

**LSU Health**  
NEW ORLEANS  
**FACULTY SENATE**

**Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday June 10, 2025**  
**3:30pm-5:00pm, CSRB-563**

**Those present included:**

Allied Health - Luther Gill, Brandon Walker, Amber Weydert (also proxy for Megan Majoue)  
Dentistry - Diedra Brewer-Hohensee, Thomas Lallier, Molly Rosebush  
Graduate Studies – Andrew Catling (also proxy for Sonia Gasparini)  
Medicine - Suresh Alahari, Allison Augustus-Wallace, Jennifer Cameron, Jennifer Hart, Sanjay Kamboj, Michelle Korah-Sedgwick, Brian Lochlann McGee, Maria Reinoso  
Nursing - Laura Bonanno, Shelly Dolan (also proxy for Jolie Harris)  
Public Health - Mei-Chin Hsieh, Chih-yang Hu, Henry Nuss, Susanne Straif-Bourgeois  
Library – Sharon Duffy  
Ex-Officio - Rebecca Bealer, Aimme McCauley  
Not present: Brittany Hall (SOAH), A.C. Liles (SOD), Charles Taylor (SOD) Sam Mauldin (SON)  
Jessica Teeter (SON); Tung-Sung Tseng (SOPH)

**Welcome and call to order by President Lallier at 3:30 PM**

In accordance with the Louisiana Constitution, Article 12, Section 3, and La. R.S. 42:11-28, the Faculty Senate Meeting for the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center – New Orleans is hereby convened.

**Administrative Updates**

***Kirk Deslatte - Assistant Vice Chancellor***

**Hurricane Preparedness**

- Faculty need to make sure students are getting the messages about hurricane plans; review at beginning of new semester; Encourage them to sign up for alerts and monitor emails; This is the biggest weakness in the messaging.
- Students in residence halls will get direct communication from the halls; Mary Kay Thevis is working to improve student communications.

**Displaying Research Posters on campus**

- Looking into creating a policy for this issue to keep it consistent across campus
- Senate can form a committee to draft a policy; committee should meet with Kirk to fully discuss issue
- Utilizing digital signage may be an option because items would be removed after a set date

**Smoking on campus**

- There have been reports of smoking by contractors and employees on our smoke-free campus.
- Contractors are being reminded in their weekly safety meetings about smoke-free policy
- Actions taken have included discipline actions and moving the designated smoking areas further away from buildings

**Purchase of Office Chairs**

- Current policy only allows departments to purchase one type of office chair; if another chair is needed for medical reasons, a process must be followed to purchase a different chair.



- Faculty have raised concerns about these limitations as some want chairs that are less expensive but cannot purchase them
- Reason for policy is to standardize equipment across campus and allow items to be used in multiple locations
- Chairs are funded by the university even if a department makes the purchase; personal chairs are not allowed.

***Dr. Demetrius Porche - Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs (VCAA)***

Board of Supervisors Update:

- Three centers of Excellence have been submitted to the Board of Supervisors:
  - Renewal of Neuroscience Center of Excellence
  - Renewal of Stanley S. Scott Cancer Center of Excellence
  - New application for Trauma & Injury Center of Excellence
- Three year academic plan has been submitted; will also need approval by Board of Regents
  - Plans must not be in competition with programs at other LSU schools
  - New programs must be aligned with industry needs to gain approval

QEP Update:

- Be Well: Student Success and Wellness was approved by SACS committee as QEP
- Implementation will start with focus on mental and financial health; These areas were identified as equally impacting the most students across all schools.

Office of Research Services Update:

- New staff is being hired and the office is continuing to rebuild
- Approval for 6 IRB analysts to be hired; the most previously in the office has been 5
- Also hiring for Executive Director and Administrative Assistant positions; pre-screening has started on Exec Director candidates; search committee is being organized
- New projects continue to come into the office including summer science projects; backlog is being handled
- Many delays in approval process are training related; PIs are urged to ensure all research team members have updated training and the training documentation is submitted in Kuali
- New workflows in the IRB may be different from the past; the old procedures were not always correct so researchers may be asked for different types of information or asked to do things differently; legal consultant Nadia de la Houssaye, Jones & Walker is overseeing the rebuild of the office and proper procedures are now being followed.

