

LSU Health
NEW ORLEANS
FACULTY SENATE

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday April,8 2025
3:30pm-5:00pm, CSRB-563

Those present included:

Allied Health - Luther Gill, Brittany Hall, Megan Majoue, Brandon Walker, Amber Weydert
Dentistry - Diedra Brewer-Hohensee, Thomas Lallier (also proxy for Molly Rosebush), A.C. Liles, Charles Taylor
Graduate Studies – Andrew Catling
Medicine - Suresh Alahari, Allison Augustus-Wallace, Jennifer Cameron (also proxy for Sonia Gasparini (SGS)), Jennifer Hart, Sanjay Kamboj, Michelle Korah-Sedgwick, Brian Lochlann McGee, Maria Reinoso
Nursing - Jolie Harris (also proxy for Laura Bonanno), Jessica Teeter (also proxy for Shelly Dolan and Sam Mauldin)
Public Health - Henry Nuss, Susanne Straif-Bourgeois (also proxy for Mei-Chin Hsieh), Tung-Sung Tseng (also proxy for Chih-yang Hu)
Library – Sharon Duffy
Ex-Officio - Rebecca Bealer, Aimme McCauley

Welcome and call to order by President Lallier at 3:30 PM

In accordance with the Louisiana Constitution, Article 12, Section 3, and La. R.S. 42:11-28, the Faculty Senate Meeting for the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center – New Orleans is hereby convened.

Administrative Updates

Alicia Edwards – Assistant Vice Chancellor, Office of Community Engagement

Staff Senate:

- Officers have been elected; by-laws and constitution have been written and voted on
- First open meeting will be next month
- Patricia Oates has been elected president
- Michael Boutte will serve as ad-hoc member of Faculty Senate and attend meetings

DEI:

- All language on websites has been removed or revised
- Health equity is appropriate term as determined by legal counsel
- Student organizations, accreditations, and curriculum are not subject to the orders from Department of Education to remove DEI language so those areas remain unchanged
- Request came from the state to report any state money spent on DEI activities, then report was requested for all money (from any source) spent on DEI activities. All reports have been submitted.
- Office is still operating and handling discrimination cases. Maxient reporting system is still up and collecting reports.
- Ombuds office has been a good resource for faculty/staff/students to get referrals and assistance with discrimination issues. [Associate Ombuds Office](#)
- Lack of compliance with orders to remove DEI language could result in loss of Title IV funding which is related to student aid. We are fully compliant at this time.

- [LA State House Bill 421](#) - would eliminate DEI office and DEI performance requirements from employees; we are compliant at this time.

Ken Boe - Assistant Vice Chancellor for Information Technology: submitted prior to meeting

Moodle Support:

- LSUOCE is ready to start scheduling kick off meetings with faculty to introduce their support service
- They are seeking input from Faculty about particular pain points with Moodle so they can focus their sessions
- Ken is seeking a Senator to serve as a point of contact for Moodle
- Updating the Moodle version could still be explored but no plans at this time

Canvas Platform:

- Earlier this year Canvas was explored as a Moodle replacement. LSU BR has decided to stay with Moodle. LSUHSC could switch to Canvas independently. Pricing may be lower and would include support for faculty.
- Ken will share latest pricing sheet with President Lallier; a demo could be set up if desired
- Earliest date to switch to Canvas would be 2026-27 academic year and would need to be finalized by early 2026.
- The Senate would like to get more information from IT about how Moodle is integrated and supported currently so comparisons to Canvas can be made

GraphPad Prism:

- Ken is still researching the prospect of adding this as an institutional subscription and working with VCAF for funding
- Pricing would be higher than individual subscriptions but it would be validated through SSO
- Licenses would be assigned to individual users; the institutional contract doesn't allow licenses to be shared

Website Accessibility Requirement Timeline

- At last IT Office Hours session, website accessibility requirements were discussed but no timeline was given for websites being compliant
- IT is waiting on the Dentistry and Public Health websites to be updated before focusing on accessibility
- There is an accessibility checker that can be used to determine if a site is compliant
- New requirement is for all course materials to also meet accessibility standards
- New policies will likely be needed for this effort and IT will assist
- For now, website owners can use the tools available to verify their pages will be compliant with new standards.

