

# UNO Faculty Senate Meeting, February 10, 2015

## Homer Hitt Alumni Center Ballroom

### 1. Call to Order and Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 3:04 PM by Faculty Senate President Dr. Pamela Jenkins, who noted that there was a lot on the agenda, including one vote today.

### 2. Announcements from Faculty Senate President (Dr. Jenkins)

- a. Our colleague Dr. Lowry had a heart attack over the weekend and seems to be doing much better. Someone added that he was released that afternoon.
- b. Randy Moffett (former ULS President) is here to consult with President Fos about the University. Dr. Jenkins and Dr. Schluchter, along with others, met with him yesterday, and Dr. Jenkins will keep us posted.
- c. Dr. Sharpton will form an advisory committee around international recruitment. INTO is not coming here this year.
- d. This afternoon is the first meeting of members from the Faculty Senate and Faculty Council Executive Committees with the administrators. They will be meeting every two weeks.
- e. She just received, when the meeting started, a memo from Dr. Fos about the resolutions.

### 3. Roll Call

#### Current roster of Faculty Senators:

Administration	Merrill	Johnson	(14-15)	Present
Staff Council	Brian	McDonald	(14-15)	Present
SG President	David	Teagle	(14-15)	Present
Alumni Assoc.	Dinah	Payne	(14-15)	Present
Adjunct			(14-15)	
Business	Dinah	Payne (SE)	(13-16)	Present
Business	James	Logan	(12-15)	Present
Business	Matt	Zingoni	(12-15)	Absent
Business	Cherie	Trumbach	(14-17)	Absent
Business	Mark	Reid	(13-16)	Absent
Business	Christy	Corey	(13-16)	Present
Business			(13-16)	
Education	Richard	Speaker (SE)	(13-16)	Present
Education	Zarus	Watson	(12-15)	Present
Education	Lena	Nuccio-Lee	(13-16)	Present
Education	Ivan	Gill	(14-17)	Present
Education	Matt	Lyons	(14-17)	Present
Engineering	Edit	Bourgeois (SE)	(14-17)	Present
Engineering	Malay	Ghose Hajra	(12-15)	Present

Engineering	Nikolas	Xiros	(12-15)	Present
Engineering	Dimitrios	Charalampidis	(13-16)	Absent
Liberal Arts	Nancy	Easterlin (SE)	(14-17)	Present
Liberal Arts	David	Beriss	(14-17)	Excused
Liberal Arts	James	Mokhiber	(14-17)	Present
Liberal Arts	Chris	Day	(14-17)	Present
Liberal Arts	Elaine	Brooks	(12-15)	Excused
Liberal Arts	Peter	Yaukey	(12-15)	Excused
Liberal Arts	James	Lowry	(12-15)	Excused
Liberal Arts	Marla	Nelson	(12-15)	Present
Liberal Arts	Vern	Baxter	(12-15)	Excused
Liberal Arts	Beth	Blankenship	(12-15)	Present
Liberal Arts	Peter	Schock	(14-17)	Present
Liberal Arts	Steve	Striffler	(14-17)	Present
Liberal Arts	Pam	Jenkins	(14-17)	Present
Liberal Arts	Renia	Ehrenfeucht	(13-16)	Present
Liberal Arts	Laszlo	Fulop	(13-16)	Present
Sciences	Jairo	Santanilla (SE)	(12-15)	Present
Sciences	Elliott	Beaton	(14-17)	Present
Sciences	Greg	Seab	(14-17)	Present
Sciences	Wendy	Schluchter	(14-17)	Present
Sciences	Joel Andrew	Webb	(14-17)	Present
Sciences	Leonard	Spinu	(12-15)	Excused
Sciences	Vassil	Roussev	(12-15)	Absent
Sciences	Nicola	Anthony	(13-16)	Present
Sciences	Steve	Rick	(13-16)	Present
Sciences	Shengru	Tu	(13-16)	Present
Library	Connie	Phelps (SE)	(12-15)	Present
Library	Marie	Morgan	(13-16)	Present

#### 4. More Announcements

- a. Dr. Payne announced that they are looking for sponsorship and boilers for the 2015 Crawfish Mambo. It will be held on May 9.
- b. On behalf of the Nominations and Elections Committee, Ms. Morgan reminded senators that officers are elected at the end of the regular April meeting, so senatorial elections need to be held no later than April 1. There were more senators this year than there should have been, so there will be fewer senators next time. Only two colleges remain the same. One college and the Library still end up with one more than they are supposed to have, so the Committee is discussing what to do about that. People should be hearing from the Committee by early March.

