



LSU Faculty Senate Meeting

3:00 P.M., December 5, 2005, Atchafalaya Room, LSU Union Building

Attendance

Faculty Senate Executive Committee members present:

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|---------------------------------------|---|
| 1. William H. Daly (Senate President) | 4. Randall Hall (Member-at-Large) |
| 2. Paul W. Wilson (Secretary) | 5. Lois J. Kuyper-Rushing (Member-at-Large) |
| 3. Judith Schiebout (Member-at-Large) | 6. Claire Advokat (Ex Officio, Immed. Past Pres.) |

Parliamentarian: Charles Delzell (present).

Senators present:

- | | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Helene Afeman | 12. Wayne Gauthier | 23. W. Douglas McMillin | 34. Robert Tague |
| 2. Pratul Ajmera | 13. Jeffrey M. Gillespie | 24. Kenneth W. McMillin | 35. Warren Waggenpack |
| 3. Nicholas G. Apostolou | 14. Elmer Godeny | 25. James L. Murphy | 36. Grover Waldrop |
| 4. William W. Armstrong | 15. Randall Hall | 26. Kathy Lee O'Reilly | 37. Maud Maureen Walsh |
| 5. Hugh W. Buckingham | 16. Steven Hall | 27. Robert Perlis | 39. Rick Weil |
| 6. Andrew Christie | 17. Steven C. Hand | 28. Witoon Prinyawiwatkul | 40. Cathleen Williams |
| 7. Kevin L. Cope | 18. Gerald Knapp | 29. Arnulfo G. Ramirez | 41. Paul W. Wilson |
| 8. Louis Day | 19. Paul A. Larock | 30. Adelaide M Russo | 42. Lisl Zach |
| 9. Charles Delzell | 20. Catherine Lemieux | 31. Rebecca Saunders | |
| 10. Kerry M. Dooley | 21. Vincent J. LiCata | 32. Kevin M. Smith | |
| 11. Dennis W. Duffield | 22. Suzanne Marchand | 33. George Stanley | |

Proxies for absent Senators:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Helene Afeman for Terrie Poehl | 6. Michael Stout for Dorothy Prowell |
| 2. Randall Hall for Brian Hales, William Metcalf | 7. Nicholas G. Apostolou for Dan B. Rinks |
| 3. Warren Waggenpack for Julius Langlinais | 8. Rick Weil for Leonard Paul Ray |
| 4. Kathy Lee O'Reilly for Bruce Mark Olcott | 9. Paul W. Wilson for D. Larry Crumbley |
| 5. Lois J. Kuyper-Rushing for Robert Peck, Joseph Skillen | 10. Jim Cowan for Michael Wascom |

Alternate Representative: Laura Sells for Ruth Laurion Bowman

Senators absent without proxies + (# of absences without proxies):

- | | | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Kenneth Bankston(13) | 5. David Dismukes(16) | 9. Yiping Lou(1) | 13. Patsy Scates(1) |
| 2. Jim S Borck(2) | 6. Jay D Edwards(2) | 10. Cathy S. Marshall(2) | 14. Ann Trousdale(4) |
| 3. Mark A. Caruso(12) | 7. James H. Gill(3) | 11. Thomas Neff(16) | 15. Aimee Elizabeth Welch(1) |
| 4. Katie Cherry (3) | 8. Kelli Scott Kelley(2) | 12. Raffoul Francois(1) | |

Highlights

- Increase in Utility Surcharge Fees
- Upcoming Board Meetings Regarding *Force Majeure* and related issues
- Admissions Decline for Spring 2006
- Diversity Issues
- Report of the Communications Committee
- Coordination of LSU Response to Disaster
- Resolution 06-02

Minutes

President Daly opened the meeting at 3:00 P.M. with a reading of the proxies.

Introduction of Guests

Visiting guests were introduced and urged to sign up on the attendance sheet.

Guests attending the December meeting included:

Kevin Cope, Communications Committee Representative

Kelly McInerney, Student, The Relay for Life Chair

Amy Martin, Student, American Cancer Society Staff Partner

Robert Twilley, Director of Wetlands Geochemistry Institute

Robert Ward, Faculty Senate Representative to the Board of Regents

Robert Doolos, University Registrar

Karen Denby, Academic Affairs

Consideration of Minutes

Several suggestions concerning the minutes of the November 16th meeting were made by Senators Ajmera, Gauthier and Delzell. Changes were approved by voice vote and the submitted minutes with corrections were approved by voice vote.

President's Report

Increasing Fees

The BOS (LSU Board of Supervisors) meets this week. Among the agenda items is a recommendation to raise utility surcharge to \$14 per credit hour with a maximum of \$168 for undergraduates and \$126 for graduate students effective Spring 2006. Current maximum fees are \$48 and \$36, respectively. Faculty with graduate students should be aware that graduate students will see a \$90 fee increase this spring.

Senator Dooley asked how often the surcharge fees issue would be revisited. The surcharge increase is based on the sharp rise in natural gas prices but these have moderated already. After a surcharge increase there does not seem to be a review when energy prices drop.

President Daly responded that there is a resolution calling for a yearly review of these fees but this is not occurring.

Senator Gauthier suggested that we address tuition and fees in a straight forward honest manner.

Senator Christie alluded to the recent rise in individual home utility bills as a comparable example of increased costs to the university.

Upcoming Board Meetings

President Daly reported on upcoming ALFS (Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates) meeting in Alexandria and asked Robert Ward to discuss the upcoming meeting of the BOR (Board of Regents). There will be some recommendations coming from that meeting. Other systems boards will also be meeting. Newspaper reports and staff discussion indicate that there will be some consolidations and eliminations, especially for those institutions

with significant drops in student enrollment. Some universities may drop in status to colleges. There will also be some targeting of funding.

LSU Health Science Center has declared *Force Majeure* which bypasses “financial exigency” issues and tenure no longer applies. There have been reports from LSU Health Science faculty stating that they have been given 10 days notice to evacuate their offices and will require escorts to go into the buildings.

Senator Delzell mentioned that SUNO (Southern University New Orleans) has eliminated programs and dismissed faculty.

President Daly replied that SUNO had indeed cancelled some non-accredited and low enrollment programs but then applied to the board for some new programs all without any faculty input.

Senator McMillin asked for the legal definition of *Force Majeure*.

President Daly replied that the BOS (Board of Supervisors) website has a description. He also stated that this definition does not consider tenure and no time limits are given before dismissal.

Senator Perlis asked about the differences between *Force Majeure* and financial exigency.

Senator Delzell replied that the AAUP believes *Force Majeure* allows furloughs, is thus less drastic than outright dismissal, and so the length of time for notice can be shorter. In reality this is not what is being done.

President Daly indicated that the BOS was discussing this issue in their October meeting. He wondered why they did not issue statements at that time and given everyone more lead time.

Past-President Advokat asked about the details of who is being furloughed and President Daly mentioned that some assistant professors have been dismissed with short notice.

Senator Gauthier suggested that if the BOS can do this in New Orleans then they can do it in Baton Rouge.

Senator Ajmera asked if the FS (LSU Faculty Senate) could get a legal opinion for this issue and President Daly said that he would ask the AAUP (American Association of University Professors).

Senator Crumbly asked whether the LSU Law School faculty might provide some input.

Senator Gauthier suggested that LSU BR should be helping its sister campuses.

President Daly remarked that New Orleans campuses are out of money and research faculty in New Orleans have been told only 30% of their salaries will be funded with the rest coming from grants.

Admission Decline

President Daly reported that admissions were down 11% this year over last year but up 13 % from the year before. No one seems to know what caused the decline. The Provost is visiting Dallas and Houston, two cities that traditionally have been recruiting strongholds, to determine the storms' effect on recruitment. It is necessary to convince potential students that Baton Rouge was not seriously affected by the hurricanes and LSU is fully functional.

President Daly announced that LSU is scheduling a Parents Weekend for March 24-25. The plan is to bring parents to campus to meet with faculty and the Chancellor to help with recruiting.

Graduate student registration for spring has also dropped. This is especially troubling for a flagship university.

Senator Buckingham mentioned that his college (Arts and Sciences) has recently cut funding for graduate students.

President Daly expressed worry that graduate recruitment must remain strong if we are to remain a flagship university.

Senator Metcalf asked about the student evacuee status and whether they will remain on campus throughout the spring..

Daly responded that some students are choosing to stay at LSU but UNO administration claims that it will be up and running in January. There remains the issue of housing, however.

President Daly asked Sharon ???? from Academic Affairs for additional information and she responded that about 2700 students came to LSU after the hurricanes. These students can apply as transfer students or continue as visiting students if they maintain a 3.0. There have been more than 300 students requesting transfer but these students will need to qualify if they wish to remain at LSU.

