

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Thursday, October 29, 2020
Zoom



Attendance

Faculty Senate Executive Committee members present:

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| 1. Mandi Lopez (President, VCS) | 5. Fabio Del Piero (Secretary, PBS) |
| 2. Ken McMillin (Past- President, AG) | 6. Marwa Hassan (Member-at-Large, Engineering) |
| 3. John Miles (Member-at-Large, LSU Libraries) | 7. Julie Wright-Rollins (Member-at-Large, Education) |
| 4. Joan King (Vice-President, Food Science) | |

Parliamentarian: Louay Mohammed

Senators present (X = Present; A = Alternate; P = Proxy):

1		Paula Arai (HSS)	25	X	Jason Harman (HSS)	49	X	Seung-Jong Park (ENG)
2	X	Kayanush (Kai) Aryana (AG)	26	X	Marwa Hassan (ENG)	50	X	Arthur Penn (CBS)
3	P	Michael Banks (BUS)	27		Katherine Henninger (HSS)	51		Rosemary Peters-Hill (HSS)
4	X	Inessa Bazayev (MDA)	28	X	Robert Holton (AD)	52	X	Tracy Quirk (Coast)
5	X	Pamela Blanchard (HSE)	29	X	Tara A. Houston (MDA)	53		Helen Regis (HSS)
6	X	Kellie Brisini (HSS)	30		Katharine Jensen (HSS)	54	X	Maria Rethelyi (HSS)
7	X	Elizabeth Carter (Law)	31	X	Kelli Scott Kelley (AD)	55	X	Kevin Ringelman (AG)
8	P	Prosanta Chakrabarty (SCI)	32	X	Heather Kirk-Ballard (AG)	56	X	Julie Wright Rollins (HSE)
9	X	Cassandra Chaney (HSE)	33	X	Joan King (AG)	57	X	Kirk Ryan (VCS)
10	X	Chantel Chauvin (HSS)	34	X	Gerry Knapp (ENG)	58		Bhaba Sarker (ENG)
11	X	Senlin Chen (HSE)	35	X	Roger Laine (SCI)	59		Jonathan Shi (ENG)
12	X	Jin-Woo Choi (ENG)	36	X	Lauren Lazaro (AG)	60	X	Stephen Shipman (SCI)
13	X	Brandi Conrad (HSE)	37	X	Julia Ledet (SCI)	61	X	Wei-Ling Song (BUS)
14	X	Robert Cook (SCI)	38		Carlos Lee (HSE)	62	X	Shane Stadler (SCI)
15	X	Theda Daniels-Race (ENG)	39	X	J. Michael Martinez (HSE)	63	X	David Stamps (MASS)
16	X	Jeff Davis (AG)	40	X	James Matthews (SCI)	64	A	Suzanne Stauffer (HSE)
17		Jennifer Davis (HSS)	41		John Miles (LIB)	65		Daniel Tirone (HSS)
18	X	Fabio Del Piero (PBS)	42		Mustajab Mirza (VCS)	66	X	Matthew Vangiel (MDA)
19	X	William Doerfler (SCI)	43	P	William Monroe (Law)	67	X	Meredith Veldman (HSS)
20	X	Peter Doran (SCI)	44	X	Carl Motsenbocker (AG)	68	X	Muhammad Wahab (ENG)
21	A	David Dulceany (HSS)	45	X	Ioan I. Negulescu (AG)	69	X	Nan Walker (Coast)
22	X	Jake Esselstyn (SCI)	46		Robert Newman (BUS)	70	X	Wei-Hsung Wang (Energy)
23	X	Edward Gibbons (HSE)	47	X	Rafael Orozco (HSS)	71	X	Sonja Wiley (BUS)
24	P	Doug Gilman (SCI)	48		Derick Ostrenko (AD)			

Guests:

Melonie Milton	Jane Cassidy	Karen Garner	Dorrie Staal	Keena Arbuthnot
Judith Sylvester	Matt Lee	Brian Ainsworth	James Spencer	Kevin Cope
Stacia Haynie	Arend Van Gemmert			

Public Comments on Agenda Items

None.

Consideration of the Minutes from September 22, 2020

Approved unanimously with potential corrections.

President's Report

1. Thank you to those senators that responded to numerous academic queries. Feedback is much appreciated.
2. The Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws as well as the Committee Operating Procedures will be voted on.
3. President Galligan and the Board of the Supervisor's chair met with local AAUP representatives to initiate the censure removal process. The lack of protection for untenured, yet long-serving faculty was at the heart of the matter.

