
Council of Faculty Advisors

Dr. Sanjay Kamboj, Vice Chair
Dr. Owen Carmichael, Recorder
Dr. Joan King

Dr. Mandi Lopez, Chair

Dr. Angela L. Greaud
Dr. Carol Corbat

MEETING MINUTES

Friday, June 17, 2022

University Administration Building, Room 112

Meeting Attendance

The meeting was attended by Council of Faculty Advisors Members: Mandi Lopez, Owen Carmichael, Angela Greaud, Carol Corbat, Joan King, Sanjay Kamboj.

Absent: Christina Notarianni, Christof Stumpf

I. Call to Order

II. Roll Call

Drs. Greaud, Kamboj, Corbat, King, Lopez, and Carmichael attended the meeting.

Guests included Piper Hutchinson from the Reveille and Daniel Tirone, Vice President of the LSU A&M Faculty Senate.

III. Chairperson Remy Starnes and Chair-elect Valencia Williams

Chairperson Starnes and Chair-elect Williams thanked the CFA for their ongoing service.

IV. Approval of Minutes from March 4, 2022 Meeting

Drs. Greaud, Kamboj, Carmichael, and Lopez voted to approve the March 4, 2022 minutes. Drs. Corbat and King abstained as they did not attend that meeting.

V. Chairperson Report

Dr. Lopez reminded the CFA that all CFA meetings are subject to open meeting laws. There was no public comment registered for our previous meeting in March, nor for this meeting. Open meeting laws require us to hold all CFA meetings open to the public. All meetings must have agendas posted at least 24 hours in advance. In addition, the BoS provides open meeting training to any LSU system organization that needs it.

Dr. Lopez recommended that each campus hold a meeting of the entire Faculty Council once per year, to stay in compliance with BoS policies. Dr. Lopez reminded the CFA that Faculty Senates are delegated to act as elected representatives of the Faculty Council. Faculty Senates are empowered to call a meeting of the entire Faculty Council. If the Faculty Senate is dissolved for some reason, the upper administration of that campus is empowered to make decisions usually assigned to the Faculty Senate.

PM-24 clearly states that there is a standard 2-year term for Faculty Advisors. That term need not run concurrently with any other elected offices those faculty members may hold. Dr. Lopez asked the BoS that our terms of office be posted publicly as required by public records laws. Dr. Lopez hopes we all continue serving our entire term.

Dr. Kamboj will take over as CFA Chair in August. The CFA will elect a new Vice Chair at its September meeting.

There has been some concern expressed by LSU faculty about the STEM emphasis of the articulated Pentagon scholarship initiative, i.e. there has not been enough articulated emphasis on the humanities. President Tate has assured the LSU faculty several times that the LSU strategic plan will emphasize the humanities, and the Pentagon is only a part of that strategic plan that was presented to the Legislature to facilitate the legislative appropriations process.

New Provost Roy Haggerty joins the LSU A&M campus in August. New LSU Online Vice President Cappy Mumphrey has joined LSU A&M. LSU A&M is interviewing three candidates for its VP of DEI next week. All interviews and talks for candidates will be livestreamed.

There are 3-5% merit raises for faculty in the state budget. Although these have been designated by the Legislature to be merit-based raises, historically such raises have been spread across all faculty equally, regardless of merit. Individual campuses should adhere to Legislature intent by providing raises in a merit-based fashion. Staff raises are anticipated as well, but these will be determined by the individual campuses.

