

LSU Health
NEW ORLEANS
FACULTY SENATE

Meeting Minutes
Tuesday September 9, 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, Eugene Antenucci, Meric Karapinar-Kazandag

Graduate Studies: Sonia Gasparini, Andrew Catling

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

Nursing: Jessica Teeter, Collen Story, Quinn Lacey, Laura Bonanno, Jolie Harris

Public Health: Mei-Chin Hsieh, Chih-yang Hu, Susanne Straif-Bourgeois, Tung-Sung Tseng, Henry Nuss* (proxy William Robinson)

Library: Sharon Duffy

Ex-Officio: Rebecca Bealer, Michael Boutte

Absent with Proxy: William Robinson

Not present: Jennifer Hart, Shelly Dolan, A.C. Liles

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

II. Introduction of Special Guest(s)

Ben Lousteau – Vice Chancellor of Administration and Finance

- Raises coming in September check, October will include July and August
- Letters should go out soon

Dr. Porche – Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs:

- Student Health Office
 - Now fully staffed with a physician and nurse
 - General announcement will go out soon
 - Plans to expand from just students to employee health
- Office of Research Services (ORS)
 - Three candidates scheduled for interviews (Senate Exec included)
- Board of Supervisors
 - Plans to submit Basic Science department reorganization at next meeting

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

- GraphPad
 - Requests are being reviewed and installations proceeding.
 - We have run into an issue with installation on MacOS devices and have tickets open on the issue.
 - It is not preventing installation.

- It is consuming extra licenses in some cases.
- Learning Management System
 - I am working with the vendors to schedule the creation of sandbox environments and am trying to coordinate so that all are available at the same time to allow for better cross-platform comparisons.
- AI
 - We have scheduled two sessions with Microsoft during the September and October [IT Office Hours](#) sessions.
 - The first will be an overview of Copilot and
 - the second will be an effective prompting class.

III. Public Commentary (2 minutes each) - None

IV. Approval of June Meeting Minutes

- Minutes approved in motion by Drs. Alahari and Weydert

V. President's Report (President Cameron)

See appended report

- A. Office of Research Services
- B. LSU President Search
- C. Student Health

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

LSU Council of Faculty Advisors Meeting

- **Election of Council reps for year 2025-26**
 - Chair-Daniel Tirone (LSUA&M)
 - Co-Chair-Suresh Alahari (LSU Health New Orleans)
 - Secretary-pending
- **Governor's taskforce- has appointed a taskforce to look at alternate accrediting board for higher education.**
 - **Currently accredited under (SACSCOC)**
 - **Evaluating Commission for Higher Education (CPHE); see attached**
 - **Interpreted pros by governor**
 - If adopted initially have dual accreditation
 - Faculty Senate would be advisory board and not a governing board.
 - Believed not to be redundant financial disclosures since public entity already has public record.
 - **Interpreted cons by faculty council**
 - Prescriptive as to what is to be taught
 - Less creative and critical thinking
 - Less flexibility by faculty.
- **President search**

- BOS Chair-Ballard wants to narrow down to 5-3 serious candidates by end of next 2 months so then each school will be represented and have an opportunity to meet and evaluate.
- Assured LSUHSC will have a seat at the table.
- Currently the consensus is one combined position for President and Chancellor.

VII. Reports from Assemblies

Staff Senate: (Boutte)

- Met with ombudsman
- Working on Mentorship program for new hires
 - Training with AV equipment
 - Certification process
 - Boost morale

Allied Health:

- Strategic Plan will roll out soon
- Committees are being restructured
- Examining partnering with other schools for the creation of Standardized Patients

Dentistry:

- General Faculty Assembly meeting on August 20th
- Dr. Gallo confirmed raises and ongoing renovation and strategic planning efforts

Graduate Studies:

- BSAC (SGS) is meeting this Wednesday for its bimonthly meeting, so we don't have updates.

Medicine:

Nursing:

- The Baton Rouge campus is on track to increase admissions for the spring 2026 semester to 60 students, bringing the enrollment total to 90 students
- Dr. Nunn received the APRN of the year and Dr. Garbee received the lifetime achievement award at the 2025 Nightengale Gala for LSNA
- Dr. Fowler will receive a national award for her CNE academy grant at NLN in September
- Dr. Bonanno received the AANA Helen Lamb Outstanding Educator Award.

Public Health: No report

Library:

- [September Informational Sessions:](#)

- **Introduction to SPIN Database to Search for Funding Opportunities** – Wed September 10 at noon
- **Introduction to StatPearls for Students** - Wed September 17 at noon
- **Textbooks at LSUHSC-NO Libraries: A Guide for Students** – Wed September 24 at noon
 - 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.
- [Hurricane Katrina Archive](#) is now available on LSU Health Digital Scholar
 - To commemorate the 20th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina, the LSUHSC Libraries have created a collection of materials that reflects the events of the storm, the catastrophic flooding of the campuses, the emergency and disaster management tasks undertaken by faculty, staff, and students, and the monumental efforts towards rebuilding. Materials include oral histories of LSUHSC faculty and staff of the time sharing their experiences, updates from Facilities from 2005-2012 detailing campus repairs, photos, videos, and bibliographies of Katrina-related research and publications authored by LSUHSC-NO faculty and staff. The collection is still in process and will be updated as new materials become available. In addition, items are being processed to meet upcoming accessibility requirements.

