

LSU Health
NEW ORLEANS
FACULTY SENATE

**Meeting Minutes
September 8, 2026
CSRB ENT Conference Room 563**

In attendance

Health Professions (FKA Allied Health): Ngozi Akotaobi, Stephanie Eschete, Brittany Hall, Elise Money-Nolan, Chrissy MacMaster; Dentistry: Eugene Antenucci, Diedra Brewer-Hohensee, Meric Karapinar Kazandag, Tom Lallier; Graduate Studies: Shyamal Desai, Sonia Gaspirini; Medicine: Allison Augustus-Wallace (President), Allyson Bennett, Jennifer Cameron (Past-President/acting Secretary), Sanjay Kamboj, Brian Lochlann McGee, Maria Reinoso; Nursing: Laura Bonanno (President-Elect), Mary Kelly, Erica Love; Public Health: Reni Elewonibi, Jennifer Glick, BingJing Mao, William Robinson, Tung-Sung Tseng; Library: Chandler Smith; Ex-Officio: Rebecca Bealer (Webmaster)

Absent with proxy

Jade Schoendorf (Health Professions, *C. MacMaster*); Quinn Lacey (Nursing, *M. Kelly*); Sharon Duffy (Secretary; Library, *Chandler Smith*)

Absent

Stephen Brisco (Dentistry), Suresh Alahari (BOS rep, Medicine), Laura Pelaez (Medicine), Shelly Dolan (BOS rep, ex-officio), Michael Boutte (Staff Senator, ex-officio)

- I. Welcome and call to order 3:31pm
Roll call by sign-in sheet.
- II. Presentations by Special Guests
 - a. Dr. David Guzick – Senior Vice Chancellor of LSU Health New Orleans
Absent, sends apologies; meeting with executive board on Thursday Sept 10
 - b. Dr. Demetrius Porche – Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs
 - i. LSU governing boards approved name-change of School of Allied Health to the School of Health Professions
 - ii. New Department of Radiation Oncology approved
 - iii. Epilepsy Center of Excellence terminated
 - iv. USDA visit to vivarium: favorable review of facilities and health of animals
 - v. LSU Research Enterprise consolidation initiative
 1. CM policies will now be referred to as “Campus Memoranda”
 2. SACSCOC substantive change response due to Chancellor Dalton today (Sept 8) – to be submitted on time
 3. U.S. Department of Education (ED) review ongoing; LSU received lots of questions from ED which must be addressed; SACS approval is conditioned on ED approval; SACS onsite visit likely to be postponed
 4. Chancellor Dalton to visit campus Sept 21, meeting with Vice-Chancellors and Deans
 5. Dalton has stated that research campuses may retain independent accreditation if reorganization goals can be accomplished without consolidation of accreditation

6. DUNS identification numbers are assigned by Duns & Bradstreet, independent of the federal government, so institution DUNS should not be impacted
- c. Braylin Artigues, Associate Director, Human Resources Management: Employee Engagement Survey
 - i. Sept 14-28 HR will disseminate a Qualtrics climate survey; confidential, anonymous; 30 Qs or less, 10 min to complete
 - ii. 2026 data will be used as a baseline
 - iii. Results will be shared with institution leadership, Faculty and Staff Senates
 - iv. Survey is aligned with a survey recently conducted by LSU A&M but has been customized by HR for LSU Health New Orleans and approved by leadership
 - v. Plan to conduct survey annually
 - vi. Senators raised concerns about the lack of clearly stated objectives, no campus-wide results dissemination plan, and unclear response action plans, which were viewed as disincentives to participate in the survey
 - vii. Concerns were also raised regarding the maintenance of anonymity and confidentiality for smaller institutional units/under-represented groups
 - d. Emily Hernandez, HR Information Systems Manager (Peoplesoft): monthly certifications
 - i. Discussed monthly employee and supervisor time certifications: responsibilities, timelines, inability to certify timely due to extended absence/illness, etc.
 - ii. Reminder that monthly reporting is required by State of Louisiana law*
**Note: The Louisiana Legislative Auditor strictly enforces Federal Uniform Guidance (2 CFR 200.430) Time and Effort Certification. There is no actual Louisiana State Law requiring monthly time certification. State higher education institutions develop their own time certification policies, in accordance with federal requirements.*
 - iii. Discussed leave requests and accrual
 1. Leave balances update ~the 8th of the month
 2. Leave without pay (LWOP) auto-deducts 50% from monthly accrual (e.g., 1 hour of LWOP = reduced accrual from 14hr to 7hr for the month)
 3. Clinical faculty/staff must report leave in LSUHSC Peoplesoft, in addition to arranging leave with clinical partner institution
 4. Timely submission of leave requests and timely supervisor approval are imperative
 5. Supervisor orientation/training is available, contact: HRIS@lsuhsc.edu
 - iv. Questions or concerns can be addressed to HRIS@lsuhsc.edu
 - v. Senators inquired about the status of the Crisis Leave Bank
 1. Reported as harboring a health balance of leave hours
 2. Employees have successfully utilized the bank
 3. Reminder that up to 240 hours of sick/annual leave can be donated to the bank each calendar year
 - vi. Question by a Senator about requirement to file leave for faculty with non-standard work week (e.g., clinical faculty on hospital consult service from Tuesday to Saturday that are officially off-duty on Monday, a standard work-week day)
 - vii. Request from a Senator for a more seamless and efficient login/access process to Peoplesoft self-service
 - viii. Reply to query from Senator about service milestone recognition: luncheon for employees obtaining 5-yr increment service milestones (starting at 20

