LSU Health NEW ORLEANS

FACULTY SENATE

Meeting Minutes

Tuesday October 13, 2026 - 3:30pm-5:00pm
CSRB ENT Conference Room 563

Those present included:

Dentistry: Eugene Antenucci, Diedra Brewer-Hohensee, Stephen Brisco, Meric Karapinar-Kazandag, Thomas Lallier
Graduate Studies: Shyamal Desai, Sonia Gasparini
Health Professions: Ngozi Akotaobi, Stephanie Eschete, Thuha Hoang, Elise Money-Nolan, Chrissy MacMaster (proxy for Jade Schoendorf)
Medicine: Suresh Alahari, Allison Augustus-Wallace, Allyson Bennett, Jennifer Cameron, Sanjay Kamboj, Laura Pelaez, Brian Lochlann McGee, Maria Reinoso
Nursing: Mary Kelly, Quinn Lacey, Erica Love, Colleen Story
Public Health: Reni Elewonibi, Jennifer Glick, Bingjing Mao, William Robinson, Tung-Sung Tseng
Library: Sharon Duffy
Ex-Officio: Rebecca Bealer, Michael Boutte, Shelly Dolan
Not present: Laura Bonanno (Nursing)

I. Welcome and Call to Order by President Augustus-Wallace at 3:30pm

II. Introduction of Special Guests:

Dr Demetrius Porche – *Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs*

- October report – See attached

Dr David Guzick – *Senior Vice Chancellor of LSU Health - New Orleans*

- LSU working to address issues from the Dept of Education in order to gain approval for the transformation into a single institution; financial aid being unified onto a single platform is one specific issue.
- Dr Dalton to present to Board of Supervisors this month about a revised goal to focus on LSU being a top 50 public university in the USA in research; focus will be on increasing extramural funding; he will present a path to improve LSU performance and productivity.
- Our campus research growth will come primarily from work towards gaining NCI designation; Dr Guzick put forth a three year plan with goal date of May 2029; believes we are on track and slightly ahead of schedule due to bringing in more grants and recruiting funded researchers.
- Investigator initiated clinical trials is another area that needs growth; currently have 1 trial and 5-6 trial protocols in development; New chair of Radiation Oncology is leading this effort.

- Other area that needs growth is community outreach and engagement; currently recruiting to fill gap

Question from senator if these goals account for current challenges in NIH funding due to political influences:

- He responded that the path forward is to become less reliant on institutional funding regardless of political climate.
- He referenced article he authored in 2009: Dorsey, E., Wuyckhuyse, B., Beck, C., Passalacqua, W., & Guzick, D. (2009). The Economics of New Faculty Hires in Basic Science. Academic Medicine, 84(1), 26–31. https://doi.org/10.1097/ACM.0b013e3181904633

III. Public Commentary (2 minutes each) – None

IV. Approval of June Meeting Minutes

- Motion by Sen. Lallier, Second by Sen. Gasparini

V. President's Report (President Augustus-Wallace)

- New Faculty Senators in Medicine and Health Professions due to administrative appointments. Sens. Maria Reinoso and Brittany Hall are being replaced by Sens. Liz Simon Peter and Thuha Hoang, respectively.
- December Faculty Senate meeting (12/8) will include a gathering with Staff Senate. More details will be provided.
- See attached document for full report.

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

- Next meeting on October 16 in Baton Rouge

VII. Reports from Assemblies

Most submitted prior to meeting and shared in attached document.

Discussions:

- New State Law – Act 305 – Increased penalties for marijuana on school campuses
  - As of 8/1/2026, increased penalties for possessing, smoking, vaping marijuana products including THC within 2000 feet (~1/3 mile) of any school property in LA – including on-campus housing and surrounding residences.
  - Law pertains to all students, staff, faculty, contractors, visitors
  - Questions raised about how enforcement is being operationalized on campus
  - There is no reporting responsibility but there has been no information about how police are implementing new law
  - Plan to invite Campus Police Chief to upcoming Senate meeting for clarity
- Changes to Employee Educational Benefit Policy
  - Formerly addressed by CM-28
  - Moved out of CM and now managed by HR and posted on their website https://www.lsuhsc.edu/administration/hrm/tuition_exemption.aspx
  - Noted changes include limit to 6 credit hours per semester with one course during working hours and other online or night class; restrictions on use for PhD degrees; costs incurred by SOPH

