Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
Monday February 18, 2019  
Harrison Board Room, Foundation Building

Attendance

Faculty Senate Executive Committee members present:

1. Ken McMillin (President, Animal Science)  
2. Mandi Lopez (Vice-President, Vet Med)  
3. Joan King (Secretary, Food Science)  
4. Fabio Del Piero (Member-at-Large, Vet Med)  
5. Nan Walker (Member-at-Large, OCS)  
6. Judith Sylvestor (Member-at-Large, Mass Comm)

Parliamentarian: Louay Mohammed

Senators present (X = Present; A = Alternate; P = Proxy):

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<td>Fereydoun Aghazadeh (ENGR)</td>
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<td>Katherine Henninger (HSS)</td>
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<td>Laura Riggs (VET)</td>
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<td>Kwame Agyemang (HSE)</td>
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<td>Paul Hrycay (LIB)</td>
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<td>Tracey Rizzuto (HSE)</td>
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<td>Priscilla “Lilly” Allen (HSE)</td>
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<td>Niki Pace (Sea Grant)</td>
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Guests:

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<td>Brian Ainsworth</td>
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<td>Eric Mayer-Garcia</td>
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<td>Arend Van Gemmert</td>
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Social Work 7506

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<td>Rae Porche</td>
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Consideration of the Minutes from January 17, 2019

Moved by Brooks Ellwood and seconded by Lilly Allen. Approved unanimously with potential corrections.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

None.

President’s Report

1. Ken McMillin met with HRM about pharmaceutical coverage for specialized groups.
2. Ken McMillin met with Budget and Planning and the Vice Provost about new faculty salaries and startup costs.
3. Ken McMillin attended the LA Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates in Alexandria which included an Alexandria State Representative and also covered surviving faculty oppression and AAUP higher education funding.
4. Ken McMillin and FSEC met with IT and Academic Planning, on cybersecurity and multifactor identification and with the personnel at the Faculty Technology Center.
5. We are reviewing the Students Rights and Responsibilities document.
6. There are vacancies on several Faculty Senate committees.
7. Ken McMillin met with the ombudsperson who is very busy with issues.
8. There is a Graduate School seminar on Feb 19 in 102 Allen Hall about making your classroom more active.
9. There are accessibility workshops to help faculty meet the requirements. There are also word documents and spreadsheets available.
10. Ken McMillin asked faculty to complete the transportation survey.
11. On Saturday Feb 23 two people will be honored for Distinction in Diversity.
12. The Student Government will be doing the campus lighting walk on Feb 25 at 6:30. They will meet in front of the union.
13. There will be a Digital and Continuing Education Open Town Hall Meeting on Feb 26 in the Student Union Capital Chamber.
14. The Animals in Society Forum will be held Feb 26 at 7 pm in the Vet School Auditorium.
15. Ken McMillin reminded everyone to sign up to be a volunteer as a social media ambassador for the foundation. Deadline is Feb 28.
16. There will be a seminar by Don Chance on Building Wealth Investment on March 13 at 3 pm in the union Red River room, room 323.
17. Ken McMillin asked for nominees for vacant Faculty Senate committees.

**Q&A Summary:**

Senator
Did the pharmaceutical discussions include Prep?

Ken McMillin
Yes, a couple of FSEC members are discussing that issue. LSU First group is a group of healthy individuals in relation to LSU. For other people in state agencies who are covered by LSU First, their premiums only cover about 10% of their needs since they are not as healthy. The Faculty Senate Benefits committee, of which Andrew Sloyter is chair, has lots of issues including this one to discuss.