## 5. Approval of the Minutes from the 1/26/15 Meeting

Dr. Jenkins stated that one correction was sent to her: that it be noted that the reason that we asked Ms. Kinkaid to come was because there was some discussion that UNO might be one of three schools closed. Ms. Morgan also noted a typo in Dr. Jenkins name in 4.a. Dr. Logan moved and Dr. Schock seconded to approve the minutes of the 1/26/15 meeting as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

## 6. Report from Rachel Kincaid, Vice-President for External Affairs, University of Louisiana System ([link to presentation slides still to be provided](#)):

Ms. Kincaid came to give an overview of the budget, which laid out budget cuts to higher education. It is a huge challenge. The State has been relying on one-time money for several years, and a lot of people think that the short-term solution is to get through this year with the current governor and then sit down with the new governor to look at things. There have been a lot of meetings to come up with a strategy for higher education in the state. There is no interest in going backward; they want to focus all of their attention on maintaining the budget that we have and moving forward. Ms. Kincaid referred to the role of higher education in filling jobs in the state. All of the system presidents and CFOs were meeting last week.

“Tuition Swing”: not a dollar for dollar swing, so they do not want a tuition swing. Any increase in TOPS comes out of everyone’s pockets. When they say that they want no cuts to higher education, they also mean that they want WISE fully funded. When everything is totaled up, a \$200M cut is really a \$300M cut. In the interim, there are some things that they can do to perhaps build it back, such as “Tuition and Mandatory Fee Authority” (a constitutional amendment would allow universities to have complete control); “Suspension of Mandated Costs” (these have increased dramatically) and other “Potential Revenue Sources” (a lot of other ideas just thrown out; just concepts not in stone yet).

There is no doubt in her mind that legislators across the state understand that it has to get fixed on their watch. The Governor has said that he will veto tax increases, and it is difficult to get a 2/3 vote in the Senate to override that. Increase in the tobacco tax would provide funds to higher education; if that does not pass this year, there is a better chance next year. They are looking at suspending Grad Act I and keeping tuition authority. They are also looking at suspending Grad Act II, which might be helpful to UNO and other institutions taking advantage of risk-management authority.

“Unified Message”: it is important for higher education to speak with one voice. They are trying to craft flyers for different constituents, such as business and alumni. They are going to talk to businesses and chambers across state-wide meetings. We have got to keep the pressure up. At ULS Day at the Capital last year, they expected 100 people and 400 showed up. May 28 is the date this year. They are looking at a lot of different legislative instruments to try to solve some of these problems, and they are trying to formulate plans across the state for higher education.

Dr. Logan asked if there is an appreciation by legislators that students are making choices right now about coming to Louisiana, and if they hear talk about closing, A&M is looking pretty good.

Ms. Kincaid replied that she is hearing from legislators that we should have done something before now. They understand that all these economic development efforts done in this state are creating jobs for graduates of universities in Texas and not Louisiana institutions. We need to have some of these stopgap measures. Dr. Beaton remarked that he and his colleagues bring a lot of research funding; they hire students, etc., and that is money that goes directly into the economy. It is not just tuition dollars and not just preparing people for jobs but giving them jobs.

Ms. Kincaid noted that Louisiana is 49<sup>th</sup> in educational attainment, which is nothing of which to be proud. She thinks that they are beginning to get the message, but what she has learned in the last year when she has asked why they cut higher education is that, in reality, there was no grand plan. But higher education in the last year and a half has actually found its voice. There is little fear in higher education that higher education has begun to rally. Dr. Logan asked if they still generate economic impact studies as he does not see that anymore. Ms. Kincaid does not think that there has been one done recently. Dr. Schock said that he is struck by the idea that we are underproducing degrees, not overproducing degrees. Ms. Kincaid said that she had a graph that shows statewide, for example, that this is the number of engineers, college graduates, etc., that we are producing. They are not ever going to entertain the argument of closing. We need more, not less. Dr. Schock asked if she thinks that legislators are getting that, and Ms. Kincaid replied yes.

Ms. Blankenship remarked that Ms. Kincaid has been fighting beautifully and wonderfully for us all these years, but the former does not see anything else changing. Ms. Kincaid said that she thinks that the public is pushing back very hard, and she does not think that the governor likes all the publicity that he is getting now. We do have four system presidents working well together as part of the momentum, and now campuses are working as a group instead of lobbying against each other.

Dr. Day said, not to be too repetitive in light of what is coming out of the legislative office, but we have been hearing that private employment is good and public employment is no more than a drain on everyone's pockets. She distributed a few copies of a flyer going around [see **Appendix 1**], noting that it is everyone's right to write to legislators. Dr. Jenkins asked what is happening right now. Ms. Kincaid responded that she thinks that they are close to a package of bills, and higher education needs to work to get them passed. We need to make sure that whoever is the next governor makes a commitment to higher education in the state.