- Communication has been lacking on important changes
- Plan to work get Staff Senate involved in raising this issue with Administration because many staff employees utilize this program
- Plan to raise issue with HR/VCAF regarding timing and reasons for changes

Staff Senate Report (Michael Boutte)

- Scarecrow decorating contest is being held
- Collecting new men's underwear as donation drive
- Meditation Hour being offered online through Wellness Center

VIII. Old Business

- Faculty Handbook Subcommittee Membership
  - President Elect Bonanno is leading
  - School of Medicine needs more representatives
- International Travel Policy Subcommittee Membership
    - Sens. Cameron and Glick are leading
    - Sens. Meric Karapinar Kazandag (SOD) and Sen Erica Love (SON) have volunteered
    - Members of subcommittees do not have to be Senators
    - Invite anyone with an interest in working to improve this policy

IX. New Business

- AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators) on campus
  - Grant money available to get additional devices and training
  - Not enough units currently on campus to support population size, especially in heavily populated buildings such as MEB and CSRB
  - Most units currently housed with Campus Police and security; some patient clinics also have units
  - Devices require annual inspections; thus far, Health & Safety Committee and Facilities have not provided support
  - School of Nursing can offer CPR and AED training on campus
  - Current AEDs are fool-proof and can be used by anyone in emergency situations
- Sigma Xi – Scientific Research Honor Society chapter on campus
  - www.sigmaxi.org
  - Chapter established in Baton Rouge in 1934 but ended in 2025
  - Transferred to our campus in June 2026
  - Includes all six schools and all forms of research
  - President Augustus-Wallace serves as president, Sen Alahari serves as Vice-president, Sen Kazandag serves as Treasurer
  - Senators should spread the word about it and encourage faculty and students to participate

XI. Adjourn at 4:59pm

VCAA updates – October 13, 2026

Updates: The Commission on Colleges & Universities (SACSCOC)

LSU Transformation & October 2026 Campus Visit- Status Update -October site visit is cancelled.
Dept. of Education-Status Update – Drs. Dalton and Messina are talking to DOE

Artificial Intelligence (A. I.) Committee/Policy (Status Update) – out for review

Proposal for the Institutional Teaching/Instructional Academy
Dr. Porche and Dr. Dugan meeting on 10/22 to discuss revisions to proposal given to Dr. Guzick

Institutional Committees (VCAA Committees)
Faculty Senate reps added to Academic Affairs and SACSCOC Steering Committees. Committee lists posted to VCAA website

Excellence Awards
Nominations are open until October 23.

New Business:

- Submissions to BOS due October 23 for December meeting
- SHP- PA self-study; received on-site report, response due October 26
- Public Health – received CEPH accreditation for 7 years
- Nursing – received $600K Hero Grant for Rural clinical
- SOM approved Global Health Social Medicine Honors Program
- Radiation Safety Committee held their 3rd quarter meeting
- Commencement – walk through to Dome and Smoothie King last week, bids must go out
- Jason French, chief of Staff is leaving the president's office
- Dr. Rousse will be leading all government relations issues for the system
- Nov 2 is Health Professions week; Name change ceremony 4:30 – 6:30 pm @HDC
- ORS will be undergoing renovations in their space

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FACULTY SENATE

Faculty Senate President Report for October 13, 2026

1) **Institutional Committees**: Received a list of VCAA Standing Committees with membership; confidential membership remains of the following committees: a) Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (**IACUC**); b) Institutional Biosafety Committee (**IBC**); and 3) Institutional Review Board (**IRB**)-Voting; the committees with members will be listed on the VCAA website soon. **Academic Affairs Council** (held 09/17/2026):

