

**LAMAR STATE COLLEGE PORT ARTHUR**  
**Faculty Senate Minutes**  
**April 11, 2023 12:00 p.m.**

**I. Attendance.**

- A. Present
  - 1. Academic Faculty. Jim Cammack, Dr. Tina Capeles, Caitlin James, Dr. Zach Dailey, Dr. Michelle Judice, Zeb Lowe, Dr. Percy Jordan, Michelle Askew
  - 2. Technical Faculty. Brandon Buckner, Albert Faggard, Carl Richardson, Doneane Beckcom, Sarita Medhekar
- B. Absent: Morgan Chaddick, Tonya Harbert, Maurice Abelman
- C. Staff Representative: Dayna Hyatt: absent
- D. Adjunct Faculty Representative: Ken Ballou, absent.
- E. Guest: none

**II. Call to Order.**

- A. Meeting called to order at 12:00 PM by James Cammack.
- B. The meeting was held virtually and in-person in Student Center 422.

**III. Approval of Minutes.**

- A. Faculty Senate meeting minutes are available in Teams folder for review.
- B. Motion to approve the February 2023 minutes. Seconded and approved.

**IV. Correspondence.**

- A. No correspondence received.

**1. V. New Business**

- A. Election of Faculty Senate Officers in May. Nominating committee has been formed: Percy Jordan, Blas Canedo, Sarita Medhekar
- B. Mandated use of Leave. Staff must use accumulated leave time when campus is closed. Assigned to Faculty and Campus Relations Committee, Dr. Capeles, Chair
- C. Security on Campus: lack of security officers noticed by several faculty and staff. Recent events of individuals on campus who neither work or attend. Identification lanyards suggested. Assigned to Facilities Committee, Caitlin James, Chair

**II. B. Old Business**

Faculty Senate Meeting  
Minutes (4-2023)

- A. Finance/Compensation: Faculty Senate Committee chair Carl Richardson, and Jim Cammack, met with Ms. Wickland, Dr. Millsap, and Ms. Cowart to receive a copy of faculty salaries. The Senate has requested this information to study salary compression and other compensation issues. The committee received LSCPA faculty salary data for the academic year 2022-23, which included comparable LSCO salary step table information. LIT step salaries were not shown. Steps the administration had taken to attempt to address the salary compression issue were summarized.

1. Next step? examine LSCPA operational and administrative costs compared to other similar institutions. Other faculty senates are also examining salary standards of comparable positions in Texas. What additional steps can be taken to decrease faculty salary compression, and to make LSCPA faculty compensation competitive with other institutions?

- B. Faculty from TSUS Council of Faculty Senates (comprised of President and VP of each TSUS component institutions) met virtually to form agenda for upcoming meeting with TSUS administration to be held Friday, April 14, in Austin, Some of the issues discussed included: .

- 8-week semesters and ensuring course quality
- online classes and class integrity
- legislative session items
  - threats to tenure (note: ending tenure is opposed by Texas House Speaker Dade Phelan.)
  - DEI statements.
  - academic freedom issues restricting curriculum content.

2.

**III. Committee Reports**

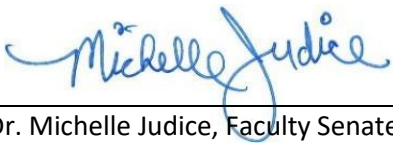
- A. Academic Issues: Chair, Zeb Lowe. No report.
- B. Facilities: Chair, Caitlin James: Food availability on campus after 5 PM. Cafeteria closes at 1:30 leaving those who live on campus and those who must remain for various reasons with no food options. Student Center vending machines not accessible. (Assigned to Facilities Committee on 3/3/23)
- C. Faculty Development/Welfare, Tonya Harbert: No report.
- D. Faculty and Campus Relations: Chair, Dr. Tina Capeles: No report.
- E. Finance/Compensation: Chair, Carl Richardson: **see Old Business**
- F. LIT Faculty Senate: no report. (New Faculty Senate President, Dr. Valerie Worry, invited but did not attend).
- G. LSCO Faculty Senate: no report (LIT President invited but did not attend)
- H. Tribute Fund: Brandon Buckner, currently \$163. Senators' dues \$10 a semester.
- I. Staff Report: Dayna Hyatt. No report.