**Update on Diversity Activities- Dr. Derek J. Rovaris, Sr., Vice Provost for Diversity, Office of Academic Affairs**

In 2018, the office hosted 56 signature events and programs reaching over 11,966 students, faculty and staff. They help sister campuses also, but the main focus is LSU A&M. Historically, Louisiana has looked at diversity in terms of race, black and white. Their view of diversity is wide. They also look at gender, sexual orientation, country of origin, language of origin. They include the Office in Thomas Boyd as well as the Office of Multicultural Affairs, African American Cultural Center and the Women’s Center. In 2018, LSU had the most diverse incoming class with the highest SAT average. We are also graduating a very diverse class. Our enrollment is 67.1% white/non-Hispanic, 12.5% African American and 6.5% Hispanic or Latino. They will share best practices to help increase diversity and get the best candidates for faculty positions. 28% of our faculty are from ethnically diverse backgrounds and does not include international diversity. He covered the LSU Opportunity Hire Program which helps us bring in two candidates when one represents a level of diversity when both rise to the top. Academic Affairs pays up to 75% of the salary for the second person the first year and then it drops off to 50% and 25% in subsequent years until the department takes over the full salary. It is a competitive process, but it’s a simple way in which we can begin to start addressing some underrepresented representation. The Jazz Brunch is this Saturday Feb 23 at Stadium Club South. They will recognize Chief Justice Johnson, Dr. Hunter Reed, Linda Griffin, various students and Dr. Johnny Jones who earned a Ph.D. at age 83. They have Chat and Chews at lunch time in the Vieux Carre Room at the student union. The February 26 Chat and Chew is about Media Literacy, the March 26 one is about One LSU and another is about students’ perceptions of LSU. They have on March 22 a Rep Your Flag Day for international students. March 28 will be the Esprit De Femme awards. Diversity is an important area in our Strategic Plan.

**Q&A Summary:**

Joan King
How do you handle helping student organizations with diversity?

Derek Rovaris
They are encouraging groups to educate others about who can become a member. He was at the baseball game the other day, but for years there was underrepresentation on the baseball team. The coach started looking for diverse candidates.

Prosanta
In the past there was not clarity in what the Diversity Advocate was supposed to do to diversify candidates for searches. Over the years, committees have gotten away from that roll. Are there other things we can do?

Derek Rovaris
Ask all committee members if any of them want to be the diversity advocate. We have to work with the chairs and be responsible to the deans. They have been doing training for several years and he thinks they got all the departments but need to circle back.

Prosanta
There needs to be some admonishment of departments who don’t do it.

Derek Rovaris
We cannot force them to do this. If you stick to it, you will see progress. The chairs have to be responsible to the deans and the deans have to make sure that they’re holding that as a requirement.

Bryan McCann
It helps to have unit by-laws for these types of things. Something our department did is that we’ve revised our bylaws to have a committee dedicated to equity and justice, university issues, which institutionalizes at the level of the department.

Derek Rovaris
Any extra piece, including intentional commitment, you can put in there is going to help.

Lilly Allen
What about the hidden representation? We want more representation from other groups. How would you include persons with a disability?

Derek Rovaris
We ask about the pool of people. It will tell us the diversity, but not which persons are which. He mentioned the engineering dean search information about how the four finalists were three women and two from under represented areas. He cited other hidden disabilities that are not easily discernable: hearing impaired, learning disabilities.

Brooks Ellwood
What is LSU doing about persons with a disability entering buildings that are not accessible?

Derek Rovaris
We have several buildings that are not accessible. We do not have push plates to open doors on all buildings. We are not shying away from or ignoring the issue. It’s a very expensive issue. It’s part of this multimillion dollar deferred maintenance program that we have, and we’ve got buildings that we identify where we’ve got work to do.

LatinX activities- Stephanie Colin and Eric Mayer-Garcia

He is in the English department and Women’s and Gender Studies. The LatinX group was founded in 2017. They formed to provide formal support for recruitment and retention. They wanted a venue to foster community and discuss issues affecting their community. The can investigate complaints and contact administrators to help solve problems. They will act to ensure and maintain equitable treatment and an inclusive environment. The President is Jose Torres and Vice President is Johanna Posada. They will have a student mentorship program and scholarship program launched next year. There is a lot of focus on students. Their group is not limited to those that identify at LatinX. In 2017 there was a 3% increase from 2016 in self-identified Hispanic students, but a 36% increase since 2013. They are interested in candidates wanting to join the caucus and want to see more LatinX faculty members. They can help us make the case to candidates to come here. They have several events coming up. They also have regular meetings around the third week of the month at noon. Their dues are $20 annually.