2) **Institutional Teaching/Instructional Academy and the LSUHealth New Orleans Distinguished Excellence Awards** (Status): **1)** This matter was brought to Dr. Guzick on Thursday, September 10, 2026 during one-on-one meeting and during our E-Board. As result, Dr. Guzick has agreed to change course and therefore to support the development of this initiative that began under Dr. Nelson, by Drs. Porche and Dugan, will move forth due to the request of the Faculty Senate's support for this initiative. Additionally, representing the Faculty Senate at the invitation of Dr. Porche, Dr. Porche requested that I report this updated outcome of the "Faculty Center for Excellence and Innovation" to the Academic Affairs Council. **2)** Sponsored by the LSU Health Foundation; honors faculty and staff who demonstrate excellence in their work and contribute in an exceptional way to the vision and mission of LSU Health - New Orleans. (Review LSU Health New Orleans' vision, mission, and strategic plan: **https://lsuh.sc/visionandmission**. Self-nominations are not acceptable. All full-time LSU Health - New Orleans faculty & staff: 15 faculty and 15 staff members will be selected for this award with each winner receiving $1,000. **The nomination deadline is October 23, 2026.**

3) **SACSCOC Report**: SACSCOC- *The Commission on Colleges & Universities*: (Individual Meeting w/Dr. Guzick): Due to the lack of system cohesiveness of the student financial aid offices, as deemed by the Dept. of Education, LSU Transformation, in its original iteration, along with the October 2026 visit to the LSU Main Campus have been postponed. Regarding financial aid, currently, LSU Main Campus uses the platform Workday (10 yr. contact upcoming) and we use PeopleSoft. The two platforms are incompatible for communication and to convert from PeopleSoft to Workday, will take several years and many millions of dollars.

4) **NCI Designation & Institutional Rankings** (Individual Meeting w/Dr. Guzick): The goal of top 50 designation may have been achieved; Association of American Colleges (**AAU**)-designation ("goal post") has been modified. As a result, our institution, which currently ranks at **78th**, may be listed at **43rd**. This new designation is based on the assessment of public universities expenditures, instead of research awards, therefore, based on the 6-combined schools expenditures, changes this designation. The other goal of is based on federal research awards, such as NSF, and currently, we rank: 60th and are approximately 50 million dollars short in annual awards. Dr. Dalton will share this update in his upcoming report during the Board of Supervisors (**BOS**) Meeting to be held, October 16, 2026 at 9 AM. Another concern is that LSUHSC-NO does not have ownership of a hospital.

5) **A. I. Committee (**Received update from Mr. Ken Boe, 09302026**):** Draft documents received: 1) AI Governance Program; 2) AI Governance Program - Sample Meeting Agendas; 3) AI Policy. He (Boe) believes "that getting started with the AI Governance Program will see adjustments take place as we go forward"; ***review the appended documents***.

6) **Faculty Handbook Status (**Chairperson**,** President-elect, Dr. Laura Bonanno, SON**)**: The Faculty Handbook Committee is in the process of confirming their meeting time: either Monday, October 19th at 12:30 PM-2:00 PM or Tuesday, October 20th at 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM. The following Senators are members of this committee: **1)** Dr. Deidre Brewer (**SOD**), **2)** Dr. Shyamal D. Desai (**SGS**), **3)** Dr. Allyson L. Bennett (**SGS**), **4)** Dr. L. Elise Money (**SHP**), **5)** Dr. Jade A. Schoendorf (**SHP**), **6)** Dr. William T. Robinson (**SPH**), **7)** Dr. Mary L. Kelly (**SON**), **8)** Thomas Lallier (**SOD**) and **9)** FS President (*ex officio*), Dr. Allison C. Augustus-Wallace (**SOM**). Additional **SOM** representation is needed.

