

The committee approved these minutes at our Nov. 3, 2023 meeting.

Faculty Senate Budget & Planning Advisory Committee Minutes

April 28, 2023

Guest: Provost Roy Haggerty

Present: Estanislado Barrera, Stephen Shipman, James Canfield, Fabio Del Piero, Wei-Ling Song and Judith Sylvester (chair).

Absent: Joan King, Joseph Mason and Tommy Smith

Chair Judith Sylvester summarized committee activities since we first met last semester, including:

1. Exchanging information about the changes in scheduling classes to better utilize space, but problems with classrooms (especially in Tureaud Hall) not being used during prime times, confusion between School and Department schedulers and the Registrar's Office and the need to avoid "one-size fits all" because some programs need to do what is best for them and their students.
2. Meeting with Roger Husser to get an update on the Master Plan and priorities, again discussing whether moving more classrooms toward the South side of campus will cause problems for students to make it across campus to classes on the North side in the required 10 minutes. We also mentioned the difficulties of keeping sections in one course on track with differing day/time formats to meet the Registrar's office scheduling plan. (Roger Husser has moved to the State Office of Facility Planning and Control Planning, but he will remain in charge of LSU project of \$1 million or more.)
3. Meeting with Brian Favela, Director of Parking and Transportation Services, to discuss parking and street closures.

Provost Haggerty reminded us that these entities do not report to him, but he noted our concerns and said he would assist in relaying these concerns to the proper administrators.

Provost Haggerty then updated us on the Zero-Based budgeting process. He said that it had been a lot of work and had taken longer than expected, but he was sending Units their budgets in the next week, which was earlier than the previous practice of providing budgets in the summer. The budget has been "cleaned up" so that everything was put in the proper category. (For example, graduate assistants would all be paid from the graduate assistant category on the budget, rather than using open faculty lines as the source.) He said he was evaluating the budget process and will determine the best model moving forward. He said the process went well, and some members of the committee agreed that the budgeting exercise had been a useful exercise.

He said increasing the graduate stipend was making LSU more competitive. He said some issues still need attention, such as reliance on post-docs rather than Ph.D. students for grant work, and those in non-STEM units who attract smaller grants but have to find ways to pay the higher rates while getting the work done. Including health benefits for graduate students was another accomplishment.

Provost Haggerty said that faculty salary increases remain top priority, and he expects raises in the fall

(and raises for the salary boost given upon tenure and promotion to be increased). He said we are benefiting from the current tenure and academic freedom fights in Florida and Texas, and that President Tate is doing all he can do to keep those fights out of Louisiana. Haggerty said the Republican legislators he has met are more moderate than he expected. He said, for example, that he had not encountered any climate deniers because they understand that global business demands environmental responsibility.

Faculty retention was the next topic. The Provost said he and President Tate hope to establish an “emergency” fund to try to keep professors who might be lured away from LSU. However, he believes regular salaries increases will help us reach SEC peer levels, which in turn helps with retention and faculty morale.

We offered some suggestions for future consideration. Encouraging faculty across disciplines to meet and discuss their research interests will improve collaboration on grant applications. This is especially true for the cohort who were hired just before the LSU COVID shut down and have lacked such opportunities. Face-to-face opportunities would increase faculty interaction across disciplines (such as the recent Manship School/Coastal Environmental Science grant collaboration discussions that informed attendees about Sea Grants and NASA opportunities in addition to faculty research interests). Perhaps ORED could do more to put grant collaboration groups together. An additional suggestion is reviving “Dean Discussions” to increase knowledge about major research opportunities in various units.

We then concluded by thanking Provost Haggerty for meeting with us twice this year and expressing our appreciation for his efforts on the faculty behalf.