Q&A Summary:

Roger Laine
Are all those people on the committee Hispanic? If so, it’s not diverse.

Eric Mayer-Garcia
He disagrees that the committee is not diverse; there are different types of diversity.

Fabio Del Piero
Do you include Spanish as well as Latino?

Eric Mayer-Garcia
They define LatinX as a relationally of Latin American descent or children of Latin American parents, X represents gender diversity, breaking with Hispanic identity as well as African American.

Fabio Del Piero
There could be a better definition for the group.

Derek Rovaris
No groups require identification. Anyone can be part of the group. All of those organizations are very inclusive.

Bryan McCann
He wanted to thank the speaker for what he was doing.

Sonja Wiley
She is African American and Native American, and she is a member of their caucus. Her students now want to be a member of the caucus. It is a very inclusive group. Her department helps with their website.

Campus Security- Bart Thompson, LSU Chief of Police

Despite social media, we have a very safe campus, but it’s an open campus so people can come and go. 85% of those they arrest are non-LSU affiliated. The campus community needs to call if they see something out of the ordinary. There were several contacts of the guy with students prior to the robbery, but no one said anything. There are 1400 cameras on campus and the technology is much better. They are looking at ways to catch ID quality pictures. Once they put the picture of the robber on the news, it took 14 minutes for them to get a call. He asked us to download the Shield app they have, which will work anywhere. They encourage parents and visitors to download the app also. In 2018, the LSU police department employed body cameras and are required to video any public police action while on duty. New projects they brought up include Blue Lights, where anyone in a unit displays the lights so people can see the cars. They started the blue lights at dorm areas. They have a morning traffic detail at key traffic lights to help get traffic in. They are teaming up with IT on Geo Fencing. Their cameras can trigger an alarm when someone walks in front of it. They can go check to make sure everyone is safe in the area. They also have a manpower shift of morning people switched to night shifts for target areas and times. They put laptop computers in every unit. It allows them to write a report in the car and keep them visible. This summer they will bring in Tiger Transit bus drivers and nighttime janitors to train them about safety. They will be able to enlarge their building to bring people together and be able to look at cameras in real time. You can search identification information from pictures. They are installing license plate readers that capture all plates coming on and going off campus. It will check felony warrants of that licensed driver.

Q&A Summary:

Lilly Allen
What about confirmatory bias? You said a majority of those that commit crimes are external persons. We don’t look within in terms of behavior of our own students.

Bart Thompson
Our number one goal is to keep that criminal element off campus. They will make contact with anyone late at night.

Ken McMillin
If you have a workman’s comp type job you have to call health services or campus police. Campus police have to write a report. Because they’re authorized to come out and file a report, so then you will be authorized to collect workman’s comp claims.

Judith Sylvester
There was a shooting at McKinley High School and we received no notice.

Bart Thompson
If the assailant is coming towards campus we will send an emergency text. We were contacted by Baton Rouge police department, we had officers out there, we didn’t believe that the assailant was coming towards campus and that’s why we did not send out an emergency text. We are listening beyond our borders. The emergency text is required by law. Their goal is to get the information out within 30 minutes. They send an emergency text within 10 to 15 minutes.

Lilly Allen
If there is violence in the class, do we call LSU Police or 911?

Bart Thompson
When you call 911 it comes to us. There is an app on the phone or desktop called Shield which allows the police to see what’s going on.

Brooks Ellwood
They had an LSU office come to an incident in his unit where a police officer was injured. And so, this has been going on for a long time. Those folks have been helping us out.
Jose Torres
The topic of an active shooter came up at a faculty meeting, and that students were told to run, fight, hide. Is that the same thing we are telling people to do?

Bart Thompson
We can tell you what to do, but it’s all up to you at the time. The technology and training that law enforcement across the country have changed and now the first officer is going in, not waiting for backup. Now it’s gone to an active threat.