7) Ongoing Faculty Senate Initiative with SOM Multicultural Affairs Committee: 1. **Voter Education-Non-partisan** (Ongoing-Digital Board Announcements; Institutionally approved-NOLA & BRLA; Sponsored collaboration between our LSUHSC-NO Faculty Senate and our SOM Multicultural Affairs Cmte., **Summer 2024-present**)



Important Dates for 2026 Mid-Term Election (Louisiana Secretary of State):
Monday, October 5th- Last day to register to vote
Tuesday, October 13th-Last day to register to vote, **online**
Monday, October 19th – First day of early voting
Friday, October 23rd- Last day to apply for ballot **by mail**
Friday, October 30th-Last day of early voting
Friday, October 30th- Absentee Ballot Request Deadline
Monday, November 2nd- Absentee Ballot Return Deadline
November 3rd-**ELECTION DAY**

8) **FS Potential Projects**:

a) Automated External Defibrillators (**AED**s)-American Heart Association-New Orleans, grant resources

Background: (Per my own research, followed by communication w/Mr. Darren J. Burkett:

The AED locations are identified on the Campus Maps and include the locations identified below:

- CALS Building, Wellness Center
- Seton Building, First Floor University Police Desk
- Human Development Center, First Floor University Police Desk

- Allied Health and School of Nursing Building, First Floor University Police Desk and Physical Therapy Clinic
- Resource Center Building, First Floor University Police Desk
- Roman Parking Garage, Third Floor University Police Command Center
- Residence Hall Building, Second Floor University Police Desk
- University Police Response Vehicles (3 total)
- Dental Clinic Spaces (5 total)

Per Mr. Burkett:

"In 2024, the University enhanced its Automated External Defibrillator (AED) program as part of its ongoing commitment to improving emergency planning and ensuring campus safety. To accomplish this, the AED Committee, the Environmental Health and Safety Department, and Institutional Leadership collaborated to improve the accessibility and effectiveness of these life-saving devices. The outcome increased the number of AEDs and strategically deployed them to various University Police-staffed locations on campus, including their vehicles and multiple clinics, to optimize coverage and improve response times.

We believed that by positioning AEDs primarily with University Police, we would ensure trained individuals in CPR and AED use can respond effectively and quickly notify local emergency medical services. This deployment also facilitates proper usage reporting and record maintenance, as required by state regulations."

In addition to this communication, I have communicated with Mrs. Patty Oates, Staff Senate President, who confirmed that she'd had similar communication with Mr. Burkett. Mrs. Oates and I agree that this is an institutional project that both Faculty & Staff Senates must pursue together.

b) Sigma Xi (Faculty-Student Memberships; Institutional Presence; NCI Designation.

LSUHSC- Sigma Xi Chapter, https://www.sigmaxi.org/

Importance of Sigma Xi: All six of our LSUHSC-NO Schools' research will be highlighted.

Background: Please review the links along with the attachment and the highlighted message below from our Sigma Xi Deputy Executive Director, Ms. Jasmine Shah, that we received this past summer regarding our chapter:

https://www.sigmaxi.org/
https://www.sigmaxi.org/about/history
https://www.sigmaxi.org/about/leadership/board-of-directors
https://www.sigmaxi.org/about/leadership/constituency-directors

"*The Louisiana State University Chapter was based in Baton Rouge, but due to a lack of interest among its leadership, the chapter officers requested its closure and reached out to us in November 2025. We asked them to delay closure until we could identify a member willing to continue the chapter's activities.*

We then approached Dr. Allison Augustus-Wallace, Associate Director of Research and Doctoral Constituency of Sigma Xi. After attending the last three Sigma Xi business meetings as the chapter's representative, Dr. Augustus-Wallace expressed enthusiasm for the role and agreed to lead the chapter from New Orleans.

As part of this transition, the Sigma Xi Board of Directors approved changing the chapter's name from ***Louisiana State University*** *to* ***Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center – New Orleans*** *to broaden its reach. This change unifies all Health Sciences Center institutes and LSU campuses in Baton Rouge, Shreveport, and New Orleans under the leadership of the new President, Dr. Allison Augustus-Wallace.*

Soon, we will announce the name change, and all members affiliated with Louisiana State University will be renamed to Louisiana State University Health Science Center – New Orleans. The chapter's structure remains the same; the chapter number stays 084, and the Chapter Charter does not change.

Chapter activities will originate from the New Orleans Health Science Center campus instead of the Baton Rouge campus; this is the only change".