Mr. Teagle asked, since we have limited advocacy ability according to the state ethics rules, why there are not efforts from student leaders across the state. Ms. Kincaid replied that legislators are working on what is essentially a package. At the same time, they will be sending out flyers that give information about higher education so that we can be knowledgeable about it. Mr. Teagle emphasized that the number one fear of students is the closing of campuses. What kind of assurance is the System going to give students at Grambling, Nicholls, and UNO that these institutions are not being looked at? Ms. Kincaid replied that they are spending their time on how to increase revenue in the state. Take UNO, for example: there is a \$55M bond debt and a lot of employees; it is not in the State's benefit to close us. When they have the legislation down in a package, she will send that to us.

Dr. Jenkins thanked Ms. Kincaid for coming and sharing.

## 7. Senate Committee Reports

### Academic Procedures and Standards Committee (Dr. Corey, Chair):

Dr. Corey noted that she spoke a couple of meetings ago about what the Committee is doing. She had two things to present for votes today.

a. “Amendment to Degree Requirements for Undergraduate Programs:

Degree-seeking students must acquire a minimum of 50% of in-major coursework at UNO (based on total number of course hours dedicated to the major).

To minor in a program of study, students must acquire a minimum of 50% of in-minor coursework at UNO (based on total number of required course hours dedicated to the minor).”

Dr. Corey stated that some colleges of the University do have these standards already, but this will impact other colleges. Dr. Jenkins said that we have to have some kind of measure in place for SACS, and Dr. Corey noted that much of what her Committee is working on is related to SACS. Dr. Day asked about the enrollment impact. Dr. Corey replied that three colleges already have this, and her Committee has asked Registration to grandfather current students. Dr. Schluchter added that this will be implemented under the new catalog, so, presumably, students entering under the old catalog are okay, unless they change their major. Dr. Payne said that she thinks that the catalog says that anything can change at any time, so they might want to be specific in their language.

Mr. Teagle asked how this impacts the Louisiana Transfer Degree, as there is no guarantee that they can take 50% coursework. Responding that she is not an expert on transfer agreements with colleges that already have this in place, Dr. Corey is hoping that we can work around that. She thinks that this is a little more towards ensuring integrity of our degrees, and it is also a little bit of job security. Mr. Teagle asked why use percentage, and Dr. Corey replied that it is because different colleges have different hour requirements. Dr. Schluchter noted that this does not include specifics of how much of the minor courses have to be at the 2000 level. Dr. Corey replied that that is a separate issue, and there is already a policy in place.

Dr. Jenkins asked if the issue was that we need to examine further about transfers. Dr. Seab said that we need to fully understand the impact. Dr. Jenkins said that they would do some more work on transfers so people will feel more comfortable about this. Dr. Corey remarked that she will have to deliver the news to Dr. Sharpton that this will take a little longer, but as long as we have minutes showing that we discussed it, we are on the way.

b. “Academic Program Coordinator” (see **proposal in Appendix 2**).

Dr. Corey stated that they were trying to keep this very generic and that we need to approve general defaults. There being no discussion, Dr. Schluchter moved and Dr. Payne seconded to accept the description as presented, which everyone approved.

#### **8. Faculty Governance Committee (FGC) Update (Dr. Jenkins)**

FGC is starting to meet every week now, and they are going to have Category 3 programs coming in.

#### **9. University Budget Committee (Dr. Schluchter)**

The Budget Committee is meeting every week, Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:00am, on the fourth floor of the Library. They are now working on an assessment survey for non-academic units and hope to have it out on Ash Wednesday, with two weeks to respond. All are invited to come to the meetings; the first 10 minutes are open for comments and questions.

#### **10. Report from the Alexandria Summit (Drs. Schluchter and Speaker)**

Dr. Speaker reported that, at this summit of senates, he heard the new Commissioner of Higher Education, a retired Air Force Colonel with a Ph.D. in Art History, who seems to be working toward a plan for the next governor. Dr. Schluchter noted that the latter did not really have a lot of concrete suggestions, but he pointed out a lot of what Ms. Kincaid said earlier. Dr. Schluchter said that she and Dr. Speaker gave a presentation of where we are. We have not been at that meeting for a while. They told them all about the process that we have been going through for faculty governance.

One thing that she would like to charge one of the committees with is that UNO needs to have a current policy on exigency. Dr. Logan thinks that there is a policy in place, which changed from the LSU System policy to the UL System policy. It is one of the things that his Committee [Academic Freedom, Tenure, and Professional Ethics] has been looking at over the years, and he noted that everyone that they have fired but one has won a lawsuit. We did declare exigency after Katrina, and that policy was found to be okay. Dr. Schluchter would like a report on what that policy is. Dr. Payne said that the Committee should look at it and make recommendations. Dr. Schluchter added that there should be suggestions for improvement.

Dr. Speaker related that there are different structures for different senates. One of those is a three-year process where the Vice President becomes President and then becomes Past President. He also mentioned the difficulties of the process and effects of voting no confidence and to give it time.