Jose Torres
One of the issues was a possible mix up in communication that students are to abide by what the faculty member does.

Ken McMillin
Yes, faculty members are in charge of the classroom. Every classroom is different, so it’s up to the faculty member to make a decision.

Judith Sylvester
We had LSU Police come speak to our department and it resulted in a good discussion on the subject about how to deal with our classrooms.

Roger Laine
He had a student have a grand mal seizure and he called LSU Police and within three minutes they arrived, and they contacted medical personnel.

Joan King
I had a student have a seizure in my class once and the recuse people went to the dorm Wilson building instead of the H.D. Wilson classroom building. Can they track the GPS on our cell phones, so they know where we are?

Bart Thompson
They can track GPS, but it is a timely process. They can get accurate information using the 911 Shield app.

Julia Ledet
What if we see someone that looks homeless in the building, should we call for that?

Bart Thompson
Yes, call, it doesn’t mean they will go to jail. If they refuse to cooperate or have committed a crime, then they will go to jail.

Andrew Sluyter
How many felony arrests are there on campus each year?

Bart Thompson
The most arrests in the early 90s were 65 and last year it was 600. We are lower than other SEC schools.

Student Affairs- Dr. Mari Fuentes-Martin, Interim Vice President for Student Affairs
No report due to recent fraternity issues and administrators put on leave. Deanne Morris from the Health Center is interim Student Affairs now. Tracy Blanchard is now Dean of Students.

Q&A Summary:
None.

Old Business
None.

New Business

First Reading Resolution 19-02, “Students Rights and Responsibilities”, Sponsored by Faculty Senate Executive Committee on the behalf of the Staff Senate

Read by Ken McMillin
Whereas a student enrolled at Louisiana State University should be aware of rights granted and upheld by the administration and their responsibilities necessary to receive these rights, and

Whereas students of the University are protected by established policies, which are numerous and not always easily accessed, and

Whereas there is no central document that informs students or faculty members of these rights and responsibilities, and

Whereas a central document will emphasize and clarify such rights and responsibilities that a student at the University may have and of which faculty members should be aware, and

Whereas violations of these student rights may be addressed by filing a complaint to the Student Government Judicial Branch, and

Whereas the Judicial Branch may offer an endorsement of the validity of the student complaint through a judicial opinion, and

Whereas the proposed list of student rights and responsibilities is not exhaustive and based upon existing policies and practice, including the Code of Student Conduct, Faculty Handbook, PS-22 Student Absence from Class, PS-29 Management of Courses and Classes, PS-30 Student Privacy Rights, PS-44 Student Grading, PS-45 Courses and Curricula, PS-48 General Appeal Procedure Available to Students, LSU General Catalog, LSU Schedule Booklet, and the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974,

Therefore, be it resolved that the LSU Faculty Senate affirms the Student Senate request that the LSU Student Bill of Rights and Responsibilities will be:

1. Students have the responsibility to know and follow the Student Code of Conduct.
2. Students have the right to meet with professors or instructors concerning their classes.
3. Students have the responsibility to attend class and to seek out work for which they have missed in the case of an excused absence.
4. Students have the right to make up course work for absences deemed excusable by PS-22 Student Absence from Class or an individual professor.
5. Students are responsible for providing reasonable advance notice and appropriate documentation to be excused from class or an assignment.
6. Students have the right to access the syllabi in their courses and to any changes that are made during the semester in accordance with PS-29 Management of Courses and Classes.
7. Students have the right to view updated grade information during the semester.
8. Students have the right to appeal the decisions of their professors in accordance with PS-48 General Appeal Procedure Available to Students.
9. Students have the responsibility to make appeals of final grades within 30 days after the beginning of the next regular semester.
10. Students have the right to re-schedule a final examination if there are three final examinations scheduled within a 24-hour time period.
11. Students have the responsibility to request to the Dean of their College that their exams be re-scheduled when this occurs.
12. Students cannot have their opinions weighed negatively when expressed within the context of a course and the course material.
13. Students have the right to confidentiality of their records in accordance with University FERPA privacy guidelines.
14. Students have the right to access free on-campus resources when available and appropriate for an assignment.
15. Students have the right to be considered stakeholders in the University policies that affect their abilities to achieve academic and personal success on campus.

