



Faculty Senate Executive Committee Meeting

Monday, August 22, 2022, at 12:00 p.m.
College of Music and Dramatic Arts, Room 251

Present: Inessa Bazayev (President), Daniel Tirone (Vice-President), Jeffrey Roland (Member-at Large), Parampreet Singh (Member-at Large), Meredith Veldman (Secretary), Susannah Knoll (Administrative Coordinator)

Bazayev called the meeting to order at 12:00.

Tirone moved to reorder the agenda so that Unfinished Business followed New Business. Roland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Tirone moved to add three items to New Business: the election of an alternate representation to COFA , broadcast email access, a survey of faculty RE committees. Roland seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

There were no Public Comments on agenda Items.

Tirone moved to approve minutes from Aug. 18 meeting. Roland seconded the motion. Minor corrections were raised. The motion to approve the minutes with amendments passed unanimously.

President's Report:

- Bazayev and Tirone met with Provost Haggerty on August 21. Discussions covered:
 - The date of the Faculty Council meeting—planned for early to mid-April
 - Student concerns RE grades raised by Student Govt—discussions are ongoing
 - Concerns RE remote teaching accommodation for faculty who contract COVID—discussions are ongoing
- Susannah Knoll will be leaving her position as Coordinator of the Faculty Senate for a new position in the Music and Dramatic Arts Dean's office. All members of the FSEC expressed their congratulations and their appreciation for Knoll's work on the Senate. Tirone and Bazayev have met with Emily Hatfield (Academic Affairs) and the posting for the empty position should be up shortly. Tirone explained that participation by all members of FSEC in the candidate interviews would violate open meetings laws. He then moved that Bazayev serve as principal liaison between the FSEC and Academic Affairs during the hiring process, and that FSEC be consulted as needed. Roland seconded the motion; which passed unanimously. This discussion also raised an important question: When counting members for a quorum, does the ex officio count? If so, then three members of FSEC can meet without violating open meetings laws. If not, then only two members of FSEC can meet without violating open meetings laws.
- Access to Faculty Senate email: Bazayev and Tirone have password. Members agreed on the need to create a second FSEC email account.

Unfinished Business

Faculty Senate ILC Committee; Bazayev:

As announced at the last FSEC meeting and included in the Aug. 18 minutes, Kip Matthews will be the new chair. He will be formally elected on Sept. 1. There is some question as to whether an ex officio (from the FSEC) member of the FSILC Committee is needed. Ken McMillin served in this role in 2021-2022. Veldman noted that there was no such representative from FSEC in the preceding year. The guidelines for the committee do not stipulate such representation. Bazayev asked Tirone to look further into the matter. Tirone moved to postpone any decision until the next FSEC meeting. Veldman seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Faculty Senate Liaison to Staff Senate; Bazayev

Bazayev reported that she plans to attend the first meetings of all Senate standing committees and to attend the next Staff Senate meeting, but that the Senate needs a permanent liaison/ representative, who must be drawn from the Faculty Senate. Discussion ensued. Tirone moved to add the selection of the Staff Senate liaison to the Faculty Senate meeting agenda for Aug 29 and to include in the official notice a brief description of the position. Nominations will be accepted prior to the meeting by email and from the floor on August 29; if necessary, a vote will be taken on Aug. 29. Veldman seconded; motion passed unanimously.

University's Mandate That No More Than 55% of Undergraduate Course Sections be Offered in "Prime Time;" Veldman

Veldman explained that Gregory Stone, Chair of English, had contacted her about concerns that he and his colleagues had about the policy, which he described as "pedagogically unwise." Stone had forwarded to Veldman three emails from Kevin Cope laying out key objections:

The issue of requiring only a limited number of courses being taught during "prime time" is because LSU keeps accepting more students than they can accommodate. LSU just received millions of dollars for infrastructure and some pressure has to be put on the university to increase classroom space. It is the chairs and deans responsibility to make this case to the administration. It is not fair to faculty and students to have to take and teach courses outside of practical school hours. LSU gets more money each year from increasing numbers of students, but makes no accommodations for those increases by increasing classroom space. Please bring this to the attention of the Dean and ask that this be addressed with the provost.

The university has to understand that students expect to be able to have a "regular" academic schedule like they have had all of their lives (eg: 8-2:30/3:00). they need to be able to find time for study and to work. Additionally, faculty with family/children have commitments to drop off kids and pick them up at times before and after prime time. So, it makes teaching outside of prime time very difficult and expensive (if they have to pay for after care). So requiring courses outside of prime time creates hassles for both students and faculty. LSU needs to take this all into consideration.

Another issue to raise about scheduling outside of prime time: if the courses are offered outside of prime time (say 730-820 m,w,f) and they are underenrolled (most likely because they are being offered outside of prime time and students don't want to take classes at those times) will there be any consideration regarding cancelling these classes for underenrollment? maybe the college could at least throw a bone and stipulate that if a class outside of prime time is underenrolled, the class will not be cancelled with a bare minimum number of students (tbd by the dept). In this way, there is a little incentive for students to take a course that is small and aside from inconvenient for faculty

with family etc. they too have the advantage of teaching a small section. In this case, this might be good for seminar courses or even basic language courses as well.

Joan King had forwarded an explanation for the policy from Clay Benton (emailed July 13):

The 55/45 rule was in effect for decades before being paused by Gil Reeve during the renovation of PFT. That construction actually resulted in a reduction of general purposes classroom spaces (the renovation significantly increased lab and research spaces in the facility). The intent was always to return to the enforcement of the 55/45 rule.

