

Faculty Senate Minutes  
For: October 26, 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, Chad Gauthier, Cathy Cormier, Hailey Doyle

**Call to Order:**

J. Innerarity confirmed a quorum @ 3:30p.

**Minutes:**

Discuss ensued to clarify minor changes sent by faculty members.

R. Elder made a motion to approve the minutes.

C. Corbat seconded the motion.

Vote: 10-0-1

**Brief Guest Updates:**

**Report from Chancellor:**

Dr. Coreil congratulated the School of Nursing on their recent re-accreditation and complimented their great team. He stated that they were recognized by their peers for excellence and that it takes a really good department to be reaccredited until 2029!

Dr. Coreil congratulated M. LaBorde for her Hall of Fame award and stated that she represents the quality of our campus.

He mentioned the governor's press conference that announced a removal of the state mask mandate; he went on to ask for feedback regarding how our campus should progress. He stated that K-12 must keep their mask mandates if they do not have stringent guidelines regarding quarantine/exposure. Dr. Coreil discussed how LSUA students understood how serious campus is regarding the current mask requirement, but he was asking Faculty Senate for feedback as we are with students daily, in classes. T. Lueder asked about # of campus cases. C. Gauthier reported that only 2-3 cases/week were reported. T. Lueder asked if the air purifiers are still in use around campus. C. Gauthier stated that the systems were to be changed, but he was not sure if those changes had been made. C. Gauthier went on to report that there have been no reported cases passed on campus to another student, faculty, staff. All who have tested positive have reported outside contact. M. LaBorde asked Dr. Coreil his thoughts regarding the removal of the mask mandate and he stated that he will ask LSUE and other universities how they intend to proceed. He also stated that Dr. Tate requested the university to submit every piece of correspondence regarding vaccinations, masks, COVID, etc. to be submitted to the Attorney General's office. M. LaBorde stated that with the governor's new release, can we have time to discuss with our peers? Dr. Coreil stated that we could wait until Monday to make a decision. J. Gill asked about immunocompromised faculty and safety. M. LaBorde asked if the current plan could be kept in place through Friday so the Chancellor could receive feedback from faculty/staff. The Chancellor stated that campus would remain under the current Chancellor

Mask Mandate until a final decision is made and that they would communicate with the campus regarding the continuation of the current policy.

Dr. Coreil briefly discussed the Pardon our Progress construction and improvements made, thus far. He also addressed the FIERCE Campaign Kickoff for campus and asked that all attend and consider contributing to the campus project. LSU Foundation Board members will be present to support the cause. C. Corbat asked if it could be recorded to accommodate those who cannot make it to the event.

#### **Report from Provost:**

Dr. Rowan stated that people have asked about E. Halpin and that he may return to campus at the end of the week. He stated that there were a few disruptions in C&C, as he is keeper of new system, but that he should return soon.

Dr. Rowan mentioned the new Advising dashboard and how deans can reassign advisees amongst faculty. This will help to ease the number of advisees to help with workload assignments. When he looked at the advising assignments, 157 advisees was max for a faculty member. He asked that faculty please let their respective deans know if there are problems.

Dr. Rowan mentioned the Administrative Retreat which included enrollment mgmt. & recruiting. The focus was to look at the on-campus fall 2021 population that was flat for fall 2021. He again mentioned that the majority of growth was from online programs. Their discussions addressed: 1. Fewer students, 2. LSU Online for more non-traditional students, 3. Attention will be paid to first generation students and students of color, 4. Must look at underserved populations with emphasis placed on specific populations such as high achieving students and Honors.

Dr. Rowan did mention Academic Partnerships and how the university is tying up loose financial ends.

He will be out of office for a bit over next week or so with the Honors Experience students at a conference and then to address Academic Partnerships.

#### **Report from Student Government:**

H. Doyle discussed the Oct 14-17, 2021 travel to St. Louis for the Leadership Conference. She also mentioned that all positions are filled after the Fall Elections. Student Government discussions have revolved on how to brand campus and what can be brought to campus to encourage this branding. They would like to see that the banners be replaced. They will hold a Town Hall Meeting in Coughlin Hall on November 9, 2021.

#### **President's Report:**

M. LaBorde sent her report electronically; she stated that salary review will be addressed in the next Senate meeting with Dr. Rowan.

Chancellor's Funds – M. LaBorde addressed conversations regarding previous discussions to split the funds into two application periods. Although it was in previous discussions, the Faculty Senate did not follow through with how to make it a permanent change to the current policy. The minutes did not reflect that there was a previous vote. She asked if the Senate wanted to

split the funds?, or do we want to fund what has been submitted? C. Corbat stated that some faculty may not know about spring conferences and may be waiting to apply for funds based on previous discussion. M. LaBorde asked how the committee would like to move forward. R. Elder stated that we need to change the regulations, if we wish to split the funds. C. Corbat stated that FS only agreed to split the funds for Travel.

By-Laws committee – T. Lueder reported that the committee is continuing to move forward

Open Meetings concern – the LSU System General Counsel has stated that the Faculty Senate must meet in person as Zoom is insecure for private votes. The Faculty Senate meets the spirit of the law and the agendas and minutes are published. M. LaBorde will ask Dr. Coreil his opinion and he can seek advice from Counsel.

### **Committee Reports:**

A&S submitted minutes.

