

Faculty Senate
[Draft] Minutes of the Meeting of May 7, 2014

Attending:

Arts & Sciences: Jim Mann, Valentin Andreev, Dianna Rivers, Rachel Kilgore, Judy Smith, Amy Smith, Heidi Bardenhagen, Peggy Doerschuk, Mark Mengerink, Tom Sowers, Charles Coppin, Joseph Kruger, Michael Haiduk, Cheng-Hsien Lin, Ted Mahavier; **Business:** Howell Lynch, Ricardo Tovar-Silos, Tommy Thompson, Vivek Natarajan; **Education & Human Development:** Nancy Adams, Dorothy Sisk, Lula Henry, Barbara Hernandez, Molly Dahm, Debbie Troxclair; **Engineering:** Alberto Marquez, Ken Aung; **Fine Arts & Communication:** Connie Howard, Scott Deppe, Nicki Michalski, Golden Wright, Xenia Fedorchenko; **Library:** Karen Nichols, Sarah Tusa; **College Readiness:** Melissa Riley; **Lamar State College, Port Arthur:** Mavis Triebel

Not Attending:

Arts & Sciences: Pat Heintzelman Barbara May, Kami Makki, Julie Wilhelm, Suying Wei, George Irwin, Martha Rinker, Glynda Cochran; **Business:** George Kenyon; **Education & Human Development:** Elvis Arterbury, Cristina Rios; **Engineering:** Paul Corder, John Gossage, Selahattin Sayil, Mein Jao; **Fine Arts & Communication:** Zanthia Smith, Megan Young; **Library:** None absent; **College Readiness:** None absent.

Quorum was met.

Call to Order:

President Barbara Hernandez called the meeting to order at 3:05 pm.

Guest Speaker:

President Evans gave an update on the demolition of the Brooke-Shivers dormitory and upcoming new construction and presented some slides. Here are some highlights.

Demolition is underway, or had already been completed at the time of this report, on the Brooks-Shivers dormitory. The building's name had been transferred to the dining hall. The one disadvantage to new construction is that we will have slightly less square footage, but we get to decide how the new building works. Along with the new Center for Innovation, Commercialization, and Entrepreneurship (which will be a commercial building/enterprise, and the New Administration & Honors College building, there will be a new entrance to the campus.

Also, a new women's softball field will be built on the same side of campus, near the soccer complex. Groundbreaking is anticipated to take place in 6-8 weeks.

From student fees and as a result of the food service contract, Setzer Center will be gutted and will get a new look. It is one of the few buildings that is not sinking and is structurally sound.

Regarding the state funding formula, LU gets "beat up" on our graduation rate. However, the vast majority of our students work full- or part-time and some still take nearly a full load. Thus, our students graduate 6th in the nation for least amount of debt upon graduation. (President Evans showed slides of "The Student Experience," and of undergraduate research programs.)

President Evans reported that the study abroad program may double in the number of students this year. The number of locations had expanded. He also mentioned that via student organizations, our students are involved in every sector of the community. Lamar students were also involved in the Clinton Global Initiative, which assembled at New Mexico State University. For their project they designed origami shelters, for use after a disaster. The shelters are designed to last 4 to 6 months.

It was also reported that Lamar University has one of the most diverse campuses in the country. We now recruit the top 10 Hispanic students via a student-run initiative, whereby a banquet is held at Lamar. The Hispanic student population has hence doubled.

Recruiting efforts in Houston has shown early success with 2 new recruiters. Other indicators of student success include the accomplishments of the drumline, which came in 2nd in the national competition, and the fact that LU is ranked 11th nationally for ROI for engineering majors.

Question from floor: What is the status of faculty pay raises? Answer: There will be approximately 2% pay raise.

Question from floor: Are there other construction developments around campus? Answer: Antioch is purchasing and renovating some properties around campus. LU needs to avoid competing with them. There are a couple of initiatives going on. One is a push to add apartment complexes. The other is to attract retail, since 'foot traffic' drives everything.

Question from floor: There was a mugging incident. There is concern about safety. Answer: The Police "are all over that." They will also spend some time in international neighborhoods.

