

NICHOLLS STATE UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate Meeting

January 26, 2011

MINUTES

1. Roll Call:

Present: Wendy Adams, Jim Baker, Carol Britt, Simone Camel, Luke Cashen, John Doucet, Amanda Eymard, Melissa Goldsmith, Brian Heck, Rodney Hodges, Todd Keller, John Lajaunie, Shari Lawrence, Lisa Lauer, Becky LeBlanc, Richard Mathis, Stephen Michot, Gary Rosenthal, Randy Ryker, Anke Tonn, Keri Turner.

Absent: John Kozar, Lois Nelson, Dale Norris, Gaither Pope, Balaji Ramachandran,

2. Approval of the Minutes: none

3. Administration Remarks:

Dr. Stephen Hulbert

- There are 459 low completer programs across the state: 246 Baccalaureate level, 145 Graduate level.
- Nicholls State has sixteen low completer programs that fall below the minimum BOR graduation criteria of eight graduates per year. Of these sixteen, eight are in Secondary Education which were supposed to have been exempt.
- Choices: 1) eliminate those programs on the list; 2) join them to other universities; 3) fight to save them.
- Dr. Hulbert is ready to fight; he is ready to go on the offense.
- We will find out what budget is being presented in the Governor's "State of the State" address.
- Enrollment is relatively stable.

Mr. Larry Howell

- Enrollment is expected to be down 150 students from last Spring.
- Last Spring numbers included a "flush" of students, but not this Spring.
- Dual enrollment down slightly.
- Commitment to maintain existing academic programs.
- Revenue from tuition is the only solution.
- Remove the cap and take away only the stimulus dollars, then we can survive.
- Still hoping to receive half of the stimulus dollars.

4. **Senate Officer Reports:**

- a. Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Supervisors: (John Doucet reporting)
 - BOR changes to Policy & Procedure is expected to be voted on at the February BOR meeting.
 - Under Academic Program Discontinuance, reference to the language of *Reduction* has been eliminated.
 - Dr. Lajaunie expressed concern over the termination of tenured faculty being based on 15% of loss in state revenue (which is decreasing) rather than the total budget.
 - Larry Howell confirmed that the percentage of past state funding (60%) and tuition funds (40%) were changing towards a future budget that reflected revenue of 40% (state funding) 60% (tuition).
 - This concern would be expressed by Stephen Michot at the next FAC meeting in Baton Rouge.

6. **Committee Reports:** none

7. **Old Business:**

- a. Conflict Resolution Policy – The last draft was reviewed by the Faculty Welfare Committee. John Ford stated that the state attorney is okay with the revised grievance policy. It is functional, simplifies the process, and is good for the universities and its employees. The policy allows for conflict resolution at an informal level prior to formal procedures which still exist. Motion to accept the new Faculty Grievance Policy was made by John Lajaunie; 2nd by Shari Lawrence. There was no discussion. Vote was unanimous.
- b. Changes to Board Policy – see FAC report above.
- c. Crisis/Sick Leave Policy Update – John Ford clarified the Sick Day Pool Policy. Faculty/staff may contribute unused sick/leave time to the pool. The policy has been in existence for two years. In that time, three classified staff have benefitted. Presently there are 352 Crisis Leave Hours in the pool for Classified Staff, and 866 hours of Sick Leave in the pool for faculty.

8. **New Business:**

- a. Due Date for Final Grades Spring 2011 – Grades are due on Thursday at 9:00 am. Final exams end on Wednesday. There was an issue of getting in grades early enough to determine “true” honor graduates. Stephen Michot suggested the common policy at other universities of early exams for graduating seniors; John Doucet and Todd Keller confirmed that Nicholls used to have that policy. Other discussion concerned faculty not having enough time to grade final exams/projects and average grades. Amanda Eymard made the motion to extend the submission time for final grades from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm; 2nd by Luke Cashen. Discussion: Todd Keller stated that Department Heads need to be diligent in enforcing the submission of grades as early as possible with the absolute deadline being 4:00 pm. Vote: In-favor = 20; Opposed = 1 (Doucet); Abstained = 0.

9. Other Business:

- a. Student Request: Peter Jenkins – Todd Keller stated that he has a request from a student in a “Gender & Sexuality” course to film the Faculty Senate. The student indicated that he would make inflammatory comments to gauge faculty reactions on camera. Discussion focused on approval requirements such as signed consent forms and approval from the HSIRB committee first. Dr. Hulbert mentioned a reference to student behavior under the Student Code of Conduct.
- b. Concert Series announced for February 4-5, 2011.
- c. LEWIS library funding was being cut. Faculty were encouraged to write letters in support of funding.

10. **Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn: John Lajaunie; 2nd: Amanda Eymard.