Moved into discussion.

Q&A Summary:

Julia Ledet
Number 10 regarding the right to re-schedule a final if three are scheduled the same time; does it have to be a certain number of hours?

Ken McMillin
The students have the right to request from their Dean that the Dean make the request to the instructor.

Dorin Boldor
When conflicts are in different colleges, which dean do they go to?

Ken McMillin
They go to that dean of their college to make the request.

Charles Delzell
There is a deadline to make the request.
Ken McMillin
This is a good summary in one place of what everyone needs to do. Most of it is codified.

Charles Delzell
Maybe we should qualify it.

Jane Cassidy
It is seven hours for changing finals.

Bryan McCann
Someone's opinion is that evolution is a myth, but science shows it is not. What happens when a student’s opinion contradicts what the faculty teaches? Would they be able to give a student an F if they do not give the correct answer, but their opinion instead?

Ken McMillin
The student has a right to appeal.

Senator
One is based on opinion and one is based on fact.

Ken McMillin
It is word for word out of the policy.

Senator
Number 12 sounds like it is restricting faculty in the classroom. If it is really about professors, then it should say professors.

Ken McMillin
We have had problems where students have been graded lower due to their opinions. There has also been student to student issues.

Lilly Allen
She wonders if it is trying to say something about retaliation and subject matter but it’s not. Can it say you can bring up concerns about this Bill of Rights without retaliation?

Ken McMillin
Students interpret it as very obvious retaliation.

Andrew Sluyter
It is the only one that doesn’t start as students have the right. It may go back to PS-44.

Provost Haynie
She read the exact language from PS-44: “…grades must not be utilized as coercive for punitive measures reflective of a student's behavior, attitude, personal philosophy, or other personal characteristics except, and I’d be getting to the question about saying evolution, except as those qualities relate directly to that student's level of mastery of course materials…”

Prosanta
Change number 12 to Students can have the right to express their opinion in the context of the course and course materials without fear of retaliatory grading. Include a link to the PS.

Bryan McCann
Turning Point USA is trying to blur lines between retaliation and grading. Can we bring up the issue of academic freedom?

Ken McMillin
We are still working on wording of the Academic Freedom policy. We want to work in academic freedom, free speech and tenure. After that we can include PS-120. This Bill of Rights is not necessarily the final version.

Charles Delzell
The Board of Supervisors has a statement about academic freedom which he read.

Ken McMillin
That may be good to add to our PS.

Senator
Can we rearrange the numbers to move number 8 just before number 12?

Paul Hrycaj
Why don’t all statements have a reference to policy?

Ken McMillin
We can do that.

**First Reading Resolution 19-03, “Establishment of a Legal Defense Fund”, Sponsored by Faculty Senate Benefits Advisory Committee**

Read by Andrew Sluyter

**First Reading of 19-03 Resolution, Establishment of a Legal Defense Fund**

*Sponsored by Faculty Senate Benefits Advisory Committee*

**Whereas** employer contributions to LSU’s ORP (Optional Retirement Plan) have not met the legally required minimum since 2010, and university faculty members have been forced to sue the Teachers Retirement System of Louisiana and the LSU Board of Supervisors for relief ([http://upload.lsu.edu/senate/lawsuit%20regarding%20retirement.pdf](http://upload.lsu.edu/senate/lawsuit%20regarding%20retirement.pdf));

**Whereas** the plaintiffs (Profs. Kevin Cope and Roger Laine) have since 2014 paid the costs of that litigation out of personal funds and individual contributions;

**Whereas** that litigation might eventually result in substantial relief for the plaintiffs and all other participants in the ORP;

