

**LAMAR STATE COLLEGE-PORT ARTHUR**  
**Faculty Senate Minutes**  
**February 4, 2022 12:00 p.m.**  
**Virtual Meeting**

**Attendance:**

**Academic**

\*Michelle Askew  
 Jim Cammack  
 Dr. Tina Capeles  
 Caitlin James  
 \*Dr. Percy Jordan  
 Dr. Michelle Judice  
 \*Zeb Lowe  
 Christina Wilbur

**Technical**

Maurice Abelman  
 Doneane Beckcom  
 Michael Betar  
 \*George Bohn  
 Brandon Buckner  
 Dr. Blas Canedo  
 \*Helen Fonteno  
 Tonya Harbert  
 Sarita Medhekar  
 Matthew Roe  
 Michael Sparrow

**Staff:** Ruth Nelson **Adjunct Rep:** \*Chelsey Galloway

**Guest:** LIT Faculty Senate President, Sarah Ridley

\*Denotes Absence

**Call to Order**

Meeting called to order at 12:00 PM by James Cammack

FYI: Faculty Senate meetings' minutes are available in the Teams folder for all members to review.

**Approval of Minutes** December 2021 minutes were approved.

**Correspondence**

No correspondence.

**Old Business**

- MyLamarPA log-in/log-out time-allowance issues seem to have improved. Have not heard back from Samir.
- Campus A/C problems seem to also have been resolved.
- Student evaluations (of course instructors): how are courses chosen that will be evaluated? Senate officers brought up in Executive meeting, Dr. Reynard will discuss with Dr. Milsap.
- New faculty and staff hires made known on campus? Senate officers brought up in Executive meeting with Dr. Reynard and she agreed that should be addressed.

- Final exam schedule? Some instructors believe they are now rushed by the quick turnaround time allotted. Solutions? Many instructors will be “front-loading” by giving finals earlier in the week. Some possible solutions were discussed. Again we will ask administration to address this issue.
- Seahawk Book Bundle: Student Services (Dr. Bradford) aware of the problems involved. Seems smoother than last (Fall 2021) semester. Fewer student complaints. Classes still having problems: Ms. Harbert with Medical Terminology: access codes; Dr. Beckcom with law class: wrong edition. Problem with Barnes & Noble not the students. Need B & N representative here on campus to answer questions and assist.
- Student incivility: (student behaviors that negatively affect the learning environment) issue addressed in recent email from Dr. Tina Capeles that included a few research/journal articles. Including guidelines on this in both Faculty Handbook and Student Handbooks suggested.

### **New Business**

- Reduced course loads: low enrollment possibly attributed to Early College High School students who do not need to take any more freshman-sophomore classes because they have already taken those core classes while in high school.
- LSCO now granting degrees in Louisiana.

### **Committee Reports**

**Academic Issues:** Christina Wilbur reported. Still working on Academic Integrity (because of rampant plagiarism) problems and the need for proctoring.

**Facilities:** Problems with thermostats not properly working in various campus buildings.

**Faculty Development/Welfare:** No report. Committee Chair, Ms. Harbert asked for faculty suggestions.

**Faculty and Campus Relations:** committee will see if we can get more clarity regarding student civility expectations and repercussions.

**Finance and Compensation:** Waiting for report, requested in November 2021 meeting, from Mary Wickland and Tammy Riley. In Executive meeting with Dr. Reynard, Senate officers reiterated we want admin to address the low faculty salaries in the upcoming budget.

**LU-B Faculty Senate:** no report; no meeting minutes have been posted.

**LIT Faculty Senate:** Christina Wilbur attended LIT Senate meeting via Zoom. LIT has a Faculty Senate budget. Building maintenance problems were discussed, particularly with building A/C units. Reports are given to their Faculty Senate by different departments, GEDS, Allied Health, etc. Academic Prep: faculty are being asked to take continuing education classes. Faculty are concerned with no longer receiving pay increase as new degrees earned, as had been the case in the past—i.e., the LIT pay step plan was no longer being honored.

**LSC-O Faculty Senate:** Dr. Judice attended. Noted that LSC-O Faculty senators type in their votes on issues, there is no verbal voting. A monthly newsletter was discussed that would inform campus faculty and staff about happenings, based on faculty senate meetings.

**Tribute Fund Report** – no report.

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**Executive Committee Report** – Jim Cammack, Brandon Buckner, and Michelle Judice met with Dr. Reynard. Dr. Millsap was unable to attend.

#### **Executive Committee meeting: Monday, January 31, 2022**

**Build Back Better Grant:** Dr. Stafford working on Phase II (Phase I, \$500,000, already done)

If awarded, consortium will receive \$77.9 million. This would allow LSCPA to proceed with the proposed new Allied Health & Science Building. Due in mid-March.

**Enrollment: Down 53 students from Spring 2021.**

Pre-pandemic (2020) 2426 students. (2022) 2248 students. Prison students returned this semester. Decline in traditional students' enrollment.

**Covid:** Fall 2021: 4 – 5 students a week reported testing positive. Spring 2022, 11 – 12 a week testing positive. Protocol: quarantine for five days. (Cannot make anyone wear a mask; cannot ask if someone is vaccinated.)

**Coordinating Board Grant:** December 2021, submitted and received \$250K to help students pay down school loan debt and stay in school. Financial Aid Office looking for students who qualify to receive funds. LSCO & LSCPA paired up and were given grant that allowed for new big bus to be ordered.

**Skills USA:** National organization that promotes technical skills contests at local, state, and national levels. (Ex: welding, culinary, HVAC, music, cosmetology, etc.) Usually hosted in Beaumont but will be held in the LSCPA Parker Center Saturday, February 12, 2022. 1300 high school students will be here.

**Golf Tournament:** scholarship fundraiser; Scott Street coordinator, to be at Babe Zaharias in Port Arthur, Friday, March 25.

**Board of Regents Visit:** February 17 & 18, LSCPA to host dinner in Gates Library (Chartwells).

**Buildings Update: Armory,** fire caused by welding spark and spotted, reported by passing tugboat. Insurance adjustors currently working on it. Building is now 73% finished.

**Driving Center,** waiting for Board of Prisons to meet to grant road access and then call for bids begins. **Allied Health & Sciences Building:** programming completed two years ago. On hold until Dr. Stafford's grant is approved, or not, which will determine whether the original \$55M version or the pared down \$37 M version is built.

**How are Classes Selected for Student Evaluation?** Senate officers asked how courses were selected for student evaluations. The concern is evaluation results might not be accurate if classes selected for evaluation are not representative of the instructor's class load.

**Faculty Salaries** As noted in the Finance Compensation Committee report above, Senate officers reiterated to Dr. Reynard that faculty would like administration to address low faculty salaries in the upcoming budget process. Proctoring software again was requested (Dr. Offord will be contacted).

### **Announcements:**

\*Recruitment event: Workforce Solutions Youth Career Expo upcoming at Ford Park Thursday, February 24, at 7:30 – 2:00 p.m. (a chance for area companies to exhibit their industry occupations to the workforce of the future)

Meeting adjourned at 12:59 PM by James Cammack