



Faculty Senate Meeting
September 21, 2011

Roll Call:

Present:

Luke Cashen, Brian Heck, Michael Jeffress, John Lajaunie, Jeremy Landry, Shari Lawrence, Lisa Lauer, Becky LeBlanc, Stephen Michot, Denise Mitchell, Lois Nelson, Dale Norris, Balaji Ramachandran, Gary Rosenthal, Randy Ryker, Tanya Schreiber, Dave Schultz, Brigett Scott, Andy Simoncelli, Lori Soule, Anke Tonn, Keri Turner, Ianna West, Kent White

Absent:

Wendy Adams, Monica Larousse, Richard Mathis

Welcome & Introductions:

- The Faculty Senate Meeting was called to order by Dr. Michot at 2PM.
- Dr. Michot welcomed the new faculty senators and introduced them to the Senate.
- The new members are: Jeremy Landry, Gaither Pope, Brigett Scott, Dave Schultz, Lori Soule, Andrew Simoncelli

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

- Richard Mathis moved that the minutes of all past meetings be approved as amended.
- The motion was seconded by Gary Rosenthal.
- Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion:

- John LaJaunie asked for clarification of a statement in the minutes from the August meeting which reported Dr. Hulbert as saying we have not allocated our savings to balance the budget.
- Lois Nelson made a motion to approve the August minutes.
- Discussion followed.
- Dr. Hulbert's statement was amended to read: the budget was balanced by allocating our savings.
- Minutes of the August meeting were approved as amended.

ADMINISTRATION REMARKS:

Dr. Stephen Hulbert, President

Athletics

Dr. Hulbert reported on a move by several universities in the state to move to different conferences.

- One of his concerns is that such a move would result in too much traveling time, leading to athletes being out of school for too long.
- We have already lost San Antonio and Texas State, so our conference is shrinking. This will jeopardize our ability to put on an athletic program.
- Pressure has been put on to bring in smaller colleges that do not in any way meet the standards of our athletic program. Our athletes would be traveling over 15 hours for a game.
- Ultimately, we need more members for the Southland Conference that are closer to home.
- Dr. Hulbert emphasized that he strongly believes in the value of athletic programs to this university.

Budget

- Dr. Hulbert reported that, although he has not been given a detailed briefing on the budget, enrollment is down. UNO, a new member of our division, has lost more students than we have. Even the LSU schools' enrollments and the Technical Schools' enrollments were basically flat.
- Hulbert speculated that one explanation might be that the federal government has new standards of "progress toward a degree" at which point financial aid is dropped.
- Information will be given about exactly what happened to have this impact on our student body, but there is not any one reason.
- Hulbert emphasized, however, that the quality of the students we are getting is much higher.

Additional Remarks

- By Friday, Hulbert will have a briefing on the budget and will report to the faculty.
- There will be a new emphasis on "retooling" ourselves on the retention and recruitment of students.
- There is a need to return to the system of "flushing" students when fees are not paid by the 14th day.
- We were complacent in the work we did in transferring away from open admissions, but we need to go back now and look at the repercussions.
- Hulbert noted that the Steinway Concert had been held last night and that there were a large number of people in attendance. He commended the entire community for recognizing the wonderful cultural events offered on this campus and for taking advantage of what we have to offer.

- The Recreation Center and John Culinary Institute building will be big projects this year.
- Talbot Auditorium will be renamed when remodeled. The new name will be the Mary Ann Danos Auditorium.
- **Official Announcement:** Dr. Lanie Barrilleaux has been named the new Vice President of Academic Affairs.
- Hulbert commended Dr. Al Davis for his expert leadership as head of the search committee for the new VPAA, saying that Dr. Davis has set a new standard for search committees with the process he put in place.
- We have been given permission by the Board of Regents to address new academic programs in several areas.

Dr. L. Barrilleaux, Academic Vice-President

- All interim positions will be filled.
- The moratorium on new academic programs has been lifted.
- **Distance Learning:** Policies & Procedure Manual has been completed in accordance with the criteria required by Dr. Barrilleaux to fit the SACS criteria. Dr. Barrilleaux suggested that we start to think about the Distance Learning program at Nicholls in terms of what its niche will be in the future.
- Introduction of Dr. Robert Remmer, the new director of the library. Dr. Remmer is an attorney who comes to us from Louisiana Tech. In his response, Dr. Remmer asked that the faculty use the library and tell the library staff what they want.
- Intellectual Property Policy—Dr. Barrilleaux has asked Dr. Remmer to review it and suggest changes. The Board has a draft of changes to the policy.
- Suggestion: we should talk to the faculty about retention and how important this is. Retention no longer only “the 14th day.” Faculty should come up with ideas to keep students in their classes.

Discussion:

Question from John LaJaunie: “At some point, will President Hulbert move to retain faculty as hard as he has pushed for retention of students?”

