

Nicholls State University Faculty Senate
September 20, 2005, 3:00 P.M.
Plantation Suite, Bollinger Memorial Student Union
Official Minutes

1. Roll Call:

- a. **Senators present:** Laura Badeaux, Carol Britt, Jon Doucet, Rick Duet, Ross Jahnke, Cindy Lamberty, Lois Nelson, Martin Simpson, Lindon Stall, Gokhan Karahan, Randy Ryker, Chuck Viosca, Rick McKnight, Susan Roark, Gary Rosenthal, Rebecca Lyons, Anne Parr, Gerard White, Rodney Hodges, Alice Saltzman
- b. **Senators absent:** Paul Leslie, Benny Zachry, Dale Norris, Angele Davis, Susan Gilbert, Van Viator
- c. Meeting called to order with quorum at 3:04 pm.

2. Installation of New Senator

- a. G. Karahan (Finance and Economics) took oath to replace B. Kleen.

3. Approval of Minutes

- a. Minutes of July 12, 2005 meeting stand approved

4. President's Remarks, Dr. Stephen Hulbert

- a. Reminded Senate that we left legislative session with significant budget cuts.
- b. Freshman class is what we expected.
- c. Returning students had the impact on the University
- d. Had a deficit before Katrina and now have a major deficit post Katrina
- e. Had a discussion with Sally Clausen in reference to status of University.
 - i. We were overwhelmed by evacuees
 - ii. Ayo Hall has been opened before as a Special Needs Shelter for Region 3, now is overwhelmed
 - Served 6200 people, has become a triage center
 - We have no idea of # of people in our shelters on campus
 - iii. Discussed that Ayo needs to be returned to the University as an education building. Moving all patients out of building to Alexandria. Haz-Mat crew will then need to clean Ayo on Thursday and Friday. (Hurricane Rita may delay this process).
- f. Thanked electricians from maintenance for work during the storm.
- g. Thanked Father Morrison for taking in pets from evacuees.
- h. Federal government and money – doubt that we will see money immediately. Have \$700,000+ in expenses due to storm. May get \$1000 per student or access to their tuition.
 - i. We anticipate a freeze in spending from the Governor.
 - j. Appreciates the work and efforts of faculty and staff.
- k. Parking. Will begin ticketing drivers on campus. There are parking spaces in the back of campus.

- l. We developed a good plan for our incoming freshmen with University College but Katrina has affected this plan.
 - m. We have concerns for future enrollment for all surrounding Universities of students from the New Orleans area due to evacuation.
 - n. We may see an increase in students dropping due to psychological impact from Katrina. Students are currently using the services of our counselors.
 - o. In the future, the Student Union will not be available during mandatory evacuations. Students will be bused to Monroe.
5. **VPAA/Provost Report**, Dr. Carroll Falcon
- a. Handouts: (none)
 - b. Discussed successful Faculty Institute on August 16th
 - i. Had 6 good topics
 - c. Commended University College Faculty and Staff for their work with Freshman Institute
 - d. Fall semester (pre-Katrina)
 - i. As projected, saw a decline in enrollment
 - ii. Had an increase in student retention (sophomore students)
 - iii. Increase in ACT scores by .9 pts
 - e. Fall semester (post-Katrina)
 - i. Registered 729 visiting students
 - 82 have not activated fees
 - 27 have since resigned
 - f. Challenges as a result of Katrina
 - i. Ayo Hall lost due to shelter – all classes had to be relocated
 - ii. Arrival of over 700 visitor students
 - iii. Over 1,000 evacuees, Red Cross, national guards, etc.
 - iv. Faced the loss of homes of faculty members
 - v. Faced the loss of class dates, we will be making-up two of these dates as previously stated from Fall Break
 - vi. Problems with parking spaces
 - g. Gave thanks to entire faculty for patience and assistance with relocation of classes and help with students
 - i. Demonstrated caring attitude that is a part of the Nicholls motto “Education with a personal touch”
 - h. Service Learning – psychology, art, music, FACS, etc.
 - i. Discussed new program – Faculty Development Seminar
 - i. Anita Tulley will coordinate
 - ii. Plan to have a meeting this month for new faculty for an orientation seminar
 - j. Commission of Colleges for SACS
 - i. Provided an extension for Off-site Visit
 - will send an email to faculty to proof reports for SACS
 - k. Questions:
 - i. L. Stall: Has the Academic Council looked at the Faculty Senate resolution about the prerequisite requirement of a “C or better” ?