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4. Administration has reached out to reimagine the role of the Uber Tech Committee towards futuristic forward thinking and achievable outcomes. They will be meeting on a more regular basis.
5. Faculty continue to take issue with the Grok articles and are more than willing to participate in discussions for improvement.
6. Faculty decide and develop educational policy at LSU. Educational policy messages from student government and other student sources are being passed directly to the Provost's office, then to the Faculty Senate, and back again. It is suggested that a Faculty Senate representative be directly involved and included in initial conversations when possible.
7. There was a request from the student body to include voting as an excusable class absence in PS-22. An additional request included allowing volunteer participation at polling sites. Faculty overwhelmingly agreed to allow voting as an absence but did not approve the volunteer service. Faculty encourage students to plan properly and not miss educational instruction.
8. Pass, no credit ratings and an extension of the drop deadline to the end of the semester was also considered by faculty. The majority of faculty did not approve the P/NC option, but did feel that the drop deadline should be extended to the last class day.
9. The inability to have a graduation ceremony has been appointed a great concern for the administration. The occasion is a revered and celebrated rite of passage. The Covid-19 pandemic has disrupted our livelihood, education, communities, and continue to distance us from friends, colleagues, and family. LSU faculty put the health, safety, and ultimate success of our community above personal desires for celebration.
10. Dean Mitchell of Human Sciences and Education led a diversity, equity, and inclusion discussion at the Board of Supervisor's meeting.
11. The Council of Faculty advisors presented to the Board of Supervisors on several points, including no faculty leadership representation on the President search committee. There will be non-voting faculty representation on the board, something that has been requested for many years.
12. Magnolia Local Plus OGB plan from Blue Cross Blue Shield does not cover residents in Iberville Parish. We are waiting on a response.
13. Mandi Lopez presented on the issue of salary inequities to the Board of Supervisors. The verbiage "those who identify as male versus those who identify as female" was contended during the meeting. Faculty Senate has requested transparency and regular reporting on salary distribution among genders.

Q & A Summary:

Rafael Orozco: Has anyone compared the salaries of minority and non-minority faculty?

Mandi Lopez: Faculty Senate has made this an important initiative and has reached out to administration on several occasions. We even offered to fund partial support of the graduate students to collect and further divide and define different subgroups within the data. We've not been able to do that yet.

Tiger Tracker, Dr. Keena Arbuthnot, Associate Vice President, Office of Research & Economic Development

Dr. Keena Arbuthnot thanked the Senate for granting her time to present. There have been several webinars on the Tiger Tracker and Covid-19 tracing. For several months, Dr. Arbuthnot has been aiding the President's office and other LSU leadership in Covid-19 response. The first priority was to align with the CDC guidelines and pushing everyone to monitor their health. The goal of the symptom tracker was a response rate of 100%. However, faculty and staff are only using the tracker on days they go to campus. Students have a 20% response rate and faculty and staff are holding at 50%. Everyone must fill out the tracker every day, even on days not going to campus. It gives individuals a checklist to understand Covid-19 symptoms and need see a physician if necessary. There is no mandated testing for LSU, however, it is highly encouraged. There are testing sites, purple pods, on campus. If you have been tested and are waiting for test results, you must quarantine for 10 days according to the CDC. It is imperative to fill out the daily symptom tracker every day to trace positive, or potentially positive, cases. If an individual tests positive, the contact tracing component has been extremely helpful in letting others on campus know quickly. Anyone will be alerted if they have been in close contact with someone testing positive. There will be changes to the Tiger Tracker next semester.

Q & A Summary:

Robert Cook: If you hit a wrong answer on the tracker, is there any way to go back and correct it?

Keena Arbuthnot: You can always reach out to covidresponse@lsu.edu and let us know that it was an accident.

Melonie Milton: Clarification: We should fill out the tracker on the weekends even if we are not coming on campus?

Keena Arbuthnot: Yes.

Tara Houston: Is there a reason that we are assigned a QR code if it's not used on campus anywhere?

Keena Arbuthnot: We are looking into the QR codes.

Mandi Lopez: So, you encourage everyone to email when necessary?

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Keena Arbuthnot: No, it is not a problem. If you do happen to fill out the symptom tracker wrong, the link is active for several hours. You may go back and fill it multiple times if needed. For example, if you report that you are well in the morning, and then your health deteriorates during the day, you should fill out the tracker and let us know. If you report positive, please email covidresponse@lsu.edu so that we can start the tracing.

National Guard COVID Testing, Lt. Colonel Dorrie Staal

Lt. Colonel Staal thanked Mandi Lopez for inviting her to speak on the National Guard presence and testing on campus. She was activated in March for Covid-19 response. Lt. Col Staal was state activated for the first week and then federalized and will remain on federal duty until December 31. There were many challenges for the team including that Louisiana was scheduled to surpass New York cases per capita if the shutdown procedures were not successful. Louisiana was identified as a top 5 state for Covid-19. FEMA provided a small-scale surge event over 5 days. In July, 60,000 PCR (antibody) tests were administered around Baton Rouge, including Alex Box Stadium. In August, a new surge allocation was initiated for New Orleans that was ultimately shared with Baton Rouge. The current state of testing includes a single testing location outside of the LSU Student Union, utilizing HHS/Etrud North supplies, and an average testing turnaround time of 48 hours. Registration is required at no cost. Swabbing is observed by the collector who gives instruction regarding self-collection utilizing a nasal swab and verifies that the identity matches the paperwork and test tube. Community education is provided at each testing location across the state so that the person being tested understands the difference and their social responsibilities. This testing will continue to be supported by the National Guard until December 17. The total number of tests performed on campus is 5,864. Dollars allocated to National Guard support for Covid-19 response do not go past December 31. Governor Edwards is currently making decisions regarding replacement options.

