

Council of Faculty Advisors  
December 9, 2011

Kevin Cope called the meeting to order at 11:33 pm.

Bob Rasmussen greeted the council and reported on:

- a. Unfortunate news for the System in the death of President Copping, the death of Ben Mount, the death of Alvin Kimble's brother, and the illness of Dr. McDonald,
- b. The brevity of the agenda for the Board of Supervisors (BOS) Meeting,
- c. The lack of controversial items on the agenda along with a potential for discussion on the transfer of Huey P. Long Hospital from Pineville to Alexandria,
- d. The swearing in of Dr. Danose to replace Ben Mount as Chairman of the BOS, and
- e. A reminder that the next meeting will be February 3, 2012.

Kevin Cope continued the meeting. The items discussed included:

1. A report on pay raises for LSUHSC Shreveport administrators which have occurred while tenured faculty are leaving to accept higher paying jobs and while remaining faculty are not receiving raises. These pay raises, as well as others within the System, have been approved by President Lombardi and by Governor Jindal. The result of the discussion was the call for the development of a resolution covering the possibility of retention bonuses; administrative review of all salaries; comparisons of faculty versus administrative salaries five years ago and again at present; and a call for equity. The draft resolution will be circulated electronically and voted on by the Council.
2. A review of the LSUE exigency situation. This discussion started with a review of the December 2, 2011, meeting of the LSU Board of Regents during which Dr. Nunez of LSUE reported LSUE will not meet the GRAD Act requirements for which the goals were set too high. Retention rates and graduation rates will be lower than predicted. Nunez commented that money had been set aside as a contingency plan but that funds were not sufficient to support the University. Nunez has sent a letter indicating the potential for LSUE to declare financial exigency but has since indicated the declaration will not be made. The COFA discussion centered on LSUE filling positions that could have been handled by current faculty/staff; on surplus positions that could remain vacant; on fiscal plant costs/expansions which could have been avoided; and on more equitable scheduling of classes.
3. A report on the development of common course numbering within the LSU System institutions. There are currently two recommendations on the process. (1) The Transfer and Articulation Council will nominate representatives from each institution to form panels to study the plan. (2) The BOR handpicked faculty to participate in workshops on the process. Other elements within the discussion include lowering of the threshold SAT/ACT score; determining what constitutes progress toward a degree; acknowledging the standard requirements of the receiving institution; and how all of this will combine to result in increases in the numbers of degrees awarded.
4. A report on dual enrollment. A continuing resolution has been developed to continue the program at LSU. With current pressures to relax the criteria and ongoing discussions of credential verification and syllabus development, changes may occur in the program. Maintaining the quality of the program is essential to all institutions involved.

5. A report on the potential merger of LSU Shreveport and Louisiana Tech. A recent conference call which involved President Lombardi as well as representatives from the institutions involved indicated that there is little enthusiasm for the plan; and that Tech is against the merger. The merger is largely certificate driven and may not meet the higher education needs of the Shreveport area. Potential options in the plan included programs at LSUHSC Shreveport, LSUS, and NSU being tied together for mutual benefit. Another potential option includes LSU offering engineering courses at LSUS under a chair provided by LSUS. If the courses fit the needs of the area/students, the programs could then be developed at LSUS.
6. A report on ongoing problems within the retirement system. The gist of the current problem is that contributions to TRSL and ORP will increase without any increases going to the faculty. Kevin Kope, Roger Lane, and Ken McMillan (LSU faculty) met with A. G. Monico (LSU HRM) . Kope will draw up a short summary and send it out with a PowerPoint he developed for a presentation at McNeese.
7. A report of Core 4. Currently 2/3 of schools cannot meet the fine arts requirements. As a result the BOR is suspending that requirement but the rest must be met. If the courses aren't available, the requirement cannot be maintained.
8. A report on international transfer credit. The algorithm that exists only looks at the contact hours when courses taken at international institutions are transferred to the LSU System. As a result, students are not receiving correct credit when returning and have had to repeat courses. Institutions need to look into this potential problem.
9. A report on repositories. Some form of permanent, efficient record of faculty productivity needs to be developed. This could be on an institutional level or state-wide. Will Hires at LSU has a program which might be of use in institutional programs. Kevin Kope indicated support could be available for Hires to work with representatives from other institutions.

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted on December 12, 2011,

Elisabeth Elder, PhD  
Secretary