



Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
April 7, 2025
Noon to 1:00 p.m.
Room A-126 or Zoom

Senators Present: Angela Greaud, Bridget Thibodeaux, Cassie Jobe-Ganuchau, David Ashbury, Elizabeth Vidrine, Gloria Parrino, Kathleen Warner, Laurie Seeder, Leonor Gonzalez, Lisa Lafluer, Rachelle Brown, Rob Jones, Summer Ford

Senators Absent: Kina Sweet, Mike Wyble

Administrative Council Representative: Paul Fowler

Staff Senate Representative: none

Student Government Association Representative: Gabriel Fontenot

Administration: Nancee Sorenson, Billy Fontenot, Donnie Thibodeaux, Kristie Leger

Guests: Angela Sonnier, Maura Cavell, Renee Guillory, Symantha Jones

I. Roll Call

The Faculty Senate meeting was called to order at 12:03 pm on Monday, April 7, 2025, by Rachelle Brown, Faculty Senate Chair

II. Adoption of Minutes

Laurie Seeder moved to accept the minutes from March 10, 2025. David Ashbury seconded the motion.

III. Reports

A. Rachelle Brown, Faculty Senate Chair: There will be a CoFA and Board of Supervisors meeting on April 24/25.

B. Dr. Nancee Sorenson, Chancellor: There was a great Meauxmentum Summit at UL-Lafayette. We left with a great poster that will be shared with campus. LSUE will receive a \$100,000 grant for improving metrics. Our campus will focus on course redesign.

Thursday (3/27/2025) the governor announced a hiring freeze that expires June 30. The system will do an exemption form to be able to continue with the dean search and we will push on as much as possible. Faculty new hires wouldn't have a start date until August.

Friday (3/28/2025) there was a lot for the legislature to look at with the failure of Amendment 2 that had to do with allocations of the budget. There was a voter education issue. Amendment 2 would have allowed allocation of the revenue to be moved around.

WorkDay went live for the Fall semester. We will have to check prerequisites since that feature is not yet available in WorkDay

The Town Hall for April 16 will have to be rescheduled because the chancellor will be on a flight at that time.

The chancellor's door is always open if anyone has any questions or wants to talk. Campus is on a good

trajectory. We can't control what is going on at the state and national level, but we are doing good considering.

- C. Dr. Paul Fowler: Policies will start moving forward to cabinet to determine which policies need to be revised. All academic policies are being reviewed by Academic Council. PS-46 is going through the formal process even though it is already in effect. Academic Council reviews the policy. Any revisions are posted on the review site for Cabinet and possibly Policies committee if also going through them. Academic policies with substance changes will be forwarded to the Policies committee for review. Once Cabinet says yes, it is posted for review for all LSUE employees. Emails will be sent to the campus with links to the revisions. Faculty will need to pay attention to emails over the summer because many of these revisions will be made over the summer and there is only a 30-day review period.
- D. SGA – This week is Bengal Bash on Wednesday and Saturday will be the Miss LSUE pageant. The 3rd week in April will be SGA elections. Gabriel attended the Meauxmentum Summit and represented the LSU System and spoke on advising, which he didn't have anything bad to say about LSUE, which was not the same of other schools.
- E. Cassie, Jobe-Ganuchau, Library/Student Success: Library/Student Success staff are consumed with advising and WorkDay. Dr. Fowler noted that in WorkDay, current students are students from 2020 on. Students prior to that are still sitting on hold. So if a student is returning from 2019 or prior, they are not going to be able to register at this time.

IV. Committee Reports

- A. Policy Committee – “what Paul said”
- B. Course & Curriculum – nothing at this time
- C. Retention Subcommittee – no report
- D. Teaching Excellence – no report
- E. Faculty-Work-Life Subcommittee – There were 53 responses to the survey. The committee will meet to summarize the results.
- F. Professional Development Funds - The next meeting of the Faculty Development Funds Committee will be April 25. This will be the last meeting for the year. Requests for this meeting must be submitted by Monday, April 21. There is approximately \$3500 remaining to allocated. (There may be more, as some allocated requests may have been over budgeted than actual reimbursement amount.) The maximum for any individual is \$1000. Remaining funds not used are not rolled over, but instead are redistributed elsewhere in the budget, so please use it. If we have a history of not using all of it, they might cut the amount for faculty professional development because we are not using it. This year's funds (Fiscal Year 2024-2025) can be used for professional development through June 30, 2025.
- G. AI On Campus Subcommittee: They are working on a flowchart and are still waiting to see what the LSU System is doing as far as a policy that will override any policy we make on our campus. There has been a request to have AI as a topic for Fall Convocation.

