



**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
October 7, 2024
Noon to 1:00 p.m.
Room A-126 or Zoom**

Senators Present: Angela Greaud, Kathleen Warner, Gloria Parrino, Summer Ford, Rob Jones, Leonor Gonzales, Elizabeth Vidrine, Rachelle Brown, Lisa LaFleur, Bridget Thibodeaux, Mike Wyble, David Ashbury, Kina Sweet, Mary-Kate Cooligan (proxy for Cassie Jobe-Ganucheau – library)

Senators Absent: Laurie Seeder,

Administrative Council Representative: None

Staff Senate Representative: None

Student Government Association Representative: None

Administration: Nancee Sorenson, John Hamlin, Audwin Donatto, Stephen Heyward, Donnie Thibodeaux

Guests: Maura Cavell, Kristie Leger, Angela Sonnier, Nikki May, Cassie Jobe-Ganucheau, Darian Planchard, Jill Perrin, Monica LeJeune, Rachel Kopp, Barbara Batiste

I. Roll Call

The Faculty Senate meeting was called to order at 12:02 pm on Monday, October 7, 2024, by Rachelle Brown, Faculty Senate Chair

II. Adoption of Minutes

Mike Wyble moved to accept the minutes of the minutes from September 23, 2024. Kina Sweet seconded the motion.

III. Chairperson's Reports

- A. Dr. Nancee Sorenson expressed gratitude for the Hispanic Heritage activity currently happening. The Board will be meeting Thursday. The Board agenda will be on the LSU website. Congratulations to Braneshia Moore in the news for being an outstanding educator in nursing. The cohort letter of accreditation said that we were exceeding the expectations. Students have surpassed the benchmarks passing the exams, passing at extremely high rates. Successful business and industry meetings. Kip Bertrand stated at the Foundation meeting that he was pleased with the business and technology board meeting and the success through internships and other types of opportunities for students, impressed by the accreditation of the business department. Faculty raises have all the information loaded into the system. \$860,000 of useable funds from \$1 million. The rest went to the system for mandated costs. Salary and fringe comes out of that \$860,000. Louisiana has a high fringe rate of 41%, that makes it a challenge to get the money in actual salaries. For faculty, deans based on success in classroom,

contribution to the university, scholarly activity, and service, gave a rating between 1 and 5, in discussions with Dr. Hamlin and final approval from the chancellor. In some cases, salary compression was taken into consideration. If you have questions about your rating or raise, start the conversation with the dean. The chancellor is relying on the evaluations of the dean or supervisors. Everyone will get some raise to the base, but the merit part will vary by employee. The effect will raise the minimum salary which will hopefully help fill vacancies. The ratings and amount of the raises will not be made public. The chancellor does not believe that individual salary names should be listed and will be instead listed grouped by department total salaries. If a particular name is of interest, then you can file a request with the chancellor.

Dr. Hamlin stated that now is the time to get the Spring schedules going. If you have any changes then you need to discuss with the deans.

Dr. Fowler was absent.

- B. No report from SGA, Gabriel was volunteering with Hispanic Heritage Day
- C. Faculty Senate Chair, Rachele Brown, there is a Faculty 411 for weekly updates. If you are on a committee and want to share something through the Faculty 411, send it to Rachele, Rob, or Gloria. Travis has offered access to Constant Contact to make it easier to access. Rachele will be attending Council of Faculty Advisors (COFA) before the Board of Supervisors meeting. Encourage to go through the Constitution and By-Laws.
- D. Mary-Kate Cooligan (proxy) represented the library and stated that there are a lot of students interested in tutoring – thankful for the faculty tutoring in the library, advising is ongoing, the testing center is busy, and other than that things are going smoothly in the library. Contact Krislyn Probert for tutoring schedule.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Policy Committee – no report
- B. Course & Curriculum – no report
- C. Retention Subcommittee – There is a need for new members. Contact Kina Sweet. Meetings will be once a month. One great concern is that there is no orientation for new faculty.
- D. Teacher Excellence Subcommittee – no report.

V. Old Business

A. Faculty Concerns:

There are 64 full-time faculty (14 tenured, 21 tenure-track, and 29 instructors) and 104 adjunct or part-time faculty. It is unknown how many vacancies there are.

URSI is waiting for a new chairperson. A date for the presentations will be set. Carey Lawson is the contact person.

Some students in education still have not been able to get their books. Audwin admitted that he was hard on the bookstore and hence scared into under ordering because the bookstore has lost money the past 3 years. Amanda Bordelon will meet with each department about 3 months in advance. Rad tech issue will be addressed and allied health will not happen again. If books could be obtained at a lower price, the savings will be passed down to the students. The bookstore uses a set markup based on the wholesale price of the book.

VI. New Business

- A. Dr. Kina Sweet is the new Parliamentarian.
- B. Rob Jones moved to establish a Faculty Work-Life Committee. Members are Summer Ford, Leonor Gonzales, Bridget Thibodeaux, and Elizabeth Vidrine.
- C. Reminder that Trunk or Treat is Sunday, October 27, 2024. Faculty Senate will help Staff Senate with crowd control and anything else that needs to be done. There will be a drop off box in the Liberal Arts copy room for candy donations. We will look at the possibility of faculty senate shirts to wear.
- D. Digital Literacy is an important topic. There needs to be discussion about AI – how we use it and how to teach it. There are some industries for which it is a disadvantage for students who have not had experience using AI. We need to look at how we teach using AI.

E. Some faculty have experienced technical issues in the classroom. Contact IT and they can assist. There will be a trouble shooting “1, 2, 3 steps” on the podium. Send an email to IT and they can come to help. Tell IT where there are issues so they can address it. They need feedback (only 5 people responded to a previous survey). Students and faculty should not use guest Wi-Fi, it is throttled and will be very slow.

VII. Bengal Brags – send in your Bengal Brags.

VIII. Next meeting: Monday, November 4, 2024 at noon.

IX. Adjournment.

There was a motion by Dr. Kina Sweet to adjourn. Leonor Gonzales seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 1:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Parrino, Secretary of Faculty Senate 2024-25.