

Minutes of Council of Faculty Advisors (COFA)  
October 21, 2011

The meeting was called to order at 11:35 am.

The initial portion of the meeting was a presentation by Bob Rasmussen. The items covered included:

- A. A comment to welcome to the participants,
- B. A comment that the BOS website has been redesigned,
- C. A comment that the agenda for the BOS meeting was relatively short with only 4 committees meeting,
- D. A comment that Jack Andoni has returned as the Chairman of the Health Care and Medical Education Committee,
- E. A comment that Mike Gargano has an enrollment report as part of the BOS meeting,
- F. A comment that budget development for the next year is ongoing and that a mid-year cut may occur this year,
- G. A comment that most campuses met the GRAD Act requirements so will have increased program autonomy,
- H. A comment that the last post-Katrina termination of a tenured faculty member will be resolved during the BOS meeting,
- I. A comment on the renaming of multiple facilities on several campuses to occur during the BOS meeting,
- J. A reminder that the BOS meeting scheduled for March at LSUE will be held in Baton Rouge at the BOS Building to decrease costs, and
- K. A reminder that the next BOS meeting will be Friday, December 9, 2011, at the BOS Building in Baton Rouge with a reception/dinner to follow.

The remainder of the meeting focused on:

- A. The retiring (at 100% pay) and immediate rehiring (at 90% pay) of the CFO of the LSUHSC-NO was discussed. The retiring/rehiring had the approval of the BOS, is for 6 months, is renewable, was justified because of the timing in the project for the new hospital, and was justified by the lack of mentoring for anyone else to be able to complete the job. Retiring/rehiring impacts morale, impacts retirement, and is unfair to retired personnel who volunteer to fill positions. The issue needs to be addressed to Jack Andoni and to John Lombardi.
- B. A resolution to issue rolling contracts to instructors has been considered at LSU-BR. This could result in problems in managing the number of faculty, in giving a false sense of security, and could alter the influence of instructors. Information on the definition of positions is in the LSU-BOR faculty handbook in Chapter 1 Academic and Administrative Organization Section 1-2.2. Senates at the various institutions are asked to review the definitions of faculty levels.
- C. The issue of podcasting lectures at LSUHSC-S is ongoing. PowerPoints are being synchronized with tapes and used to replace faculty. The Faculty Senate asked the Curriculum Committee to develop a policy. The outcome was that podcasts could be used only in the semester of initial delivery and not used in subsequent years. The policy was changed after development by the Curriculum Committee to allow students to use the

podcasts for the 4 years of enrollment and that faculty may be asked to allow use. A problem exists with students posting podcasts to social media. Questions on copyrighted, online, and filmed materials have also arisen. A subgroup of COFA was asked to develop a generic policy which will be discussed by COFA, discussed with ALFS and LSCC , and discussed with John Lombardi.

- D. The potential to combine LSUS, LSUHSC-S, and LA Tech has resulted in questions concerning contractual rights of faculty and concerning the roles of donors/supporters in the development of the broader institutions. While an immediate response is not needed, COFA should be prepared to have an organized response.
- E. E. A handout from Mike Gargano provided information on the minimum admission standards for first-time freshmen in 4 year institutions. Such a set of standards can interrupt faculty prerogatives; alter institutional/faculty control of curricula; create problems in disciplines such as art and physics where instructor pools are limited; and decrease the availability of hard sciences. Faculty senates from the various institutions are asked to review the standards and make comments.
- F. Pennington Research Center now has a faculty advisory council – a new entity for the institution.
- G. The next meeting of CFA, ALF, and LSCC will be at LSUA on November 19, 2011. The meeting will start at 10 am in the Live Oaks Room of the Student Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Elisabeth Elder  
COFA Secretary  
October 27, 2011