

LAMAR STATE COLLEGE PORT ARTHUR
Faculty Senate Minutes
May 5, 2023 12:00 p.m.

I. Attendance.

A. Present

1. Academic Faculty. Jim Cammack, Dr. Tina Capeles, Caitlin James,
 1. Dr. Zach Dailey, Dr. Michelle Judice, Zeb Lowe, Dr. Percy Jordan,
 2. Michelle Askew, Leah Alsibaa
2. Technical Faculty. Brandon Buckner, Albert Faggard, Tonya Harbert,
 3. Carl Richardson, Toy Thornton-Wycoff, Brent Campbell

B. Absent: Morgan Chaddick, Dr. Blas Canedo, Maurice Abelman, Doneane Beckcom, Sarita Medhekar, Helen Fonteno, Adriane Champagne, Kim Arrington

C. Staff Representative: Dayna Hyatt

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 in-person and virtually in Student Center 422.

III. Approval of Minutes.

A. Motion to approve the April 2023 minutes. Seconded and approved.

IV. Correspondence.

A. No correspondence received.

V. Old Business

- A. Campus Phone System: Faculty report still having problems with incoming and outgoing calls.
- B. Mandatory Leave: Staff being forced to take accrued leave on certain days. Legality of this practice questioned.
- C. ECHS students' lack of readiness: Faculty concerned over entrance vetting process. Wonder if there is one, what is it, and how can it be improved. These students have problems with maturity, attitudes, and inadequate academic preparation.
- D. Food on Campus in afternoons. Dr. Bradford notified; responded that she would forward the faculty suggestions and reply (so far, no reply).
- E. Faculty/Staff/Student Identification. Being able to identify those who should be on campus from those who should not could be addressed by wearing lanyards with picture identification.

VI. New Business

- A. Election of New Faculty Senate Officers. Nominating Committee proposed Brandon Buckner, President; Dr. Zack Daily, Vice-President; Michelle Askew, Secretary. Motion to accept these candidates was made, seconded, and voted upon. Unanimous election of all three for the upcoming term.
- B. Announcements for upcoming events not posted on campus homepage website or other venues. Several reported cases of events in the Commercial Music, Visual, and Performing Arts Department as well as other campus events such as Citizen Bee and *Expressions* magazine reception suffering low attendance due to lack of publicity.

VII. Committee Reports

- A. Academic Issues: Chair, Zeb Lowe. No report.
- B. Facilities: Chair, Caitlin James: No report.
- C. Faculty Development/Welfare, Tonya Harbert: No report.
- D. Faculty and Campus Relations: Chair, Dr. Tina Capeles: Have unsuccessfully tried three times to address Student Incivility issue/policy with Dr. Bradford.
- E. Finance and Compensation: Chair, Carl Richardson: see section XXVII in Executive Committee report for details.
- F. LIT Faculty Senate: No report.
- G. LSC-O Faculty Senate: No report.
- H. Tribute Fund: Brandon Buckner, currently \$100. Senators' dues \$10 a semester.
- I. TSUS CFS report: Jim Cammack. TSUS System Faculty Senate presidents and VPs met on April 14 in Austin with TSUS system administration - John Hayek Vice Chancellor for Academic and Health Affairs and Daniel Harper, Vice Chancellor and Chief Financial Officer. The legislature is in session now. Topics of discussion in

the meeting included formula increases, funding for the Lamar state colleges to maintain tuition merit pool, possibility of pay raises, the status of tenure, DEI statements, academic freedom issues, and possible restriction of curriculum content.

J. Staff Report: Dayna Hyatt. No report.

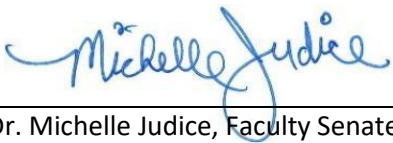
Upcoming events:

- *Expressions* magazine Award Reception: Monday, May 8 at 6 PM in the Gates Library; refreshments and live music. All welcome to attend.
- Commencement: Friday, May 12, 5:30 PM, in the Parker Center. Jordan Williams, KBMT 12 News Evening Anchor, guest speaker.
- Faculty Senate Meeting (in-person and on-line) **September, fall return date to be announced, at noon** on 4th floor of the Student Center, also Teams.
- Seahawk Saturday on-campus recruiting event, June 3
- July 4th Celebration: Parker Center entertainment and games, food trucks in parking lot, and fireworks at the Seawall. Free and open to the public.