Approval of Minutes:

Dianna Rivers made the motion to approve the Minutes of the March 2014, and Judy Smith seconded the motion. Motion passed.

President's Report:

Barbara gave the following news and updates:

Old Business:

- Barbara thanked the members of the Nominations Committee for preparing the slate of candidates for Faculty Senate officers.
- At the time of this meeting, there were still three (3) Faculty Senate elections awaiting results.

New Business

- Barbara announced that a second Faculty Senate meeting will be held immediately following this one, to conduct officer elections;
- Barbara met with the Strategic Planning Academic Leadership Association, along with Faculty Senate officers and other faculty senators. The Executive Committee of that group will have a retreat in late August, with a target date of January 2015;
- Barbara asked that senators send comments on the Faculty Handbook draft to her, Peggy, or Valentin. Dean Russ Schultz chaired the committee and wants Faculty Senate's feedback;
- There was discussion at the Academic Council of Deans (ACD) meeting to see if Faculty Senate wants to consider a separate teaching award, and whether we want to separate the University Professor award into one for Associate and one for Full Professor.

- The new Vice President for Student Engagement (previously 'Student Affairs') is Dr. Vicky McNeil from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where she is currently the Associate Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs;
- There are three searches underway: College of Engineering dean, Honors College dean, and Vice President for Advancement. Barbara encouraged everyone to attend the open meetings;
- Lamar University is on the list to have an attorney assigned by TSUS;
- Presidential Fellowships are in review by the CTLE Advisory Committee and the University Research Council;
- University committees need elections and appointments.

Committee Reports:

Ad-hoc Committee on Retention:

Resolution to be presented on the committee's report that was presented at the April Faculty Senate meeting. Please see New Business below.

Faculty Issues:

Tom Sowers said his committee has no report, but they are looking into the release time that is intended for tenure-track faculty to determine if it is being granted equitably.

Academic Issues:

Jim Mann yielded to Co-chair Joe Kruger, who gave an update on the status of the computer standardization policy. John Genuardi honored the recommendations as much as he could. Some laptops were not available. The list is to be reviewed each year. Kruger wanted assurance that dual monitors and large screen monitors will not require exceptions, to which Genuardi reportedly replied "as far as I know." If any small adjustments are needed, call Genuardi. They can work it in, within reason. Also, a lower-end PC was added to the list because someone wanted something cheaper as an option. Barbara said she would send the list as an attachment.

Distinguished Faculty Lecture:

Golden Wright reported that the 2014 Distinguished Faculty Lecturer is Dr. Jerry Lin, who teaches Environmental Engineering within the Civil Engineering Department. Golden thanked the committee.

Faculty Research & Development:

No report.

Budget and Compensation:

No report.

F2.08 Task Force:

Howell Lynch reported that this group will meet over the summer in the library conference room. He has requested information from the deans about teaching criteria.

Staff Appreciation Day:

Mark Asteris reported that he received a lot of positive reaction from staff. He collected \$1,185 from faculty, which was a little more than in the past. He also bought the better candy, which costs more, but less candy is left on the tables. We used to use Parkdale gift cards as door prizes, but Parkdale Mall does not offer gift cards any more.

New Business:

Peggy Doerschuk presented the following resolution in regard to the committee's report that was distributed at the April Faculty Senate meeting.

Whereas the Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Retention has dutifully met its charge of developing recommended strategies for improving student retention;

Whereas the Faculty Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Retention has presented this [report] to the full Faculty Senate;

[Therefore] Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of Lamar University accept this plan and present the report to President Evans. [Words in brackets added for clarity.]

Valentin Andreev suggested not to specify teaching methods in the report, explaining that teaching methods depended on the class, but no amendment was made. Ted Mahavier made the motion to approve the resolution. Dorothy Sisk seconded. Motion passed.

Old Business: None.

Open Discussion/Comments:

Barbara thanked the Faculty Senate officers and committee chairs and said that we have a good working relationship with Administration and everyone's heart is in the right place, which makes a good environment for faculty.

Adjournment:

Tommy Thompson made the motion to adjourn. Ted Mahavier seconded. Motion passed. Meeting was adjourned at 4:26 p.m.