Dr. Barrilleaux: We are moving toward a strategic way to come up with equity raises in the budget. Merit goes with the Common Form.

Dr. LaJaunie: “Turn-over is very expensive; we are losing faculty.

Dr. Barrilleaux: The Compensation Committee is meeting tomorrow at 2:00 in the Dean’s Conference Room.

Mr. L. Howell, Asst. Provost

Enrollment (and what it means): **Recruit and Retain**

Probably about 20 things have affected this:

- We were down in the spring in the number of freshmen students AND graduate students. This was the biggest drop.
- The biggest drop was in the number of Terrebonne Parish students.
- If students drop the class, they don't count. They are part of the loss the same as students who fail the class.
- 54% of our revenue comes from tuition.
- The quality of our students has improved. We had the 2nd highest number of graduates when looking at the number of freshman students.
- We do need to get faculty salaries back to where they should be.
- Students must complete "Core 4" in order to go to any Louisiana four-year university (even if they have TOPS). For example, if a student did not take the fourth math course in high school, this student can go to Tulane but not to Nicholls. We will have exceptions to this.

SENATE OFFICER REPORTS

Dr. Stephen Michot: Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Supervisors

- Randy Moffett reported that the state has millions of dollars of debt in unfunded retirement funds.
- Interim positions can only be for one year.
- Faculty Summit Meeting will be held in Alexandria on September 23. Volunteers are needed to attend this meeting.
- The next meeting of the FAC is on October 28.

Dr. Brian Heck

- Dr. Heck reported that the charging of committees is about half done.
- Kent White has been named to the Recreation Center committee.
- Dr. White reported on the progress of the Recreation Center. The committee is currently meeting to work on the policies and procedures.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Committee on Committees

Lois Nelson

- Elections have been held to fill vacancies on committees. Some of the positions were for one-year only, to complete the term of retiring faculty.
- A list of these committee members was sent out.

VPAA Search Committee

Dr. Al Davis read a statement announcing the selection of Dr. Laynie Barrilleaux to fill the position of VPAA.

Executive Vice-President Search Committee

Dr. Steve Michot reported that there are 25 applicants for this position. The committee will meet tomorrow.

NEW BUSINESS:

Distance Education

Dr. Andy Simoncelli presented the revised “Policies and Procedures Manual for Distance Learning at Nicholls.”

- He stressed that we must make sure we are doing what the document says we are doing.
- Dr. Michot asked who the “Quality Control Manager” would be in terms of overseeing compliance with this document. Will it be the Department Heads, the Faculty, of the Distance Learning Committee? Dr. Simoncelli responded that the Distance Learning Committee is a “recommendation” committee.
- A suggestion was made that the definition of an online course be reworded to include any test given in the course, not just the final exam.
- The definition of a Hybrid Course was also questioned. The current definition states that this course must be at least 50% online. Discussion followed. This issue will be revisited at next month’s meeting.

Intellectual Property and Shared Royalties

Dr. Michot:

- This policy as it is currently written recognizes the university’s ownership as well as the creator’s ownership. However, the faculty should receive notification that the Board’s policy regarding this is being changed.
- This issue will be addressed at the October meeting.

Faculty Handbook

Dr. Michot

- A revision of the Policy and Procedure Manual is required.
- Should a committee be appointed for this purpose or should we appoint one person to do it?
- Dr. Barrilleaux responded that she would like to have one person do this for the entire university.
- Dr. Michot pointed out that this manual must be updated routinely so that what is passed in the Faculty Senate is translated into the Policy and Procedure Manual.

- A Faculty Handbook Overseer from the Faculty Senate will be nominated and voted on at the October meeting.

CAFE Proposal Redesign

Dr. Allen Alexander requested that the CAFÉ Committee become a standing committee.

- Dr. Alexander thanked the faculty for reading his email regarding the redesign of CAFÉ.
- He suggested that, since the SACS interim report is currently being created, this is a good time to look at what we can do better in the next five years before the SACS accreditation. He pointed out that interest in the Master Advisor Workshops and CAFÉ has decreased. He would like to revitalize both.
- Dr. Alexander presented a draft of the proposal for redesign and noted that QEP has also received a draft.
- He explained that the award money for the current proposal will come from money previously given as the Advisor Award.
- Dr. Alexander reminded faculty that the major goal of the QEP is enhancing the 1st and 2nd year college experience.

Installation of New Senators

Installation of the new members of the Senate was held

The newly elected Senators are:

Lori Soule,
 Brigett Scott,
 Jeremy Landry
 Andy Simoncelli,
 David Schulz
 Gaither Pope (absent)

8. Adjournment:

- Dr. John LaJaunie moved to adjourn.
- Motion was seconded by Luke Cashen
- Tanya Schrieber suggested that there be a time constraint on speakers who address the senators at the monthly Senate meetings, reminding them that they have 5 minutes to address the Senate.
- Motion to adjourn passed unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM