

**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, March 17, 2021**  
**Zoom**



**Attendance**

*Faculty Senate Executive Committee members present:*

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| 1. Mandi Lopez (President, VCS)                | 5. Fabio Del Piero (Secretary, PBS)                  |
| 2. Ken McMillin (Past- President, AG)          | 6. Marwa Hassan (Member-at-Large, Engineering)       |
| 3. John Miles (Member-at-Large, LSU Libraries) | 7. Julie Wright-Rollins (Member-at-Large, Education) |
| 4. Joan King (Vice-President, Food Science)    |  |

Parliamentarian: Joan King

*Senators present (X = Present; A = Alternate):*

1		Paula Arai (HSS)	25	X	Jason Harman (HSS)	49	A	Seung-Jong Park (ENG)
2	X	Kayanush (Kai) Aryana (AG)	26	X	Marwa Hassan (ENG)	50	X	Arthur Penn (CBS)
3		Michael Banks (BUS)	27	X	Katherine Henninger (HSS)	51	X	Rosemary Peters-Hill (HSS)
4	X	Inessa Bazayev (MDA)	28	X	Robert Holton (AD)	52	X	Tracy Quirk (Coast)
5	X	Pamela Blanchard (HSE)	29	X	Tara A. Houston (MDA)	53	X	Helen Regis (HSS)
6	X	Kellie Brisini (HSS)	30		Katharine Jensen (HSS)	54		Maria Rethelyi (HSS)
7	X	Elizabeth Carter (Law)	31	X	Kelli Scott Kelley (AD)	55	X	Kevin Ringelman (AG)
8	A	Prosanta Chakrabarty (SCI)	32	X	Heather Kirk-Ballard (AG)	56	X	Julie Wright Rollins (HSE)
9	X	Cassandra Chaney (HSE)	33	X	Joan King (AG)	57		Kirk Ryan (VCS)
10	X	Chantel Chauvin (HSS)	34	X	Gerry Knapp (ENG)	58	X	Bhaba Sarker (ENG)
11	X	Senlin Chen (HSE)	35	X	Roger Laine (SCI)	59		Jonathan Shi (ENG)
12	X	Jin-Woo Choi (ENG)	36	X	Lauren Lazaro (AG)	60	X	Stephen Shipman (SCI)
13	X	Brandi Conrad (HSE)	37	X	Julia Ledet (SCI)	61	X	Wei-Ling Song (BUS)
14	X	Robert Cook (SCI)	38	X	Carlos Lee (HSE)	62	X	Shane Stadler (SCI)
15	X	Theda Daniels-Race (ENG)	39	A	J. Michael Martinez (HSE)	63	X	David Stamps (MASS)
16		Jeff Davis (AG)	40	X	James Matthews (SCI)	64	X	Suzanne Stauffer (HSE)
17		Jennifer Davis (HSS)	41	X	John Miles (LIB)	65	X	Daniel Tirone (HSS)
18	X	Fabio Del Piero (PBS)	42	X	Mustajab Mirza (VCS)	66	X	Matthew Vangjel (MDA)
19	X	William Doerfler (SCI)	43	A	William Monroe (Law)	67	X	Meredith Veldman (HSS)
20	X	Peter Doran (SCI)	44	X	Carl Motsenbocker (AG)	68		Muhammad Wahab (ENG)
21	X	David Dulceany (HSS)	45	X	Ioan I. Negulescu (AG)	69	A	Nan Walker (Coast)
22	X	Jake Esselstyn (SCI)	46	X	Robert Newman (BUS)	70	X	Wei-Hsung Wang (Energy)
23	X	Edward Gibbons (HSE)	47	A	Rafael Orozco (HSS)	71	X	Sonja Wiley (BUS)
24		Doug Gilman (SCI)	48	X	Derick Ostrenko (AD)			

*Guests:*

Arend Van Gemmert	Craig Woolley	Tom Galligan	Stacia Haynie	Amanda Benson
Jenee Slocum	Matt Lee	Jason Walker	Blaine Grimes	Sam Bentley
Sasha Thackaberry	Roxanne B	Donna Torres	Judith Sylvester	Brian Ainsworth

Public Comments on Agenda Items

None.

Consideration of the Minutes from February 23, 2021

Moved by John Miles and Inessa Bazayev.

Approved unanimously with potential corrections.

President's Report

1. Just over 900 vaccinations were administered. Please get a vaccination wherever you can. It is an effective strategy for neutralizing viral disease.
2. Plans are on track for a spring graduation. Appropriate social distancing, protective equipment, and no procession will be observed. If you wish to participate, reach out to your college administration for further guidance as space is limited.

