

LAMAR STATE COLLEGE-PORT ARTHUR
Faculty Senate Minutes
March 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: none

*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 February 2022 minutes were approved.

Correspondence No correspondence.

Old Business

- Campus A/C problems have also been resolved.

New Business

Committee Reports

Academic Issues: Christina Wilbur reported. Dr. Offord has recommended/requested Proctoring software, which is dependent on the budget. Possibility: advanced version of Respondus. Sam Houston (IT support) partnership still being considered.

Facilities: Chair, George Bohn: (not present so no report) A/C issues campus-wide seem to have been resolved.

Faculty Development/Welfare: Chair, Ms. Harbert: asked for faculty suggestions.

Faculty and Campus Relations: Chair, Tina Capeles: would like clarity in syllabi and Faculty Handbook regarding student civility expectations and repercussions. Draft has begun addressing student incivility (offensive remarks to instructors, belittling comments, dominating class behaviors, instructor harassment, and other demonstrations of incivility). Faculty want and need a written protocol to follow when this occurs (one set procedure). (Instructor recounted incident this semester when she experienced incivility problem and class and then had to report it to three different people at three various times.)

- Suggested that this issue be a near-future Faculty Development topic
- Suggested that Dr. Bradford have a written clarification for dealing with this problem and process
- Suggested that Dr. Millsap be involved/asked about what path should be taken

Finance and Compensation: Chair, Michelle Askew: Nothing new. *Still waiting for report, requested in November 2021 meeting, from Mary Wickland and Tammy Riley.* Still addressing inequities within faculty salaries: existing and new hires. Average approx. \$10,000 less than other local, two-year institutions. Brandon Buckner and Michelle Askew met with VP Mary Wickland and HR Director Tammy Riley on November 15, 2021. Wage compression discussed. Current 7% inflation rate nationwide makes this issue imperative.

LIT Faculty Senate: Christina Wilbur, no report. Chelsey Galloway offered to attend meetings in the future since she is regularly there as an adjunct.

LSC-O Faculty Senate: Michelle Judice, no report. (Jennifer Bryant is the new Faculty Senate President there).

LSCPA Staff: Ruth Nelson: Student Center, 3rd floor is currently being remodeled.

Tribute Fund Report – no report.

Executive Committee Report – Jim Cammack, Brandon Buckner, and Michelle Judice met with Dr. Reynard and Dr. Millsap.

Executive Committee meeting: Monday, February 28, 2022

SACS Compliance Report: was submitted Friday, 2/25/22, and arrived at its destination. In six months, committee will be asking for “evidence.”

SACS Timeline:

March 1 submission sent to off-site committee, who will meet in April and write report. Non-compliance issues need to be dealt with (write response, provide evidence) by September. On-site committee here in late-October. Any unresolved issues need to be resolved. President Reynard and her chosen campus committee given recommendations and opportunity to write response to those. June 2023 Board of Regents votes for reaccreditation.

Summer & Fall schedules: are being finalized. Dr. Davis out until mid-March so Sheila Trahan subbing for her and working on GEDS schedules. Enrollment is being carefully examined. Several Spring classes had to be cut due to low enrollment. Chairs have been instructed to minimize classes and sections.

Partnership with Sam Houston State University: talks happening now, contract being examined, regarding LSCPA receiving 24/7 IT support for general services, Help Desk, Respondus, Safe Assign, Caltura, Easy Soft, and backup training for canned webinars. This service would allow Dr. Offord to work more on her specialty, Course Design. Blackboard Learn transition to Blackboard Ultra in near future; either Fall 2022 or an additional semester.

Covid: Testing available on campus through May 2022. Downward trend seen; hopefully enrollment with increase.

New Phone System: equipment arrived. Information Technology will begin installation soon.

Enrollment: needs to increase as numbers are crucial for the biennium. Prison student enrollment has slightly increased; campus enrollment still needs another 100 students.

International Student Webpage: Dr. Bradford working on this. Should be available soon.

Army Corps of Engineers (Port Arthur) Levy Project Approved: Project to raise the (Intracoastal Canal) levy 2 – 4 feet from Downtown Port Arthur to after the Parker Center, in order to withstand some of the stronger storm surges.

Armory Update: fire caused by welding spark badly damaged two rooms. Furniture has been ordered but opening probably delayed three months. Fall 2022 opening projected.

Department of Commerce, Assistant Commissioner: will be visiting if LSCPA campus is selected

Board of Regents visit: February 17 & 18, LSCPA hosted dinner in Gates Library (catered by Chartwells) a huge success. Two thank you notes received praising the campus and all who were involved in making the regents' visit, and campus tour, so pleasant.

Allied Health & Sciences Building: Project 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.

Faculty Senate President, Jim Cammack, topics brought up for discussion:

- Proctoring software: When? Which ones?
- Final Exam (new Fall 2021) schedule: consensus is faculty prefer old way; some encountering difficulty with new schedule, tight turnaround times for grades, etc
- Student Evaluation chosen: how are classes chosen? How accurate are the selected classes? Dr. Millsap: they are randomly chosen; cannot evaluate every class due to cost; faculty can ask for certain classes to be included/excluded.
- Pro-rating of classes: When is this set? (Dr. Millsap: not on Census Day; pay is based on enrollment on the day class is offered and when the faculty accepts the class; Ex: ideally a class has 10 students-if it has just 7 the instructor's pay is based on when he/she is asked to teach the class, NOT on the Census Day head count. If enrollment reaches 10 students by census day, instructor will be paid full overload.
- Faculty pay inequity: when might faculty compensation be a higher priority? LSCPA substantially below other, local two-year institutions, with high rate of inflation, salaries need to be addressed.

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

Announcements:

- All (four) tenure applicants' packets have been reviewed by the Tenure Committee and forwarded to VPAA, Dr. Millsap

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM by James Cammack