University of Louisiana at Lafayette Faculty Senate
Minutes Wednesday, March 20, 2013
Leslie Bary, Secretary

RAP Session 3:30PM

▶ Material from Dr. Carolyn Bruder, Vice President Academic Affairs and Interim Provost, included the following news:

– Interviews for Dean of Sciences are in progress and the pool is looking good. One candidate is from UL, Dr. Azmy Ackleh (Professor and Head, Math) and the other candidates are strong. Four finalists will be interviewed on campus.
– The new website is launching in beta over Spring Break, in some layers of some areas of the site. We will be trained on how to revamp our units’ websites.
– We may no longer use our own vehicles for more than 99 miles of travel and there are no exceptions. This is a state rule and regretfully, they have not accepted our explanation of its impracticality. Follow the protocol therefore (borrowing a car from the University, or renting one). Otherwise, you will not be reimbursed for mileage.
– Graduate faculty status is being redefined in consultation with the Graduate Council and the academic deans, and the role of the Graduate Council will be revisited in the future.
– A search firm (Academic Search Inc) has been hired to assist the University in the search to fill the Provost position. The company’s consultant will be here April 8 and 9. He wants to meet with many constituents, including faculty, to best understand what we are looking for. Two meetings will be scheduled to give faculty an opportunity to speak with him. We are hoping to have a decision by October, so the new Provost can start work in January. Please come meet with him, 2 PM either of those days, 103 Moody.

▶ Material from Andy Benoit, Director, Undergraduate Admissions and Recruitment included:

– Financial Aid, Admissions, and Recruitment are now in Foster Hall; French House is now a welcome center. We are becoming a more selective institution and we seek to enroll a still higher percentage of the students to whom we offer admission.

– To that end Benoit and his office would like to work more closely with faculty on admissions. Specifically, they would like us to welcome new students admitted to their majors. This is so that we can answer any questions they have. It is hoped that as a result of this they will be yet more likely to enroll at UL Lafayette.

▶ Announcements from Dr. Charity Bryan, EO, Faculty Senate

– Ramesh Kolluru will give a presentation on current IP Policy Monday, March 25th, 3-4:15 PM, in Moody 103. Dr. Bryan will attend and report to Senate, but all who can should attend.

– Town Hall Meeting: Paula Carson will give a presentation on NSSE Data Results W 10 April 3-4:15 Town Hall Meeting with Paula Carson on NSSE Data results (National Survey on Student Engagement). This data is important and interesting, and some of it will have to be acted upon as we plan courses and curricula; please attend and encourage your colleagues to do so.

– Webinar Faculty Senates 2013: Challenges & Opportunities, panelist is Larry G. Gerber, Professor
Emeritus of History at Auburn University and Chair, American Association of University Professors Committee on College and University Governance. please consider participating. Robert McKinney is coordinating this event; please contact him at 482-5319 or mckinney@louisiana.edu if you would like to join. There was information on the webinar in the packet for the March 20 meeting and more information is available at http://www.paper-clip.com/ (search under Faculty Senates 2013).

Meeting

I. Called to order 4:20 PM by EO Dr. Charity Bryan.

II. Approval of Minutes of February 20, 2013: Motion to approve, Jeff Lush; seconded, Aeve Abington-Pitre; motion approved unanimously.

III. Report of Executive Officer – Dr. Charity Bryan.

– Brief overview of the Faculty Senate Survey results: results are being shared with the administration so that some of the issues identified can be addressed. Results will also be shared with Senators (mail went out after the meeting); issues are to be discussed in greater detail at the April meeting.

– April 17th Pool Party for all UL Faculty/Staff – Sponsored by UL Faculty Senate – it is happening. Bourgeois Hall, 5:30 PM; there will be swimming, hot dogs, and a UL softball game; there is parking.

IV. Reports of Senate Committees:

– For the Nominating Committee (David Yarbrough, Chair), Toni Cade presented the slate of candidates for Senate officers. For EO: Charity Bryan (Kinesiology) and Jim Macdonald (English). For Secretary: Leslie Bary (Modern Languages) and Alan DeRamus (Renewable Resources). Nominations are still open and will also be taken from the floor at the April meeting of the Senate. To nominate someone, contact David Yarbrough.

a. Committee on Committees: Dr. Melinda Oberleitner, Chair. This committee is preparing a slate of candidates for membership on University committees, which it will present at the April meeting.

b. Ways and Means: Dr. Denise Linton, Chair. The committee has reviewed constitutions of other Senates in the UL system. Some have bylaws and some do not. The committee decided that our constitution is the best in the system, and does not recommend we emulate other constitutions within this system.