3. Protective measures will still be in place for Fall 2021, regardless of vaccination status. The situation is very fluid, and circumstances can change suddenly. Faculty frequently and continue request that administration share plans for the upcoming summer and fall.
4. Thank you for your remarks and queries regarding the Hush Blackwell report. General responses range from distain to moral exhaustion. There are several unanswered questions from faculty: 1. Why did the Title IX office responsibilities to continue to grow when the very basic functions, could not be accomplished? 2. What is the explanation for the failure to document reports of Title IX violations and other sensitive information shared with the Office? 3. Why wasn't this prioritized above all other activities?
5. In previous reports, I raised the issues of the offensive Title IX training and the incomprehensible website. Targeted training should be implemented, and community training initiated.
6. The Title IX report highlighted serious long-standing offenses against our students, many of them identify as female. LSU has a history of discrimination against women. This is reportedly evident and pay disparities distribution of awards and honorifics and other recognition, promotion and tenure resources office and laboratory space, etc. This is not acceptable. We eagerly anticipate substantial change in the immediate future, including a mechanism to report abuse and discrimination.
7. Reports are mounting that the LSU ethics system is becoming increasingly dismissive and ineffective. There are questions regarding the depth and breadth of the investigation. A specific instance would be the targeted actions taken against and subsequent dismissal of a tenured faculty member. The dismissal was against the findings and recommendations of their peers. Targeted discrimination and bullying in any form cannot be tolerated. I have asked administration for an explanation.
8. The Board of Supervisors only contains 2 female members. We ask the Governor to consider equal representation in future appointments.
9. It has been one year since the Faculty Senate meetings went viral. We must maintain in the public consciousness that caregivers, the innovators, the survivors, those who soldiered on in the midst of underlined challenges, and most of all those who lost the battle.
10. All Faculty Senate Standing Committees have been launched.
11. The FSEC continues to meet regularly with administration to discuss issues and maintain continuous communication.

***Q & A Summary:***

None.

**University Update, LSU Interim President Tom Galligan**

President Galligan thanked President Lopez and began with the sexual and domestic on campus as well as the Title IX allegations. Galligan urged all faculty and staff to read the Hush Blackwell report. There are 12 pages of recommendations that shows the actions and inactions of LSU administration. President Galligan sends his apologies to the survivors and thanks them for their courage to come forward. All LSU employees must understand that if you're not a confidential advisor, you have an obligation to report instances of domestic and sexual violence to the title nine office. Title IX will be streamlined and centralized into the Office of Title IX headed by Interim Vice President Jane Cassidy. Dr. Cassidy is a respected colleague as a faculty member and administrator. President Galligan thanked her for agreeing to this position as the search for a fulltime Vice President of Civil Rights and Title IX commences. LSU will be hiring additional staff and administrative support including additional investigators, a case manager, and a deputy Title IX coordinator for services and resources. In addition, Lighthouse will be an integral partner to the Civil Rights and Title IX Office. The general student body with have a much more robust training to understand the processes and to be more sensitive and compassionate so that people feel safe coming forward. President Galligan gave several other updates: by last November, research grants were more than \$20 million from the previous year and there is a 2% raise for faculty in the Governor's budget. LSU has not had a state funded raise since 2008. The budget also restores the hundred million dollars from the Cares Act that last year the governor and the legislature used to for the state deficit. Without, higher education would have experienced devastating budget cuts. The Governor's budget also allocates funding for mandated costs. LSU First health insurance is not included. The Capital Outlay project is progressing with the number one project being the new Science building. In 3 years, 200-300 students will not be able to get the labs that they need to stay on track. The new Library building is also part of the project. Vaccinations are continuing and President Galligan urged faculty to register. 976 individuals were vaccinated during the last community-wide event at Tiger Stadium and the National Guard is pushing for LSU to remain a mass vaccination site.

***Q & A Summary:***

Jake Esselstyn: The Hush Blackwell report said the office was understaffed and now we have a new office that handles Title IX, etc. It sounds like we are heading down the same road.

Thomas Galligan: I think the critical difference is that we're going to hire people to fill the positions as they are needed. So, we're going to hire adequate staff.

Mandi Lopez: Another question is a proposal to have a college level coordinator position so that students know that they have someone a resource locally.

Thomas Galligan: I will talk to Jane about that. There should be resources in the college.

Mandi Lopez: The latest publicity stated that many students and many people, let alone students, didn't know what Title IX was. It was also hard to find and hard to access for virtually everyone. So, we're looking for what steps will be taken to make the office accessible, explain Title IX, and what does that mean to someone who isn't familiar with the current publicity.