R. Elder moved to receive the minutes.

D. Wood seconded the motion.

Discussion: The “I” policy was not their charge as C. Corbat asked them to make recommendations RE length of time to submit work. The committee discussed additional information not part of the charge, but J. Innerarity (A&S Committee members) stated that the recommendations morphed from discussions and that the committee was trying to ensure that not only were students protected, but that faculty were protected, as well.

Vote: 12-0-0

Comment: R. Elder asked that if the Faculty Senate is worried that the committee is not addressing their charge, can we resend the charge?

Public Committee: Michelle Riggs elected as Chair of the committee.

T. Lueder moved to accept M. Riggs as Chair since she is a Director.

B. Alwell seconded

Vote: 12-0-0

ByLaws – T. Lueder passed out a handout with request to share with department peers and requested feedback to be forwarded to the sub-committee. T. Lueder explained that the handout contains definitions and questions that will assist the committee with moving forward.

C. Corbat moved to receive the minutes.

M. Stokes seconded the motion.

Vote: 12-0-0

### **Old Business:**

Certified Graduate Records prior to graduation – in previous years, the practice was for all graduating senior grades to be submitted early and these grades were verified prior to students walking at graduation. Due to current changes, the fact that students are allowed to walk without verification of meeting graduation requirements, and that all departments, except one, are against this new process, discussions have ensued regarding how to resolve the issue. M. LaBorde & J. Weston were called to the Senior Leadership Team meeting on Monday, October 25, 2021. J. Rowan & J. Weston have differing ideology from M. LaBorde regarding graduation as a

ceremony. J. Weston's opinion is influenced by an experience of a student's suicide from another institution. M. LaBorde stated that J. Rowan states that there is no way to verify prior to grades. M. LaBorde asked J. Weston and J. Rowan how Nursing completes the task prior to graduation. M. LaBorde went on to state that she was informed that the process will continue as now set and that the verification prior to graduation will not be done anymore; she asked for Latin Honors to be verified in the SLT Meeting. M. LaBorde stated that there was an agreement that they would give Honors designation if close (within .1 difference for GPA). M. LaBorde asked if they would look at the Chancellor's Award so that the award could be given at graduation. She stated that all departments wanted the certified grades prior to graduation, except for HIPS, and they stated that they did not have an opinion on the topic.

C. Corbat explained the previous process and recognized that one person complete the process in previous years, when the university had few graduates. However, it is a general consensus that we need to find a way to implement the verification since faculty have stated their preference regarding graduation requirements. T. Lueder asked why it cannot be done on the programming side. J. Rowan stated that the main thing taken from the SLT Meeting is the Honors cords (.1 of GPA) as students/parents can be angry if cords are not given when students walk across the stage. He asked Faculty Senate to take a broader perspective as we all have to trust each other (faculty and admin) regarding positions/work loads; J. Gill stated that students have questioned how they can walk across the stage without actually graduating; C. Corbat stated that faculty have the purview of verifying that students are allowed to take part of the ceremony. C. Corbat stated that if faculty are willing to assist, then why could we not have a team to assist with the verification, as if we were preparing for a SACS visit. C. Cormier stated that advisors/mentors could be responsible for verifying their advisees grades. J. Rowan is not opposed to idea and appreciates C. Corbat's suggestion.

Chancellor's Funds:

Field Trips: J. Innerarity stated that there is a concern that CORE classes would dominate the funds for this designation; P. Gurjar stated that students still must register through the LSUA system. M. LaBorde stated that the concern is that there are few students enrolled and that these courses are not required for degree programs.

Research: M. Stokes recommended that all be funded except for a reduction of \$513 to Shanks/Lueder to remain within budget.

R. Elder asked if we were awarding all funds as there would not be monies for the spring semester.

C. Corbat moved to accept recommendations.

S. Barnes seconded the motion.

C. Corbat asked how the Shanks proposal would allow for research. M. LaBorde and T. Lueder stated that a similar proposal was funded last year.

Vote: 9-0-2

Travel: T. Lueder stated they were waiting to designate for the one from Field Trips; P. Gurjar stated that they recommend moving forward with funding for those who applied.

C. Corbat asked about Kite's application; it was recommend that he reapply if spring applications are available or for McCann funds through the Center for Teaching Excellence. C. Corbat moved to accept recommendations.

M. Stokes seconded the motion.

Vote: 8-0-3

**New Business:**

M. LaBorde asked that the Faculty Senate respond to the Chancellor's e-mail RE masks mandate on campus.

**Announcements:**

Pats on the Back:

Michelle Rozas – she has assisted C. Corbat with COVID research applicable to the biology lab courses.

Andrew Hirchak – his support with Degree Navigator.

Departmental Accomplishments:

Congratulations were extended to the School of Nursing.

T. Lueder stated that LSUA won the bid for the state robotics competition.

Sarah Catherine LaBorde used a video from Robotics to be nominated for an award.

J. Rogers will present at the Rapides Parish Westside Library for the Cavanaugh Lecture Series.

P. Gurjar asked to discuss the issue of parking on campus as students are parking in the faculty spaces. C. Cormier stated that new places are not designated as Faculty/Staff and that all faculty should check for this issue around their buildings. She stated that faculty/departments/staff could e-mail Kevin Vercher and cc Deron Thaxton to request proper designation. She stated that OP&M was receptive and completed the task quickly for the Nursing Faculty lot. There was also a recommendation to call Chief Collins and they would ticket students parked in faculty/staff designated spots.

**Next Meeting:**

November 9, 2021 @ 3:30p

**Adjournment:**

M. Stokes moved to adjourn the meeting at 5:11p.

S. BARNED seconded the motion.

Meeting adjourned.