



Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
February 2, 2026
Noon to 1:00 pm
Room A-126 or Zoom

Senators Present: Rachelle Brown, Rob Jones, Leonor Gonzalez, Lisa Lafleur, Alyssa Marcel (Zoom), Angela Sonnier, Gary Reeves, Kaitlyn Owen, David Asbury, Bridget Thibodeaux, Elizabeth Monk

Senators Absent: Kristen Sonnier, Kina Sweet,

Administrative Council Representative: Dr. Paul Fowler

Staff Senate Representative: none

Student Government Association Representative: none

Administration: Dr. Stewart

Guests: Symantha Jones (Zoom), Doug Narby, Leah Emmons (Zoom), Nisa Stapp (Zoom), Rachel Andrus (Zoom), Gloria Parrino, Brandon Borill

I. Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 12:06 p.m. by Chair Rachelle Brown.

II. Adoption of Minutes

Motion to adopt the minutes from the Faculty Senate Meeting on December 1, 2025 was made by Lisa Lafleur seconded by Angela Sonnier. Motion carried.

III. Chairperson's and Administrative Reports

A. Chairperson – Rachelle Brown

- The Strategic Planning Committee continues its work on improving LSUE. Faculty is asked to analyze what is needed or missing at our institution. Are there new courses, programs, certificates, AI, and/or technology areas that can be improved or created to advance to work done at LSUE? Speak to your Dean or Program Director if you have any suggestions.
- Faculty Senate Elections are coming up at the end of April. Please consider running for the positions available of Faculty Senate Chair, Faculty Senate Vice Chair, and Faculty Senate Secretary.

B. Dr. Nancee Sorenson: No Report

C. Dr. Charles Stewart:

- Finalizing paperwork for the Physical Therapy Assistant Program, which is expected to start in fall 2027, with a director hire soon.
- Attended the Washington, D.C. Mardi Gras event with Carey Lawson and Dr. Sorenson. Attended a meeting with Senator Higgins and discussed creating engineering and construction management degrees.

- Updating curriculum for the Care and Development of Young Children degree to allow an all-online program so students who are already employed in a daycare setting can easily access higher education.
- Amy LeMaire was promoted to Assistant Director of Advising. New changes will allow students to be advised in a central location.
- Meauxmentum Summit this week. Many faculty and staff are attending. Two of our very own champions will be speaking on Student Success.

-Dr. Paul Fowler

- PS-12 (Recruitment, Retention, Promotion & Tenure): Administrators are meeting to discuss 1st draft of the document on February 3, 2026.

E. Staff Senate: Not in attendance.

F. Student Government Association: Not in attendance.

G. Cassie Jobe-Ganucheau: Not in attendance.

IV. Committee Reports

A. Policy Committee: No update. See Dr. Fowler's comments.

B. Courses and Curriculum Committee:

- Proposal submitted to add MATH1029 as an acceptable Math course to the degree plan for the Associate of Science in Criminal Justice. We have not met to vote. Waiting to receive more proposals to vote on.
- Low enrollment in MATH1029. Gloria is requesting that everyone analyze the curricula to see if MATH1029 would work. MATH 1029, a Liberal Arts Math, consists of Finance, Accounting, Techniques and Probability, Basic Statistics, and Graph Theory.

C. Retention Subcommittee: No report.

D. Teacher Excellence Subcommittee: No report. Follow up to see if anyone has signed up for the committee.

E. Faculty Professional Development Funds Committee:

- Meeting on Tuesday, February 10, submissions to their department by Friday, February 6th.
- Approx. \$7,500 remaining to allocate. Submissions total approximately \$2500 to date.
- Professional development funds are not just for travel. They also include online professional development.

F. AI On-Campus Subcommittee:

- Karen Dalfrey, who was spokesperson for this committee, resigned. Rob has been appointed as the new designee to give updates since he is on the committee.
- Rob reports that Michael Ray, who is the chairperson of the committee, has been integrating the feedback into the proposal. The proposal will be completed soon.

V. Old Business:

A. Faculty Bios/Headshots:

- Many headshots and bios have been submitted. If you have not submitted a picture, then an LSUE icon will be used in its place with just your name. Work will continue through the summer.

B. Review of Constitution:

- Work continues in February. Another meeting is scheduled to continue reviewing Article III for Monday, February 9, 2026, at noon in Room C117.

VI. New Business:

A. Faculty Senate Vacancy:

- E. Rachelle mentioned the need to fill a vacancy in the math and science department due to the departure of Karen Dalphrey. The process for voting and electing a new faculty member is outlined, with a call for volunteers to help with the election. Kaitlyn will walk over ballots after the election has concluded.

B. Digital Accessibility:

F. Rachelle asked how the implementation of ensuring that courses are accessible to all is progressing.

- G. Angela responds that it appears as if some issues are easy fixes, but others require more in-depth remediation.
 - H. Gloria Parrino adds that the Math department is having some issues because of the formulas and expressions used in the math area. She proposes that Google Docs can help with that.
 - I. Rob inquired if there is an LSU accessibility expert who would be able to help with some of these issues.
 - J. Alyssa noted that some of her PDF documents may need to be completely typed because they are scanned images that are not accessible. She has had students turn in their work in Word format, which is not ideal because it does not do a very good job of formatting this kind of work. Rob suggested that Adobe Acrobat can help restructure the PDFs.
 - K. Doug Darby sent out an email about a course offering on how to make courses accessible through LSUO. At the conclusion of the course, you will be certified.
 - L. Rob asks what program will be used to see if the courses currently on myCourses are accessible, since it was stated that it would not only be Ally.
 - M. Rachelle requests that questions and concerns be sent to her so she can create a channel of communication for accessibility issues.
- C. Faculty Technology Survey from IT Governance Committee:**
- N. Rachelle shared the survey results from IT showing all faculty and adjuncts' responses, shifting some of the results.
 - O. This survey depicts results of the Faculty Technology Survey, highlighting the primary roles of faculty, the tools they use, and their satisfaction with current systems.
 - P. The survey reveals a lack of awareness of available technology and the need for better training and support for adjunct faculty.
 - Q. It also emphasizes the importance of addressing these issues to improve the overall teaching and learning experience.
 - R. The discussion included the potential for using AI in teaching and the need for more comprehensive training and orientation for adjuncts.
 - Rachelle will email the IT survey results to faculty.

VII. Announcements:

- S. Rob announced that there are still available spaces in the Spring 2026 Faculty Learning Community (FLC) cohorts. Cohort topics include Gamification, Small Teachings, and TILT. Interested faculty can still join. Another email to faculty will be sent soon.

VIII. Bengal Brags:

- T. Michael Ray Taylor published and presented the following work:

Gave an online conference paper to the Jacobite Studies Trust entitled "Liberty and the Liberalism of Defeat."

Published an essay with Edinburgh University Press Publishers Blog entitled 'Jacobitism and Conceptions of Ethical Colonialism.'

Published an article entitled "'Ancient Natives': A Competitive Jacobite Defence of Indigenous Society and Ethical Colonisation" in the journal Scottish Church History

Submitted my PhD Dissertation to the University of Aberdeen, entitled Liberty and the Liberalism of Defeat: The Liberal Jacobite Movement and its Influence on the American Colonies.

Congratulations, Michael Ray!

VII. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn made by Lisa Lafleur, seconded by David Asbury. Meeting adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