Approval of March 2025 meeting minutes

Minutes approved in motion by Sen Kamboj, Second by Sen. McGee

President's Report - (Pres. Lallier)

The Senate Exec Committee Met with Dr. Nelson on 2025-0320

- The Exec Committee met with Dr. Nelson on March 20, 2025

- Items discussed included the changes to PM-23 and the Faculty Evaluation process.
- **On PM-23 and the new Instruction Track:**
 - Dr. Nelson stated that he would prefer to have Tenured tracks for Teaching and Clinical Faculty rather than an additional non-tenure track.
 - He stated he would bring this idea to Dr. Tate (no timeline for this).
 - No details on implementation
 - The Exec committee will likely need to schedule another meeting after PM23 is approved to discuss this in more depth.
- **On Faculty Evaluations:**
 - Dr. Nelson stated that this process was initiated shortly after he was first appointed Interim Chancellor, and implemented quickly to allow for Merit raises.
 - He had intended this to be modified over the next few years, but due to the changes in HR staffing, this did not occur.
 - ♣ This began in the March 2022 evaluations for the 2021 calendar year.
 - ♣ This was unchanged for the 2022 and 2023 calendar years
 - ♣ There were minor changes for most schools for the 2024 evaluations
 - With SOD and SOPH adopting unique forms
 - The Exec committee voiced their desire to have more faculty input in the 2026 evaluation process for the 2025 calendar year.
 - ♣ Dr. Nelson did not deny this request, but did not have any guarantee that faculty would have more input next year, or how that would occur.
 - We will need to follow up with HR (Ms. Jill Fragoso) to ensure that this occurs
- **IRB Restructuring**
 - New Staff:
 - ♣ Jessica Rivera, MD, PhD – Chair IRB committee
 - ♣ Stephanie Sonnier – Assistant Director ORS
 - ♣ New Director – search ongoing
 - ♣ Nadia de la Houssaye – outside council
 - Fixing Policies is the priority
 - It should be better in a couple of weeks

The Senate Exec Committee met with Dr. Southerland on 2025-0403

- **SACS Update (Last one)**
 - Dr. Southerland believes we received 4.5 starts out of 5
 - ♣ There is 1 recommendation concerning the Chancellor and LSUBR
 - ♣ We have no details but it should be resolved quickly
 - QEP update – Loved by SACS
 - ♣ New Office of Student Success and Wellness to be formed
 - IPE is moving under this office (last QEP)
 - Looking to hire Educational Specialist, Institutional Assessment Research person
 - Several Software platforms used by Nursing will be used by All Schools to track student progress and Success

- We will begin by Tracking the cohort of students entering in May 1, 2025
 - Student Health Clinics
 - Need better signage
 - New Director hired at 40% FTE
- **New CMs**
 - None now
- **New Academic Policies (AAC)**
 - No meeting
- **Faculty Evaluations**
 - The Senate has formed a committee to review this process
 - Meeting on 2025-0403 (1PM)
- **Faculty Handbook**
 - Update Southerland from Council of Deans
- **Changes to PM-23 - New Instruction Track**
 - Awaiting Update from Provost
 - ♣ Draft from Vice-Provost (Feedback due 3/12/2025)
 - Instruction Track Added
 - Research and clinical faculty enfranchisement
 - Post-doc possibly given same status as residents
 - ♣ Plan a meeting with Nelson to discuss
 - ♣ New Medical Tracks not aligned with mods to PM-23
- **Office of Research Services**
 - Meeting held to discuss current state and plans for the next 2 years
 - Hoping for a Kuali Update
 - ♣ Current version is ??
 - Build Version 23.1.1
 - Build Date Mar 31st 2025 5:54:21 pm
 - ♣ Newest version from 2025
 - Currently hiring new analysts and using temp staff in interim
 - ♣ Goal is to have a total of 4 analysts (currently 3)
 - More IRB meetings are planned
 - ♣ Every 2 weeks until the backlog is cleared
 - ♣ Anticipated by June 1st
- Faculty CV changes – Nothing new
- Faculty Promotions Changes (No Meeting yet)
- **LSUOCE Moodle Support**
 - The LSUOCE Moodle team is setup and have tested their access. They are ready to begin scheduling 1 to 2 kick-off webinars with the faculty to provide information on how to use the LSUOCE Faculty Technology Center services. They are open to an in-person session as well.
 - ♣ **Asking for Senate volunteer to organize these trainings with Ken and LSUOCE**
 - The LSUOCE team is asking for information on the areas where the faculty need the most help in Moodle (setting up quizzes, assignments, or Turnitin, etc.).
- **GraphPad Prism**
 - Working on the count of licenses.

