Faculty Senate Meeting  
July 29, 2010  
Minutes


**Absent:** Shari Lawrence, Becky LeBlanc, Dale Norris, Balaji Ramachandran, Randy Ryker.

**Call to Order** -- Todd Keller

**Approval of May 5, 2010 minutes.**

**Administrative Remarks:**

Dr. Stephen Hulbert (see attached letter) discussed:

- State budget cuts, the Grad Act, and the impact upon Nicholls and higher education in general.
- Nicholls State is facing a budget cut of $1.2 million, plus anticipating an additional mid-year cut.
- Federal stimulus dollars expire on July 1, 2011
- Freeze on hiring in all positions has been instituted.
- Administrative review of cuts in budget has begun.

Mr. Larry Howell discussed:

- both summer sessions doing well
- endowments for professorships and chairs were funded

Mr. John Ford: no report

**Senate Officer Reports:** none  
**Committee Reports:** none  
**Old Business:** none

**New Business:**

Todd Keller (Faculty Senate President) reported:

1) Pending BOS Policies:

- reduces prior notification time for faculty (all classifications) dismissal upon declaration of financial exigency to 3 months.
- state-wide faculty concerns were forwarded to Board which included: academic market/hiring season uniqueness; lack of discretion between instructors, tenure-track, and tenured faculty; and wording used defining Cause (Section C).
- asking Board for clarifications (e.g., Section on Tenure -- subsections on Notification, Duration, and Application)
- concerns of language in Policy & Procedures -- sections on Reduction, Approval Process, Termination: (e.g., what constitutes "reasonable effect"; decision made by University President in consultation with "appropriate" faculty and staff; consideration for re-hiring w/o consideration of rank & tenure.)
- Faculty expressed concerns of the effect upon student graduation,
hiring/recruitment/retention of faculty. It was mentioned that some faculty have sought AAUP council.

2) Proposed Academic Calendar 2011-2012
   • Calendar was distributed.
   • Comments/recommendations were solicited
   • Graduation occurs after submission of grades

3) Proposed Reorganization
   • Dr. Hulbert discussed need for reorganization and solicited proposals from the Faculty Senate as a clearing house for all proposals--seeking collective advice, not individual or unit proposals. Emphasized that Reorganization is only a partial solution to budget crisis.
   • Faculty expressed concern on loss of college autonomy, impact on college-level recruitment, and loss of accreditation.
   • Dr. Keller announced the submission of an Arts & Science alternative proposal; that the Executive Committee will review all proposals and compose a list of suggestions.
   • Business faculty asked for a clarification on what is the main objective of reorganization and how does it save money?

Adjournment: Moved (Lajaunie); 2nd (Baker)