***Dr. Steve Nelson - Chancellor***

LSU Interim President:

- Hosted Dr Matt Lee for on-campus visit
- Search committee will be put together to fill position

Hiring Freeze Status:

- The state-wide hiring freeze should be ending this month
- We have gotten exemptions for our key positions so we have had minimal impact

Raises Status:

- Raises have been funded the last few years mostly internally
- Hopeful to do raises again this year; timing would be around September

NCI Designation:

- Progress continues to be made with Dr Miele leading the effort



- Four key positions will be filled in coming weeks
- Met with Governor Landry to get state funds; asked for \$200-300M

#### MEB Renovations:

- Might be completed by Dec or Jan
- Result is 175,000 sq ft of new research space; cost \$100M
- 75 investigators will be housed in new space
- Process for refilling the space is being determined; He wants faculty to be part of these discussions and voice their concerns and ideas.

#### Dental School Campus:

- Process to replace all dental chairs is proceeding; cost of \$6M
- Clinics are in poor condition and working to improve

#### Charity Hospital:

- The original agreement with the state was that no state funds would be used to renovate it; LSU System owns the land
- Tulane has asked for \$200-400M in state funds to finish the renovation project
- Dr Nelson possibly sees a way to partner on the project with Tulane; there are 3 buildings on the site and LSUHSC could request State funds to renovate one building
- If Tulane does get state funds, he will push for LSUHSC to also get state funds.

#### Offsite Instructional Sites:

- In person degree programs in Baton Rouge are proceeding with BSN (Nursing), Respiratory Therapy, and Masters in Public Health
- Motivation is to enhance our service throughout the state and not just in New Orleans

#### SACS Accreditation:

- Onsite visit was successful
- Only 1 finding identified during visit after 17 were identified pre-visit; issue will be easily resolved and no concerns about receiving accreditation

#### LCME Accreditation:

- Onsite visit for Medical School education is coming in October
- No concerns about process

#### Vice Chancellor of Research position:

- Dr Nelson would like this position created; did not happen under President Tate; unsure of status with interim president; will continue to push for it

#### Question about moving St. Charles outpatient clinic services to another location:

- One option is to renovate Seton; another option is to add to existing clinical buildings
- Dr Nelson prefers to work with LCMC and Ochsner partners rather than run our own clinical sites

#### Question about LSUHSC presence at Ochsner Kenner site:

- Dr Nelson desires to keep us active at this site
- There is a need to balance clinical activities with all partners: LCMC, OLOL, Ochsner

#### Question about status of PM-23 and creation of Instructor Track for faculty:

- It is awaiting final approval in Baton Rouge



- This is not exactly the Instructor track Dr Nelson wanted to see but it is a first step and he supports it

Question about status of Dr Nelson's contract as Chancellor:

- It is up for renewal now and is being discussed
- His contract allows him to return to Dean of School of Medicine position if he is no longer the Chancellor

**Aaron Miley** – Associate Director, Human Resources

New Crisis Leave Policy

- Will go into effect on July 1, 2025
- Will act as a safety net for those who run out of leave and need it for unforeseen circumstances
- Pay rate will be 75% of base pay rate of person receiving the leave; does not matter who the donor is; 1 hour donated = 1 hour available regardless of base pay rates
- Donations will be requested when program launches; donors will need to maintain minimums of annual and sick leave; Civil service employees can only donate annual leave; Faculty and staff can donate either type of leave
- Residents and post-docs do not qualify because are not in "leave-earning positions."
- Suggestion for a website where amount of donated hours can be viewed; may help encourage donations if the pool gets low
- HR is pleased to offer this plan and believes it will benefit all

**Ken Boe** – Assistant Vice Chancellor for Information Technology

Moodle Support from LSU Online:

- Ready to start
- IT Office Hours presentation June 19 will be on this topic; it will be recorded and viewable after the live session at noon

LMS Options:

- Committee has been formed to discuss moving to Canvas or Blackboard or staying with Moodle
- Deans were asked for committee member recommendations; will begin meeting soon
- Longer term discussion would be to have a separate platform for testing rather than utilizing features in LMS; would offer better security and performance; Issue arose because there was a known issue with Respondus Lockdown browser vulnerabilities, but vendor resolved

