

L.S.U. Council of Faculty Advisors
December 6, 2007

Council President Kevin Cope called the meeting to order at 11:30a.m. He informed the Council that President Lombardi and Dr. Rasmussen would be a little late but we would be hearing from them. He then asked for a motion on the minutes for the last meeting. James Robinson moved, seconded by Paula Click-Fenter to accept the minutes as e-mailed. Motion passed unanimously. Kevin asked James to inform the Council of a proposal being discussed at LSU- Eunice. James said there was an interest in having the vitas used for promotion of faculty to be posted on line. Discussion followed and was supportive of this proposal. Kevin Watson suggested posting the faculty activity report also. In general the council felt this was not a privacy matter and would in fact be a positive asset to each campus.

President Lombardi and Dr. Rasmussen arrived. Kevin Cope welcomed Dr. Lombardi and stated that the Council had identified priorities and would like to discuss as many as possible with him. *As the dialogue was rather quick and lively and no official action was taken I am summarizing topics discussed and President Lombardi's response.*

The following topics were discussed:

Faculty Governance- the inconsistencies in faculty governance between campuses in the system and what were Dr. Lombardi's thoughts on faculty governance. Dr. Lombardi stated that faculty governance is good for the institution if people listen and act. He also stated that the mode of operation, structure, and functionality would vary from campus to campus and the challenge is for faculty and administration to have the willingness and ability to work together. There should be some common characteristics such as engagement of the faculty, a representative body of faculty and communication between faculty and administration. Engagement does not mean control. President Lombardi challenged and encouraged the Council members to find issues that are important and solvable and affect the LSU System. Campus issues need to be addressed at the campus level.

UNO financial exigency status and AAUP status- President Lombardi stated the official position of the LSU System is that UNO is in compliance and did things in an appropriate manner. Kevin Cope then initiated discussion of current proposals to revise the System's financial exigency policy. President Lombardi had not seen them but asked Kevin to e-mail them to him and he would respond. Dr. Lombardi also stated that concerns generated when any termination of employment was necessary reflect the obligation of the University to address legal issues first and the importance of taking appropriate action that could be supported legally.

Tuition Exemptions- Tuition exemptions for staff and their children has been a request from the Council of Faculty Advisors in prior years and was still an area of interest for many faculty and campuses. Dr. Lombardi responded that tuition exemptions were fairly common but that institutions that offer exemptions have to determine who are the favored people: faculty and staff or faculty only. How much will it cost? Is it a fair benefit to all (what about those who have no children)? The recruitment value to the University may be less than a tuition exchange program.

Posting of Vitas- Is posting vitas a privacy issue or not? Is there a need to limit the size of them and if they can be posted could this be in effect at all campuses of the System?

Dr. Lombardi said that this would be a campus call, not a system wide policy issue but he saw no reason not to have vitas posted and the size should not matter online.

Bernard asked Dr. Lombardi what we as a Council could do to improve the System. Dr. Lombardi responded that faculty at all campuses need to take ownership of the institution and its' goals. Faculty should be involved in helping compete for students, as well as grants. Faculty need to realize that the quality of the institution is a direct reflection of the faculty and their support of the mission and competitiveness of the System. President Lombardi asked the Council to contact him if they had questions on concerns of the faculty and that he would respond. He had to leave at this point to attend the Board of Supervisors meeting.

The last item discussed regarded actions taken by a department head in a tenure matter. A tenured faculty member served on a review committee that returned a non favorable vote for a tenure request. The request was granted anyway. This was not an issue. The issue was that after the tenure was granted the department head called each faculty member on the committee in for a meeting with the employee who applied for tenure and made them defend their vote. Discussion by council members followed that raised questions regarding the professional ethics of this kind of action. The meeting was adjourned and the Council members left to attend the Board of Supervisor's committee meetings. Members present: Jerry Whatley, James W. Robinson, Paula Click Fenter,

Devin Paul, Kevin L. Cope, Kevin Watson, Bernard Gallagher, Pat Beare and guests
President John Lombardi and Dr. Robert Rasmussen.

Sincerely,

Jerry G. Whatley
Secretary,