years) was held on Aug 26; lapel pins for all 5-year milestones will be distributed through schools in the coming weeks

- III. Public Commentary (2 minutes each)
No requests for public commentary were received.
- IV. Consideration of August 2026 Meeting Minutes
Motion to approve by Senator Bennett, seconded by Senator Tseng.
Vote: motion passed, minutes adopted.
- V. President's Report, Dr. Augustus-Wallace
Report appended.
- VI. Board of Supervisors Report
Senator Alahari submitted a written report in advance of meeting
Motion to include report in minutes, seconded.
Report appended.
- VII. Reports from Assemblies
Public Health: Appointments, Promotions and Tenure under review by the SPH Faculty Assembly.
Written reports were submitted by Dentistry, Health Professions and Medicine.
Motion to include written reports in meeting minutes, seconded.
Reports appended.
- VIII. Old Business
 - a. International Travel Review & Approval process
 - i. Executive Board reports that VCAA Porche is receptive to moving the committee under the office of the VCAA
 - ii. Suggestion from Senator Bennett to engage Dr. Stephanie Taylor, Assistant Dean of Faculty Affairs for School of Medicine and Chair of the International Travel Review Committee
 - iii. Motion to create an *ad hoc* committee, seconded; motion passed
 - iv. Committee tasked with reviewing existing policy and practices; reviewing applicable laws and regulations; engaging with relevant leadership and stakeholders; and developing recommendations for policy changes
 - v. Call for volunteers to serve on committee – email to Senator Cameron
 - b. Senate Resolution 26.02: Transparency, Accountability and Integrity in Leadership
 - i. Resolution has been re-disseminated (Drs. Porche, Guzik, Dalton)
 - ii. Members of Senate Executive Board discussed with Chancellor Dalton Aug 26; incumbent Senior Vice Chancellor is expected to remain in the role for 2-3 more years.
 - c. Part-time Faculty as PIs on Research Projects
 - i. Requested a draft policy from Executive Director of the Office of Research Services, Dr. Constans; receipt of draft pending.
- IX. New Business
No new proposals.

