corbat stated that the PS 202B updates had been sent out to all faculty and were posted.

C. Corbat asked for reports on the Chancellor's Fund Reports:

1. Field Trips – the committee recommended that Dr. Kite's application be moved to Research/Travel and that he complete an application for each trip, as stated in the application guidelines. It was recommended that Ms. Young reapply for later funding as she is an adjunct and the courses are for CORE. It was recommended that Mr. Simmons reapply for later funding as the requested fund amounts did not match on the form and the budget sheet of the application.

2. Research – the committee recommended that all be funded, except that Dr. Lueder and Mr. Shanks receive \$513 less in order to meet the \$15K budget limit.

3. Travel – the committee recommended that all be funded since the total allotment would be less than \$14K. They did state that there should be McCann funds through the CTE, if needed for spring travel requests. Discussion ensued regarding whether or not the funds should be split into two application periods. T. Lueder stated that we need to ensure that people are not double dipping with funds and that they are only provided funding from one source.

H. Langford asked if attendance at a conference should be considered over someone who is not presenting. T. Lueder asked if there should be a priority for presentations; it was discussed that the application asks if the applicant will present, but does not specify that priority should be given.

C. Corbat asked if the Faculty Senate had previously decided to provide two application periods for travel. P. Gurjar and T. Lueder stated that they would review the applications, again, if needed. C. Corbat stated that the Faculty Senate will need to review previous minutes to determine if two application periods were approved.

H. Langford offered some of his Endowed Chair monies to help fund some of the research equipment proposed. H. Langford stated that he would meet with the Research Committee to discuss the possibility. J. Gill stated that Field Trip money could be redirected, if needed, for the spring semester. C. Corbat asked if the Faculty Senate could research the minutes and return for a discussion regarding the previous vote.

New Business:

H. Langford moved for a Vote of No Confidence against for the Provost, J. Rowan. C. Corbat declined to accept the motion because a Vote of No Confidence is not something that the Faculty Senate can conduct. H. Langford stated that the Faculty Senate can do so as per Article IV of the LSUA Constitution and By-Laws. C. Corbat pointed out that it is specifically covered in Article III, Section 3 of the LSUA Constitution and By-Laws and that the vote must originate in the Faculty Council.

H. Langford stated that he, M. LaBorde, & C. Corbat have been in conversation regarding this Vote of No Confidence for a week and he implied that C. Corbat should have told him about Article III. C. Corbat corrected H. Langford that he sent an e-mail on Thursday, October 7, 2021, a day prior to when she left for a field trip and she researched the issue when she returned that night. H. Langford said that M. LaBorde and C. Corbat were ok with this motion; C. Corbat clarified that she and M. LaBorde were not ok with this motion/action. H. Langford stated that he has served on other faculty senates, at other universities, and that the LSUA Faculty Senate should not be an adversarial body with Administration. H. Langford stated that this will continue to come up again and that he will propose it at the next Faculty Council meeting. He stated that rights have been impinged and that it is time for it to end. C. Corbat stated that what H. Lanford may hold as his opinion as what is considered adversarial, is not what the Faculty Senate has discussed. H. Langford stated that he has heard this from across campus. R. Gaspard

asked for examples of how Faculty Senate is adversarial. H. Langford stated that the Faculty Senate has discussed a Vote of No Confidence this semester. C. Corbat and J. Innerarity interjected and stated that no such vote has been mentioned or discussed in a Faculty Senate meeting. J. Innerarity stated that the situation seemed like a personal issue between H. Langford and C. Corbat because he was addressing C. Corbat, personally, with his statements.

H. Langford went on to state that M. LaBorde spoke with D. Thaxton regarding conducting a Vote of No Confidence against the Provost.

C. Corbat stated that the only mention of a Vote of No Confidence by Faculty Senate has been as the worst extreme that can exist between a Faculty Senate and Administration. It is one end of a continuum with the other end being that we are all in total agreement.

