Category: [Minutes](http://hpcc.cs.lamar.edu/senate/index.php/minutes-and-resolutions/minutes/old-minutes)

Hits: 110

Faculty Senate   
Held on: March 4, 2009, 3 p.m.   
Held at: 8th Floor John Gray Library

Faculty Senate  
Minutes of the Meeting of 3/4/2009  
  
Attending:  
Arts & Sciences: Dianna Rivers, George Irwin, Kenneth Dorris, Ray Robertson, , Jeremy Shelton, Rose Harding, Nancy Blume, Mike Matthis, Catalina Castillon, Ken Rivers, Valentin Andreev, Bo Sun; Business: George Kenyon, Alicen Flosi, J.Y. Choi, Soumava Bandyopadhyay, Howell Lynch; Education & Human Development: Fara Goulas, Lula Henry, Elvis Arterbury, Kimberly Chalambaga, Barbara Hernandez; Engineering: John Gossage, Ken Aung, Brian Craig. Fine Arts & Communication: Kurt Gilman, Ann Matlock, Nicki Michalski, Zanthia Smith,; Library: Sarah Tusa; Developmental Studies: Umporn Tosirisuk. Lamar State College, Port Arthur: Mavis Triebel  
  
Not Attending:  
Arts & Sciences: Emma Hawkins, Randall Yoder, Shelia Smith, Jeff Forret; Kyehong Kang, Don Owen; Business: None absent; Education & Human Development: Jane Irons, Joel Barton, Sandy Harris; Engineering: Jerry Lin, Paul Corder, Ed Koehn; Fine Arts & Communication: Mary Ann Gentry, Monica Harn, Jeff Wisor; Library: Trina Nolen  
  
Quorum was met.  
  
Call to Order:  
President Terri Davis called the meeting to order at 3:01 p.m.  
  
Approval of Minutes:  
Dianna Rivers made the motion to approve the Minutes of the February meeting with one correction: Randall Yoder was present Lula Henry seconded the motion. Motion carried.  
  
President’s Report: (See attached)   
  
Committee Reports:  
Academic Issues:  
No report  
  
Faculty Issues:  
Lula Henry reported that her committee will meet with Dr. Doblin after Spring Break.  
  
Budget and Compensation:   
Ann Matlock shared copies of a report prepared by this committee. (See Addendum I)   
  
Faculty Research & Development:  
John Gossage reported that this committee worked on qualifications for the Director of the Faculty Development Center and forwarded their report to Kurt Gilman, who is chairing the search committee for that position.  
  
Distinguished Faculty Lecture:  
Kim Chalambaga and Alicen Flosi reported that today (March 4, 2009) was the deadline for submitting nominations. Their next meeting will be April 8. They are working with the LU Theatre to confirm the date. One of the target dates is November 2nd.  
  
Old Business:  
The recommendation regarding the suggestion to put all courses in a Blackboard shell was presented again with some rewording, which was accepted as a friendly amendment. The motion to accept the newly worded recommendation passed unanimously. (See Addendum II.)  
  
Provost Stephen Doblin has asked the Faculty Senate to revisit the prospect of tying tenure and promotion together. Lula Henry referred the Faculty Senate to Faculty Senate minutes of December 3, 2003 and May 5, 2005 for previous discussion on this topic.  
  
New Business:  
A special election was held to replace Chris Bridges-Esser as Vice-President, in light of her resignation from the Faculty Senate. Catalina Castillon and Lula Henry were nominated from the floor. Catalina ultimately declined the nomination. A motion was made to elect Lula Henry by acclamation. Motion passed.   
  
Terri Davis issued a call for a nomination committee to conduct elections for the 2009-2011term. College representatives were asked to caucus to select a representative from each college and report that person’s name to Sarah.  
  
Open Discussion/Comments:  
There was considerable discussion regarding HEH/Academic Partnership. Suggestions included making the contract much more detailed than the original draft. Concern was expressed that new faculty will be hired, and when Mr. Best divests himself of HEH, Lamar faculty will be stuck with “baggage.” A request was made to try to make the proposed contract retroactive. Another recommendation was to limit the number of online courses taken by a given student. There was some concern that if existing Lamar faculty do not participate in Academic Partnerships, administrators will hire adjuncts.  
  
Adjournment:  
Motion was made by Valentin Andreev and seconded by Nicki Michalski to adjourn at 4:30 p.m. Motion carried.  
  
President’s Report  
March 4, 2009  
Announcements:  
Dr. Doblin has asked the Senate consider typing tenure and promotion together in the 6th year. Lula Henry and Faculty Issues are looking into the issue.  
  
I have not asked Keith Capps to come speak to the Senate about the transition from paper to online class schedules because the transition has been postponed until the Spring 2010 semester. This means, however, that advisors will need to be trained in using the new system before registration begins in November.   
  
  
Dr. Doblin has just received the last of the deans’ evaluations and is scheduling the general meetings with faculty in the Colleges of Business, Fine Arts & Communication, and Engineering.   
  
I’ve been informed that professors when scheduling classes will be asked to provide the ISBN# and list price of books they require for use in their classes.   
  
The Senate Charter (Section 1.4, Structure and Organization) calls for members of the Senate to be elected by each academic college in March. The term of office of the newly elected senators begins the first day of the fall semester. It is also time to hold elections for University Committees and Councils. I would like to ask for volunteers from each college and the library to conduct and supervise the elections:  
  
Arts & Sciences:  
FA&C:  
Engineering:  
Business:  
Education:  
Library:  
It is also time to select members to the Senate Nominations Committee. The committee is charged with meeting and preparing a slate of officer candidates. The Senate By-Laws states: Senators from the separate colleges and the library will meet and select a committee representative (one Senator from each college and the library). The names of the committee members must be given in writing to the Secretary prior to the April meeting. The committee will then meet and propose a slate of officer candidates no later than 2 weeks before the May meeting.   
  
