

# NICHOLLS STATE UNIVERSITY

## **Faculty Senate Meeting**

February 16, 2011

### **MINUTES**

#### **1. Roll Call:**

Present: Wendy Adams, Jim Baker, Simone Camel, Luke Cashen, John Doucet, Melissa Goldsmith, Rodney Hodges, Todd Keller, John Lajaunie, Shari Lawrence, Lisa Lauer, Becky LeBlanc, Stephen Michot, Gaither Pope, Gary Rosenthal, Randy Ryker, Anke Tonn.

Absent: Carol Britt, Amanda Eymard, Brian Heck, John Kozar, Richard Mathis, Lois Nelson, Dale Norris, Balaji Ramachandran, Keri Turner.

#### **2. Approval of the Minutes:** none

#### **3. Administration Remarks:**

##### Dr. Allayne Barrilleaux

- Dr. Barrilleaux reported on the Administration's decision of what to do with low completer programs. Business Education will be terminated. Art Education and Music Education will be consolidated into the Art and Music programs respectively. English Education and Social Science Education will be collapsed into one SIP Code. The argument will be made to the BOR for the discontinuance of Health & P.E. Math Education will be consolidated into the Math program to boost both programs which are both low completers. The argument will be made to keep Chemistry, Geomatics, Music, Masters in Math, and Culinary Arts.
- Any changes that need to go in front of Courses & Curriculum must be in prior to the Christmas break of each year.
- A search will be conducted for a new Library Director due to the retirement of Carol Mathias.
- Policy & Procedures needs a coordinator who will receive a paid stipend.

Mr. Larry Howell

- NSU won in Federal Court concerning a personnel matter. There will be no media release.
- Spring enrollment is down 110 students from last Spring; down 150 students from the Fall 2010 semester. Dual enrollment is down. First-time Freshmen is up at 93 enrolled. We are up in graduate students and in graduate student course load, and up in returning students. We are up in part-time students. Departments facing the biggest loss in majors are those that suffered program terminations such as Criminal Justice. These departments are down in majors but this was to be expected.

John Lajaunie asked the Administration about the status on the VPAA search. The response was that there has been no official announcement as of yet.

**4. Senate Officer Reports:**

- a. Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Supervisors (FAC) – The BOR is scheduled to meet in Baton Rouge on February 25, 2011 to enact changes to policies effecting tenure, termination, and program discontinuance based on a 15% loss in state funding. Language with regard to *Program Discontinuance* has been removed. Termination criteria being based on rank and seniority have been included in the language. A Sunset Clause has been added that is in effect until December 2012. The 15% clause has not been addressed.

**5. Committee Reports:** none

**6. Old Business:**

- a. Changes to Board of Supervisors Policies -- The BOR's policy changes send a negative message about higher education in Louisiana. It affects retention and recruitment. There is a complete disregard for what is meant by tenure and what has been achieved by being tenured.

After much discussion, the following motions were made by Randy Ryker, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Luke Cashen, as recommendations to the FAC for consideration as proposals to the BOR:

*Referencing UL System Academic Program Discontinuance: Policy & Procedure Memorandum, Section III (Termination of Faculty), B (Tenured Faculty), #1, 4, and 6.*

Motion #1: That the word "academic" be inserted into Section III, B, 1, between the words "*compelling [academic] reason*" in order to match the wording of Section III, B, 4 which reads: "*Unless there is a compelling academic reason to do otherwise. . .*"

Motion #2: That Section III, B, 6 be replaced with:

6. However, in the event that any of the following budgetary conditions occur:

- a. An institution receives notification(s) from the UL Systems Office of 8% or more pending reductions in total discretionary budget (minus unfunded mandates) effective the next budget year,

OR

- b. an institution receives notifications(s) from the UL System Office of 4% or more pending reductions in total discretionary budget (minus unfunded mandates) effective in the existing budget year (i.e. mid-year budget cut);

the following abbreviated or shorted notification periods will apply:

- i. for actions that are to be effective the spring semester/quarter, or winter quarter, notice shall be provided no later than August 15:
- ii. for actions that are to be effective the fall semester/quarter, notice shall be provided no later than January 15.

Motion #3: Delete the Sunset Clause.

Vote: unanimous

- b. Due Date for Final Grades Spring 2011 – 3:00 pm is the deadline for the submission of grades.

**7. New Business:**

- a. Eligibility to Serve on Tenure and Appeals Committee -- The question is being posed as to whether an Assistant Dean (in this case Dr. Deborah Cibelli) may serve on the Tenure and Appeals Committee. Policy addresses Deans and Department Heads as not being able to serve. The VPAA interprets the policy as Assistant Deans may not serve. Clarification or changes to the policy may be addressed by the Faculty Senate.

**8. Other Business:**

- a. Low Completer Program Review – Dr. Barrilleaux announced that Education faculty will remain within the College of Education despite the fact that their programs have been consolidated into other College's programs.
- b. Redistricting Points – “talking points” referencing the Legislature’s plan to eliminate the 3<sup>rd</sup> Congressional District were distributed for the February 21, 2011 meeting at the Houma-Terrebonne Civic Center. Attendance is being encouraged in an effort to argue the points against splitting up Lafourche and Terrebonne.
- c. Presidential Award for Academic Administrator Excellence – a call was made for nominees with 5 or greater years of service.
- d. President’s Award for Teaching Excellence – announced.
- e. Women of Achievement Award – send nominations to Michele Caruso by February 25.
- f. Spring 2011 Advertising Campaign – An NSU campaign has begun to dispel negative rumors about Nicholls State and to promote our commitment to providing higher education opportunities to the Bayou Region.
- g. Election of Faculty Senate Vice President – Carol Britt submitted her resignation. Todd Keller asked for nominations. Election to be held at the March Senate meeting.

**9. Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn: Rodney Hodges; Second: Melissa Goldsmith.