

Council of Faculty Advisors (COFA)

Minutes for Meeting April 15, 2011

Meeting attendees included: Kevin Cope, James Robinson, Natalie Hummel, Scott Rubin, Tammy Dugas, Jennifer Rood, and Elisabeth Elder. Bob Rasmussen attended as a guest.

Bob Rasmussen provided information on the following items:

- A. A reminder that the information session was not held had not been held April 15, 2011,
- B. A review of the updated agenda for the afternoon's Board of Supervisors (BOS) meeting,
- C. A reminder that support documents for the BOS meeting are located on the Board website to decrease printing costs,
- D. A reminder that the afternoon meeting would be the last meeting for the student representative, Ali Lieberman, with a new student appointed prior to the June 2011 meeting, and
- E. A reminder that the BOS does not meet in May.

Following the presentation by Bob Rasmussen the rest of the meeting dealt with the following items:

- A. In response to the mandate from Ben Nevers, work on common course number and content is ongoing for undergraduate courses in Louisiana schools. The working committee is composed of representative from each institution within the LSU system, the UL systems, Southern University and the LCTCS. The group will continue its work during a meeting on April 18, 2011, at the Rapides Parish Learning Center. The current task is to assemble a list of all the courses within the system. Once the list is assembled the course content and numbering will be addressed. SACS should be made aware of the ongoing work as changing the content of the courses does not agree with the SACS policy on academic freedom and faculty control of content.
- B. Faculty raises have not occurred on a regular basis within the System for several years. Retention packages were developed in several programs but have largely been removed since they tend to decrease the overall productivity of the institutions. Equity increase can still occur but with current funding any increases have been minimal.
- C. The Tucker suggestion on the consolidation of all higher education administration into one board will be addressed again. The potential consolidation is tied up due to the UNO/SU merger issue. Overall the merger is not likely to happen due to lack of support.
- D. SB 128, if passed, will remove the LCTCS from BOR control. This would move the LCTCS more toward work force development, more toward apprenticeships, and away from accreditation. Trying to tie the LCTCS courses into the common numbering and content proposal could lead to difficulties. Both LSUE and SU Shreveport could be impacted by the change. Less impact would likely be felt by BRCC, Delta, and Delgado.

- E. The budget distribution to be discussed in the afternoon meeting of the BOS was addressed. The basic outcome of the distribution will be cuts to LSU and the Law School but other institutions should benefit.
- F. Problems with the retirement system and lack of interaction between participants and vendor representatives were discussed.
- G. LOUIS funding is still in jeopardy. The issue will be discussed in the April 16, 2011, meeting in Alexandria. The potential impact on accreditation needs to be considered.
- H. The May 9, 2011, meeting of CLCU and ALFS was discussed. The meeting will start at 10 am in the Lod Cooke Alumni Center at LSU. Registration is \$25. The meeting will include a panel presentation, lunch, and a budget discussion.
- I. The LSU System directive to preserve all e-mails on System computers is still under discussion. An e-mail archive system is under development.
- J. Taping of faculty lecture presentations is still under scrutiny.
- K. The cost of academic regalia is under review. New regalia is under development through interactions with vendors such as Balfour.
- L. The LSU classroom decorum policy statement (PS 29) is being reissued.
- M. The Louisiana Statewide Colleague's Collaborative 3rd Summit meeting will be on the LSUA campus on April 16, 2011.
- N. All minutes from COFA are available on www.lsu.edu/faculty senate

The meeting adjourned at 12:40 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Elisabeth Elder
COFA Secretary
April 18, 2011