- C. Falcon: Academic Council needs to hear from all academic deans on the pros and cons and other suggestions. A decision will need to be made before November in order to make changes to the Bulletin. He will then report back to the Senate.
- ii. L. Stall: Overcrowding of classes in Languages and Literature. Classes were capped at 25 students, now have 36, 37, 38, or 40+. Will there be compensation for faculty?
- C. Falcon: Will discuss this issue with department head(s). We hope to get compensated for 700+ new students. Federal government may offer \$1,000 per student to the University.
 - L. Howell: We anticipated 125 student decrease this fall; our actual decrease is pushing 600 students. Budget crunching has just begun. We did fill every L&L positions. But with new admission requirements, anticipated an increase in enrollment in 101, 102 courses. Did have discussions with dean discussing how to handle increase of students in these classes. Discussed options of creating new sections versus increasing the class size. They compromised at four sections of 32 students, which increased each section by 4 students. After Katrina, this exploded. Freshman composition classes today, the overall average is about 34 students per class. The highest is 38, which is extremely high. This problem has affected other courses on campus (sociology, history, biology, etc.) We've had to combine classes. We need to give the students that were displaced an opportunity and we did. We have 643 actual displaced students with zero money income. Current enrollment is at 7,637, an increase of 102 students from last year. Our regular enrollment (pre-Katrina) would have been 6869, that would have been down 613 students (about \$1.7 million that we did not anticipate being down in revenues). The current enrollment is:
 - Freshman – down 240
 - Sophomore – up 293
 - Junior – up 98
 - Senior - even

6. Senate Officer Reports

- a. S. Roark questioned if there was a need to limit the amount of time for discussion of debates during Senate meetings.
- i. R. Jahnke: Motion to limit the amount of time for debate to 5 minutes per person and 20 minutes per debate. Seconded.
- Discussion: after Senate discussion, R. Jahnke withdrew motion. No objection.
- ii. R. Hodges: Motion to limit Senate meetings to 90 minutes. Seconded
- No Discussion
 - Vote: unanimous approval

7. Committee Reports

- a. QEP Update – Chris Rachal
 - i. Increase student engagement
 - Offer student advisement
 - Offer career evaluation and assessment
 - Budgeted \$50,000 over 5 years to purchase equipment, computers, furniture, etc. as well as assessment costs
 - ii. Increase faculty engagement
 - Offer faculty development
 - Bring in experts in critical thinking, writing, etc.
 - \$10,000 / year to offer faculty incentives to develop creative works for the program
 - A contemporary system will be used to evaluate faculty involved in program
 - Budgeted \$145,000 over 5 years
 - iii. Improve critical thinking and philosophy
 - Development of learning communities within Gen Ed courses
 - Initiate a common rubric for courses used to evaluate critical thinking
 - iv. QEP should be completed by the end of the semester.
 - Need suggestions by next faculty senate meeting
 - v. A committee will be created to decide how monies will be spent on program

8. Unfinished Business – none

9. New Business

- a. Governance Changes – C. Britt: Mr. Al Davis will report to Faculty Welfare first and then report back to the senate. No changes needed now.
- b. Parking – L. Badaux: Some faculty have a concern that student parking everywhere, this topic was previously discussed with Dr. Hulbert.
- c. L. Badaux requested a hard copy of the Governance Document (Administrative Handbook, Chapters 1 and 2?) be provided to the executive committee members. 5 copies were requested
 - Dr. Falcon will investigate and provide 5 copies.
- d. L. Badaux: Motion that anyone who presents a motion for debate to the senate floor must put his/her motion in writing and give to the faculty senate secretary to ensure accurate records of minutes of senate meetings. Second
 - i. No discussion
 - ii. Vote: unanimous approval

10. Meeting Adjourned at 4:20 pm with no further business.