

Council of Faculty Advisors Report to LSU Board of Supervisors 10-21-2022

Members

Mandi Lopez
Richard Vlosky
Jonathan Alexander
Christof Stumpf
Allen Garcie
Owen Carmichael
Angela Greaud
Daniel Tirone

Dr. Richard Vlosky has been re-elected Chair, LSU Agricultural Faculty Council for 2023. In this capacity, he will also serve on the Council of Faculty Advisors for 2023.

Faculty Senate Report from LSU Health Shreveport - J. Steven Alexander, PhD

Dr. Alexander completed his term as Faculty Senate President, giving this over to Dr. Oleg Chernyshev the current Senate President

1. The Faculty Senate meets on a monthly basis and has addressed several concerns relevant to the campus, the LSU system and institutions of higher education. Recently faculty had a two-day faculty retreat centering on faculty retention, wellness and mental health initiative.
2. The campus has been actively involved in recruiting a new Chancellor for the medical center. These discussions are underway, and the committee is making good progress in identifying candidates with the right combination of skills and experiences to lead our center.
3. The new medical education building is continuing construction with an anticipated opening date of 2023.
4. Faculty are working on developing an office of interprofessional education (IPE) with a centralized Director for the campus.
5. Faculty are exploring the financial cost/benefit analysis of a childcare center.
6. Discussions of transfer of tuition and fee authority from the legislature to the governing boards. We should seek guidance on streamline such approvals. Even when generally agreed upon, this will require significant efforts and time.
7. Support for universities by the state has dropped to about 20% of the budget.
8. Campus anticipates a 2% raise in January. With costs of inflation rising further consideration of salary remain below the average for comparable schools.

Reasonable tuition increases should be considered to help fill out educational budgets.

From LSU A&M Baton Rouge

1. Challenges continue to prevent students from transferring or taking classes at LSU while enrolled elsewhere, especially true for those outside the state. The senate leadership reported this to the administration some years back, but the ability for students to determine course equivalencies remains haphazard, inconsistent, and fraught with delays.

To be specific, a student wishing to take a course at LSU cannot tell ahead of time whether the credits will apply at their home university or the potential that their credits received at another university will apply toward a degree at LSU. LSU is missing out on a large potential student population due to challenges with aligning courses between LSU and other universities. Additionally, a reminder that faculty decide educational policy at LSU, so they must be involved in decisions regarding course equivalencies.

2. Another question raised by faculty is the rationale for Moodle to be managed by LSU Online in Baton Rouge. It seems odd that as a brick-and-mortar institution, learning management system is directed by Online contingent. Further, faculty suggest that more frequent, organized mechanisms for faculty input and feedback on Moodle be sought to maintain a contemporary, user-friendly system.
3. Faculty note that workload continues to increase with faculty resignations and retirements in the face of recruiting challenges. Equitable workload distribution among faculty is necessary for job satisfaction and retention.
4. On the same note, salary inversion continues to disincentivize continued employment at our LSU for long term employees. This problem has existed for decades and has recently been acknowledged by many faculty leaving LSU.

Council of Faculty Advisors Report,-September 8, 2022

1. The faculty of LSU A&M express concerns about parking restrictions associated with sports events.
2. While advance notice is given, faculty and staff are prevented from accessing parking. This interferes with research and teaching activities.
3. The faculty request that faculty be given priority parking as necessary to continue their work. Notably, the LSU A&M campus has some of the highest parking fees in the SEC.

4. The faculty once again renew their request for a report on the investigation of system pay disparities. At last report, a commercial entity was hired to complete an investigation and results were to be available last spring. Faculty request information on the findings.
5. Faculty are once again requesting that the graduate student tuition remission be reconsidered. The practice of “taxing” student stipends supported by external funding is counterintuitive and questionable.
6. That is, those who secure funding to pay graduate student stipends are compelled to pay an additional nearly 40% to our LSU. The practice is not well explained, uniformly applied, nor accountable in that there is no reporting of where the funds go.
7. Faculty request that the practice be reconsidered and revised to support competitive graduate student stipends and our research mission. Further, those who pay the “tax” want individual statements that include totals of their payments and annual reports of the cumulative funds and their distribution.
8. LSU Health New Orleans 15 faculty and 15 staff members received Chancellor’s excellence award at a townhall meeting on September 28.
9. **Transfer of tuition and fee authority from the legislature to the governing boards.**
10. We need legislative approval for any change, and are the only state that works this way, as far as we know. The red tape is enormous, and it is almost impossible to get any change approved.
11. How can we streamline such approvals? Even when generally agreed upon, this will require significant efforts and time.
12. **The legislature must trust the universities and the boards that they will not allow for huge tuition increases, but reasonable adaptations are necessary.**