VI. New Business

a. Round Table Campus Updates

- **LSUHSC-NO:** There are currently many interviews for higher administration positions, currently VC of Academic Affairs and the Dean of the School of Medicine. The search for VC AA has now advanced to finalization of candidates. Dr. Nelson is hoping to hold a town hall meeting with faculty; the general feeling among faculty is that the school should move on from “COVID survival mode” and shift into more of a growth and advancement mindset. There are concerns about student cheating on on-line exams, with one concern being that confronting students about cheating is difficult (due to student ability to litigate).
- **LSU-E:** Several staff had a fruitful visit to Amarillo College to learn more about how LSU-E should transition to a corequisite model for completion of a course of study. The shift to a corequisite model is a large transition for LSU-E; it is a source of a great deal of conversation on campus currently. Many discussions are ongoing about what the faculty workloads will be and how the administration will support the new model. LSU-E is also working on Achieve the Dream, SWIM, and STEAM initiatives (where the “A” stands for Agriculture, not Arts).
- **PBRC:** PBRC held its first in-person all-staff meeting this week, as an important milestone in our emergence from the pandemic. At that meeting, the administration presented very positive data on publications, grants, new faculty recruitment, our DEI initiative, outreach events, and other areas.
- **LSU-A:** LSU-A updated their faculty by-laws to reflect changes in administrative structure that have accrued over the years. There is a faculty initiative underway to explore whether to add additional merit steps after tenure, so that faculty can potentially rise to higher steps and therefore qualify for raises in a merit-based fashion after receiving tenure. The LSU-A Faculty Senate passed a resolution asking their administration *not* to apply the new faculty raises in a merit based fashion, as a way to compensate for salary compression / inversion. In addition, faculty at LSU-A are concerned about the merit criteria that are used to determine merit-based raises; in previous merit-based raises, faculty did not understand the rubrics under which merit was determined. LSU-A is struggling with the growth of on-line courses compared to in-person courses, given that they are trying to use the same faculty for both types of course work, and faculty levels are either stable or falling over time.
- **Ag Center:** There is a new agreement between Southern University and the Ag Center to allow a greater amount of course cross-listing across campuses. One specific example is that Southern is offering a renewable natural resources course that LSU students could potentially benefit from; this agreement would allow LSU students to take this course. Traditional problems related to joint appointments between the Ag Center and LSU A&M—reading email delivered to separate email addresses, figuring out which faculty member has faculty status in the graduate school, vs. the Ag Center, vs. LSU A&M, etc—persist without solution.
- **LSU A&M:** LSU A&M tried to convene its first Faculty Council meeting in many years. No quorum was achieved physically, so no decisions were made. Due to the lack of quorum, the meeting was converted into an informal town hall meeting. The lack of quorum means that the 2020 faculty constitution could not be ratified, meaning that the old constitution from 30 years ago is still in place. LSU A&M Faculty Senate elections occurred in April. Most officers did not seek re-election. Leadership transition will occur on first day of Fall semester. There are current issues in the Student Accountability Office; specifically reports of variability between students in terms of consequences for certain actions. Especially worrying are reports of no consequence being taken if graduation is imminent. The Early Childhood Education Preschool and Daycare Center is closed for 40 days per year, far more than would be required to observe state and federal holidays. LSU A&M faculty will be posing questions to this Center about whether the large number of closures is excessive.

b. Faculty Report to Board

Dr. Lopez to copy-paste.

c. Faculty Endorsement of Council of Staff Advisors and LSU A&M Tuition Exemption Initiative

The CFA endorsed this initiative.

d. Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates Meeting Updates

No report.

e. SCR6

The passage of SCR6 requires that each of Louisiana's university system faculty oversight bodies appoint a representative from among that system's faculty to the new committee mandated by SCR6.

Dr. Kamboj moved to recess the meeting at 8:57 AM during our discussion of SCR6. Dr. Greaud seconded. The CFA voted unanimously to approve the motion.

Dr. Lopez reconvened the meeting 11:05. LSU Vice President for Legal Affairs and General Counsel Winston DeCuir joined the meeting as a guest.

After discussion, Dr. Lopez asked for nominations from the CFA for CFA members to serve as the LSU system representative on the SCR6 committee. Dr. Carmichael nominated Christof Stumpf; Dr. Kamboj seconded the nomination. By voice vote, the following CFA members voted yes to this nomination: Lopez, Kamboj, Carmichael, Greaud, King, Corbat. No CFA members voted no.

VII. Old Business

None.

VIII. Additional Agenda Items

None.

IX. Adjourn

Dr. King moved to adjourn the meeting, and Dr. Corbat seconded. All CFA members voted to adjourn. Dr. Lopez adjourned the meeting at 11:22 AM.

Next Meeting

September 9th.