



**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
September 9, 2024
Noon to 1:00 p.m.
Room A-126 or Zoom**

Senators Present: Angela Greaud, Kathleen Warner, Laurie Seeder, 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: None

Administrative Council Representative: Paul Fowler

Staff Senate Representative: Courtney Fruge

Student Government Association Representative: Gabriel Fontenot

Administration: Nancee Sorenson, John Hamlin, Audwin Donatto, Kristie Leger, Billy Fontenot, Donnie Thibodeaux

Guests: Kaitlyn Owen, Maura Cavell, Symantha Jones, Monica LeJeune, Kristie Leger, Rose Leeson, Angela Sonnier, Nikki May, Gary Reeves, Renee Guillory, Cassie Jobe-Ganucheau, Darian Planchard, Jill Perrin

I. Roll Call

The Faculty Senate meeting was called to order at 12:09 pm on Monday, September 9, 2024, by Rachelle Brown, Faculty Senate Chair

II. Adoption of Minutes

Laurie Seeder moved to accept the minutes of the minutes from September 9, 2024. Kina Sweet seconded the motion.

III. Chairperson's Reports

- A. Dr. Nancee Sorenson mentioned the Campus Connections newsletter, indicating that they are open to suggestions for improvement on content and what's to be included. Right now, in addition to what's going on on campus, the newsletter will have a Faculty Spotlight, Staff Spotlight, and Student Spotlight. The legislature passed a bill that allows us to increase tuition and fees, up to 10%, on "high cost" programs and LSUE has identified those programs and submitted a proposal to the Board of Regents. Based on current enrollment that proposal will generate almost \$420,000 annually. LSUE has been asked to enter into a \$100,000 partnership with the USDA. We will be conducting 12 in-person trainings throughout the next year to assist farmers in poverty-stricken parishes so they can understand the benefits the USDA has to offer. The funds will be to fund full-time position and run a program, including supplies. Dr. Sorenson announced that there is a lot going on with grants in Perkins Funding

and Rapid Response Funding and Carrie Lawson will be getting with the appropriate departments for that. Achieving the Dream coaches will be visiting in October. Dr. Sorenson wants to thank Angela Gread, Dr. Leonor Gonzales, Dr. Summer Ford, and Virginia Shriver for helping create a Behavior Care Technician short-term training program. To create a training program for care technicians to work in residential homes for severely developmentally disabled. There was already a non-credit path through Ed-to-Go, but now there is also a credit program with 12 credit hours attached to education department. Dr. John Hamlin announced that we surpassed last year in student credit hours. We are lower in headcount, but that was in dual enrollment. We are starting to look at the schedule for the Spring semester. There is a new Dean of Students, Dr. Cheryl Fruge. Anybody going up for tenure or promotion needs to get with their dean to discuss that. Faculty on tenure-track, if in their 3rd year need to do pre-tenure review, if in their 6th year need to get together their dossier to submit this Fall. There is an agreement with state funds with Living Tree out of Lafayette that will be working with students for counseling with a referral through Student Affairs. Samantha Jones will help create a soft space for the counseling to take place.

Dr. Paul Fowler indicated that in the past, Faculty Senate has asked him to present different data points. Just let him know what data points we want to look at next. Rachele Brown brought up a question of how many faculty do we have – how many are full-time, adjunct, and tenured? How many courses are face-to-face vs online? How is this by breakdown by division? Are we properly represented on Faculty Senate and other committees.

B. Gabriel Fontenot, SGA president, will announce the SGA Senator election results right after this report. They had an amendment that helps make it easier for senate apportionment based on student enrollment. The Council for Student Presidents submitted two resolutions to the Board of Regents. One is to add Election Day as a holiday, and hopefully to pass it through the legislature. They will have a Student Body Assembly to have a ceremony in the Science Auditorium before it is filled in with the STEAM Center remodeling as that is where the original SGA Constitution was signed. Original signers of the SGA Constitution will be present. Coming up is an executive order in the state about Free Speech on campus in which Gabriel has been asked to attend.