FSEC and SGA meetings on Diversity.

President Daly reported on an FSEC (Faculty Senate Executive Committee) meeting with representatives from SGA (Student Government Association) about diversity on campus. The students did not want another forum but wanted positive action by the faculty. One suggestion was a General Education course that addresses the diversity issue. This has been forwarded to the FS General Education Committee. Another suggestion was the presence of the mentors and role models in the classrooms. For example, faculty from predominantly black schools could be offered visiting professorial status for at least one semester to come to LSU and interact with students.

Other Reports

Michael Katchmer brought some brochures to the FS concerning the Safe Space program. There will be a training seminar on December 9. This is another method of increasing diversity awareness on campus.

Kevin Cope reported on the Communication Committee. He provided a printed committee report and commented that the committee met often during the fall. The committee subdivided the area of communication into several portfolios: public and in-house dialogues concerning university functions, print media, internet and electronic communication, fund raising communications, new office of vice chancellor overseeing communications, dissemination to mass media, internal announcements by administration, and general communications-friendly environment of IT abundance. The initial discussions suggested that for a flagship university LSU needs help in all areas. The committee's first project will be a public and in-house dialogue on communications. The committee suggested some online discussions and forum bulletin boards but wondered whether it should be open or confidential. Dr. Cope provided an example of Sam Houston State University which uses an open forum for broadcasting issues but input requires passwords. Long term projects relate to opening channels of communication among students, staff, administration and faculty. Of particular concern is an administrative monopoly on communication outlets. A similar problem is perceived with regard to print publications such as the alumni magazine, LSU Today, etc.

Kelly McInerney, student chairperson for CAC (Colleges Against Cancer) along with Amy Martin, American Cancer Society Staff Partner addressed the FS and presented handouts for CAC advertising the Relay for Life which is an overnight event with a goal of raising \$125,000 at LSU. She asked faculty members to spread the word and invite CAC representatives to address their classes to help fund survivorship chairs and luminaria.

Coordination of LSU Disaster Response

President Daly discussed the coordination of efforts to respond to the recent hurricanes and introduced the Director of Wetlands Geochemistry Institute, Dr. Twilley who is the newly named coordinator for the response effort. He has been in an advisory position and studied the coastal wetlands issue since 1987.

Dr. Twilley provided a prospective prior to August 29 and discussed the new proposals. He noted that a Science article came out on August 27 which addressed coastal disasters. He believes the working group should be resilient and address both ecological and social issues. He would like to see an integration of social science into coastal restoration. Dr. Twilley stressed that Louisiana environmental issues are really national issues since 80% of the average national coastal loss occurs in Louisiana. He stressed that the land subsidence Louisiana is now seeing will begin in Florida and New York within a few decades. We should use principles of engineering to build resiliency and include both natural and social sciences but we cannot just build a ring of levies for all coastal areas.

Dr. Twilley discussed the initiative of Dr. Silverman (Vice Chancellor for Research) to combine people from disciplines that have not worked together before (e.g. social studies and engineering). This may prevent unintended consequences which sometimes occur when engineering solutions overlook social issues. He stated that social systems often constrain what the engineering response can be—often it is necessary to rehabilitate rather than restore. For example, it would be difficult to adjust the levies and the delta because social systems of towns, fishing grounds, etc are already in place. A National Academy of Sciences report indicated that Louisiana does not have a map of where it intends to go. Twilley believes that we need to make decisions about how projects are evaluated. He said that ecosystems have not been evaluated and decisions have previously been made on a political basis. Since this is such a complex problem we need to build institutional capacity. We need to overcome the compartmentalization of the university. He suggested an integrated program with risk assessment, social sciences, architecture and engineering. He views his position as more advisory than administrative. A website for discussion has been setup called CLEAR.

Senator Buckingham asked about the effect on inland cities, such as Baton Rouge, due to coastal migration. Recent articles have suggested that New Orleans subsidence will continue and nothing can be done about it.

Twilley mentioned that along those lines, the National Academy of Sciences has a description called “managed retreat.” Conventionally, we think in terms of 50-year time spans but we need to begin looking at longer terms.

