I. **Call to Order** – 3:00pm

II. **Welcome Back!** – Karen welcomed back faculty senate to a new academic year, especially welcoming our new faculty: Raymond Besser, Accounting; Tamara Blanton, Nursing; Vicky Bollenbacher, Political Science; Pat Bush, AD Nursing; Sophia Cruz, Math in Conroe; Jack Degelia, LET; Missy Dennis, English; Rebecca Howard, History; Denisse Salazar, Radiology; Haley Stoner, English; and Tom Taylor, Art.


IV. **Minutes from April Meeting** – Minutes from the April meeting were presented and approved.

V. **Report from the Faculty Senate President:**
   a. **Salary Increases (Faculty and staff, adjuncts, MFAs, Deans and chairs)** – Several groups received salary increases this year. Karen has the new salary guidelines if anyone is interested in seeing it.
   b. **Surveys for College Presidents, VPs and Deans (please edit; copies will be distributed)** – Karen passed around hard copies of the last surveys used to gather feedback on administration and is asking for feedback on questions. It is being conducted via Survey Monkey so it will be anonymous. We will not be provided the results, but the results of the survey on the President will go to the Chancellor, the Vice President’s results will go to the Campus President, and the Dean’s results will go to the Campus VPI.
   c. **Last year for Jakarta 2017** – LSC will no longer be offering classes in Jakarta as of the end of the 2016-2017 academic year due to safety concerns.
   d. **FERPA changes—Refer to our deans** – Karen provided a brief update of new FERPA guidelines, including the fact that we can no longer use waivers to talk to parents. They must be referred to the Deans and if they aren’t around, Dr. Chavez.
   e. **Need faculty to serve on Faculty Handbook Update/Overhaul (2-3 per campus)** – We are looking for individuals who are willing to participate in this process. Amy Curry and Mattie McCowen volunteered.
   f. **TB test requirement** – This past spring, one of our students had TB and there is concern over how the situation was handled. It was shared that the situation ended up requiring over 100 individuals to be tested and those individuals had been notified via a letter after the semester was over. As a result, a new policy has been established (still needs to be approved by the Board of Trustees). The new policy would require international students to be tested for TB upon admission. It was shared during the meeting that individuals who are vaccinated can’t be tested so it was suggested that Karen bring this up with the group working on the policy and suggest that they follow CDC guidelines.
g. **ORP issues?** – Some faculty have been sent letters regarding problems with paycheck deductions related to their ORP so Karen suggested that if you participate in ORP you should look at your paychecks and check your e-mail for notification. Concern over the increase in TRS percentage and not an increase in ORP percentages were raised as well as other concerns over options for ORP was expressed. Karen will bring up these concerns with administration. Additionally, a “satisfaction” survey was suggested for HR.

h. **Hiring committees** – Karen shared that some campuses have been experiencing problems with HR not just screening candidates for qualifications, but presenting hiring committees with who their finalists should be. Please let Karen know if this is your experience on a hiring committee on this campus, as this is very concerning.

VI. **New Business:**

a. **2016-17 Faculty Senate Goals** – Karen shared the goals for FS for this academic year:

   - VIII> Improve Communication
   - IX> Improve Professional Development
   - X> Improve Senate Meetings
   - XI> Improve Unity and Morale

b. **Counselors’ Reassignment: What is our plan?** – Karen shared concerns over the reassignment of our counselors without faculty consultation as well as the lack of communication about this reorganization. There are also concerns over the plan for how their duties are being assigned. She will be expressing our concerns with Dr. Riley and Dr. McGee at her monthly meeting. It was expressed that this is less of an individual issue but more so a larger issue of communication and concerns over changes without feedback. It was pointed out that just prior to the FS meeting, we had been e-mailed the President’s Update which included information on reorganization under the VPI, including the hiring of a new Dean of Academic Support. The paragraph citing this was read to the group, as most had not read the update yet. No one at the meeting was aware of this prior to this announcement. Discussion over this, as well as the counselor reassignment issue occurred. It was asked of the room why we should care about what administration is doing as long as it doesn’t impact what we do in the classroom and many shared how both of these decisions are impacting our ability to focus on student success. Most notably, it was shared that these decisions impact faculty through taking away of support systems. Another issue of concern was raised over the quality of advising and some of the advice being given to students by Advisors; this is why the counselors were so crucial within the divisions. A motion was made:

   - VIII> **Motion:** To establish an action plan for Karen to discuss this issue on Friday at her meeting with the President and VPI (motion was seconded)
   - IX> **Discussion:** After much discussion, we agreed that we would like Karen to express the following: We are concerned about how major
decisions are being made, communicated, and explained. We are concerned about the lack of transparency over major decisions that directly impact faculty. We are having a hard time understanding positive impacts on student success of these changes.

1. **NOTE:** the issue of “shared governance” was brought up again and it became clear to the room that this is a topic separate from the specific concerns we have at this point and should be addressed at a later date.

   X> The motion and statement were approved.

c. **Child Care Center (Save the Child Care Center!)** – Karen shared that a few weeks before the academic year started, individuals were notified of shortened hours of the center as well as the potential of it no longer operating as of the Spring. The reasoning is that money for the center comes out of our campus auxiliary fund, which was cut in half by system office this year. Administration solicited proposals from local childcare facilities to take over. This would include the use of the space rent free with the stipulation that a certain percentage of the spots be earmarked for LSCM faculty/staff/students at a reduced rate. As of right now, none have responded. Concern was expressed that the YMCA (which has a contract on 3 other campuses) was not among the businesses solicited. If you know anyone who might be interested in this opportunity, let Karen know.

d. **Dual Credit** – Concerns were expressed over the rapid expansion of our dual credit programs without clear plans for support of those involved on our end (Chairs, instructors, etc.) and it impacts division budgets. Concerns also include the fact that it is expanding to areas far away from our campus, putting added responsibilities on chairs to have to travel as far as Huntsville to observe faculty. Karen will bring up concerns tomorrow with VPI and President.

e. **Campus/Division Reorganization** – Karen shared that despite rumors, we have been reassured that there are currently no plans at this point to reorganize the divisions. Dr. McGee shared that if there were to be plans made, those directly involved would be a part of the decision making process.

f. **STEM scholarships: What is the plan?** – Concerns were shared over poor communication and timing of this specific scholarship opportunity.

g. **Financial Aid Issues** – Concerns were shared over an issue that seems to be impacting several programs on campus, including radiology and nursing. Students were given letters last spring notifying them of being awarded financial aid; however, they were then denied financial aid this semester and dropped from their classes on official day. There is confusion of why this is happening and concern over this happening again. Karen will bring up concerns tomorrow with VPI and President.

VII. **Announcements:**

a. Rachel Trackey, BIT and Counseling Center – Tabled until next meeting

b. Proposed Policy, Simone Andrade and Michele Richey: [http://www.lonestar.edu/departments/gencounsel/Proposed_Gender_Ident](http://www.lonestar.edu/departments/gencounsel/Proposed_Gender_Ident)
ity_Policy_Notice_and_Comment_Period.pdf - No longer a pressing issue due to e-mail sent out by the Chancellor addressing the policy being put on hold.

c. School Supply Drive – There is a school supply drive for the childcare center. It is until the end of September and there are collection boxes available in all of the buildings on campus.

d. Be the Change – Michele Richey shared the updated calendar of events and encouraged faculty to encourage their students to attend. For more information and the updated calendar, visit:

e. Geeks who Drink – Michele Richey shared that there is a fundraiser on October 11, 2016 at 8pm at the Alamo Draft House-Vintage Park for the Bayou City Book Festival. Cash prizes for winners, so it can also be a fundraising opportunity for student groups (or bragging rights opportunity for divisions/departments).

f. Writers in Performance – Cliff Hudder shared that they are hosting Antonio Ruiz-Camacho on September 15, 2016 at 7pm in G-102.

VIII. Adjourn (3:58pm)