

LSU Health
NEW ORLEANS
FACULTY SENATE

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday October 14, 2025 - 3:30pm-5:00pm,
CSRB 563

Those present included: (Proxies*)

Allied Health: Luther Gill, Brandon Walker, Amber Weydert, Brittany Hall, Stephanie Eschete

Dentistry: Thomas Lallier, Diedra Brewer-Hohensee, A.C. Liles, Eugene Antenucci, Meric Karapinar-Kazandag

Graduate Studies: Sonia Gasparini* (for Andrew Catling)

Medicine: Suresh Alahari, Allison Augustus-Wallace, Jennifer Cameron, Michelle Korah-Sedgwick, Brian Lochlann McGee, Maria Reinoso, Laura Pelaez, Jennifer Hart

Nursing: Jessica Teeter, Collen Story, Quinn Lacey* (for Jessica Teeter), Laura Bonanno* (proxy Jolie Harris), Shelly Dolan

Public Health: Mei-Chin Hsieh, Chih-yang Hu, Susanne Straif-Bourgeois, Tung-Sung Tseng, William Robinson

Library: Sharon Duffy

Ex-Officio: Rebecca Bealer, Michael Boutte

Absent with Proxy: Jolie Harris, Andrew Catling, Jessica Teeter

Not present:

I. Welcome and Call to Order by President Cameron at 3:30 PM

II. Introduction of Special Guest(s)

Jill Fragoso – Director of Human Resources

- Crisis Leave – Active July 1, 2025
 - 68 faculty have donated 9,000 hours
- Parental Leave – Active January 1, 2025
- 75 employees have been shifted from Non-exempt to Exempt due to re-evaluation of duties of supervisors and managers
 - Now are salaried with monthly pay, no overtime
- Coursera – Free online courses for continued education available to faculty and staff
- Maxient – Active: online system for tracking Employee and Title IX issues
 - Continue to call HR with issues, they will submit to Maxient when appropriate
- Employee evaluations – New system (PageUp) to be implemented after next cycle (for Y2026)
 - Current system will be used for Y2025 (reviews in Jan-Mar 2026)

Ben Lousteau – Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance

- Raises coming in September check, October will include July and August
- Letters should go out soon
- The LSU President search is ongoing, and is hoped to conclude in six weeks

Dr. Porche – Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs: (Written Report)

- October Board of Supervisor Agenda items are:
 - School of Medicine Reorganization
 - Doctor of Nursing Science in Nursing to PhD in Nursing Alumni degree conversion
- Office of Research Services
 - Search Committee has provided recommendations for the Executive Director of the Office of Research Services. Dr. Porche is in the process of making a job offer.
 - Two offers extended for IRB Analyst positions
 - AAHRPP Five Phase Re-accreditation Plan submitted
- Financial Aid
 - In the process of hiring a financial aid advisor
- Student Health
 - Student Health Services fully staffed
 - Students able to receive student health services/walk ins welcomed
- Registrar developing policy on Post-humous degree awarding
- Academic Affairs Policies revised
 - Academic Calendar
 - Enrollment, resignation, and retroactive appeals
 - Admission honors and honorary degrees
 - Latin honors
 - Incomplete grades
- VCAA Academic Affairs Council Appointed a Digital Badge/Microcredentials taskforce
- CM-56 in revision (Student Rights and Responsibilities)
- IPE to consider integration of nutrition content
- International Travel Policy & LAHEFSA has some minor workflow revisions proposed
- VCAA provided critique of University of Louisiana at Lafayette proposed MS in Biomedical Sciences degree. Review and critique conducted by Dr. Amedee.

Ken Boe – Assistant Vice Chancellor for Information Technology (Written Report)

- **GraphPad**
 - GraphPad license requests started slowing.
 - The rollout of the requested licenses is taking longer than requestors would like, but it is moving.
- **Learning Management System**
 - We are moving forward with two sandbox environments (Blackboard and Canvas).
 - The third, MoodleUS, wants a signed Master Services Agreement, which seems unnecessary for a test environment for a system with which we may not move forward. The others did not require the same.
- **AI**
 - Thursday, October 16th, at 11:00 a.m. lasting 90 minutes, is a Copilot prompt-a-thon with Microsoft. It will be recorded. [IT Office Hours](#)