GraphPad Prism Licenses:

- 162 licenses have been purchased; portal is being setup; authentication is being setup
- 150 new licenses are being added to the 12 existing licenses from Graduate Studies
- Faculty will get 2 installs – one for personal and one for lab; students can use license on shared machine
- Ken will inquire about the process for migrating existing data from personal licenses to the new accounts
- It will be easy to add additional licenses if needed at a pro-rated cost

Question about use of electronic medication books:

- Available products include Micromedex and LexiComp but LSUHSC does not have either
- Ken suggested a proposal be put together including costs and IT will review
- A Senate committee could be formed for this next year



### [Executive Order #14117](#) to Prevent Access to Americans' Bulk Sensitive Personal Data

- LSUHSC has to comply with this order
- The aim is to stop large transfers of data to "countries of concern"
- It was passed in Feb 2024; went into effect April 2025 so need to work on compliance
- IT needs to determine the amount and type of data we have and use that fall under this new rule; need to assess the data landscape
- Faculty should look for a survey coming out soon to provide details about the data they have
- Third party audits are also part of this and we need to prepare to present information about our data

### Question about AI detection software:

- LSUHSC uses Turn-It-In software for plagiarism but has not purchased the AI detection tool because it is not reliable
- There is no site-wide AI usage policy in place at this time; schools are developing their own; this type of cheating would fall under the Code of Conduct

### Microsoft Co-Pilot:

- Microsoft will be doing presentations about an upgraded version of CoPilot AI tool that would be more integrated with all MS products including Outlook, Teams, and more; this is a different tool than the existing CoPilot tool we all have access to now
- Licenses would have to be requested to use new tool

### **Approval of May 2025 meeting minutes**

Minutes approved in motion by Sen Kamboj, Second by Sen. Weydert

### **President's Report - (Pres. Lallier)**

Not presented due to time constraints; Dr Porche covered the issues discussed with Executive Committee

### **New Business**

- July Faculty Senate meeting: Motion to not hold meeting was offered and seconded; motion was passed to not hold July Senate meeting
- Election of Senate Executive Committee for 2025-2026
- Results:
  - President Elect – Senator Allison Augustus-Wallace
  - Board of Supervisors Representatives – Senators Suresh Alahari and Shelly Dolan
  - Secretary – No candidates; President Tom Lallier has agreed to fill position while also serving as Past-President; position will be kept open and voice vote will be held at August meeting if candidates emerge

### **Report from Board of Supervisors – Senators Kamboj and Nuss**

No report- Senators Kamboj and Nuss were thanked for their service in this role

### **Reports from Assemblies**

#### **Allied Health**

- New Executive Board is being elected; Senator Brittany Hall will serve as President of Faculty Assembly
- Committees are transitioning to new leadership



**Dentistry**

- No report

**Graduate Studies**

- No report at this time

**Medicine**

- Faculty Assembly officers are changing and new members are being added
- Concerns about IRB have been raised
- Basic Sciences is restructuring; Sen. Augustus-Wallace will share presentation from Assembly meeting from Dr Dicarlo (included with minutes)

**Nursing**

- Competency-based program will be fully implemented in the fall semester; it will be integrated throughout curriculum; each course will have a competency based requirement

**Public Health**

- New officers and members being elected

**Library**

- June Classes:
  - Accessibility Policies and Resources for Digital Works – Wed June 11 at 12pm
  - New EBSCO User Interface for CINAHL and other databases - Wed June 18 at noon
  - Classes are being recorded and will be available on the Library website for viewing at the end of the month.
- New subscription to SPIN funding database coming soon
  - A comprehensive database containing funding opportunities from more than 10,000 federal, public, non-profit, and private sponsors.
  - More details to come
- Summer Hours:
  - Ische Library summer hours will begin on June 1; close at 9pm Sun-Thurs instead of 11pm.
  - Dental Library will close at 6pm Mon-Thurs instead of 8pm and be closed both Sat and Sun.
  - Hours are posted on the Library website.

**Public Commentary**

None

**Adjourn at 4:59**