**Whereas** the lawsuit is proceeding slowly and will certainly incur further costs before resulting in a judgement;

**Whereas** that lawsuit is only one of several issues that involve conflict between LSU’s faculty and its management, other examples including violations of academic freedom and due process for which LSU has since 2012 been under censure by the American Association of University Professors;

**Whereas** the foregoing conflicts are longstanding and persistent, with no indication from management of interest in working toward a resolution, so that any reasonable person would expect them to continue for the foreseeable future;

**Whereas** the continued underfunding of higher education by Louisiana’s state government has persisted for more than a decade, so that any reasonable person would expect additional conflicts to arise between LSU’s management and its faculty related to low salaries, poor benefits, scarce resources, and a deteriorating physical plant;

**Whereas** the faculty’s ability to seek legal recourse could encourage management to seek solutions to such existing and potential conflicts through a more robust and comprehensive shared governance of the university than currently pertains;

**Whereas** the major impediment to the faculty engaging in justifiable litigation remains a scarcity of funding to retain lawyers;

**Whereas** the faculty might be able to secure funding for the purposes of such litigation through individual donations, as have already been used to support the ORP lawsuit;

**Whereas** the faculty might be able to secure additional funding from foundations, professional associations, private benefactors, philanthropic organizations, public appeals, and other sources;

**Whereas** standing as a not-for-profit corporation is necessary in order to issue tax receipts for such donations and otherwise solicit, manage, and spend funds in a transparent and appropriate manner;

**Whereas** the faculty of other postsecondary institutions as diverse as Kent State University, Diablo Valley College, Windsor University, Southern University, and the University of Washington have at various times created legal defense funds to protect faculty rights and advance faculty priorities;

**Therefore** be it resolved that an ad hoc committee of this body, made up of members with relevant expertise, be timely formed to investigate the possibility of establishing a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation tentatively named the “University Faculty Legal Defense Fund of Louisiana,” associated bank accounts, crowdfunding campaigns on GoFundMe or similar services, and/or anything else necessary to a legal defense fund for the protection and advancement of faculty rights and priorities.

Moved into discussion.
Q&A Summary:

Prosanta
For the part that says corporation tentatively named, should it say LSU?

Andrew Sluyter
We wanted to keep it broad, the emphasis is for the lawsuit. We want a committee of appropriate people to come up with an appropriate name.

Prosanta
He wondered if ULL or Southeastern will have access to the fund.

Andrew Sluyter
It may not be appropriate to have LSU in the name.

Ken McMillin
The committee will need to determine if it should be statewide or only LSU.

Brooks Ellwood
It should be statewide, but it’s up to the faculty.

Charles Delzell
For most lawsuits the faculty is the plaintiff, not the defendant. Maybe the name should be changed.

Andrew Sluyter
The name is a legal name.

Fereydoun Aghazadeh
We are not writing the rules; our job is to approve the resolution and have the committee determine the name.

Senator
Just because the word defense is there doesn’t mean you are the defendant, you can be the plaintiff.

Roger Laine
He was involved in a lawsuit of a student who was suing a faculty and they had a defense fund.

Provost Haynie
If you have LSU, you have to have it as an affiliate organization with appropriate paperwork and abiding rules.

Fereydoun Aghazadeh
If it’s for ORP that is good, but if it’s for everything that’s a different story.

Andrew Sluyter
They wanted it to be a broader concept not just ORP, but it is certainly the impetus.

Roger Laine
Right now, the university can use state funds to sue a faculty member, but not the other way around.

Judith Sylvester
Who would decide how the money would be used?

Andrew Sluyter
The 501c3 would have to have bylaws and a board of supervisors and it would have to separate from the faculty senate. It wouldn’t be any time a faculty member has a lawsuit that they can get it from the organization. His thought is, it would be something that affects many faculty not just isolated cases.

Ken McMillin
Every not for profit organization has to follow the laws and register with the Secretary of State.

Ken McMillin
He mentioned the email for the search for the ORED Vice President candidate and the search committee diversity.
All moved to adjourn at 5:16 pm