

NICHOLLS STATE UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate Meeting

February 15, 2012

Roll Call:

Present:

Brian Heck, Michael Jeffress, John Lajaunie, Jeremy Landry, Becky LeBlanc, Steve Michot, Norman Norris, Gaither Pope, Balaji Ram, Gary Rosenthal, Randy Ryker, David Schultz, Briggett Scott, Andrew Simoncelli, Lori Soule, Anke Tonn, Keri Turner, Ianna West, Kent White

Absent:

Wendy Adams, Luke Cashen, Monica Larousse, Shari Lawrence, Lisa Lauer, Richard Mathis, Denise Mitchell, Lois Nelson, Tanya Schreiber.

Guest Speaker

State Representative Dee Richard addressed the Faculty Senate regarding recent legislative action impacting Nicholls. A question and answer session followed.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

- John LaJaunie moved that the minutes of the January meeting be approved as amended.
- The motion was seconded by Brian Heck
- Motion passed unanimously. Minutes were accepted as amended.

ADMINISTRATION REMARKS:

Dr. Stephen Hulbert

- Higher Education leadership has been conditioned to speak positively and appreciatively about the Governor's budget.
- We truly do not know what the pieces are. For example, the roof agency was cut. This means we are cut (state will not pay for replacing roof of buildings).
- Retirement bills are in trouble. Individuals will have to speak up.
- ORP have been badly damaged by cuts in funding from the state.
- We are hearing next to nothing from the "voices" of higher education in state government.
- We were cautioned by Randy Moffett that the initial description of changes was inaccurate.

- Everyone is so condition by cuts that there is very little discussion about it anymore.
- Colleges like UL that take \$1.5 billion from athletics do not help the perception.
- There is an agenda in this state: bleed higher education.
- There is change needed in higher education, and we are going about it at NSU. But we need the cooperation of the state legislature.
- We have managed to retrofit facilities on our campus. We have bonded indebtedness.

Dr. Brian Heck

Employee Morale Initiative

- informing Senate of its existence
- the committee consists of classified and unclassified faculty
- its purpose is simply to remind us that it's nice to work at Nicholls
- Amanda Eymard and Brian Heck are the faculty representatives. Renee Piper is the de facto chairman.

Honorary Degree Committee

- Susan Aysen needs Faculty Senators on this committee. Members must be tenured faculty from the colleges of Arts & Sciences, Business, and Nursing.
- Ianna West volunteered to serve as the member from Arts & Sciences

Dr. L. Barrilleaux, Academic Vice-President

AASU Meeting

- Create concurrent courses with high schools

Creative Commons

- Giving layers of copyright licenses to faculty
- Use Hybrid Courses to maximize our facilities

Gen Ed Issue

- Eliminating C grade requirement and requiring a D in Gen Ed courses to move on. GEAC will be discussing this.

Nursing Consortium

- The NSU Nursing Department was invited to join the Nursing Consortium. This is a huge accomplishment.

Mr. L. Howell, Executive Vice President

- Email was sent to Melissa Goldsmith (Compensation Committee) about revising the promotion policy. It is outdated and has put the faculty way out of line. Some are making below 70% of the average for the rank and position.
- We should have a minimum on what the salary should be at a certain rank and position

- We cannot give pay adjustments in 2011-2012, so we will have to wait until August 2013. Our equity is bad. Some are below 70% of the average for that mark.
- In regard to the Retirement Issue discussed by Dee Richard, Howell agrees that it is DOA
- We are trying to keep on top of it all but do not really know where it is going.

OFFICER REPORTS

President: Dr. Stephen Michot

FAC

- UL Systems Board Meeting
 - AAUP's Report is coming out; it is still confidential. We are in it for one citation.
 - Intellectual Property: What is the purpose of this?
 - Want to update IP to include new technological innovations.
 - Every university can have their own policy that meets the specific needs of their university. Each university can have a committee which will address any issue that might come up.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

GEAC: Dr. Keri Turner

- January 31 Meeting
 - Approved Education 339 as Fine Arts Elective for any major
 - Talk to faculty about C or D as prerequisite

Faculty Welfare: Dr. Randy Ryker

- Research Council Grants
 - Some people spent money out of pocket because they had been approved for grants. After cuts, they were not reimbursed .

NEW BUSINESS

Nicholls Can: Anke Ton

- New committee chaired by Dr. Jean Donergan.
- Asks everyone to provide one can; this could result in 7,000 items for the local food bank.
- Faculty are asked to call Jean to get a box for the classroom

Other Business

Dr. John LaJaunie

- Good news: has just been informed that a team of 5 business students from Nicholls competing against other state universities has placed eighth with the fifth highest score. The team from Nicholls beat LSU and Texas A&M

Dr. Steve Michot

- Next month's meeting will be on March 21, at 3:00. Dr. Steve Michot will not be here. Dr. Brian Heck will conduct the meeting in his absence.

Mr. Larry Howell

- A policy change for endowments for professorships has freed up money for professorships
- As a result, 12 new professorships that have not been awarded will be awarded now.

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. John Lajaunie moved to adjourn.

Motion was seconded by Brigett Scott

Motion to adjourn passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 4:00

Respectfully submitted,

Becky LeBlanc

Faculty Senate Recording Secretary