

Minutes of the LSU A&M Faculty Council Meeting,

May 25, 2021

President Thomas Galligan called the meeting to order at 1:01 pm. The meeting was conducted virtually via Zoom webinar because of the Covid pandemic.

President Galligan opened the meeting by explaining that the purpose of the meeting was to consider the resolution “A Call to Add COVID-19 Vaccination as Requirement for Attendance at In-Person Classes and Events on Campus,” sponsored by faculty members Inessa Bazayev, Robert Mann, Michelle Massé, Olivier Moréteau, A. Ravi P. Rau, Jeffrey Roland, Adelaide Russo, Edward S. Shihadeh, Daniel C. Tirone, and Meredith Veldman. He acknowledged the key technical and preparatory work done by Emily Hatfield, Executive Assistant to Executive Vice-President and Provost Stacia Haynie, and Hannah Rovira Barkurn, Office of the President Events and Logistics Manager, and introduced the meeting parliamentarian, Professor Kevin Cope, and the meeting secretary, Associate Professor Meredith Veldman.

Emily Hatfield explained the procedures and requirements for recording attendance and for voting.

In his role as parliamentarian, Kevin Cope detailed the roles and relations of the Faculty Senate and the Faculty Council: The Senate is the delegated, operating extension of the Faculty Council, which continues to persist as an entity composed of all full-time faculty members and is theoretically scheduled to convene on an annual basis.

At 1:08 pm, President Galligan confirmed that the quorum of 431 full-time faculty members had been not only met but substantially exceeded. Total attendees would reach 808. The president then introduced the public comment section of the meeting.

Jill Hines, Co-Director of Health Freedom Louisiana, spoke against the resolution.

Connie Sampognaro, medical clinic administrator and LSU parent, spoke against the resolution.

John Milkovich, former state senator, attempted to give public comment but was not able to establish an internet connection. The president determined it would be best to proceed with the rest of the meeting, while holding public comment open in case Mr. Milkovich was able to establish a connection.

Professor Inessa Bazayev introduced and Associate Professor Meredith Veldman read the resolution “A Call to Add COVID-19 Vaccination as Requirement for Attendance at In-Person Classes and Events on Campus.”

Associate Professor Leslie Tuttle offered a motion to adopt the resolution. Professor Jeffrey Perry seconded the motion.

President Galligan then resumed the public comment section of the meeting to allow Mr. Milkovich the chance to speak. The president noted that comments on the Zoom webinar chat and Q&A functions revealed widespread confusion among participants about the definition of public comment at public meetings; he then explained the legal requirement of open meetings under Louisiana law. Mr. Milkovich again tried to comment but again failed to establish a working internet connection. President Galligan closed the public comment section of the meeting.

Discussion of the resolution opened.

Professor Charles Berryman spoke against the resolution.

Prof. Paul Anderson moved to call the question via the Chat function, and Professor Ravi Rau verbally seconded the motion. The motion to call the question passed with 590 yes votes (89.67% of those voting), 27 no votes (4.1%) and 41 abstentions (6.23%).

The resolution “A Call to Add COVID-19 Vaccination as Requirement for Attendance at In-Person Classes and Events on Campus” passed with 570 yes votes (89.62% of those voting), no 37 no votes (5.82%), and 29 abstentions (4.56%). The president explained that all votes would be examined and certified to make sure that only full-time faculty members had voted.

The spreadsheets showing each voter and vote on both motions were then displayed, as required by the legislation governing public meetings.

Professor Ravi Rau verbally moved to adjourn; Professor Tara Houston seconded the motion via the Chat function. The motion to adjourn passed unanimously and the meeting adjourned at 2:00.