III. Public Commentary (2 minutes each) - None

IV. Approval of September Meeting Minutes

- Minutes approved in motion

V. President's Report (President Cameron)

See appended report

- a. Office of Research Services
- b. LSU System President Search
- c. LSUHSC Education Center
- d. LSUHSC Standing Committees

VI. Board of Supervisors Report (Senators Alahari and Dolan)

- No Meeting, No Report
- Next meeting October 24th – Basic Science department reorganization to be discussed

VII. Reports from Assemblies

Allied Health:

- Allied Health Week is November 3rd-8th
- Strategic Plan roll out will be November 5th
- New position for Assistant Dean of Admissions: 2 candidates, interviews are this week

Dentistry:

- Successful Alumni Day on September 26th
- Resignation of Assoc. Dean Admissions and Student Affairs – Toby Cheramie

Graduate Studies:

- With the transition from seven programs into the one (PhD in Biomedical Sciences approved by BOS), there are now two workgroups that have been created to define the structure for the qualifying exam and the preliminary exam.
- The first is completed after two years at the end of the coursework
- The second one has to be completed at least one year before thesis completion, preferably after the third year.
- The School is also working on a plan to enhance student recruitment to figure out where to be physically present to recruit students and what other institutions we should be partnering with to network with their undergraduates and their advisors.

Medicine:

- September meeting – Guest Dr. Rivera discussed IRB
- October meeting – Guest Peter Deblieux discussed AI addition to Simulations in CALS

Nursing: No report

Public Health:

- Self-Study for CEPH (Council on Education for Public Health) reaccreditation for BS, MPH and PhD degrees submitted.
- Currently in the process of updating APT procedural guidelines and evaluation criteria.

Library:

- October Informational Sessions:
 - **Gold, Green, & Everything In Between: Your Scholarly Publishing Roadmap**
 - Wed October 15 at noon
 - Open access publishing routes will be explained
 - Publisher responses to NIH policies will be detailed
 - Tools for authors will be provided
 - **Who Accesses Our Knowledge?**
 - Wed October 22 at noon
 - Accessibility standards for websites and electronic documents will be explained
 - Learn how to meet these new standards for your scholarly outputs
 - Classes are held in Ische Library Room 405 in person and via Zoom ([registration required](#)). Classes are being recorded and will be available on [LSU Health Digital Scholar](#), our Institutional Repository, for viewing at the end of the month.
- Open Access Month activities:
 - The Libraries are participating in the global Open Access events in October by hosting classes that will educate authors about this scholarly publishing topic.
 - On Wednesday October 29 at 11am-1pm, we'll be hosting an Open Access Lab session where you can bring any question related to scholarly publishing or get one-on-one help with identifying a journal for your manuscript. It will be in the Ische Library in room 405 and via [Zoom](#).
 - On Thursday October 30 at 2-3pm, we'll be hosting an Open Access Pop-Up event during our weekly popcorn time. Come by for interactive games, a selfie station, and to recap our month of Open Access learning.
- Timeline on Library construction for IT server room on 5th floor
 - Will start in December 2025- through December 2026
 - Students have been given alternative study areas; can schedule via 25Live
 - Earplugs available
 - Mostly 7am-3:30pm Monday-Friday

VIII. Unfinished Business

- **Faculty Handbook Committee report (Senator Augustus-Wallace)**
 - Set to meet Friday, October 24th via Zoom
- **Faculty Evaluations Committee report (Senator Lallier)**

- No meeting, problems finding a time to schedule that a majority can attend
- **Call for Committee on Information Technology (President Cameron)**
 - Proposal for new IT Committee (Senator Alahari)
- **Question about Hanging Posters on the Walls of LSU buildings (Dr. Tseng)**
 - Unresolved

IX. New Business –

- **Resolution:** To recommend to the VCAA that an LSUHSC-wide IT committee be formed as a standing committee to address IT issues (eg. LMS system recommendation, AI usage and policies, licensing roll-outs (GraphPad)), and that there be Faculty Senate representation on this committee.
 - Voted and approved by the Senate

XI. Adjourn at 4:31

LSU Health
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**President's Report
October 2025**

LSU Health – New Orleans Senators and Faculty,

On October 9, the Senate Executive Board met with VCAA Dr. Porche, who appraised the Senators of developments in several ongoing initiatives.