Q & A Summary:

Mandi Lopez: Many people have asked how frequently they should get tested.

Lt. Colonel Staal: Anytime you have a possible exposure, you should get tested. If you are not feeling well, you should get tested. If you are living and working prominently in the community, you should get tested once a week.

Kevin Ringelman: Your numbers report 5,964 tests, but the LSU COVID dashboard reports 10,683 tests. Are we really getting that much "outside" testing data?

Lt. Colonel Staal: That most likely combines the testing that was provided at Alex Box Stadium as well as the non-LANG, or private, testing done on campus.

Joan King: Do you know anything about false positives? Which tests tend to have more?

Lt. Colonel Staal: Testing and false negative reporting is very low. Currently, there is a 98.6% accuracy rate. Different points of testing, like the instant point of care testing, the presence of error increases. For example, if you are asymptomatic, the margin of error can be as much as 40%. If you are symptomatic, the margin of error is 2.6%.

Mandi Lopez: Can you give us an idea of the value of antibody testing?

Lt. Colonel Staal: Antibodies in a person can wane over time. Just because you have had Covid-19 in the past does not mean you will maintain those antibodies to be immune to another infection. There is evidence that immunity is waning after 12 weeks to the point where an individual can be reinfected.

Melonie Milton: Is the Guard monitoring people who are traveling from out of state through the airport into Louisiana?

Lt. Colonel Staal: The Guard is not monitoring the airports; however, some airports are doing questionnaires and temperature checks.

Mandi Lopez: How valuable is temperature monitoring and is that something we should consider at LSU?

Lt. Colonel Staal: I think that is an administrative decision. Temperature can be valuable and exhibiting a fever is one of the symptoms. However, there are several people that are asymptomatic and shedding the virus and making others sick, so, I would not solely rely on temperature checks. Mask wearing and infection prevention are still the best measures against Covid-19.

Mandi Lopez: Is a fever one of the first signs of a possible infection?

Lt. Colonel Staal: Fever is a common symptom. Other common signs are coughing, headache, and sore throat.

Graduate School Update, Dr. Spencer, Vice Provost & Dean, Graduate School

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Dean Spencer was an Associate Professor at the University of Hawaii teaching political science and urban planning. He later became department chair and Associate Dean. Dean Spencer also spent some time as department chair at Clemson where productivity, collaboration, and continual faculty engagement was at the heart of his daily schedule. Much of his planning comes from the perspective how the faculty understand higher education activities and how they are implemented. The challenge as Dean of the Graduate School will be building strong relationships with faculty. A report was launched to discover any gaps or issues. One of the main tasks will be on how to clean up identified issues that are creating barriers and limitations. Dean Spencer will also be working on efficiency, financial mechanisms, as well as incentivizing correctly. He also has a vision for the Graduate School; that graduates identify and are a part of what makes LSU great. Integration and institutional support of graduate work needs to be brought to the forefront. The Graduate School's vision includes building external relationships with various constituency groups such as the chamber of commerce, local governments, industry, and nonprofit organizations. There will also be a commitment to diversity, inclusion, and equity. With a society that is rapidly become more diverse, LSU and the Graduate School will adapt and align with different skill sets and goals of a new graduate population. There are two main goals for the Graduate School: create a strategic plan moving to identify key diverse, working groups and develop guidelines for investments and growing resources. One of those groups will be a core group of graduate faculty coordinators with some nominated by the Faculty Senate. The Graduate School will be identifying pathways that are targeting research careers, industry leadership positions, different levels of training, to cultivate, modernize, and understand graduate student interests. The strategic plan is currently moving forward and will kick off on December 10.

Q & A Summary:

Joan King: How can the graduate school facilitate recruitment of international students for programs that are mainly American student oriented, and to recruit American students for programs that mainly have international graduate students?

Dean Spencer: I am very interested in the globalization of education. International student recruitment is great for everyone on campus. We can integrate their international expertise into classrooms and create a structural way for students to learn from one another. Strong, personal relationships with certain countries can draw and produce very committed students.

Old Business

Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws Changes

Motion to vote: John Miles and Robert Cook.

Vote: Pass

New Business

None.

All moved to adjourn at 5:09pm.