**Upcoming events:**

- Faculty Senate Meeting (in-person and on-line) **Friday, May 5 at noon** on 4<sup>th</sup> floor of the Student Center, also Teams.
- *Expressions* magazine Award Reception: Monday, May 8 at 6 PM in the Gates Library; refreshments and live music. All welcome to attend.

**IV. Executive Committee Report (Appendix A)** NOTE: As of the date these minutes were approved by Faculty Senate, the final minutes from Dr. Reynard's office had not been received.

Minutes submitted by:



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Dr. Michelle Judice, Faculty Senate Secretary

April 15, 2023

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Date

## **APPENDIX A**

**Executive Committee Report - Jim Cammack note: As of the date these minutes were approved by Faculty Senate, the final minutes from Dr. Reynard's office had not been received.**

Present: Brandon Buckner (Vice President, Faculty Senate), Jim Cammack (President, Faculty Senate), Dr. Michelle Judice (Secretary, Faculty Senate), Dr. Pam Millsap (Vice President for Academic Affairs), and Dr. Betty Reynard (President).

- Graduation is May 12<sup>th</sup>. This will be the largest graduating class the campus has ever had participating in graduation.
- The Allied Health and Sciences Building is in the design phase of the building. A meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup>, with the architects to start doing the programming on the building. Closed on the last piece of property that was needed to build on. Should see the demolishing of the house on the last piece of property soon. Also started the process to demolish the old house that is next door to the Cosmetology Building.
- Working on getting final numbers and estimates on fixing the air conditioning in the Madison Monroe Building. Asbestos was discovered on the wiring in the Monroe Building. Need to have the plan finished by the end of April to put out for bids and get work started early in June.
- The Army Corps of Engineers is holding public meetings to discuss the increase in the height of the seawall. The campus has been participating in the public meetings.
- An asphalt parking lot is being planned for installation at the Industry Training Facility in mid-April.
- Working with a third-party vendor to revise the LSCPA website. Susan Cook, along with a committee, is working on the format and structure of the website. Will work on content once the format and structure are decided.
- Marjorie Flanagan, art director from the Systems Office, visited the campus on Monday, March 27<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Flanagan toured the campus and viewed some of the artwork on the

campus. She will be assisting us with the selection of art for the new Allied Health and Sciences Building. One percent of the cost of construction has to be dedicated to artwork.

Discussion of the Woodrow Wilson Early College High School Incident Jim Cammack inquired about the Woodrow Wilson Early College High School incident that happened on Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Cammack stated that the faculty were concerned about the incident because they did not hear about it until the all-clear was given. Faculty inquired if there was any kind of communication channel for incidents. Dr. Reynard stated that the incident transpired within about 15 minutes. Gerry Dickert was in the process of typing out a message to everyone and by the time the message had been reviewed the situation had changed again. Gerry started working on another message to send out to the campus and then by the time we got ready to send out that message everything had changed again. Gerry did send out an announcement to notify everyone that the incident was a false alarm and there was nothing to be concerned about.

Dr. Reynard stated that the Port Arthur Police Department are supposed to contact the campus. The campus then writes some kind of communication message about what is suggested after being contacted by the Port Arthur Police Department. The message goes to security and security contacts the LSCPA Disaster Response Team members listed in the LSCPA Emergency Operations Plan. A message is sent out after the LSCPA Disaster Response Team members are informed. Mr. Cammack stated that a faculty member suggested sending out a message that states, "We are investigating a situation...". Cammack asked if the process could be modified that the security office immediately send out the are informed. message that states, "We are investigating a situation...".

The faculty officers also inquired as to what methods of communication are used for weather alerts, campus closures, etc. and the process for that medium. Dr. Reynard stated that the messages go out by every communication mechanism the campus uses, i.e. text, email, Blackboard Connect, etc. A communication message was sent to everyone in the system regarding the Woodrow Wilson Early College High School incident. Some individuals did not get the message. The Information Technology Dept. discovered a glitch in their coding. The message did not get to individuals that were ever identified as a student and an employee. IT has fixed the issue. Dr. Reynard suggested that IT and Security do a quarterly test of the communication system to make sure that the communication system is functional and the issue does not happen again.

Jim Cammack inquired if there is a process of who can lock a building. Dr. Millsap noted that the LSCPA Emergency Operations Plan has a list of individuals who are responsible for the different buildings on the campus. Need to verify that the building coordinators are aware of their duties. Interior doors can all be locked.