



**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2025
Noon to 1:00 p.m.
Room A-126 or Zoom**

Senators Present: Rachelle Brown, Rob Jones, Leonor Gonzalez, Bridget Thibodeaux, David Ashbury, Kina Sweet, Alyssa Marcel, Angela Sonnier, Elizabeth Monk, Gary Reeves, Kaitlyn Owen, Karen Dalfrey

Senators Absent: Lisa Lafleur

Administrative Council Representative: Paul Fowler

Staff Senate Representative: Courtney Fruge

Student Government Association Representative: none

Administration: Nancee Sorenson, Charles Stewart

Guests: Cassie Jobe-Ganucheau, Samantha Jones, Maura Cavell, Renee Guillory, Rachel Kopp, Caitlyn Estes, Amanda Dunlap, Gloria Parrino, Summer Ford, Tessa Breaux, Billy Fontenot, Leah Emmons, Kristie Leger

I. Roll Call

The Faculty Senate meeting was called to order at 12:02 p.m. by Chair Rachelle Brown.

II. Adoption of Minutes

Rachelle Brown explained that the May 28, 2025 minutes were revised from eight pages into a concise version, as they serve as a legal record within the LSU system.

- Motion to enter executive session to discuss which version to adopt: Bridget Thibodeaux; seconded by Angela Sonnier.
- Motion to adjourn executive session: David Ashbury; seconded by Alyssa Marcel.
- Following discussion, the Faculty Senate adopted the revised minutes, with the original version (submitted May 30, 2025, by Gloria Parrino) attached as an addendum. Motion by Kina Sweet; seconded by David Ashbury.

III. Chairperson's and Administrative Reports

A. Rachelle Brown: Noted challenges with Workday and myCourses at semester start. Praised administration for responsiveness and encouraged faculty to seek help when needed.

B. Dr. Sorenson:

- Congratulated faculty on a strong semester start.
- Reported enrollment growth across LSU campuses; LSUS leads the state in graduates. Summer graduation exceeded 1,000 students.
- Shared revised LSUE mission statement drafted by the Strategic Planning Committee, seeking Senate endorsement. The revision narrows focus from national to state priorities. The matter will be added to next meeting's agenda.
- Reported that enrollment projections submitted to the Board of Regents were too low, but LSUE could realistically reach 5,000 students.
- The committee continues to refine strategic goals and will circulate the mission statement for review.

C. Dr. Stewart:

- Financial Aid and Cassie Jobe-Ganucheau's team are working to prevent students who are engaged and paid from being purged. Purge scheduled for Sept. 9 at 4:00 p.m.
- All adjunct and overload forms signed; no classes will be prorated this semester.
- Emphasized process improvement with Workday and invited recommendations.
- Shared update on STEAM building: plans finalized soon, bids in December, groundbreaking expected in spring.
- Reviewing Work-Life Balance Survey results will be used to determine actionable steps.

D. Paul Fowler:

- Reported AY24–25 success and withdrawal rates:
 - **Success rate:** 78.5% (highest since AY10–11; above system average of 74.2%).
 - **Withdrawal rate:** 7.7% (record low, compared to 9.1% in AY19–20).

E. Courtney Fruge:

- Benefits Fair: Oct. 14, 10 a.m.–2 p.m., Room A-126. Enrollment changes due Nov. 15.
- Trunk or Treat: Oct. 26, 4:30–6:30 p.m. Volunteers needed for setup, event, and cleanup.

F. Student Government: No representative present.

G. Cassie Jobe-Ganucheau (via Zoom): Confirmed her department is working to reduce purge list impacts.

IV. Committee Reports

Motion to table reports, as committees have not yet met this semester: Kina Sweet; seconded by Rob Jones.

V. Old Business

- **Faculty Senate Meeting Dates:** Sept. 8; Oct. 6; Nov. 3; Dec. 1, 2025; Jan. 12; Feb. 2; Mar. 2; Apr. 6; Apr. 27, 2026.
- **Faculty Work-Life Survey:** Dr. Stewart will continue analysis.
 - Question raised by Kaitlyn Owen regarding substitution of advising hours with tutoring. Rob Jones stated policy remains; further clarification to follow.
 - Bridget Thibodeaux noted variation across divisions and suggested survey revision for accuracy.
- **AI on Campus:** Committee has not met. Rachelle Brown emphasized need to balance student and faculty concerns.

VI. New Business

- **Allied Health Vacancy:** Kina Sweet and Leonor Gonzalez will prepare ballot.
- **Constitution and Bylaws:** Committee will meet in Sept. or Oct. to review.
- **Faculty Directory:** Proposal for expanded directory with headshots. Rachelle Brown to consult administration.
- **Trunk or Treat:** Faculty Senate will assist Staff Senate as volunteers.
- **Mission Statement:** Revised statement will be emailed to faculty for review.

VII. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn at 12:57 p.m.: Kina Sweet; seconded by Alyssa Marcel.