C. Faculty Senate Chair, Rachele Brown, announced that Stephen Heyward is going to meet with the executive leadership of Faculty Senate to update the Faculty Senate webpage. Faculty Senate Teams has been updated so that all senators now have access. Minutes and agendas will be posted in Teams. Let Rachele know of anything else that is pertinent to be in the Teams folders. Rachele plans to email faculty updates announced at weekly cabinet meetings. Ashley Green was hired as Clinical Coordinator of Radiological Technology. It is important that as senators that we bring forward the concerns of our respective divisions.

Staff Senate was represented by Courtney Fruge. She discussed Trunk or Treat which is a great community service opportunity. Last year approximately 2000 participants through the front gate. There is a plaque for spookiest and most creative. Groups are encouraged to register to participate. Campus opens at 1:30 to begin decorating and to be ready at 4. Gates open around 4:15-4:30 and lasts until 6:30. The Eunice Marshals office helps Corey with security. We are in desperate need of adult volunteers to help.

D. Mary-Kate Cooligan (proxy) represented the library and indicated nothing to report, things are going smoothly in the library.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Policy Committee - There is uncertainty as to who is on the committee. We will look into that.

B. Course & Curriculum – no report

C. Retention Subcommittee – There is a need for new members. Contact Kina Sweet. Meetings will be once a month.

D. Teacher Excellence Subcommittee – oversees Excellence Teaching Award. We will look to fill that committee.

V. Old Business

A. Faculty Concerns:

1. Faculty raises are going through faculty evaluations. Dr. Billy Fontenot reported that Dr. Hamlin said that a five-star rating does not necessarily mean a \$5000 raise, and a one-star rating does not necessarily mean a \$1000 raise. There are questions about how the raises will be determined for faculty. Dr. Sorenson will meet with Dr. Hamlin at 3:00 today for clarification and will get the details out to everyone. There is no timeline for when the raises will be distributed. The star rating not corresponding to amount of raise was news to Audwin Donatto. Staff raises will be sooner since their evaluations are already in place. Good news is that faculty raises will be retroactive to August. There was concern if raises were across the board to boost to make salaries competitive vs being merit based. Dr. Sorenson said that they will get back to us in a week. Most of the system is looking at raises as merit based. LSUE knows and presented to the LSU Board of Supervisors that we are the lowest in the state in 2-year schools when looking at pay scale. Staff raises are being looked at replacement costs if having to rehire someone for that position and then looking at those doing above and beyond.
2. Rachelle wants to have a list of vacant positions put on Teams and have available with a timeline on the committees and where they are in the process. Concern is that vacancies are just dangling out there.
3. There was concern that URSI has ended. That has been corrected. URSI will continue, they just have to set a date.
4. The bookstore has issues. There are still students that are unable to purchase books. Even after a reorder, students still do not have access to books. Please email Rachelle a list of classes that are still having trouble getting books.
5. Rachelle would like a committee of senators to survey the faculty to put together the workload and type of office hours with relation to how faculty now communicate with students. Ms. Greaud brought up that there is an expectation from LSU about office hours that must also be considered. Summer Ford, Elizabeth Vidrine, and Bridget Thibodeaux volunteered to serve on the committee.

VI. New Business

- A. Please send an email if there are any lingering old business so that those concerns can be addressed.
- B. Please send any new concerns, better earlier than later, so that we can get people here for the next meeting on October 7.

VII. Announcements: Please consider being Parliamentarian. We will be selecting a Parliamentarian soon.

VIII. Bengal Brags

- A. Kristie Leger, Interim Dean of Health Science, Business Technology, Public Protections and Safety has completed her Master's degree.
- B. Dr. Maura Cavell: "Dearest Maura, I just absolutely love your poetry. Your words all placed so perfectly drawing the reader into your story...your poem. Thank you for sharing your talent with us. Your poems *The Bird Whisperer* and *Red Sky* will both be included in Volume 14 Issue 6, the autumn publication of *Poets' Espresso Review*. Your other submissions will be put on file for possible future publications."
- C. Symantha Jones has a profile biography and her work that was recently featured in *New Visionaries* magazine for the arts.

IX. Next meeting: Monday, October 7, 2024 at noon.

X. Adjournment.

There was a motion by Angela Greaud to adjourn. Laurie Seeder seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 12:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Parrino, Secretary of Faculty Senate 2024-25.