VIII. Executive Committee Report (Appendix A)

Meeting adjourned 1:00 PM

Minutes submitted by:



Michelle Judice

Dr. Michelle Judice, Faculty Senate Secretary

May 5, 2023

Date

Lamar State College Port Arthur
Executive Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes
April 28, 2023

XX. Call to Order (Virtual Mtg.). The virtual meeting was called to order at 1:30 p.m. on Friday, April 28, 2023 by Dr. Pam Millsap.

XXI. Attendees.

- A.** Present: Brandon Buckner (Vice President, Faculty Senate), Jim Cammack (President, Faculty Senate), Dr. Michelle Judice (Secretary, Faculty Senate), and Dr. Pam Millsap (Vice President for Academic Affairs).
- B.** Absent: None.
- C.** Guests: None.

XXII. Approval of Minutes.

- A.** Members were asked to submit changes and/or corrections to Judy Hoffpaur.

XXIII. Grant Application Update (Pam Millsap).

Dr. Millsap provided an update on grant applications.

- Dr. Reynard is working on a National Endowment for the Humanities Challenge Grant. This grant would be to replace the roof at the Gates Memorial Library.
- Dr. Armentor is working on a National Science Foundation-Advanced Technological Education Grant. The grant is a technical grant that is due in the fall.
- Dr. Millsap is working on a new Title V Grant application which is due on June 13th. The campus has one more year remaining on the existing Title V Grant (5-year grant) which starts on October 1st. The new grant would start simultaneously if received. Dr. Millsap requested to meet with the Executive Faculty Senate Committee members to get their input for the Title V Grant. Mary Lou Camarena will send out a meeting invite for Monday, May 15th, at 9:00 a.m.

XXIV. Ultra Rollout/Finalizing Classes (James Cammack).

James Cammack commented on the Ultra rollout and finalizing classes.

James Cammack met with Ebony Simpson and the Distance Ed Committee to discuss the Ultra rollout and getting classes set ahead of time to get them developed and copied over. Ebony has created a timeline to submit information to Sam Houston to get the courses copied over and then edited. Ebony revised the percentage of work that needs to be completed before faculty leave the campus for the summer. James stated that it would be helpful if faculty knew sooner if their courses made. Dr. Millsap stated Ultra training is offered throughout the summer with Ebony and Sam Houston. The classes that faculty anticipate teaching can be turned over to Sam Houston to get those classes into Ultra. Each semester Dr. Millsap requests a list of low enrollment classes and recommendations from the Department Chairs the last week before the semester starts to help determine decisions on classes. James inquired about setting aside some time during faculty development week to dedicate to Ultra. Ultra training has been held throughout the year and will be held throughout the summer. Dr. Millsap stated that time could be set aside for Ultra training during Faculty Development week. Ebony can hold a combination of group training, virtual training or one-on-one training.

XXV. Tuition Merit Pool/Faculty Salary Increases (James Cammack).

James Cammack discussed the Tuition Merit Pool and Faculty Salary Increases.

James Cammack recently met with the Texas State University System Council of Faculty Senates with John Hayek and Daniel Harper. James inquired about the status of the tuition merit pool, their budget and the legislative session. Dr. Millsap stated that Daniel Harper has worked very hard to get the three Lamar's in parity with community colleges. The Executive Vice President for Finance and Operations is optimistic that our funding rate per contact hour may be a little higher than what we originally anticipated. James also noted that faculty at the meeting were concerned about compensation. It was mentioned that state employees may get a 5% raise stacked over two years. James inquired if this salary increase might trickle down to faculty salaries. The LSCPA budget will not be finalized until late summer.