H. Lanford stated that it was imperative that this Faculty Senate not only work with Administration, but protect the rights of the faculty. He stated that it is imperative that faculty not be seen, across the university, to be in an adversarial relationship with the Provost and the Chancellor. H. Langford stated that he has spoken with people in every department and college and has received reports that people perceive the Faculty Senate to be adversarial with Administration. C. Corbat stated that she cannot speak to the opinions of others. C. Corbat went on to state that she & M. LaBorde meet with Dr. Rowan every two weeks and Senate Leadership meets with Dr. Coreil monthly. C. Corbat emphasized that she is speaking for herself, but the meetings are always professional meetings. C. Corbat also stated that although she may not always agree with J. Rowan, that did not mean that she believes that he is incompetent or incapable of doing his job. She reiterated that she has not heard anyone suggest a Vote of No Confidence on any member of the current administration.

M. Stokes stated that he is a junior faculty member and that he has not felt threatened and has not observed adversarial behavior while serving on the Faculty Senate.

D. Wood stated that there may be disagreements between parties, but that there is no dislike for others.

C. Corbat pointed out that the most controversial thing to come before the Faculty Senate, recently, was the academic restructuring. She pointed out that Senators represented their departments regarding the academic restructuring and the Senate voted to approve the academic restructuring.

J. Innerarity asked for specific examples of adversarial behavior. R. Gaspard asked the connection with D. Thaxton as he is not an academic. H. Langford stated that he has specific examples and would want to notify the person before time to present those examples.

C. Corbat stated that the Faculty Senate has determined that the Vote of No Confidence is not something that the Faculty Senate is able to address, but that H. Langford can bring his concerns before the Faculty Council at the next meeting. H. Langford conferred with J. Rowan regarding when the Faculty Council would meet again and then stated that he would present his concerns at the next Faculty Council meeting.

C. Corbat stated that a Vote of No Confidence is something that should be reserved for extreme situations and that by even bringing the vote up, it would look bad in the press. H. Langford could harm LSUA as Faculty Senate minutes are available to the public. This could look bad for LSUA even though this suggestion is coming from H. Langford, not the Faculty Senate. H. Langford agreed. She reiterated that the Faculty Senate has not discussed a Vote of No Confidence against the Provost, this semester or while she has served on the Faculty Senate.

T. Lueder stated that the Constitution and By-Laws Ad-hoc Committee would like to request the job descriptions for Administrators, Dean, Department Chairs, and Directors, again, to not hinder the process of rewriting the Constitution and By-Laws. C. Corbat asked J. Rowan if Human Resources would have those definitions. J. Rowan stated that they should, but that he would forward those descriptions to M. LaBorde.

H. Langford asked for clarification on the conversation and T. Lueder explained that the definitions are important for the rewrite of the Constitution and By-Laws.

H. Langford made a motion that the Faculty Senate be in compliance with the Open Meetings Laws from the State of Louisiana and that the Faculty Senate Meetings be available on Zoom. He stated that all public bodies, like this one, that are open meetings, must be zoomed or broadcast. He stated that he verified that the LSU Faculty Senate meetings are broadcast via zoom.

C. Corbat asked for the exact statute. H. Langford did not have the exact statute, but did look online for the information. He stated that it was La Revised Statute #42:11 – policy for open meetings law, and La Revised Statute #42:12 – public policy for open meetings.

C. Corbat asked if he would hold his motion until the next meeting so that the policy could be reviewed. H. Langford stated that he was not making a motion, but that he was stating that we must be in compliance. C. Corbat and J. Gill pointed out that he did make a motion and H. Langford was asked if he wished to revise his statement to read “asked to be compliance...”. H. Langford stated that he would change his motion to read that he “requested that the Faculty Senate be in compliance with the Open Meetings Laws from the State of Louisiana and that the Faculty Senate Meetings be available on Zoom”.

J. Innerarity read the basic definitions and introductions of the policies and stated that it did not directly address the need for meetings to be broadcast. H. Langford stated that the information was further down in the law. M. Stokes asked if we are a public body. C. Corbat stated that we would need to research the term.

B. Alwell stated that if the By-Laws are under revision, that it would be a good time to ensure that we are in compliance.

Announcements:

Pat on the Back:

Nursing - reaccréditation

IET – Miracle Workers, replaced smoking computer in Dr. Lueder’s classroom

Teresa Seymour – works miracles for those who teach online courses

Departmental Accomplishments:

None noted.

Next Meeting:

October 26, 2021 @ 3:30p, in the Live Oaks Room

Adjournment:

T. Lueder moved to adjourn the meeting.

D. Wood seconded the motion.

Vote: 12-0-0