8) **New Louisiana Policies**:

a) **The marijuana law:**

The new Louisiana marijuana law increases criminal penalties for marijuana possession, use, smoking, or vaping on school property, school buses, or within 2,000 feet of an educational facility. Ignorance of proximity to a campus is not a defense, and notably, the Superdome falls within this restricted zone.

b) **Louisiana Act 505**

Louisiana Act 505 establishes stricter oversight of foreign-funded research collaborations, contracts, and academic partnerships involving countries designated as foreign adversaries, including China, Cuba, Iran, and Russia. The newly established Research Security Council began meeting in September 2026, with formal reviews expected to begin in 2027.

9) **Meetings with Staff Senate** (Ms. Patricia "Patty" Oates & Ms. Alicia Edwards)-Discussed future collaborations:

a) Meet and Greet the Senators (Faculty & Staff): December 2026, to be held between the meeting times of the Senates.

b) Campus AEDs-Independently, both Presidents have communicated with leadership and shared their outcomes thus far. Both agree that this topic is extremely important and will serve as an additional opportunity to collaborate.

10) **Promotions: a) Senator Maria Reinoso, SOM** (2025-2026 Faculty Assembly President): Has taken a leadership position in Ophthalmology and is no longer eligible to serve on Faculty Assembly or Faculty Senate ; Congratulations **Dr. Reinoso**, We Wish You Well in your New Role!!!; b) **Senator Brittany G. Hall, SHP**: Has taken a leadership position in the School of Health Professions, and is no longer eligible to serve on Faculty Assembly or Faculty Senate. Congratulations **Dr. Hall**, We Wish You Well in your New Role!!!

Submitted by:

Allison C. Augustus-Wallace, PhD. MS, MNS, DEIC

2026-2027 LSUHSC-NO Faculty Senate President

Faculty Assembly Updates – October 2026

School of Dentistry

- Main topic of discussion is managing space issues during ongoing renovations at the Dental campus.

School of Graduate Studies

- The SGS is working on updates of their Strategic Plans, including developing metrics to be sent to the VCAA per Dr. Guzick's request.
- A new Genomic Medicine Curriculum Track, with all the required coursework, has been approved.
- Faculty are encouraged to specifically state allowable use of AI in the syllabus, with the following policy excerpt from the SGS Student Handbook:

  "This policy provides guidance on the appropriate use of generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools in academic activities within the School of Graduate Studies, including coursework, examinations, proposals, dissertations, and related curricular work. Students are fully responsible for all content they produce, including work created with the assistance of AI, and must ensure its accuracy, originality, scholarly integrity, and reproducibility. AI may be used in ways comparable to permissible assistance from another person—such as for grammar checking, editing, brainstorming, or feedback—but may not be used to substantively complete assignments or assessments unless explicitly permitted. All use of AI must be clearly acknowledged, and failure to disclose such use constitutes plagiarism. Content submitted for assessment must reflect the student's own work at the level being evaluated, and some assignments and examinations may expressly restrict the use of generative AI. Students must also be mindful of privacy and intellectual property concerns when using AI tools and obtain appropriate permissions before uploading unpublished material. Misuse of AI is subject to the Academic Misconduct policy, and students are responsible for staying informed about updates to AI related guidelines."

- The SGS SGA hosted a Saints vs. Falcons Tailgate on October 5th and will host a Halloween Social (trick or treating extravaganza) October 30th
- Graduate Research Day will be on November 12th and 13th in Lions 130.

School of Health Professions

- School name change to School of Health Professions
- National Health Professions Week is Nov 2-6, we will have a name change ceremony and Annual Report & Reception on Monday, everyone is invited to attend in the HDC Auditorium at 4:30 PM.
- SGA is hosting a blood drive in CALS on Friday Nov 6, 9am- noon.
- On Friday afternoon (11/6) SGA will have a giveback at Dat Dog on Magazine.
- Friday, November 13 we will host Family Day

School of Medicine

- Dr. Maria Reinoso has accepted the position of department chair so can no longer serve on Senate and has been replaced by new SOM faculty member.
- Working alongside Senate to create faculty survey that will be reviewed by faculty (not administration) and remain completely anonymous/eliminate identifying characteristics
- SOM Women' Affairs & Multicultural Affairs Committees Breast Cancer Research Event on October 28: https://www.lsuhsc.edu/events/content/events/DS6362.png
- Breast Cancer and Domestic Violence Awareness Month - https://www.lsuhsc.edu/events/content/recurring/DS6357.png