Senator Gauthier explained that 40% of all U.S. grain exports travel down the Mississippi making it imperative that the Port of New Orleans be restored. We have not developed an economic rationale for addressing these issues. He suggested that we should not talk of “uncertainty” which is immeasurable but rather “risk” which we can measure.

Twilley said we used to use \$100 billion as the net worth of the coastal area but now it is believed to be closer to \$200 billion.

Twilley mentioned that the Coastal group along with the LSU Agcenter has a program called PACE (Parishes Against Coastal Erosion) to help educate the public about the issues.

Twilley suggested that any ideas should be sent to him so that programs can be put together on campus.

Resolution 06-02

Dr. Cope presented the first reading of resolution 06-02 concerning parking issues.

PROPOSED FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION ON PARKING ISSUES

Sponsor: Prof. Kevin L. Cope

WHEREAS the duty of administrators in a great university entails the promotion of free debate and the consideration of diverse and dissenting opinions;

WHEREAS a great university has a duty to encourage good university citizenship in all its members, from the humble laborer to the renowned professor;

WHEREAS the LSU Staff Senate has evidenced good university citizenship by requesting that University parking officials hold an open town meeting to discuss proposed changes in parking fees and infrastructure;
WHEREAS, according to a November 16, 2005 report to the Faculty Senate presented by the Staff Senate President, the persons responsible for the administration of the Parking, Traffic, and Transportation office have not yet delivered complete answers to a slate of questions submitted by the Staff Senate;

WHEREAS parking office officials have likewise rebuffed requests for a “town hall” or similar open forum on parking issues;

WHEREAS members of the Faculty Senate have expressed misgivings about the costs of parking projects, the use of revenues from sporting event parking, and the tracking of funds related to the building of parking structures and other forms of parking infrastructure;

WHEREAS the parking office has done little to acknowledge that it is answerable to the LSU community, not vice-versa;

WHEREAS there is little evidence that proposed increases in parking fees are proportional to the increases in faculty salary or institutional national ranking that LSU administrators have been able to deliver; and

WHEREAS no plan for “shared sacrifice” in which the most highly paid administrators carry more of the burden of parking costs or alternatively surrender their premium parking spots, per the example of the University of Colorado System President Hank Brown’s abolition of preferential parking for high-ranking administrators;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the LSU Faculty Senate exhorts University parking officials to hold the requested town meeting and to act in good faith upon the recommendations advanced therein and in other appropriate venues; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LSU Faculty Senate reprehends any attempt to exclude members of the University community from participation in major administrative decisions.

Senator Perlis suggested amending the “2nd whereas” to include good university citizenship.

Senator LiCata made a motion to strike the 4th, 5th, and 7th paragraphs which address policy outside of the faculty’s normal legislative areas.

Senator Delzell responded that recent changes of the FS constitution allowed for faculty review of policy impacting the well being of university faculty and students.

Senator Cope seconded Senator LiCata’s motion to eliminate the paragraphs. Parliamentarian Delzell stated that this is not a vote on a policy but on shaping a motion.

Senator Crumbley made a motion to suspend the rules and suggested that we debate the 1st reading now rather than wait until January and Senator Cope seconded.

Senator Ajmera replied that there is no rush to pass the resolution so there is no need to suspend the rules.

Senator Perlis suggested that there was a need to address why the town meeting on parking held by facility services was so poorly attended.

Senator Ajmera suggested that there should be a policy for the university in using fees to build bricks and mortar rather than using capital outlay.

Senator Perlis mentioned the question of openness about who is paying and who is directly benefiting.

Past-President Advokat mentioned that the town meeting addressed the issue of “shared” sacrifice.

President Daly said there would be higher costs for reserved spaces.

Senator Delzell said that officials at the town meeting talked in general terms at the time but did not mention abolishing specific parking lots. It appears that decisions were made at the top.

Senator Metcalf mentioned that we have been paying more parking fees for a couple of years and now there is going to be a huge increase. He is not confident that a new parking garage will actually be built.

Senator Bowman asked whether the resolution was to hold meetings or would it allow broader issues.

Senator Cope said he was not averse to addressing other issues.

Senator Dooley suggested getting a parking official to address the January meeting.

President Daly said he would ask Staff Senate executive committee members to attend the FS meeting also since they have raised concerns with the parking officials.

Senator Perlis made a motion that the FS formally welcome back Senator Crumbley after his recent surgery. Senator Wilson seconded motion. Motion was approved on voice vote.

Meeting was adjourned.