V. Old Business

- A. Rachelle Brown updated that the Faculty Senate Chair Compensation resolution was given to administration and is waiting on a letter of response. Waiting to hear how the numbers will fall in to play. Anything we requested should start in June and would not be retroactive.
- B. Bridget Thibodeaux developed a template for Convocation Week and we got a yes. See Appendix A. Dr. Hamlin was animate about having the division meeting on Friday after purge on Thursday. If a department wants to meet earlier in the week during advising, registration, planning time, that can be done. If this template does not work out, it can be revised in the future.
- C. Program directors and chairs are not considered administrators. The Faculty Senate Constitution and By-Laws are vague and hasn't been revised with substance since 1997. At this point, administrators are considered those who are listed publicly on the Administrative Council. A discussion about whether representation for Faculty Senate would come from the 2 divisions or 4 areas that the divisions are split into. There is concern that for example Arts and Sciences has 2 math that will be rolling off and no sciences, so it is very possible that Division of Arts and Sciences could be solely represented by Liberal Arts faculty. Angela Greaud expressed concern that committees such as Administrative Council now

functioning in a very different way than when the Constitution and By-Law were written with Administrative Council. This is work that needs to be looked at in the next year so that we have fair representation and faculty have a fair voice without administration interference. Angela Greaud made a motion to have representation come from the 4 areas (Allied Health, Business & Technology, Liberal Arts, and Math & Sciences) and the library. Rachelle Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously, with one abstaining vote.

Cassie Jobe-Ganucheau made a note that she objected that Mary Kate was the only one eligible to serve from the library, indicating that her position is not officially an administrative position even though she is on Extended Cabinet and that the wording in the Faculty Senate Constitution and By-Laws is outdated. She is going through the process to fight it.

VI. New Business

A. Preparing for 25-26 Faculty Senate:

1. Senators promoting elections during the next two weeks to increase awareness of importance to serve on Faculty Senate.
2. Intentional review of Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws to present recommendations for revisions.
3. Strategic planning input on academic programs to wider University committee. This committee is currently working.

VII. Announcements

- A. URSI topics deadline, April 7, 2025, end of day, Katheleen Warner is Chairperson
- B. Fall registration and advising begins today through Workday. Email messages from IT and Donnie Thibodeaux provide additional information on registration. Spring Intercession and Summer registration and advising continues with the previous system.

VIII. Bengal Brags

- A. On March 22, Gloria Parrino took over as LaMsMATYC President and Amanda Dunlap was elected as LaMsMATYC Webmaster. LaMsMATYC is the Louisiana Mississippi Mathematical Association for Two-Year Colleges.
- B. Michael Ray Taylor, History Instructor, has been appointed the Director for the Baptist Collegiate Ministry (BCM) at LSU-E. He is working on re-energizing the programs and activities for students, faculty and staff. Weekly event schedule will be available after Spring Break including updates on the LSU-E page for BCM.

IX. Next Meeting April 28, 2024

Laurie Seeder motioned to adjourn the meeting. Summer Ford seconded the motion. The meeting was adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

Gloria Parrino, Secretary of Faculty Senate 2024-25.

Appendix A

LSUE – Convocation Week Template

Theme:

Day 1: Monday - Convocation

- 8:30 AM - 9:00 AM: Greetings
- 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM: Updates and Guest Speaker
- 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM: Lunch
- 1:00 PM – 2:00 PM Faculty Council (Fall Committee Elections)
- 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM: New Faculty Orientation

New Faculty Orientation:

- “Swag” bag to welcome new faculty
- Introduction to LSU Eunice: Mission, Vision, and Values
- Overview of Faculty Resources and Support Services – ID, IT, Parking, Meals
- HR and Benefits Information
- Introduction to the Faculty Senate
- Campus Tour
- Meet department faculty

Day 2: Tuesday

- 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM: Institutional Effectiveness, Policies and Procedures
- 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM: Advising, Registration, and Course Planning
- 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM: Academic Affairs

Day 3: Wednesday

- 9:00 AM - 10:00 AM: IT – Resources and updates
- 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM: Professional Development
- 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM: Advising, Registration, and Course Planning
- 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM: Professional Development

Achieving the Dream

- Creating welcoming classroom environments
- Building a sense of community
- Incorporating active learning into lectures
- Facilitating group work and discussions

Day 4: Thursday

- 8:30 AM - 10:00 AM: Dean of Students and Student Success
- 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM: Advising, Registration, and Course Planning
- 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM: HR
- 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM: Grants

Student focus:

- Advising
- Early alert system sand interventions
- Supporting at-risk students
- CAB and Student Groups
- SGA

Day 5: Friday

- 8:00 AM - 12 PM: Divisional Meetings
- 12:00 PM - 4:00 PM: Advising, Registration, and Course Planning

Division meetings

- Faculty updates
- Course updates
- Department updates as needed
- Breakouts by discipline as needed