#### **11. Announcement (Dr. Jenkins)**

She asked Kevin McLin and Brett Kemker to come today, but neither could, so she will ask them again.

#### **12. Resolution (Dr. Jenkins; see Appendix 3)**

Dr. Jenkins announced that another resolution came to us to consider for the next meeting. It is about the structure of Administration: that we go back to a former organizational structure that the Provost be Executive Vice President. She will send it out. Dr. Striffler asked who put it forth. Dr. Jenkins replied that it came out of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. Dr. Logan asked if there has been any discussion with the current Administration about it, and Dr. Jenkins replied no. Dr. Schluchter said that there has been some discussion about this with the incoming Provost. Dr. Ehrenfeucht asked if this was the situation prior to ULS. Dr. Schock responded that it goes back to Ryan; Lou Paradis was Executive Vice President. Dr. Jenkins stated that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee is very concerned that we have had five provosts in a short time.

Dr. Ehrenfeucht said that it would be interesting to find out what led to the change. Dr. Payne thinks that one of the rationales for doing this is that when Dr. Hansen was Provost, he could not get any response from Business Affairs. Dr. Logan agreed that there should be a chain of command. Under the LSU System, when the President was not here, the second person was the Executive Vice President.

Dr. Jenkins said that they will do some more research and bring it back in two weeks and also Dr. Fos' response and whatever else emerges.

**13. Old Business.** None.

#### **14. New Business**

Mr. Teagle announced that the student governments called for a meeting on February 28 and arranged for two rallies also. They put together a committee, and he is Vice President. They disagree with both the system and the Board of Regents because they feel that no matter what the budget is, there will be a cut and it will be on us, so why wait to discuss that. He is pretty sure that the call to action is open to faculty.

Dr. Jenkins said that if he would send it to her, she would send it out.

#### **15. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was moved by Dr. Payne and seconded by Dr. Schluchter. The meeting adjourned at 4:22 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marie Morgan  
Faculty Senate Secretary, 2014/15  
February 19, 2015

## APPENDIX 1:

### **CONTACT YOUR LEGISLATORS TODAY! Save UNO / University of New Orleans:**

**Explanation of this listing:** Listed are 1) legislator name 2) party affiliation [D=Democrat / R=Republican / I=Independent or No party] 3) locality of residence or district office 4) District number 5) phone number 6) e-mail address. Louisiana Senate Capitol office number: (225) 342-2040.

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The 2015 Louisiana Legislature convenes at 12:00pm Mon. April 13, 2015 & adjourns no later than 6:00pm Thurs. June 11, 2015

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## **APPENDIX 2:**

### **Academic Program Coordinator**

#### **Appointment:**

In most cases, Academic Program Coordinators are appointed by the Department Chair with approval by the Dean. In cases where the degree program is administered at the college level, the Academic Program Coordinator is appointed by the Dean.

#### **Qualifications:**

Program Coordinators hold a faculty appointment with expertise in the discipline associated with the program of study. Program Coordinators of a graduate degree program must also hold a graduate faculty status.

#### **Roles and Responsibilities**

To facilitate and maintain program effectiveness, an Academic Program Coordinator works with the Department Chair to oversee the following areas:

- Advising
- Class Scheduling
- Coordinating Assessments and Tracking Outcome Data (Including Institutional Effectiveness Measures)
- Reviewing and updating Student Learning Outcomes
- Coordinating Recruitment Efforts
- Monitoring Student Retention
- Assisting in Preparation for External Program Reviews
- Updating Program Materials (e.g., Handbook) As Needed

## **APPENDIX 3:**

### **Senate Resolution**

**Feb. 10, 2015**

Whereas it is recognized that the Provost is the leader of the academic function of the University and answers only to the President and

Whereas the academic function of the University is the primary function of the enterprise and its raison d'être and

Whereas it is essential that the Provost have complete control over all academic assets, including human, physical and fiscal and

Whereas to have complete control over such academic assets, the Provost must be able to fully access the academic budget and manage it as he believes is in accordance with sound fiscal practice to the betterment of the academic enterprise that is the University and

Whereas to fully access the budget and manage the budget, the Provost must have primacy of managerial responsibility over the area of business affairs associated with the academic enterprise and

Whereas all other managerial functions, such as Marketing and Communications, Student Affairs, Research and the Graduate School, only exist to serve the academic function of the University and are subordinate to this service and

Whereas there is precedent in the history of the University of New Orleans, as well as standard practice in universities across the United States, to structure managerial reporting lines through the Provost as Executive Vice President,

It is resolved that:

the Provost should serve as Executive Vice President with the other Vice Presidents reporting to him;

Further, be it resolved that:

the Provost should control the academic budget and have complete access to all University budgetary information.