

Faculty Senate Minutes, March 8, 2022

Attendance

COS	Nicola	Anthony (SE)	Present
COLAEHD	Diane	Baas	Present
COE	Donald	Barbe	Absent
COS	Sarah	Black	Present
COLAEHD	Chris	Broadhurst	Present
COLAEHD	Elaine	Brooks	Present
COE	Dimitrios	Charalampidis (SE)	Present
COS	Rachel	Clostio	Absent
COBA	Christy	Corey	Present
COLAEHD	Chris	Day (SE)	Present
COS	Adlai	Depano	Absent
COS	Kraig	Derstler	Absent
COLAEHD	Laszlo	Fulop	Present
COLAEHD	Ryan	Gray	Present
COE	Martin	Guillot	Absent
COBA	Kabir	Hassan	Present
Administration	N. Tina	Johnson	Present
COLAEHD	John	Kiefer	Present
COS	Simon	Lailvaux	Absent
Adjunct	David	Lambour	Present
SG President	Amber	Lemelle	Present
COS	Linxiong	Li	Present
COBA	James	Logan	Absent
COS	Leszek	Malkinski	Present
COLAEHD	James	Marchant	Absent
Staff Council	Randall	Menard	Present
COLAEHD	Andrea	Mosterman	Absent
COLAEHD	Steven	Mumford	Present
Alumni Assoc	Dinah	Payne	Present
COBA	Dinah	Payne (SE)	Present
Library	Connie	Phelps (SE)	Present
Library	Lindsey	Reno	Present
COS	Steve	Rick	Present
COLAEHD	James	Roe	Absent
COBA	Gina	Rosa	Absent
COLAEHD	Brian	Seeger (SE)	Excused
COLAEHD	Robert	Stufflebeam	Present

COLAEHD	Chris	Surprenant	Absent
COE	Vincent	Yu	Excused

Guests & Visitors

Kim Martin Long
Mahyar Amouzegar
Amy King
Kristy Askam
Caroline Noyes
Eileen Dooley
Jaimee
Carreras
Martha Blanchard
Carolyn Golz
Enjilee Bailey
Ray Wang
Katherine Goldstein
Pam Kennett-Hensel
Scott Pentzer
Nancy Biggio
Marc Landry
James
Mokhiber

Meeting called to order at 3:30pm

Motion to accept minutes from February 7, seconded
Vote – minutes approved without dissent.

- Comments from Chirs Day, Faculty Senate President:
Staff Council is taking over the duties to determine “Service With Jazz” staff awards. They seek one faculty member to serve on the committee that selects recipients. One hour per month time commitment. Please contact Joy Ballard.

Randall Menard (Staff Council Faculty Senate Representative): You can let me know, too.

Amy King wants faculty to be aware that grade suspension policy has been changed, and there is no limit on delete/repeat and is open to all level classes (formerly just 1000/2000 level). Ms. King and Chris are both concerned that this could possibly allow academic misconduct to go without real punishment. Potentially this is a topic for the Senate Academic Committee to consider, specifically balancing efforts for retention against sanctions for academic misconduct.

Caroline Noyes: the administration is actively working on a solution to this issue already, a solution that would not allow grade suspensions in cases of academic dishonesty.

The President cannot be here because of the UL system meeting in Natchitoches, but reminds us that he is doing the State of the University address on Monday, March 14.

- Comments from Mahyar Amouzegar, Provost:

Applicants for first time full-time freshman are high, as well as grad students. Retention is definitely a focus.

Start Smart Grant of \$630,000 a year for at least two years to help Orleans Parish Pell eligible students, with a variety of funding help, including transportation costs, Summer bridge program, and even some stipends.

Provost Diversity Dissertation Fellowship Program pilot. Spearheaded by Associate Provost, Dr. Tina Johnson, it facilitates 2 to 4 pre-docs/ABD to come work with us for a year and if a Department wants them, we could possibly create lines for them.

May 21 Commencement. Grad and Undergrad separately. Mahyar would be happy to host a wine/dine thing afterward – please send him a note to let him know if you are interested in that.

Mask mandate over on Monday, March 14. Hoping for Fall of '22 to feel more like Fall of 2019.

Chris Day: Thank you Mahyar.

Christy Corey updates from SACS reaccreditation task force:
Fall '25 review period.

We have been asked to submit plans for assessment by the end of Spring.

Steps:

Develop 4 - 6 Student Learning Outcomes for each program

Fill out table for each Student Learning Outcome

Please feel free to ask me any questions if you have them.

Chris Day: Thank you Christy.

Academic Committee – chair Chris Broadhurst:

Committee is finalizing report on Graduate Success. Had 250 Graduate students answer the survey, with 135 open ended comments. Chris spent the weekend reviewing these. Broad themes: structural barriers (old equipment, offices not open at convenient times for adult learners, lack of faculty, sense that faculty are overworked), better onboarding for Tas, greater professional development for post-graduation careers, career services with more graduate student focus, better mentoring of grad students. Financial issues commonly mentioned, more stipends, increased stipends, criticism of book program, questions of where do student fees go – need for greater transparency. Our internal deadline to have the report is April 1. A number of students said “thank you so much for getting our feedback.”

Chris Day: Thank you Chris. Great work.

No report from the Budget Committee. They will meet soon.

Christy Corey, Administrative Committee Report:

More details about Senate Membership survey. See the presentation in the Faculty Senate Moodle.

Chris Day: has there been any move on faculty senate representatives?

Christy Corey: we are still discussing it in the Administrative Committee.

