

# NICHOLLS STATE UNIVERSITY

## Faculty Senate Meeting March 16, 2011

### MINUTES

#### 1. Roll Call:

Present: Jim Baker, Luke Cashen, Amanda Eymard, Brian Heck, Rodney Hodges, Todd Keller, John Lajaunie, Shari Lawrence, Lisa Lauer, Becky LeBlanc, Richard Mathis, Stephen Michot, Dale Norris, Gaither Pope, Gary Rosenthal, Randy Ryker, Anke Tonn, Keri Turner.

Absent: Wendy Adams, Carol Britt, Simone Camel, John Doucet, Melissa Goldsmith, John Kozar, Lois Nelson, Balaji Ramachandran.

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

#### 3. Administration Remarks:

##### Dr. Stephen Hulbert:

- The governor has indicated that Higher Education should not suffer more than a 10% cut in the budget, but the governor was not specific as to what would be targeted. Everyone is cautious because it is an election year. Funding for Higher Education will be based upon the sale of state prisons and other budget-saving ideas. The governor has placed the burden on the Legislature to make the decisions; if the revenue is not forthcoming from these schemes, then the Legislature will have to decide how and what to cut. The state's colleges and universities are awaiting the Legislative Agenda.
- The President announced the opening of two national searches: 1) Vice President of Academic Affairs, and 2) Executive Vice President.
- The President discussed the AAUP and his definition for collegiality. He distributed a handout from the AAUP policy manual. The president's definition of collegiality is a sense of collaboration within the Department/College, i.e., how you function together. The president feels this coincides with the AAUP's definition; that it is not a separate criterion of evaluation, but that it is within and a part of each of the three evaluation criteria of teaching, research, and service.
- Further discussion centered on the fairness issue of a state's contribution to employee retirement plans; that faculty who choose an optional retirement plan such as TIAA-CREF are benefitting significantly less than those in the state retirement system, including being faced with additional reductions in institutional contributions.

Mr. Larry Howell:

- Summer School Budget has been completed.
- It looks promising that there will be no mid-year budget cut.
- A request for library and science equipment has been prioritized.

Dr. Allayne Barrilleaux:

- Dr. Barrilleaux will be headed to Northwestern University with several faculty members and undergraduates who will be presenting research at the ULS Research Day. In addition, our university is being extremely well represented by our students in the Juried undergraduate art exhibition. Twenty-one of the 32 pieces selected for exhibition are from Nicholls students.
- The Advising Center is being restructured with \$180,000 being devoted to new hires. There is a need for an enhancement in this area because of transfer student issues, early alert tracking, and advising.

**4. Senate Officer Reports:**

a. President: Todd Keller announced that the Senate Meeting was being recorded by Peter Jenkins; that this was allowable under law. The Senate may however set policy as to the type of recording. Therefore, he will call a meeting of the Executive Committee to draft Senate policy.

b. Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Supervisors: Dr. Michot reported that the UL Board (seating the governor's new appointees) voted to adopt the new Policy & Procedures. The media was present and representatives of each of the UL systems schools spoke on their university's behalf. The BOR rejected the FAC's final recommendations of 1) retaining faculty whose programs were discontinued but whose courses were still being taught, and 2) specifying that faculty whose programs were being discontinued, participate in the discussion process. The FAC declined to take any action on the motions made by Nicholls State's Faculty Senate (see February minutes). Dr. Michot thanked the BOR for the changes that had been implemented at the FAC's bequest, and proposed the addition changes as recommended by the NSU Faculty Senate at the February 16, 2011 meeting.

**5. Committee Reports:**

- a. GEAC -- Dr. Keri Turner, Chair of the General Education Advisory Committee submitted Committee Minutes for Senate consideration. Dr. Brian Heck moved to suspend the procedure of waiting one meeting to vote on approval (2<sup>nd</sup> by Becky LeBlanc). Senate voted to continue with the procedure of waiting to vote on approval of the minutes till the following Senate Meeting. Dr. Turner reported that a list of approved Humanities courses had been created.

**6. Old Business:**

- a. Changes to Board of Supervisors Policies – The BOR approved policy changes as reported under Senate Officer Reports.

**7. New Business:**

- a. Faculty Athletic Representative -- Dr. Arrianna Smith-Martin introduced herself to the Faculty Senate and explained her duties and responsibilities.

**8. Other Business:**

- a. There was a call for support of the LOUIS library database which is being threatened with cuts.
- b. Dr. Brian Heck was elected Faculty Senate Vice-President. Motion made by Dr. Stephen Michot, 2<sup>nd</sup> by John Lajaunie. Vote: unanimous.

**9. Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn: John Lajaunie; 2nd: Gaither Pope.