VIII. Unfinished Business

- **Faculty Handbook Committee report (Senator Augustus-Wallace)**
 - Set to meet Friday, September 12 via Zoom
- **Faculty Evaluations Committee report (Senator Lallier)**
 - Dr. Porche agreed to listen to our input at Exec meeting (September 4, 2025)
 - The committee will reform with and set a meeting to discuss options
 - Then schedule a meeting with HR.

IX. New Business

- **Proposal for new IT Committee (Senator Alahari)**
 - Committee formed with Dr. Alahari as Chair
 - Members: Lallier (seeking other volunteers)
 - First task is determining additional PRISM licenses for investigators
 - Possible future roles with AI, LMS and Testing software
- **Results of the Wellness Committee's Hunger-free Campus Workforce (HFCW) Health Fair (Senator Dolan – presented by Dr. Nuss)**
 - Health Fair- August 20th from 3pm to 8pm
 - Plan to make this an annual event and next year invite additional schools to participate.
 - Date for 2026- August 19th from 2-6pm Lions Building Rm 130
 - Upcoming event Holiday Basket Giveaway

- Need to register which opens October 27th and Closes Nov. 12th
- Giveaway will be November 20th & 21st in the CALS building 1st floor
- Will do via donations both nonperishable and cash to purchase perishables.
- Will also use money left over from last year monetary contributions
- **Call for suggestions for invited guests**
 - Jessica Rivera (IRB)
 - Catherine Briley, JD (Associate Ombudsperson for LSUHSC-NO and LSUHSC-S)
 - <https://www.lsu.edu/ombuds/index.php>
 - Scott Ballard (Chair BOS)
 - Someone from Nursing to discuss AI policy
- **Welcome to Laura Pelaez (New Senator for SoM)**
- **Question about Construction on main campus (Dr. Tseng)**
 - Unresolved

XI. Adjourn at 4:30

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**President's Report
September 2025**

LSU Health – New Orleans Senators and Faculty,

On September 4, the Senate Executive Board met with VCAA Dr. Porche, along with several invited guests, to discuss the ongoing progress of the restructuring of the Office of Research Services and ways to facilitate more effective communication between the IRB and research investigators. Special guests at the meeting included Jessica Rivera, MD, PhD, Chair, Institutional Review Board; Stephanie Sonnier, RN, Assistant Director of Office of Research Services; Frank Wasser, JD, Compliance and Privacy Officer; Lori Ferro, CIA, CISA, CRISC, CRMA, Compliance Auditor; and Richard DiCarlo, MD, Dean, School of Medicine. Discussion centered on compliance training requirements and ways to improve communication of training needs to investigators. There was consensus among all parties that the onboarding process for new investigators could be significantly improved. Investigators are reminded that the ORS website contains a wealth of information. Visit the [Research Dashboard](#) to browse the available resources and find answers to many common questions. The black menu ribbon across the top of the [main IRB page](#) is also a helpful place to find resources related to clinical research studies.

Significant progress has been made in restoring staffing levels of the IRB office, with 6 IRB analysts currently on staff. The search for a new ORS Director is ongoing with 3 candidates scheduled for on-campus interviews the week of September 22. Dr. Porche and ORS staff will be meeting with representatives from AAHRPP, the accrediting body of the IRB, on September 12 to initiate the process of renewing accreditation. Discussions are ongoing to determine the best Research Management Software (Kuali vs other products) for meeting the needs of the office and the LSUHSC community.

The LSU System has begun the search to fill the vacancy at LSU System President. A search committee has been appointed consisting of LSU Board of Supervisors members, community business leaders and other stakeholders. There have been discussions at top administrative levels regarding whether the LSU President should continue to serve in a dual role as Chancellor of the flagship campus in Baton Rouge, or if these should be separate administrative posts; current plans appear to be moving forward with one hire to continue in the dual role.

Human Resources is in the process of wrapping up a review and revision of the staff annual evaluation process. They will soon begin a similar review of the faculty annual evaluation process. Dr. Porche has endorsed a role for the Faculty Senate in helping to shape annual evaluations.

In other news from the Office of Academic Affairs, the institution has created procedures for formalizing agreements (memoranda of understanding, MOU) with external institutions whose students come to our campus to train as exchange students. The Student Health clinic is now fully staffed, with Dr. Barbara devoting 60% FTE to the clinic, along with a full-time NP and Coordinator. The clinic is located on the 3rd floor of the Seton building (Room 307, 478 S. Johnson St.; hours, M-F 8am-4:30pm). More information can be found on the [Student Health webpage](#). The long-term plan is to expand services to include Employee Health services as well.

As always, if you have ideas or suggestions for the Senate, please don't hesitate to reach out! Warm regards,

Jennifer

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