- o Investigating pricing for students.
- o Discussing with leadership a source of funding.
- o Faculty Training planned
- **LSUHSC AI Policy**
 - o SON Policy being discussed by AAC (no News)
 - o Will need buy in from Faculty Assemblies
 - o Will likely have a general LSUHSC policy (new CM), with the ability for Schools to add specifics

Report from Board of Supervisors – Senators Kamboj and Nuss
No report; next meeting 4/25/2025

Old Business

Faculty Handbook:

- New version is posted on VCAA website
- It was approved by the Council of Deans
- Senate did not vote to ratify because need to review which of our approved changes were incorporated; Sen Augustus-Wallace noted that several did not make the final version and we were not notified
- Executive Committee will review the Senate submitted version with the final version
- The new policy was not followed because the Senate was not given the opportunity to review final version before posting.

Motion to table the issue from Sen Cameron, second from Sen Liles.

Moodle Support:

- In response to Ken Boe's request for a Senate contact person for Moodle, Sens. McCauley, Lallier, and Weydert will create a Microsoft Form to solicit input from all schools. A single point person will not be able to speak for the needs of faculty from all schools.

New Business

Food Drive Flyer – from Sen Dolan

- Flyer is included with minutes; Food drive through April 21 to collect food to share with students prior to start of final exams
- Hunger Free Campus initiative will be rolled into QEP Student Wellness

Classification of Post-Docs – from Sen Cameron

- PM-23 (not finalized yet) lists post-docs as faculty but they are not considered faculty level at LSUHSC campus
- Dr Southerland believes they should be on same level as Residents; she is working to get Provost input
- We may seek an exception to PM-23 so categorization of post-docs at LSUHSC reflects their position as a training role rather than faculty. Important point is they cannot move from post-doc to instructor by appointment only; need to apply for position similar to how residents are hired as clinicians.

Faculty Affairs Council – from Sen Taylor

- Inquiry about the possibility of creating a Faculty Affairs Council similar to the Academic Affairs Council
- Academic Affairs Council is comprised of asst/assoc deans of Academic Affairs from all schools; Dean of Faculty Affairs position only exists in SOM

- This could be incorporated into Center for Excellence in Education that is still being created by Drs. Porche and Dugan
- Executive Committee will bring up idea with Dr Southerland

Reports from Assemblies

Allied Health

- Spring General Meeting will be this Thursday, 4/10
- Nominations to fill 1 delegate seat and one 1 alternate seat
- Faculty Mentoring Program Initiative
 - Faculty and Staff Spotlight Initiative

Dentistry

- General Meeting is next week
- Awaiting updates on renovation plans

Graduate Studies

- The new combined PhD program in biomedical sciences was to be discussed at the March 26 LSU Board of Regents meeting;
- Concerns about the impact of changes to NIH grant funding on graduate students had been raised by faculty. Dr. Nelson promised to continue supporting students and “make whole” any impacted studies.
- Admissions for Fall 2025 are ongoing, with 27 applications reviewed, 12 letters of offer extended (4 accepted, 4 refused, 4 pending as of March 12). Dr. Nelson is committed to supporting 8-10 high quality candidates for admission into the PhD program.

Medicine

- Faculty tracks for Clinical, Research, Tenure were presented
- General meeting on April 16; graduates will be approved
- Dr Stephanie Taylor has been named permanent Senior Associate Dean for Faculty and Institution Affairs
- MEB is on track to open March 2026; Working to make decisions on occupancy, equipment, etc.

Nursing

- Baton Rouge campus location will open in Fall 2025 with 30-40 students
- Simulation lab is being built in old kinesiology armory building
- By the 4th semester, there will be 120 maximum students in program
- When applying for Nursing school with LSU, students can choose Baton Rouge or New Orleans or No Preference; do not expect an impact to enrollment at New Orleans campus
- Faculty are being hired in Baton Rouge; not feasible for New Orleans faculty to teach at both locations; Director has been hired.

Public Health

- Baton Rouge campus program for Master’s in Public Health is launching; approved to hire faculty in Baton Rouge

Library

- April Classes:
 - Publication Metrics for Your CV– Tues April 8 at noon

- Introduction to RefWorks – Wed Apr 16 at noon
 - Textbooks at LSUHSC-NO Libraries: A Guide for Instructors – Wed Apr 23 at noon
- Classes are being recorded and will be available on Digital Scholar for viewing at the end of the month.
- The open Computer Lab on the 4th floor of the Ische Library is being repurposed to support the Student Wellness initiative. The 7 computers will be relocated to nearby study carrels so students can still access them if needed.
- A new study room is available on the 4th floor of the Ische Library. This brings the total to 9 and we hope to add 3 more by the end of the year.

Public Commentary

None

Adjourn at 5:08

Motion by Sen McGee, Second by Sen Kamboj