Thomas Galligan: We are having conversations about where the office should be located. We were thinking the Union, but there are difficulties associated with that site. We need to educate everyone as to what Title IX means.

Research Priorities, Samuel Bentley, Vice President, Office of Research and Development

The Office of Research and Economic Development is here to serve faculty and their objectives are to help support the research and scholarly activities of faculty, especially in research, staff, and students. Sam Bentley was appointed to the position just over 2 years ago and was given the task of increasing expenditures for the LSU campus. The first step was to increase the award dollars coming to LSU to support programs. Dr. Bentley used a three-pronged approach: assist faculty success rate proposals coming out of programs that are conventionally supported including research grants by STEM focused units on campus, help faculty who are in units that are not historically focused on sponsored research funding to submit more proposals to increase research dollars, and assist faculty to develop proposals and win more proposals for large scale national scale research centers on the LSU campus on the order of 10 and 10s of millions of dollars or more. As an R1 flagship university with land grants, sea grants and space grant status, LSU has many programs that are that are excellent that serve the land grant goal of improving the condition of the people of Louisiana. There are also many other issues involved in setting priorities for major research investments. Large proposals require research infrastructure. Sam Bentley proposes asking the state to invest in LSU and other universities across Louisiana. To support the potential for these proposals, state support is essential to drive innovation and economic development. Examples of this are Louisiana Optical Network Initiative (LONI) and the LSU Center for Computation and Computing Technology (CCT). They were funded by the state in the early 2000s and remain beneficial to research and development on campus. Identification and prioritization begin with the faculty. Looking at the capabilities and expertise across the LSU campus, ORED, through consultation with President Galligan and the Provost in Academic Affairs, has identified two areas to target. These two areas are with Coastal Science, Engineering and Design, and Quantum Information Science and Engineering. In South Louisiana, the coast is meaningful to culture and community. It's very closely tied with our economy because of the distribution of various types of resources and infrastructure. So, this is a big part of our global population, a big part of our national economy. Most recently, diversity, equity, and social justice, is a topic from this Roadmap for Diversity. This is an effort aided by ORED regarding research.

*Q & A Summary:*

Mandi Lopez: What about the less prominent groups of research? Are they being supported in the same ways?

Sam Bentley: Around large-scale themes and we think we can rise to the level of targeting state funding. And then, this is not saying that these are the only things that are important to us, but these are the places we're going to start and getting major funding and I plan to do it once a year to go to go for major investments in many different topics. IF you are a highly qualified individual researcher and you're doing great work and that's what you want to do, we're here to help you with your individual success, regardless of where you are on campus a achieve what you want to do.

Mandi Lopez: Could you follow up on how might an individual, an innovative individual, who wants to put together a team, might have help from someone in ORED?

Sam Bentley: We would be glad to help connect with faculty across campus if you are interested in finding partners, and we would also be glad to meet with groups of faculty who self-assemble and want to come and talk about ideas.

LSU Online Update, Sasha Thackaberry, Vice Provost of Digital & Continuing Education

Sasha Thackaberry thanked President Lopez and the Senate for the invitation to present, share LSU Online's progress, and make faculty aware of the organization and resource availability and what they are doing to embed support for academic technology for learning design as well as the availability of the Faculty technology Center. The Faculty technology Center and academic technology group, which also included Moodle developers, were brought together as one team. Faculty should not have to discern our organizational structures to get the support that they need. The design and development team is led by Dr Krishna and there are approximately 14 on that team. It is a combination of learner experience designers, E learning authors, and also professional development team. The Faculty Technology Center is led by Sheri Thompson. She is working with CIO Craig Woolley's team on the implementation of the new ticketing system team dynamics. Buddy Etheridge oversees the academic technology group, focusing more holistically on the E learning ecosystem. With the new Moodle upgrade, Dr. Thackaberry's team looked into the gradebook at the request of faculty. There is a new faculty support website with upgraded search functions. Faculty may also book consultation appointments. LSU Online provides several categories of services. The course design and development webpage provides information and resources in course design and a chat bot to ask general questions to receive answers. LSU Online will continue to combine best practices from across the industry, building infrastructure to become sustainable, and maintain partnerships to drive down the cost of attendance. Enrollment in online programs continues to grow with a total of 3,500 fully online degree or certificate students.

*Q & A Summary:*

Theda Daniels-Race: I wanted to thank you and Sheri Thompson for your work. Moodle does not have an editing package for equations and formulas. Is there any solution for this?

Sasha Thackaberry: I believe there is now a plugin for that. I will have my team reach out if that does not work.