Capital Campaign – Gift Designation Options – “Other” – Faculty Senate Scholarship Fund. Have had over $9,000 sitting for some time. Must have at least $15,000 to have endowed scholarship. Designated for students of Lamar staff.   
  
The original contract between LU and HEH appears to have been negotiated in 2006 and signed in 2007 prior to me becoming Senate president. The HEH Education programs were already in place, and BAAS through HEH came to the forefront shortly after I was elected. I think in part because of pervasive faculty and Faculty Senate concerns, Dean Nichols and Catherine Cotten held "informational workshops" about BAAS and HEH. The input I received from faculty was mostly that the workshops created more questions and concerns than previously existed. I therefore suggested to President Simmons that he and Provost Doblin attend department meetings and answer faculty questions directly. This has been done, and the faculty feedback I have received has been mostly quite positive.   
  
Yet another issue concerning HEH has arisen. The Texas Legislature passed a statute generally referred to as the “Early College Program” requiring high schools to offer at least 12 hours of dual credit to high school juniors and seniors. From my department meeting with the President and Provost, it is my understanding the requirements for enrolling in the courses are equivalent to AP courses. The relatively recent and sustained push to offer the core through HEH appears to be directed toward distributing LU courses through HEH to high schools. Since 360 Texas school districts have already contracted with HEH for the masters programs in the College of Education, it is desired that these districts will also use the LU/HEH system for providing the dual credit courses. President Simmons has stated that UT Arlington is already ready to offer the courses, and offering the core through HEH will allow us to compete for enrollment.  
You will note in my President Reports in the minutes of especially the November, December, and February Senate meetings the deep concerns I and members of the Executive Committee have had about the LU-HEH partnership. Quoting from my report in February, soon available the LU website:   
“I have suggested to the Executive Committee that we redirect our focus toward securing and preserving the rights of faculty, increasing faculty pay, and protecting the integrity of all programs offered through Lamar… The Executive Committee agrees the Senate should now focus on protecting the quality and integrity of all courses offered by and through Lamar, and on protecting faculty teaching in both the traditional classroom environment and online through HEH, Academic Partnership, and Distance Education.”  
In an attempt to fulfill this mission, I have gained from President Simmons a copy of the contract LU has with HEH and am now preparing a list of legal questions to ask to clarify the contract. Also, President Simmons, Provost Doblin and the TSUS attorney prepared a draft contract between faculty members creating distance education courses and Lamar. I am meeting with President Simmons after Spring Break to offer suggested changes. A copy of the contract is available, and I urge members of the Senate to communicate their suggestions and comments to me before March 18.  
Finally, the Executive Committee met in special session last week to discuss the Senate’s plans for addressing HEH. I have come to the conclusion that the only way Lamar faculty can preserve the academic integrity of LU distance education courses, whether they be HEH, on-line, or Blackboard, is for existing LU faculty to teach the courses. It has been suggested to me, for example, that courses be “team taught” by LU faculty who create the courses and monitor any HEH instruction by “coaches” or “mentors.” While academic quality and integrity is and has been our most pressing concern, if existing LU faculty teach, monitor and control distance education courses the Senate is in a better position to advocate on behalf of other faculty concerns such as reducing the present 4/4 teaching load to allow for more research by all faculty members, increasing the salaries of all LU faculty (whether or not they teach distance ed courses), and more equitable pay for those who do choose to teach distance ed courses.   
Perhaps the Senate’s strongest advocate for academic quality and integrity has been Dr. Christine Bridges-Esser. Chris has served in the Senate for many, many years and has fought vehemently against any incursion of HEH into the Lamar curriculum. Because of her strong convictions, Chris has elected to resign from the Senate and her position as Vice-President. This leaves a vacancy in an at-large seat in the College of Arts and Sciences, as well as a vacancy in the vice-presidency.  
APPENDIX I  
  
REPORT of the Budget & Compensation Committee  
  
The Budget and Compensation Committee met on February 11, 2009. The committee approved changes to the Budget and Compensation Report on faculty salaries for FY2009. The corrected version of our report is attached to the minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting of February 4, 2009.   
A subcommittee chaired by Barbara Hernandez was formed to examine the data we had obtained on staff and administrative salaries. We will discuss their report at our next meeting. We will report on this matter to the Faculty Senate in April.  
We have also requested information about the financial arrangements between the University and Higher Education Holdings. We plan to report to the Senate on this matter as soon as we are able to examine the data.  
  
  
APPENDIX II  
  
Lamar Faculty Senate  
RECOMMENDATION  
passed unanimously January 14, 2009 [with friendly amendment highlighted]; passed unanimously with new friendly amendments (highlighted), March 4, 2009.  
Concerning the creation of a BlackBoard shell for all courses at Lamar University:  
WHEREAS, the Academic Information Technology Committee at Lamar University suggests providing backup of all course materials at Lamar University, to provide benefit such as uninterrupted access to course materials in the event of disasters; and WHEREAS, whenever an individual course is created on BlackBoard, this process has to go through the Center for Distance Education, which places extra burden; and WHEREAS, BlackBoard provides much more functionalities than my.lamar.edu; and,WHEREAS, the creation of a BlackBoard shell incurs no extra costs; and,WHEREAS, BlackBoard offers SafeAssign, a plagiarism prevention service, at no additional cost;  
It is therefore RECOMMENDED that the Administration create a BlackBoard Shell for all courses at Lamar University provided that no faculty member shall be in any way forced to use or punished for not using Blackboard or any electronic transmission system.