Office of Research Services

The Office of Research Services continues to recruit staff and evaluate its policies and procedures. The Search Committee for the Executive Director has provided its recommendation, and the letter of offer was to be sent to the chosen candidate the week of October 13. The office has hired a Clinical Trials Manager who will interface with PIs and industry sponsors and oversee the Clinical Coordinators workforce. This will allow the flexibility for Clinical Coordination services to be assigned to projects that require part-time effort. Two offers have been extended for IRB Analyst positions, while the temp staffing contract was extended to ensure continuity of office functions. In addition to increased staffing, the office has submitted a Five Phase Reaccreditation Plan to the accrediting body, the Association for Accreditation of Human Research Protection Programs, Inc. (AAHRPP). The office will temporarily experience a lapse in accreditation but is working closely with AAHRPP to restore accreditation as soon as possible, likely with a 3-year accreditation review. The office is continuing to review and revise its policies to improve efficiency. Discussions are ongoing with the CEO of Quali to renew the contract for at least 12 months. LSUHSC is asking for assurances that the product will have the capability to integrate with other management software (e.g., Peoplesoft, Encore) and is advocating for the option to cancel the contract if integration is not satisfactory. Finally, LSUHSC Animal Care will no longer manage the animal care facility in the LCRC, primarily due to chronic staffing shortages.

LSU System News

The Search for the new President of the LSU system is underway. SSA Consultants, a Baton Rouge based search firm, was chosen to vet candidates. A Search Committee was formed, primarily consisting of Board of Supervisors members and other external stakeholders. The search process is expected to proceed with expediency.

LSUHSC has submitted two proposals for consideration by the Board of Supervisors at their October meeting. The first is a request for approval of the reorganization of the basic science departments of the School of Medicine, which would combine the Pharmacology and Biochemistry departments into "Pharmacology, Biochemistry and Experimental Therapeutics" (PBET) and the Genetics and Microbiology, Immunology & Parasitology departments into "Microbiology, Genetics and Immunology" (MGI). The second is a request from the School of Nursing to approve conversion of the degree Doctor of Nursing Science to PhD in Nursing. This is in accordance with national norms.

LSUHSC Academics News

Dr. Porche reported that he has served as co-chair, along with Dr. Erin Dugan, Dean of the School of Allied Health Professions, on a committee to develop a proposal for a new LSUHSC campus-wide Education Center. The draft of the proposal has been sent to Chancellor Nelson for review. The intention is to seek approval from the Board of Supervisors to create the Center. Parallel plans for an education center to be housed within the School of Medicine are suspended pending development of the LSUHSC-wide Center, but elements of the SOM proposal may be adopted by the school-wide center.

The VCAA Academic Affairs Council recently appointed a Digital Badge/Microcredentials taskforce ("postprofessional education" workshops). According to Google AI, *"microcredentials" are a series of*

focused, shorter learning experiences, often online, that verify specific skills and competencies through digital badges. They are issued by accredited institutions and are designed for professionals to upskill, reskill, or change careers by demonstrating proficiency in a particular subject area. Microcredentials are a way to customize education, adapt to industry changes, and build a narrative of professional development. Additionally, the VCAA has asked the office of Interprofessional Education to consider integration of nutrition content to comply with federal mandates for medical education programs to have nutrition training in their curriculum. Finally, discussions are ongoing to secure faculty reciprocity agreements (ability to teach cross-campus) and partnering with Baton Rouge for student health insurance options, two initiatives driven primarily by the School of Graduate Studies.

Policy Review

The Office of the VCAA is undertaking a review of the LSUHSC wide standing committees and is developing and/or clarifying committee roles, membership, and policies for appointment and term limits for committee service. The office has also reviewed and revised the following Academic Affairs Policies: [VCAA Policies page link](#)

- Academic calendars (AA-16)
- Enrollment, resignation, and retroactive appeals (AA-18, AA-19)
- Admission honors and honorary degrees
- Latin honors (AA-20)
- Incomplete grades (AA-17)

Chancellor's Memorandum (CM)-56, Student Rights, Roles, and Responsibilities, is currently under revision.

As always, if you have ideas or suggestions for the Senate, please don't hesitate to get in touch. Faculty can now contact the Senate directly by emailing FacultySenate@lsuhsc.edu.

Warm regards,

Jennifer

Jennifer Cameron, Ph.D.
President, Faculty Senate
LSU Health New Orleans