

NICHOLLS STATE UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate Meeting December 1, 2010

MINUTES

1. Roll Call:

Present: Wendy Adams, Jim Baker, Simone Camel, Luke Cashen, Amanda Eymard, Melissa Goldsmith, Brian Heck, Rodney Hodges, Todd Keller, John Kozar, John Lajaunie, Shari Lawrence, Becky LeBlanc, Richard Mathis, Stephen Michot, Lois Nelson, Dale Norris, Gaither Pope, Balaji Ramachandran, Randy Ryker, Anke Tonn, Keri Turner.

Absent: Carol Britt, John Doucet, Lisa Lauer, Gary Rosenthal.

2. Representative Jerome “Dee” Richard:

Dee Richard was a guest speaker. He discussed the State Budget and a bill that was introduced to remove the tuition cap above 12 hours.

3. **Approval of the Minutes:** The July 29, 2010 and September 16, 2010 minutes were approved.

4. Administration Remarks:

Dr. Stephen Hulbert

- Dr. Hulbert discussed the news coming out of the Baton Rouge press. He believed that the budget cut would be below \$7.4 million which would include the loss of stimulus dollars. The budget cut involves a compromise between the Governor and the Legislature. The good news is that it is not going to be a \$32 million cut which was the worse-case scenario. One solution to the revenue problem would be *selective tuition* in which student tuition would be based on the cost of their individual program.

Dr. Laynie Barrilleaux

- Dr. Barrilleaux discussed the conversion towards *Moodle* which will be up and running by February 2011. *Blackboard* would remain operational for another year. *Moodle* would be mandatory by January 2012.
- *INSIDE News* was commencing for students.

Mr. Larry Howell – no comments

John Ford – Mr. Ford discussed changes to the Grievance Policy.

5. Senate Officer Reports:

- a. Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Supervisors: Todd Keller and Stephen Michot discussed proposed BOR changes to *Policy & Procedure*. The FAC was recommending the elimination of “reduction” in the wording.

6. Committee Reports: none

7. Old Business:

- a. Attendance Policy – A change to the Attendance Policy to include a *religious freedom* policy was introduced at the last Faculty Senate meeting.

Motion to Accept: Richard Mathis

2nd: John Kozar

Discussion included a correction of a spelling error.

Vote: In-favor = 20; Opposed = 1 (Jim Baker); Abstained = 1 (Becky LeBlanc)

- b. Google Mail – Faculty must activate their *Google Mail* by December 11, 2010. The old *GroupWise* email would be archived automatically.
- c. Communication of Budget Cuts – Bringing awareness of the impact of the State’s budget cuts must be continued with diligence. We, as faculty, should “give thanks” for the support and effort of everyone involved. Red t-shirts would be arriving within a week to help promote the cause.
- d. 400-Level Courses – Courses & Curricula Committee introduced a proposal to change the wording of the Catalog’s general requirement for all baccalaureate degrees from:

Earn at least 45 semester hours in courses numbered 300 or above

to

Earn at least 45 semester hours in courses numbered 300 or above, 9 or more of which must be at the 400 level from courses within the major

Motion to Accept: Melissa Goldsmith

2nd: Becky LeBlanc

Discussion: Richard Mathis argued that it would disrupt the existing curriculum. Keri Turner stated that English was in favor of the change. Melissa Goldsmith argued that the change would increase the opportunity for more research.

Vote: In-favor = 19; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 3 (Michot, Pope, Mathis)

- e. 2-Hour Computer Literacy Requirement – Keri Turner, chair of GEAC, discussed the introduction of 1-hour modules and proposed requiring 2 hours of computer literacy. Each program would decide how to apply it.

- f. 3-Hour Oral Communication Requirement – Keri Turner proposed adding a statement in the Catalog requiring 3 hours of oral communication from a list of approved courses.

Motion: (Keri Turner) to make the following Catalog changes under the *General Education Core Curriculum*:

Computer Literacy Requirement (CLR) – 2 hours

Computer literacy competency requirements are specified by each department from the list of approved courses.

Oral Communication Requirement (OCR) – 3 hours

Oral communication competency requirements are specified by each department from the list of approved courses.

2nd : Brian Heck

Discussion: none

Vote: In-favor = 21; Opposed = 0; Abstained = 1

8. New Business:

- a. Spring 2011 Class Closures – Pending available space, the administration was imposing a mandatory increase in student enrollment of 10% above the classroom cap. This decision was based on the assumption of a 10% drop-out rate.

9. Other Business:

- a. Final Exams – Faculty were told to stick to the upcoming Final Exam schedule.

10. Adjournment: Motion to adjourn: John Lajaunie; 2nd : Rodney Hodges.