Adjournment: 5:05pm

Faculty Senate President Report September 8, 2026

- 1) **Institutional Committees:** Listed on the VCAA website, twenty-four committees; listing of committee members needed; request of Dr. Porche to share the members of the committees on the VCAA website.
- 2) **Institutional Teaching/Instructional Academy (Status):** Originally, this was a proposed professional development opportunity by Drs. Porche and Dugan and supported by Chancellor Nelson (formerly). Currently, as reported by Dr. Porche, SVC Guzick stated, “No, not needed”. (Plan: During September 2026 E-Board will address this ongoing request with SVC Guzick either during my monthly one-on-one meeting with him, and/or during our monthly E-Board.)
- 3) **International Travel:** VCAA is open to having this important matter potentially housed in its office, to allow a more effective oversight of the approval process, which at the moment, aligns primarily and is housed in SOM. Specific details are required to understand the exact issues with the process. (Potential ad hoc Committee is needed to conduct the discovery of the issues and thereby propose a more effective processes with language, Senators Cameron (Past President) and Glick should lead this effort.)
- 4) **SACSCOC Report:** SACSCOC has renamed itself to The Commission on Colleges & Universities: To expand its oversight beyond the SEC, for greater national and international appear. Regarding the LSU Transformation, SACSCOC is scheduled to conduct a site visit in October 2026 (LSU Main Campus); and Dept. of Education (DOE) approval is required per the current submission.
- 5) **Full time vs. Part-time Faculty as PIs** (per requests from Dr. Constans-Exec. Director, Office of Research Services)-Senator Cameron has discussed this matter and shared Pros & Cons during our August 2026 Meeting. Additionally, she shared this information with Dr. Constans and continues discussions on behalf of our Faculty Senate, to better understand the request and the potential outcome(s).
- 6) **A. I. Committee:** During our August 2026 FS Meeting, Mr. Ken Boe reported the development of an A. I. Committee and draft of an A.I. Policy. At the moment, we (the LSUHSC-NO Faculty Senate) have not received the draft of this potential policy; have emailed him several times, still awaiting this document and will share upon my receipt.
- 7) **Faculty Handbook Status:** During the August 2026 FS Meeting, I designated our Faculty Senate President-Elect as Chairperson of our Faculty Senate-Faculty Handbook Revisions Committee. In addition to the overall review of this document, the integration of CM 75-Scientific integrity & Research Misconduct into Section 10.7 will be conducted.
- 8) **Chancellor Dalton Meeting:** Held virtually, August 26, 2026, 30 minutes: Primarily two discussion topics:

A: **LSU Transformation:** Received clarification regarding the use of the term “merger”, he shared that this is a SACSCOC term, along with the use of the description, “branch campus”; both LSUHSC-NO and LSUHSC-Shreveport are and will remain separate institutions, and the individual and independent designations were reported by Drs. Dalton, Guzick, and Porche. Dr. Dalton assured us (our LSUHSC-New Orleans) that there will not be loss of employment nor changes in academic programming. The “merger” is in reference to our LSU System’s Research Enterprise (NCI Designation Pursuits), not the Academic Enterprise; the Faculty and Academic Enterprises will remain separate. SACSCOC may conduct a site visit in October 2026, and Dept. of Education

approval is required per the current submission, however Chancellor Dalton shared that if the transformation as presented is blocked by the DOE, then the transformation of the research enterprise will move forward internally by processes to be determined.

B. Resolution 26.02-Reiterated the importance and the purpose regarding the transparency of the hiring process for our LSUHSC-New Orleans leadership; shared that SVC Guzik is doing a “good job” and that his primary focus is the pursuit of the NCI Designation. Possible national search for this role in three years.

Submitted by:

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

2026-2027 LSUHSC-NO Faculty Senate President

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REPORT

School of Medicine

The School of Medicine in New Orleans is in the process of interviewing finalist candidates to chair two basic science departments (Pharmacology, Biochemistry, and Experimental Therapeutics; and Microbiology, Genetics, and Immunology). These searches generated significant interest, and the finalist candidates are outstanding. Dr. Puneeth Iyengar, inaugural Chair of the Department of Radiation Oncology, will join the faculty in September.

School of Nursing

- Two nursing school faculty will be inducted as Fellows into the American Academy of Nursing: Dr. Jennifer Coullion and Dr. Marci Purnell.
- One nursing school faculty member will be inducted as a Fellow of the National League for Nursing Academy of Nurse Educators.
- The third cohort of BSN nursing students has been admitted to the School of Nursing Baton Rouge campus.
- The FMOL Health Learning and Laboratory Wing of the Huey P. Long Field House was officially opened on August 7, 2026.
- The Post-Master's DNP nurse educator concentration is launching in partnership with LSU Online.

School of Health Professions (FKA Allied Health)

The Respiratory Therapy program received the President's Award for Excellence in Credentialing Success from the Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (July 12, 2026).