XXVI. Artificial Intelligence (James Cammack).

James Cammack discussed Artificial Intelligence.

Artificial intelligence and how it is impacting classes were discussed at the Council of Faculty Senate Meeting in Austin. Some colleges have proctoring and it is required in some classes. James inquired if the campus might require some proctoring. Dr. Millsap stated she encourages faculty to give assignments that would be hard to plagiarize as much as possible within your content. Blackboard has a proctoring platform built into it that uses artificial intelligence to tell if a student is looking away. James Cammack commented that he had reviewed ChatGPT and was amazed at the capabilities. James suggested a demonstration of ChatGPT as a topic for faculty development.

XXVII. Faculty Senate Meeting on Salaries (James Cammack).

James Cammack gave an update on the Faculty Senate Meeting on Salaries.

James noted that the Faculty Senate compensation committee met with the Finance Office regarding salaries. He stated that it was really helpful to see how the calculations are made and see them in a spreadsheet. James inquired if there is a possibility of any more change this year in regards to salary compression. Dr. Millsap stated that the campus will probably be looking at salary compression again but does not have an exact date. James mentioned doing a sliding scale percentage for people that max out on salaries so that they do not get left out of the picture completely and a follow up to keep faculty informed. James asked if the campus anticipates developing a salary step schedule of some sort. James noted that LSCPA salaries were considerably below LSCO salaries. Dr. Millsap noted that a step schedule has been discussed but a decision has not been made. Dr. Millsap stated that the LSCO salaries were not always higher than LSCPA. The salaries were higher in some areas and lower in other areas. James mentioned that the prorated classes is a real source of resentment for the faculty and also the lower compensation overall. Dr. Millsap stated that prorated classes can be discussed again.

XXVIII. Woodrow Wilson Early College High School Incident (James Cammack).

James Cammack discussed the Woodrow Wilson Early College High School incident.

The incident at Woodrow Wilson Early College High School was discussed at the Senate meeting. Several of the faculty suggested our campus institute a plan with lanyards and student ID's and also suggested the need for more visibility of security on our campus. James mentioned sending out a message that states the campus is investigating a situation to get a notice out more quickly. Dr. Millsap stated that, although it will not solve the problem, she supports having lanyards with ID badges. The campus has a phone tree and messaging system in place to be used for

Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes (5-2023)

emergencies. Gary Rash, Executive Director Campus Safety, sent out a phone tree template this week. Dr. Reynard will follow up on the email sent out by Gary Rash.

XXIX. Campus Phone Systems/ConexED (Brandon Buckner).

Brandon Buckner commented on the Campus Phone Systems and ConexED.

The new campus phone system issues could be impacting enrollment and phone calls from students may not be getting through to the campus. Brandon stated that students may be going around the ConexED appointment scheduling system because he is receiving a lot of emails from students requesting an appointment for counseling.

Decision: Dr. Millsap does not have an update on the new campus phone system. Dr. Millsap will discuss the ConexED appointment scheduling with Dr. Bradford to encourage students to utilize ConexED for appointment scheduling.

XXX. Blackboard Login Error (James Cammack).

James Cammack commented on the Blackboard Login Error.

The Blackboard login error was discussed in the Senate meeting. James mentioned to Samir Ghorayeb about putting out an instructional message that tells the process to follow when the Blackboard login error occurs. Dr. Millsap suggested that Ebony Simpson be notified so the Blackboard login error issue can be put back on the agenda.

Decision: James Cammack will discuss the Blackboard login error issue with Ebony Simpson.

XXXI. Faculty Senate Committee Officers Election (James Cammack).

James Cammack gave an update on Faculty Senate Committee officers election.

James Cammack noted that his term serving as the President of the Faculty Senate Committee will be up in August 2023. James thanked the Executive Committee for the open lines of communication through the meetings over the last four years. Senate election for officers will be in May. The current Faculty Senate Committee will serve the campus until August.

Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Minutes submitted by:



Judy Hoffpauir, Executive Assistant

May 5, 2023

Date