

NICHOLLS STATE UNIVERSITY

Faculty Senate Meeting March 21, 2012

Roll Call:

Present:

Brian Heck, Michael Jeffress, John LaJaunie, Jeremy Landry, Shari Lawrence, Becky LeBlanc, Steve Michot, Norman Norris, Gaither Pope, Balaji Ram, Gary Rosenthal, Randy Ryker, David Schultz, Brigett Scott, Andrew Simoncelli, Lori Soule, Anke Tonn, Keri Turner, Ianna West, Kent White

Absent:

Wendy Adams, Luke Cashen, Monica Larousse, Lisa Lauer, Richard Mathis, Denise Mitchell, Lois Nelson, Tanya Schreiber

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES:

- John LaJaunie moved that the minutes of the February meeting be approved as amended.
- The motion was seconded by Lois Nelson
- Motion passed unanimously. Minutes were accepted as amended.

ADMINISTRATION REMARKS:

Dr. Stephen Hulbert

- House of Representatives had its annual appropriation hearing. The formula that is used has not been developed in a way that we can determine equity. Most institutions will face a decrease in support next year.
- Increased cost of TOPS: \$54 million this year. This has been taken out of allocation to higher education. The governor can say he left higher education whole because this of this money
- Retirement bills are going to be reviewed. We do not know what the results will be.
- These issues are telling us we are in for another rocky year.
- We received this information 48 hours ago and don't really know what it will mean
- What are the implications of these cuts? This will be the reaction of people on campus. If it keeps getting bigger and bigger, we will have to determine what we will cut further.

Dr. L. Barrilleaux, Academic Vice-President

- Will report on outcome of Dean of Arts & Sciences search next week
- The SACS Report has been bundled. Thanks and congratulations to Renee Hicks for getting this done.

Mr. L. Howell, Executive Vice President

- Distributed copy of proposed budget from the Board of Regents for 2012-2013. We had no say in this whatsoever.
- Tuition income will be used to replace state cuts. We were held whole with the exception of that 2.8 million
- 2.5 million of state funding this year; 2.8 million is total decrease in revenue this year
- Part of our increase is coming from TOPS
- The budget is based on the total percentage of “completers.” If there is an 80% completion rate, we get 80%.
- Schools that have higher enrollment do better. Schools that are getting larger are getting more self-generated funds.
- The Presidents of the various systems had no input in any of this
- **Until we really know where we are, we will have to meet monthly on budget.**
- Retirement Bill Passage—still uncertain, but will bring new problems.

Discussion with Mr. Howell

Randy Ryker: In the formula, where does a unique program like Culinary figure in? It used to be in Liberal Arts. This is the lowest level, Factor of 1. Culinary is now in level of about 1.4.

Answer: This was based on data from Texas, which doesn't have a Culinary Program

David Schulz: What happened to the proposal to charge students for extra credit hours?

Answer: They didn't want to impact TOPS, so this still has not passed. The Governor is not backing the original proposal. The new one would say an increase for extra credit hours would not affect students with TOPS. We would have to eat that.

Dr. Hulbert: Success is not formulated in the formula. Being successful is not funded.

Dr. Lajaunie: Between the Grad Act and Incentive Program, they are incentivizing the wrong things. He has incentivized.

Dr. Hulbert: Students will vote on a student referendum proposed by the SGA. It takes fess set years ago and relates it to increases in tuition. If that referendum doesn't pass, it will add to our financial woes. We should encourage student groups to vote on this issue.

OFFICER REPORTS

FAC: Dr. Brian Heck (reporting for Dr. Steve Michot)

Dr. Heck met with Dr. Randy Moffett's assistant to talk about the Intellectual Properties ruling.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

GEAC: Dr. Keri Turner

- Committee met on February 13. Have created subcommittees.
- Faculties from all disciplines will be working on assessments for their disciplines
- On February 29, changed the Gen Ed requirement in Math 100, 101, and 117 to at least a D

DISCUSSION:

- **Randy Ryker:** What about students who dropped out because they could not get through Math with a C? Could we let them know about the change so maybe they will come back?
- **Michael Jeffress:** Concerned about accepting the D in Math 100, etc. What was the process that allowed this to happen? Do these committees have to come before the Senate for approval of major changes like this?
- **Brian Heck:** These committees (GEAC) report to the VPAA. We do not have authority to approve or disapprove. The committee reports to us on what they are doing and what they have decided.
- This needs clarification.
- Only English still requires a C in English 101/102.

Committee on Committees: Dr. Lois Nelson

- Committee on Committees representative will contact those up for re-election. It is election time again.
- At the next meeting on April 18, new senators will attend and new officers will be elected.

Faculty Welfare: Randy Ryker

- Research Council Grants have been cut.
- The committee is revisiting the Faculty Evaluation document

OLD BUSINESS

- The Honorary Degree Committee has two vacancies
- Ianna West (Arts & Sciences Representative) and John Lajaunie (Business Representative) were nominated
- Kent White moved to accept and Lois Nelson seconded the nomination. Motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

GEAC

- In 2007-2008, Patricia Gabilondo suggested that we change to composition of GEAC to include David Zeringue (Coordinator of Transitional Programs). He is no longer included in the list of members. Dr. Keri Turner motioned that we do so today.

- Dr. John Lajaunie seconded the motion to vote now.
- Andy Simoncelli motioned and Shari Lawrence seconded that his position be as a voting member.
- Motion passed.
- Keri Turner will notify Melissa Goldsmith of the decision of the Senate.

Other Business

Live Text: Becky LeBlanc suggested that the Senate create a subcommittee to study the proposed mandate of Live Text as the required assessment tool for all GenEd classes

- Dr. Barrilleaux: If Live Text is not the way to go, come up with an alternative. If a committee is established, let Live Text representatives show committee members how it works.
- Dr. Turner: We have had Faculty Institute sessions and CAFÉ session on this.
- Renee Hicks: elaborated on the uses of Live Text. It has a lot of advantages

ADJOURNMENT

Dr. John Lajaunie moved to adjourn.

Motion was seconded by Brigett Scott

Motion to adjourn passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 4:00

Respectfully submitted,

Becky LeBlanc

Faculty Senate Recording Secretary