As you are aware, our undergraduate population is growing, and continues to be on an upward trajectory. We are completely out of classroom spaces during many primetime periods. Additionally, advising units across campus are experiencing difficulty scheduling undergraduates since many required courses are offered at the exact same times (crammed in to primetime). We also have a number of units using non-standard meeting patterns (such as M/W classes), which reduce room utilization and take up multiple meeting slots on student schedules.

You asked if we have more sections than we had ten years ago, and the answer is a resounding yes! While numbers fluctuate and sections are still being added for Fall, we currently have over 700 more sections this fall that need a classroom versus the fall semester 10 years ago (3,621 sections vs. 2,895 sections).

In the ensuing discussion, the definition of “primetime” was clarified: classes taught between 8:00 am and 3:00 pm, excluding the noon lunch hour. Roland questioned whether those objecting to the policy were asking for all classes to be restricted to “prime time.” The answer is no; concerns center on the shift from considerations of pedagogy to simple necessity and the fact that infrastructure investment has not kept up with the expansion of student numbers, as well as the lack of faculty input, and the burden this policy can place on faculty members who schedule courses outside of primetime and are then held accountable for low enrollment. After some discussion of the possibilities of surveying the faculty and creating an ad hoc committee, Tirone moved to refer the matter to the Committee on Academics, Standards, and Honors (ASH) and ask for an initial report no later than October. Veldman seconded the motion. It was agreed that Bazayev would send the referral from the new FSEC email address. The motion passed unanimously.

Newly Announced Policy Prohibiting Use of Zoom When Instructor is Sick or Must be Out of Town; Veldman

Veldman explained that she had received an email from a colleague who explained that at the (unspecified departmental) orientation for instructors, the following policy was set out: LSU is no longer allowing faculty to teach via Zoom. Those who are sick or have children who are sick must find a substitute or lose a day of salary; the sub does not receive any compensation. In the ensuing discussion, members agreed on the need for clarity from Academic Affairs, as Provost Haggerty had in prior discussions indicated that chairs may provide permission for limited remote instruction. Members discussed whether any change in policy takes into account the university’s investment in Zoom and the faculty’s investment of time and energy in learning effective ways of teaching remotely in an emergency situation. Tirone moved to ask Academic Affairs to relate to the entire faculty the course delivery expectations for fall 2022 and to detail the new quarantine and course accommodation policy for COVID. Roland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Faculty Senate Standing Committee Elections; Tirone:

Tirone suggested that committee appointments be put on hold until an announcement and explanation RE Faculty Senate committees is sent to all faculties, along with a survey asking about willingness to serve. Such a policy would mean postponing the already announced Adjudication Committee elections until the September meeting. Tirone moved to pause all elections and appts to standing committees until Sept. Roland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Faculty Senate Ad hoc Committees: Bazayev: Same policy as standing committees.

At this point in the meeting, Veldman had to leave for class, but a quorum still existed and the meeting continued.

COFA Alternate; Tirone

Tirone referred to prior discussions of LSU representation on the Council of Faculty Advisors (COFA) in June, in which the current practice was found to be not in compliance with PM 24. He moved that elections for an alternate be added to the agenda of the Aug. 29 FS meeting; Singh amended the motion that the initial name put forward be FS Vice President Tirone and that a call for additional nominations from the floor be made on Aug. 29. The motion passed unanimously.

Broadcast Email; Tirone

Tirone explained that the Constitution obligates the Senate to inform the Faculty Council of Senate actions. He moved that FSEC send a monthly email summarizing the last senate meeting and noting other items of interest. Roland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Survey for Committees; Tirone

Tirone moved that FSEC use the broadcast email to send a survey to all faculty members, presenting committee service options by area and querying their willingness to serve. Roland seconded the motion. In the ensuing discussion, it was agreed that Knoll will draft the survey, with links to committees, and send the draft to Tirone as the point person. Tirone moved that he be the FSEC rep for the survey; Roland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Unfinished Business

Faculty Senate August 29 Meeting Agenda

Agenda items added: elections of Staff Senate liaison and COFA alternate, pause on Committee elections; Faculty Senate Recognitions. Tirone moved to approve the agenda; Roland seconded; motion passed unanimously. Roll call for the elections (if needed) will be done by the FS Secretary: in alphabetical order, projected on the screen. The official email announcing the meeting will call for nominations, nominations will also be accepted from the floor.

Transfer Evaluation for 1000- and 2000-Level Courses; Roland

Point was to create questions to frame discussion with Jackie Bach. Roland moved to postpone until the next FSEC meeting. Tirone seconded; all in favor.

Covid-19 Survey Results; Roland

Roland reported that he has consulted a statistician and that the results were then corrected and validated. He is reviewing the changes and will be invited to the next FSEC meeting (in his position as Ad Hoc Covid Mitigation Committee chair; he will no longer be a Member-at-Large of FSEC as of Aug. 29).

Faculty Senate Booklet; Bazayev

Bazayev moved to approve booklet (latest version distributed earlier to all members of FSEC) and to print an additional 50 copies, bringing the total to 200 copies (from the 150 copies agreed to

at the last meeting), with a \$2,000 budget. Roland seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Faculty Senate Pens; Bazayev

Roland moved to approve the purchase of FS pens; Tirone seconded; motion passed unanimously.

Singh moved to adjourn. Tirone seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

*It is intended that public comments may be made (1) when they relate to a matter on the agenda and (2) when individuals desiring to make public comments have registered at least one hour prior to the meeting by emailing facultysenate@lsu.edu or by calling 225-578-5248.

When registering, individuals should identify themselves; the group they are representing, if appropriate; and the agenda item on which they would like to comment. In order to ensure that the meeting is conducted in an efficient manner, each individual will be limited to 3 minutes for their public comments and the President reserves the right to limit the total number of public comments if necessary.

The LSU Faculty Senate or its Committees may meet in executive session as authorized by La. R.S. 42:17.1