School of Nursing

- Dr. Marcy Purnell and Dr. Jennifer Couvillon have been officially inducted as Fellows of the American Academy of Nursing (FAAN). This prestigious honor recognizes their extraordinary contributions to nursing leadership, research, and healthcare transformation.
- The Quality Enhancement Committee is currently mapping evaluation instruments. While student learning data reflects strong performance across all programs, the committee is now focusing on addressing areas where satisfaction and effectiveness scores have fallen below established goals.
- Concerns for Senate attention regarding Moodle transition:
  - Dec 21 Old Moodle is shut down
  - Dec 22 Old Moodle returns as a read-only database
  - Dec 29 New Moodle "Goes Live"
  - Although Moodle updates are planned between semesters, the SON CARE program continues to be in session through late December. In addition, spring courses may need a brief transition period after the holiday break to fully implement recommended changes.
- Continue to revise the nursing curriculum to align with the AACN-competencies and to better prepare them to provide safe, effective, evidence-based, and patient-centered care across diverse healthcare environments for workforce-readiness. Competency-based framework emphasizes clinical judgment, professional practice behaviors, and essential nursing skills in authentic patient care settings.
- Our SGA is planning a Powder Puff Flag football game on October 24, 2026 at the Dental fields

School of Public Health

- **CEPH Accreditation:** The School of Public Health (SPH) successfully earned CEPH accreditation through 2033 for a seven-year term.
- **Assistant Dean of Faculty Affairs:** The position of Assistant Dean of Faculty Affairs has been advertised.

- **Coffee for Collaboration Series:** The first year of the Coffee for Collaboration series concluded successfully, featuring numerous faculty research presentations across SPH. The Office of Research is preparing to launch the second year and exploring additional strategies, such as a developed faculty research database, to foster interdisciplinary collaboration across campus.

Library

- October/November Information Sessions:
  - **GIDEON Showcase:** Wednesday, October 14, 2026, 12pm, via Zoom

  GIDEON is the Global Infectious Disease and Epidemiology Online Network platform with real-time and historical data on infectious disease, pathogens, global outbreaks, and more. A representative from GIDEON is leading the session.
  - **Research Impact 101: Understanding and Calculating Your h-Index:** Wednesday, October 28, 2026, 12pm, Isché/Downtown Library, Resource Center Room 405 and via Zoom

  Learn what the h-index measures, how to calculate it, and where to find it across major research platforms.
  - **Research Impact 102: Building a Strong Scholarly Presence:** Wednesday, November 4, 2026, 12pm, Isché/Downtown Library, Resource Center Room 405 and via Zoom

  Discover new Library services that help you enhance your ORCID, Google Scholar, Web of Science, and Scopus profiles for maximum visibility.
  - All Library sessions are recorded and available on the Library website. Registrants will receive a copy of the slides and recording link after the session.
- **RefWorks name changed to EndNote Fusion:** No action is required. Users will notice a change in branding and display but functionality is unchanged. As more changes are implemented, the Library will update our Resource Guides about citation managers. Look for an upcoming Information Session after the vendor provides more materials.
- **Updates related to Institutional Repository – LSU Health Digital Scholar**
  - Research posters from events are still being added but must pass the accessibility checker in the program that was used to create them (Word, Powerpoint, Adobe, etc)
  - We would like to add materials from student organizations; requesting any faculty member who serves as a representative to reach out

  Contact Elizabeth Holt at eholt3@lsuhsc.eu for more info on both topics.
- **Update on 5th Floor Library space:** The IT server room installation on the 5th floor is progressing and additional study space is now available to students in the SW corner. We anticipate reclaiming the NE corner in January. Overall, there will be a net gain of study space after the project is complete. However, we are still housing the entire Dental Library collection during their renovations so some space is being taken by temporary shelving and carts. We expect that to last through 2027. We appreciate everyone's patience with the space and noise issues!