Statement from the Student Government Association, Amber Lemelle, President, regarding faculty senate membership/voting rights – see attachment.

Question from Connie Phelps: If we keep certain parties as members, but without voting rights, is that a compromise? As members you would still get the chance to speak and be heard. Would that make you feel unrepresented?

Amber Lemelle: I don't feel like that would be an unfair compromise. As long as there is a voice on the board that is what's most important at the end of the day. Truth be told, I am the only student representative, even if I did have a vote, it wouldn't really sway the decision that much. Being able to voice my opinion is important for me and the student body. The vote is not as important as a seat at the table. That would be fair and an adequate compromise.

Connie Phelps: Thank you very much.

Chris Day: Very excellent points. We really appreciate your representation.

Statement from the Staff Council, Randall Menard, regarding faculty senate membership/voting rights. My statement is not as formal as Amber's. It has been important to me to see what the faculty is focusing on, and my participation helps to break down silos. Part of Staff Council's goals has been collaboration, education, improving our organization, making us feel welcome together, helping each other succeed. This forum and having a voice is important to that. We all are here together and work together towards the same goal. The more that we are focusing on the strategic initiatives of the University together, the better off we will be. I will answer the question Connie asked Amber: we talked about the voting, and I reached out to the staff council executive committee and we talked about, and we would like to keep our vote. We feel it is important because the Faculty Senate as a group is much broader over the University than we are. A lot of the things you are going to vote on will affect us as staff, so we would like to keep our vote. Definitely representation and being able to come to the meetings and speak and learn and work with all of you and collaborate with all of you and make things better at UNO. That is the ultimate goal.

I also reached out to some of the Faculty Senate members and had some conversations. It is an important topic and I am glad you all are considering letting us speak and give our opinion instead of just making a decision to get rid of us. I really appreciate that. You are all welcome to come to the Staff Council meetings. You see it is very different from this. It is an open forum meeting.

Chris Day: Thank you Randall.

Reopening discussion on Resolution from the last meeting:

Resolution 01a-2022

Whereas the creation and restructuring of academic units has great potential to affect programs, curricula, faculty workload and administrative processes; and,

Whereas the Faculty Senate has authority in “the establishment of curricula, the setting of standards of instruction, the determination of requirements for degrees, and generally the formulation of the educational policy of the University;”

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate requests full inclusion in any and all discussions and decisions regarding the creation and restructuring of academic units (Departments, Schools, Institutes, Colleges, etc).

Elaine Brooks: English and Foreign Languages Department discussed the resolution, and the faculty on the whole, agree with this resolution. I feel compelled to vote for this resolution on behalf of my faculty.

Chris Day: Thank you Elaine.

Chris Broadhurst: the quote you mentioned is also imbedded in the Faculty Handbook and in Faculty Affairs, and on the website. I think it is imbedded in University policies as well. Faculty control the development of curricula, and the creation of academic programs is directly related to that. I am not saying we should control the creation of units, but we should definitely have a voice in how they are created.

Chris Day: Good points, thanks. Is there a move to end the discussion?

Moved, and seconded to close discussion. Vote on closing the discussion: 18 for and 0 against. The discussion is closed.

Vote for the Resolution: 22 in Favor 0 Opposed. The Resolution is adopted.

Chris Day: A discussion on whether to meet in person in the Innsbruck Room in the University Center in April. Chris Broadhurst and Dinah Payne would like to meet in person. Chat comment: Zoom is easier and more available. Straw vote: Meet in Person on April 6 – 8, Stay on Zoom on April 6 – 4. Lazslo Fulop: meeting in person makes it harder to come to meetings. Connie Phelps: they are waiting to see about a “Mardi Gras bump.” Nicola Anthony suggests hybrid meetings. Chris

Day questions whether they work. Sarah Black: they would love to meet in person, it seems artificial to continue on Zoom when the rest of our academic lives are moving to in person. Their feeling is that in-person meetings are more effective than Zoom meetings. Questions meeting in Zoom for mere convenience and not health reasons. Steve Rick: I think the Faculty Senate meetings did not suffer from being on Zoom, that they were effective and we were able to debate stuff. Hybrid seems like the worst idea. Elaine Brooks: I think hybrid is a good idea, but the Innsbruck Room is not conducive to hybrid meetings. With a “smarter room” I think it would work. We have “smarter rooms” on campus, but they tend to be smaller. Mohammad Hassan: for the rest of the school year, can we have the remaining meetings on Zoom, and talk about in-person for the Fall. Chris Day: maybe April on Zoom and May in-person? Rob Stufflebeam: I am affected by mobility issues. I prefer doing it on Zoom and maybe making the last meeting in person.

Chris Day: we will explore the possibility of a suitable hybrid venue, and take these comments into consideration at the next Senate Executive meeting.

No Old Business.

No New Business.

Meeting adjourned at 4:48pm

Attachment.

Madame President Lemelle
Faculty Senate Statement

On behalf of the Student Government Association and as representative of the University of New Orleans student body I would like to bring attention to the importance of student representation on the Faculty Senate Board. Last semester, there was discussion regarding the removal of votes for non-faculty members. While I do understand the purpose of moving forward with this proposal, I would like to bring more focus on what this would mean for student representation. In making Faculty Senate Meetings private (discussed in previous meeting) and/or denying votes to non-faculty members, this would also be removal of my attendance in board meetings and/or vote when making decisions as a board. The discussions held and decisions made in these meetings are extremely important and directly affect our student body. As student body President of this university, I feel it is my duty to speak up ensuring that our representation is not discarded on this board.

Thank You,

Amber Lemelle