- Three or more years of outcomes data.
- Accreditation held without a progress report at the end of the year.
- RRT credentialing success of 100%.
- Meets or exceeds established CoARC thresholds for TMC high cut score and retention.
- LCMC-LSU Medical Laboratory Science (MLS) Scholars program: 4 scholars approved for AY 2026/27.
- LCMC-LSU Respiratory Therapy (RT) Scholars program: 2 scholars approved for AY 2026/27.

Neurodevelopmental Evaluation, Screening, Training & Teaming (NESTT) Clinic: The NESTT Clinic will be the first multidisciplinary clinic that can diagnose FASD, along with other NDDs.

Reference: <https://www.hdc.lsuhsu.edu/nestt/default.aspx>

REPORTS FROM ASSEMBLIES

School of Dentistry

- Major renovations are underway. Classrooms have been reassigned to minimize disruptions, and course directors have been granted latitude to make alternative arrangements (virtual classes, move to downtown campus) as needed.
- Dean's office reviewed SOD Strategic Plan to ensure alignment with LSUHSC and LSU Research Enterprise strategic goals.
- Senator Cameron spoke about the International Travel Review initiative by the Faculty Senate.

School of Graduate Studies

Biomedical Sciences Advisory Council did not meet in August.

School of Health Professions (FKA Allied Health Professions)

- School name change to School of Health Professions was approved by the BOR and materials are actively being edited to reflect this change
- Administrative office updates: Assistant Dean of Academic Affairs has been filled with two internal faculty members who will serve in an interim role, one dedicated to accreditation and assessment and the other dedicated to curriculum and academic affairs. Assistant Dean of Student Affairs: search is ongoing and candidates are being brought on campus for interviews involving administrators and the faculty body. Assistant Dean of Clinical Affairs and Assistant Dean of Faculty Affairs: positions have been posted for internal candidates.
- Promotion and Tenure Guidelines were updated by the committee to reflect the committee's expectations more clearly defined. They have been routed to the VCAA for approval.
- SHP's Strategic Plan was published in 2025 and is now being updated to incorporate and reflect Drs. Rousse/Dalton/Guzick's mission and vision.

School of Medicine

- International Travel Policy: Faculty raised concerns about the system-wide adoption of the School of Medicine policy without faculty input, citing burdensome requirements, lengthy approval timelines, and restrictions on legitimate academic travel. Administration indicated openness to adjustments.
- PBET Department Head: Two of three on-site interviews have been completed; the third is expected this month.
- MGI Department Head: Three finalists were selected for on-site interviews. Target hire timeline: approximately March 2027.
- Department of Radiation Oncology: Approved by the Board of Regents; the new department head is expected to start later this month.
- New CALS Walkway: Concern was raised about puddling and slip hazards after rain. The short-term plan is to add textured surfaces; the long-term plan is to enclose the walkway.

School of Nursing No report.

School of Public Health

Report provided during meeting, see meeting minutes.

Library

September Information Sessions Wednesday, September 9 at noon - StatPearls for Students

- StatPearls offers quizzes, exam review, and self-testing resources. This session will guide students through creating an account and taking assigned quizzes, as well as using the self-test features to prepare for exams.

Wednesday, September 23 at noon - The Evidence Review Accelerator for Systematic Reviews

- The library's Information Session will cover The Evidence Review Accelerator (TERA), a browser-based suite of more than a dozen tools that allows researchers to conduct faster, transparent, and more rigorous research.

These sessions can be attended in person at RCB 405, located inside the Ische Library, or via Zoom. All information sessions are recorded and posted to YouTube/the Libraries website within 24 hours.

Dental Library Closure Update

- All material from the Dental Library has been moved to the downtown campus into the Ische Library and is available. Most of the collection is being kept on the 4th floor. With the dental collection moved there and construction on the 5th floor, space is tight in the library.
- Updated renderings of the new Dental Library have been requested but have not yet been received.
- Construction is still ongoing on the 5th floor of the library for the computer server room; there is still no set end date.

Poster Printing Service

- A new poster printer was received in June, and the poster printing service is fully operational again. The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance was thanked for financial assistance in acquiring the new poster printer.