Ad Hoc Committee Minimum Standards for Remote Teaching, Professor Wright, Faculty Senate Member-at-Large

Professor Wright explained the origin of the Ad Hoc Committee on Minimum Standards for Remote Teaching. It was formed in response to student and faculty questions, comments, and concerns regarding the remote teaching that started with pandemic. This is a document with recommendations on best practices, a basic framework or guidance for this kind of circumstance. These are not mandates from the administration. These recommendations were formed by the Ad Hoc Committee, comprised entirely of LSU faculty. The committee researched different resources including LSU Online's basic standards. The document contains 4 major components: Planning, Instruction, Administration of Exams, and Email Communication. The committee recommends that courses be planned in entirety before the start of the semester with materials readily available on Moodle. Instructors should also include Zoom office hours and be listed in the syllabus. Instruction recommendations include recording and posting lectures, designing assignments in a manner for timely feedback, student grades readily and updated continuously on Moodle, and discussion boards to be utilized in an effective manner. Exams may be administered on Moodle for free, however, there are academic integrity concerns. Those may be addressed by using tab locks, timed tests, reordered questions, and IP address comparisons. Proctoring services that are for profit such as ProctorU, Examity, Mercer-Mett, Pearson, Proctortrack, Proctorio, and Talview, have an associated cost that is passed to the student. Price can vary depending upon the length of the proctoring appointment, later scheduling, or a scheduling change. It is recommended that testing procedures be listed in the syllabus including a list of all contacts should any difficulties or emergencies arise. The committee also recommends that emails be answered within a 24-hour period and be checked multiple times during the day. Many students need assistance to continue with assignments. This allows for better management of emails from students who have questions about upcoming assignments. It is suggested to help lessen the number of emails received on the weekend, assignments should be due on a Friday rather than over the weekend.

*Q&A Summary:*

Robert Cook: Some instructors, especially those in Chemistry, have extremely complex Moodle sites that take weeks to create. Are you asking to do work during the summer for no pay? If the University wants this, they need to compensate faculty.

Mandi Lopez: That is a good point, and we will convey that to the committee.

Robert Cook: There is a large amount of content to post to Moodle and can be an almost impossible task to have the entire course posted before the semester starts.

Robert Newman: I need a clarification. It says guidelines. This means they are recommendations, correct? You change to "it is recommended" for clarity.

Mandi Lopez: Yes, that is correct. These are recommendations only. This is a document of basic guidelines to give us a framework should we have to continue in this environment or at a later time, return.

Stephen Shipman: All materials or links to material should be posted. For example, like a basic textbook. However, I am not sure about all course materials because of changes that might occur.

Roger Laine: I have a concern with established office hours. I make myself flexible and students meet by appointment for any discussions.

Mandi Lopez: Yes. It is a good recommendation to have some flexibility.

Jin-Woo Choi: I post materials week by week. I don't want to make everything available to students.

Julie Wright: You can limit access to what the students can view on Moodle. If faculty utilize one place for all information, it alleviates confusion and makes it easier.

Tara Houston: There needs to be clarity in the document about this. If you post materials to Moodle, it does not all have to be accessible to students at the beginning of the semester.

Julie Wright: Yes. Knowing that you have all your materials, where they can all be located for the students, of course, they can be hidden in these are just suggestions and everyone, of course, has the autonomy to create their course the way they want their course to unfold for the students.

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Mandi Lopez: Yes. You have authority over your own course, of course, but this was also, at the request of the students. This is our faculty response to some of the concerns of the students and it's coming from our faculty, this is not an administrative undertaking.

Mustajab Mirza: How many years have we been receiving these student concerns?

Mandi Lopez: Right, this is just based on our last year of virtual remote teaching.

Robert Cook: I wanted to bring up the accessibility compliance for videos. The amount of time spent in captioning video is astronomical.

Julie Wright: While I am not with ADA, I know that this has been a big concern. Faculty feel like they are not being accommodated and could desperately use assistance.

Mandi Lopez: Excellent point. I understand your frustrations with transcripts. We are grateful for the committee's work. These are initial steps, and we appreciate any feedback.

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### Old Business

Postponed to April 22 Meeting, Resolution 21-02, "Faculty Endorsement of the Graduate Student Bill of Rights"  
*Sponsored by Faculty Senator Daniel Tirone*

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### New Business

Nominations needed for:  
Faculty Senate Standing Committees  
LSU Athletics Council

Faculty Senate Officer Nominating Committee:  
Brandi Conrad, HSE  
David Dulceany, HSS  
Tracy Quirk, Coast and Environment  
Stephen Shipman, Science

All moved to adjourn at 5:00pm.