c. Academic Planning and Development: Dr. Suzanne Ward, Chair. No report.

d. Governmental Concerns: Dr. Robert Slater, Chair. The committee has defined its agenda. It will compare our institution and its situation to those of its peer institutions, of which there are 105. It will also follow the legislature.

e. Faculty Advisory Council Representative: Dr. David Yarbrough, Chair; Dr. Jeff Lush, Alternate Representative. No report.
f. Ad hoc Committee on the Status of Underrepresented Faculty Groups: Dr. Aeve Pitre, Chair. Committee is doing work on faculty demographics and developing strategies to recruit and retain faculty members from underrepresented groups.

g. Ad hoc Committee on the Status of Women: Dr. Judy Gentry, Chair. This committee is working on the issue rape prevention and response, including rape of men. It has contacted the SGA to coordinate efforts, especially around maintaining compliance with the Clery Act, the landmark federal law, that requires colleges and universities across the United States to disclose information about crime on and around their campuses. This law is tied to an institution’s participation in federal student financial aid programs and compliance is important for that reason as well.

V. Reports of University Committees

a. Curriculum: Kay Riedel, Chair. The committee has reviewed 70 courses, of which 12 are new; topics are varied and include hip-hop dance.

b. Faculty Grievance: Dr. Jack Damico, Chair. No report.

c. Faculty Benefits and Welfare: Mr. Brian Powell, Chair. No report.

d. Library: Dr. Bruce Turner, Chair. Meeting notes indicate a written report but none was in the March 20 Senate packet. Some funding was received. Leslie Bary requests clarification from Bruce Turner.

e. Academic Affairs and Standards: Dr. Suzanne Ward, Chair. No report.


g. Student Evaluation of Instruction: Dr. Jonathan Kulp, Chair. E-mail has been sent students on upcoming SEI. Rhonda Evans, seconded by Judy Gentry, moved that the Senate advise the SEI committee to consider moving SEI two weeks earlier.

**Text of motion:** That SEI Committee consider moving the deadline for SEI to two weeks prior to the last day of class. **Rationale:** Students have a good idea of what their final grade is by the last day of class and this negatively impacts evaluations. **This motion was approved with 1 nay and 2 abstentions.**

h. Distance Learning Committee: Dr. Luke Dowden, Chair. Sent written report.

i. Campus Planning Committee: Mr. Tom Sammons, Chair. No report.

j. Strategic Program Review Committee: Dr. Carolyn Bruder, Chair. No report.

k. General Education Committee: Dr. Carolyn Bruder, Chair. No report.

VII. Unfinished Business

Discussion of revisions to the Faculty Senate Constitution was completed. We will vote to accept these
revisions, or not, in April, and the text as established in this meeting will be distributed at least one week before this upcoming meeting.

There was one notable change made to the revisions proposed by Ways and Means and the Executive Committee as distributed in the packet for this meeting, in Article 4, Section 6.

The proposed description of the Executive Committee, presented by the Executive Committee to the Senate was:

A. The Faculty Senate-Executive Committee shall meet to plan upcoming meetings. Such meetings will not determine University policy nor shall they undermine the regular processes through which the faculty has input into University affairs. The meetings shall be designed to complement the input through existing channels and to provide an exchange of ideas on broad areas of concern.

B. The committee shall consist of the Executive Officer, the Secretary, the Senate Webmaster, and past Executive Officer or member at large Ex-officio members of the committee shall be the chair of each Senate Committees.

C. The Executive Officer shall chair the committee and shall report to the Senate on each meeting of the committee. Whenever possible, the Executive Officer will inform the Senate in advance of the main topics to be discussed at future meetings.

This language was presented in lieu of that voted upon in Spring, 2011, to create the Senate Executive Committee. The language voted in had been:

A. The Executive Committee shall function as an advisory council to the Executive Officer of the Senate.

B. The committee shall consist of the Executive Officer, who serves as chair, the Secretary, the Web Master, and the immediate past Executive Officer. Should the immediate past Executive Office not be available, the final committee member shall be chosen by a majority vote of the Senate.

At the meeting, senators present at the Spring, 2011 meeting presented the language voted in at that time but never added to the Constitution. The Senate now chose, for the second time, to place the original language in the Constitution.

VIII. New Business

The announcement of Intellectual Property Town Hall Meeting with Dr. Ramesh Kolluru, Monday, March 25th at 3:00 in Moody 103, was reiterated.

IX. Adjournment.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:29 PM by EO Dr. Charity Bryan. Next meeting Wednesday, 17 April.