

# NICHOLLS STATE UNIVERSITY

## **Faculty Senate Meeting** November 16, 2011

### **Roll Call:**

#### **Present:**

Wendy Adams, Luke Cashen, Brian Heck, John Lajaunie, Jeremy Landry, Shari Lawrence, Becky LeBlanc, Stephen Michot, Denise Mitchell, Gaither Pope, Gary Rosenthal, Randy Ryker, Tanya Schreiber, David Schulz, Andrew Simoncelli, Lori Soule, Anke Tonn, Keri Turner, Ianna West

#### **Absent:**

Monica Larousse, Lisa Lauer, Lois Nelson, Brigett Scott, Kent White  
Michael Jeffress, Richard Mathis, Falaji Ramachandran

### **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:**

#### **Corrections to the minutes:**

- Dr. Brian Heck: 15% should be 50%. Faculty not being paid just 15% of SREB
- Jeremy Landry: Howell is not Assistant Provost; he is Executive VP
- Dr. Keri Turner: Patricia Gabilondo created objectives years ago.
  
- Richard Mathis moved that the minutes of the October meeting be approved as amended.
- The motion was seconded by Gary Rosenthal.
- Motion passed unanimously.

### **ADMINISTRATION REMARKS:**

#### **Dr. L. Barrilleaux, Academic Vice-President**

- Dr. Barrilleaux asked that faculty be reminded to stick to the Final Exam schedule.
- CAFÉ conversation about credit for life experiences was excellent. It has opened the doors to discuss this. A lot of this revolves around GenEd.

### **Mr. L. Howell, Asst. Provost**

- Mr. Howell explained that there must be 10 Master's Degrees in different SIP codes. We are shooting to protect our current standing.
- Mr. Howell had nothing else to add at this time.

### **Dr. Stephen Michot, Faculty Senate President**

- Congratulations to Larry Howell on his official appointment as Executive Vice-President
- Mr. Howell thanked the selection committee for the very professional manner in which they conducted the interview.
- Larry Howell: I will continue to work very cooperatively with staff and faculty.
- Steve Michot: the search committee brought on campus 2 finalists. There were meetings with candidates, members of the community, & faculty

### **Discussion:**

- Michot: I meet with the President once a month. I understand that there may be concern from Baton Rouge about possible mid-year cuts.
- Howell:
  - There are grumblings about that. It started after the primary elections, when the amendment to pay back rainy day funds was presented. There may be arrangements to pay back rainy day funds over several years.
  - It was mentioned that it would cost \$150 million dollars to pay back this fiscal year what was borrowed last year. That would be about 50 million dollars out of higher education budget.
  - This is a scary thing when it wasn't budgeted, but nothing is definite. If they cut 2% of general funds, we would have about a \$1 million cut.
- Michot: Are we prepared for that?
- Howell:
  - We could handle a small mid-year budget cut without affecting people. After that it becomes more difficult.
  - We are already understaffed by 82 people.
- Randy Ryker
  - Are the rumblings enough to stop your thinking about an equity raise?
  - The Compensation Committee has been appointed to look at that. Are we just wasting our time? Should we continue to pursue this?
- Howell:
  - I think you should continue to pursue that. It will be the beginning of February before we know anything definite. It wouldn't take very much to knock that out.
  - However, I am pushing to do something this spring for those who are in that 60% and less than 75% of target. I do want your committee to continue to pursue that.
- Ryker: the number of \$400,000 was mentioned in the compensation committee as what was needed to make that happen.
- Howell:

- That was probably a little high. It won't take \$400,000 to get that minimum up to where it needs to be. We can get everyone to 75% with less than that.
- We are pushing to do something about this in the spring. Generally that hinges on where enrollment is in the Spring. Generally, enrollment in the spring is 90-92% of Fall. That has been dropping a little bit because we are graduating more and more students each graduation. I am still looking at the 90%. We are nowhere near a panic state. Our priority is to do something about equity this spring.
- Ryker: \$400,00 is roughly half of the surplus? So we won't use all of our surplus to cover equity?
- Howell:
  - It would probably cost us about \$200,000. This is a priority this semester.
  - The Budget Committee is supposed to be meeting 2-4 times a year. It has been meeting less than that. This will change.

## **OFFICER REPORTS**

**President: Dr. Stephen Michot**

### **FAC**

- Faculty representatives to the Board discussed the increase in portions that faculty pay for their health care.
- What has been drafted is a resolution of the board's findings. It is unnecessary to increase the burden on faculty when we are already going through budget cuts.
- The same concern was expressed in a resolution from ULL. Resolution: third year of no merit pay nor cost of living raises. Expressed concern.
- LSU Resolution: asking for independent external audit of Southern budget. Michot explained what this referred to.
- Northern Universities: what they do is put forth eventually "intent to strike." At S. Illinois Univ. they went on strike. Have been on strike for 8-10 days, but classes are continuing anyway. So, it's not just us; it is everybody across the country being affected.

**Vice-President: Dr. Brian Heck**

No Report

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

None

## **OLD BUSINESS**

None

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**ACADEMIC CALENDAR: Dr. Laynie Barrilleaux**

The academic calendar is still under review

Faculty should address questions & concerns to Dr. Barrilleaux

The Senate can make recommendations in regard to changes.

There are the same questions every year about exams and final grades.

**Discussion:**

Dr. Schultz:

- What are we intending to achieve by starting on a short week and ending on a short week?
- Why are we starting before Labor Day?
- We used to start after Labor Day. Coming back for one day after Thanksgiving makes no sense.

Dr. Barrilleaux:

- Intersession schedule affects some of that.
- Winter intersession will be affected because commencement will be later.
- The students want to be home before Christmas. This year Commencement is on the 10<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Howell:

- We used to have Fall Semester end in January, but then exams were after Christmas. This was a disaster.
- We used to start on a Monday. This unbalanced the number of “minutes” in T/TH classes as compared to M/W/F

Dr. Barrilleaux:

- I am not defending this calendar because I love it the way it is. I would gladly give it away. Some inconsistencies still occur. You are welcome to look at the calendar and come up with suggestions.

**GEAC: Dr. Keri Turner**

All Fine Arts courses will be accepted for Fine Arts electives.

The sequence requirement in Natural Sciences has been removed.

Any computer course will be accepted for this requirement.

**Discussion:**

Dr. Schulz:

- Chemistry students cannot receive credit in Chemistry 101 and Chemistry 105. Will that change?

Dr. Turner:

- No. If it is in your bulletin, you can keep the sequence if you want to.

Dr. Michot:

- What has to be approved and what is just being presented to us?
- Dr. Michot requested that Dr. Turner send the minutes of the GEAC Meeting to the Senate so Senators can look over the recommendations before they are approved.

### **Changes to Gen Ed. Requirements**

Dr. Barrilleaux: Back in the day, we argued over taking PE out of the required curriculum. Now, we're talking about doing away with the sequencing of courses.

Dr. Ryker: Will any computer course now substitute for computer literacy? Isn't there a difference between a 1-hour course and a 3-hour course?

Dr. Barrilleaux: If you are teaching a Gen Ed Course, you will be responsible for meeting those Gen Ed outcomes in the courses you teach.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. John Lajaunie moved to adjourn.

Motion was seconded by Dr. Brian Heck

Motion to adjourn passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 2:45

Respectfully submitted,

Becky LeBlanc

Faculty Senate Recording Secretary