

LSU Health
NEW ORLEANS
FACULTY SENATE

Minutes

Tuesday, March 9, 2021

3:30pm-5:00pm, Zoom

Those present included:

Allied Health: Kellie Camelford, Rachel Chappell, Luther Gill, George Hebert, Krystal Vaughn

Dentistry: Larry Bates, Suzanne Farrar

Graduate Studies: Suresh Alahari, Diptasri Mandal

Library: Rebecca Bealer (proxy for Marlene Bishop)

Medicine: Judy Crabtree, Jennifer Hart, John Hunt, Sanjay Kamboj, Stefany Primeaux, Elizabeth Wisner

Nursing: David Kalil, Susan Lee

Public Health: Andrew Chappell, Tekeda Ferguson, Chih-yang Hu, Evrim Oral

Ex Officio: Rebecca Bealer

Meeting called to order 3:31pm

Invited guest speaker: Dr. Timothy Fair, Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion

- Dr. Fair described his vision for the newly established Office for Diversity and Inclusion as dynamic and highly collaborative and focusing on how better to support each other in our shared goals.
- He has held meetings with executive leaders, deans, student organizations, CAPS, associate deans, and focus groups.
- Town Halls have also been held for all of the schools for students, faculty, and staff.
- The Town Halls for the School of Dentistry will be held the week of March 15th.
- An online tool is being investigated to guide the analysis and measurement of incidents of institutional harassment and bias. It is hoped this tool will be in place soon.
- He also had meetings with staff focusing on vaccinations and vaccination hesitancy.
- Position descriptions have been finalized for two staff for the Office of Diversity and Inclusion team. Currently the staff consists of Dr. Fair and an administrative assistant. One of the new positions will focus on learning and education whereas the second position will focus on access to opportunities in the institution for prospective students.
- There are a number of priorities he has identified and would like to implement, including creating a website/hub for the Office and holding an annual awards ceremony highlighting achievements.
- Questions from the Senate
 - Addressing lack of minority students, particularly in the School of Medicine
 - Dr. Fair is working with the School of Medicine to address this.
 - One of the positions yet to be filled in the Office will look at Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other institutions to build out relationships with them to improve recruitment of underrepresented students in the Health Sciences Center.
 - Asian Americans and Hispanics will be focused on as well.

- He also would like to create a community of support for international faculty at the HSC.
 - Dr. Fair extended an open invitation to the Senate to become a part of this as well as other objectives; President Alahari will collect the names of those who wish to be involved and forward them.
 - What has been the reaction from leadership regarding what is truly needed for a diversity, equity, and inclusion program?
 - There has been a genuine sense of inquiry with respect to diversity.
 - Challenges await and although hesitancy is to be expected, there has been no resistance.
- President Alahari thanked Dr. Fair for attending and presenting to the Senate.

Meeting

- February minutes were approved.
- President's Report
 - The Executive Committee met with Dr. Moerschbaecher on March 4th
 - Construction updates
 - Bridge over Tulane construction will begin soon.
 - Waiting for air rights for bridge from CSRB and Center for Advanced Learning and Simulation (CALs).
 - Construction has started on new housing - there is a plan to enhance and clean up the area between the new student housing location and campus.
 - Unisex bathrooms are being added to buildings where possible.
 - Medical students have requested meditation rooms.
 - Ideas for cleaning up the garden space at 1542 Tulane Ave. are being considered.
 - The plans have not yet been finalized when everyone will return to campus 100%.
 - Grant application process will be moving to an online system. It will be a month or two until that system will be available.
 - NIH F & K awards will now offer funds for childcare.
 - No new developments regarding sick leave/crisis leave pool.
 - LSU Foundation will be launching a website for students to identify scholarship and award opportunities and apply online.
 - Vaccination clinic will remain open as a clinic for now
 - Currently still have COVID vaccinations.
 - Were able to expand vaccinations to some groups outside of our pod including state troopers on our campus.
 - Commencement events will be virtual again this semester.
 - Old business
 - None
 - New business
 - None
 - Report from the Board of Supervisors meeting
 - A meeting was held on February 23rd that focused primarily on the LSU Baton Rouge campus and updating technology there.
 - A meeting was held March 5th
 - LSU Shreveport would like to establish a Bachelor of Science program.

- The School of Nursing was mentioned, but specifics were not available.
 - Title IX violations on the LSU Baton Rouge campus were discussed.
- Reports from assemblies
 - Allied Health
 - Dean Cairo sent out a message that all faculty and staff will have to be on campus at least 50% starting April 1st.
 - Research Day and commencement will be held virtually.
 - Dentistry
 - No report
 - Graduate Studies
 - The MD/PhD candidates were interviewed last week.
 - Medicine
 - Dean Nelson announced that starting March 8th everyone needed to be on campus at least 50%.
 - Dr. DiCarlo presented to the assembly about proposed updates to the promotion process.
 - Assembly award winners were chosen but yet to be announced.
 - There will be several new department chairs starting this spring.
 - Nursing
 - They, too, have been told to report to campus at least 50% starting April 1st.
 - Career Day will be held virtually on March 19th, which is also Certified Nurses' Day.
 - DNP projects will be presented March 23rd through 25th.
 - In April they will hold a virtual Scholarship Day.
 - Public Health
 - The Bachelor of Public Health program will be on a traditional fall, spring, summer semester schedule instead of the previously proposed 7-week schedule.
 - Library
 - As with most other schools, they also have been told to work on campus at least 50% starting April 1st. This only affects a small number of faculty and staff since the majority have been on campus at least 50% since March 2020 as the libraries have remained open during the pandemic.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:14pm

Minutes taken by Rebecca Bealer, proxy for Marlene Bishop.