

Faculty Senate Meeting  
Lamar University  
December 7, 2016  
8<sup>th</sup> floor Mary and John Gray Library

Presiding: Sarah Tusa

Attending: **Arts and Sciences:** Valentin Andreev, Judy Smith, Cheng-Hsien Lin, Jennifer Daniel, Cristian Bahrim, Kami Makki, Stacey Knight, Michael Beard, Yasuko Sato, J.P. Nelson, Joseph Kruger, Matthew Pyne for Randall Terry, Ted Mahavier, Gina Hale, Tom Sowers, Ana Christenson, Judy Smith, Adrienne Blackwell, Michael Beard, . **Business:** Tim McCoy, Karyn Neuhauser, Purnendu Mandal, Vivek Natarajan, James Slaydon, **Education:** R.J. Davis, Anna Nguyen, Ken Young, Janice Kimmons, Belinda Lopez, **Engineering:** John Gossage, Gleb Tcheslavski, **Fine Arts and Communication:** Nicki Michalski, Xenia Fedorchenko, Zanthia Smith, Joel Grothe, Bryan Proksch, Sherry Freyermuth **Library:** Michael Saar, Sarah Tusa **College Readiness:** Melissa Riley, **Lamar State College Port Arthur:** Mavis Triebel,

**Absent:** **Arts and Sciences:** Charles Popp, Jennifer Ravey, Martha Rinker, Ozge Gunaydin-Sen, George Irwin, **Business:** Seokyon Hwang, **Education:** Rick Carter, Vanessa Villate, Mamta Singh, **Engineering:** Paul Corder, Xinyu Liu, Xuejun Fan, Nicholas Brake **Fine Arts and Communication:** Richard Gachot, Vinaya Manchaiah

**Call to Order:** 3:30 p.m.

**Guest Speaker: Dr. Kevin Smith, Senior Associate Provost**

- Just returned from a SACS meeting in Atlanta.
- LU is a member in good standing for the Class of 2019. The University has been a member of SACS since 1955.
- SACS Headquarters is in Decatur, Georgia and is a peer review accrediting body of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.
- Without SACS accreditation: the university would lose many opportunities for grant monies. The next review of the university is scheduled for the 2018-2019 academic school year.
- Compliance includes 90 standards that must be met.
- Preparation of a compliance self-study is a key component of the accreditation process. The self-study must include institutional responses to the standards. Spring and Fall semesters of 2018 will be the primary focus for compliance
- Process will involve:
  - If any areas of non compliance are identified the university will be notified in writing
  - The University will be required to do a focus report with responses to the comments from the peer reviewers by February 12, 2019 and must include the Quality Enhancement plan (QEP)
  - The on-site survey will include 8-10 surveyors from other states and the Vice President of SACS
  - April 2, 2019 estimated date for site visit. The surveyors will be double checking for compliance and especially the QEP.
  - The surveyors will visit with all vested interest groups.

- At the end of the survey the visitors will have a meeting with all primary stakeholders regarding their findings.
- Will then send a written soft report on findings following the visit.
- If recommendations are made, the university will need to prepare a response as to how the recommendations will be addressed to the Compliance and Reports Committee at SACS.
- In December 2019, the SACS group will meet to either affirm or deny accreditation.
- If not reaffirmed, the university may be placed on a 6 month probation.
- 90% of the 2015 cohort was cited by the off-site group for failure to meet the standard for faculty competence to teach the course they were assigned. All universities must be able to align faculty credentials with courses they are teaching.
- 3 out of 5 facilities institutional effectiveness plans did not have student learning outcomes or were unable to demonstrate how the student learning outcomes are met.
- 47% lacked institutional support.
- Universities must also ensure that they have adequate faculty to teach the courses offered. We were dinged in 2010 on this standard.
- On-site 59% of citations related to the Quality Improvement Plans.
- CNR 16% received citations for Institutional Effectiveness in educational programs. Some universities were hit for financial instability.
- The Self Study requires everyone to be involved in helping to get this accomplished.
- The QEP is a new addition to the SACS standards-primary focus is to do something that will address the problem of the lack of success and retention of students. Most students are lost during the first semester of the first year.
- Theresa Helfnubab will be replacing Tony Martin as the SACS coordinator.

#### **Minutes:**

- Minutes from the November 2, 2016 meeting were reviewed:
  - J. Kruger made a motion to approve
  - RJ Davis seconded
  - Minutes approved by consensus.

#### **New Business:**

- Stefan Andrei will be the speaker at the February meeting to talk about the proposed standardized Syllabus.
- We need some volunteers from the Research and Development Committee to agree to work with the Faculty Issues Committee.
- Faculty Senate Committee Chair Reports:
  - Faculty Issues: Jennifer Daniels
    - Asked for a Onedrive account to be set up for faculty senate-Request has been sent for the e-mail account in order to set it up.
    - Will meet next week as well in Parker room 205 @ 3:30 pm.
    - Nine Applicants so far for Minnie Piper Award. Jennifer did meet with Dr. Kevin Smith. Committee is also in the process of reviewing the selection process for choosing the Minnie Piper Award nominees.

- Dr. Marquart is in the process of reviewing the faculty handbook.
    - Engineering Department is experiencing issues with their class load. Dr. Palanki has been interpreting the weights differently and does not include actual course prep time in the calculation. Considers teaching as 60% of the faculties workloads. Four courses is considered a full workload (100%)
  - Academic Issues: Kami Makki presented
    - The committee is still assessing the situation with cheating and Proctor U. The committee is asking that you submit questions or problems with this to them including the length of time this has been occurring.
  - Budget and Compensation: No Report
  - Research and Development: Cheng-Hsien Lin
    - The committee has completed reviews of the 8 proposals that were submitted. 6 of the submissions are qualified.
    - In the meeting with Dr. Evans last week, he would like to see more R and D applications submitted by faculty.
    - Some departments currently have 1-3 applicants every year while other departments do not have anyone applying.
    - Will do a survey of the Senate in 2017 to determine if there are ways to improve the applicant pool for R and D. The committee wants to know why faculty members are not applying for R and D.
    - Concerns have been raised regarding faculty applying for R and D but stay in the local area. Some voiced that they may be using specialized software that is specifically loaded on their work computers and have to do their analysis of data locally.
    - Questions were also raised regarding having an overload to hold a faculty member on R and D's position without compensation for it. There has also been fears voiced regarding the potential loss of position or specific courses normally taught if approved for R and D.
  - F2.08 Task Force: Nicki Michalski
    - Hope to have a firm proposal to bring back to the Senate in February that will emphasize a more quantitative method of measurement of success for all chairs reviewing F2.08's.
  - Faculty Salary Equity: James Slaydon
    - Still have only about ½ of the CUPA data. Dr. Marquart will be meeting with Deans to talk about developing an equity plan next week.
- **Old Business:**
  - External reviews-Dr. Evans want to emphasize that external review will be strictly limited to faculty applying for full professor early in the 6<sup>th</sup> year only.
  - Sarah and Dr. Marquart will be formulating a letter to the Deans to emphasize this point.
- **New Business:** None

**Adjournment:**

- Valentin motioned to adjourn the meeting at 1630.
  - Vivek seconded
  - Approved by acclamation.
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- Respectfully Submitted:  
Dr. Judy Smith