

LSU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
3:00 P.M., Thursday, January 21, 2009
Atchafalaya Room, LSU Union



Attendance

Faculty Senate Executive Committee members present:

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| 1. Kevin L. Cope (Senate President, English) | 2. Andrew Christie (Vice-President, Accounting) |
| 3. George G. Stanley (Secretary, Chemistry) | 4. Renee M Casbergue (Member-at-Large, Education) |
| 5. Priscilla D. Allen (Member-at-Large, Social Work) | 6. William Daly (Past-President, Chemistry) |

Parliamentarian: Charles N. Delzell (present)

Senators present:

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| 1. Fred Aghazadeh | 2. Wanda Hargroder | 3. Linda Allen | 4. Priscilla D Allen |
| 5. Mary Catherine Aime | 6. Sue G Bartlett | 7. Henry D. Bellamy | 8. Michael S Bowman |
| 9. Renne M Casbergue | 10. Scott W Harris | 11. Charles N Delzell | 12. Josh Detre |
| 13. Andrea Houston | 14. Bruce E Eilts | 15. John Fletcher | 16. Stephen D Gaunt |
| 17. Lisa Gaye Johnson | 18. Jennifer L Jolly | 19. Paul L Hrycaj | 20. Boryung Ju |
| 21. P Lynn Kennedy | 22. Joan M King | 23. Edward A Laws | 24. Joseph Legoria |
| 25. Melissa Katia Madsen | 26. Ronald F Malone | 27. Alison McFarland | 28. Heather I McKillop |
| 29. Jeremy W King | 30. Su-Seng Pang | 31. John L Protevi | 32. Olcott Bruce |
| 33. Michael F Russo | 34. Carol O'Neil | 35. Frederick H Sheldon | 36. James Stoner |
| 37. Edward H K Song | 38. Beth Nolan Tope | 39. Kresimir Rupnik | 40. Muhammad A Wahab |
| 41. Edward Watson | 42. Richard D White | 43. Paul W Wilson | 44. Susan Weinstein |
| 45. Kelly Ann Rusch | 46. Jeffery H Tiger | | |

Proxies for absent Senators:

George Stanley for Richard Kurtz	Kevin L. Cope for Pratul Ajmera
Tim Slack for Susan Dumais	Joan King for Yu-Jun Xu
Jennifer Jolly for Jennifer Curry	Irving Mendelssohn for Larry Rouse
Charles Delzell for Dorothy Vaughan	Kevin L. Cope for Steve Ross
Joan King for Cristina Sabliov	Charles Delzell for John Protevi
Kathleen Bratton for James Stoner	

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

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Brittan A Barker (11) | 2. David Baird (1) | 3. Joseph Francis (1) | 4. Juhan Frank (6) |
| 5. Robert Kirby Goidel (8) | 6. Dominique Homberger (1) | 7. Jeff Kuehny (1) | 8. Jorge Moales (1) |
| 9. Frederick G. Ortner (14) | 10. Keith Robinson (14) | 11. James Sullivan (20) | |

Guests Attending Meeting:

Astrid Merget (Executive Vice-Chancellor & Provost)
Stacia Haynie (Vice Provost, Political Science)
Robert Doolos (University Registrar)
Brian Ainsworth (Campus Federal)
Craig Winchell (Staff Senate)
Cynthia Hadden (IT)
Randall Hall (Faculty-IT Liaison)
Robert Russo (IT)
Pam Nichol (IT)
Buddy Ethridge (IT, Moodle administrator)
Barbara McManus (Faculty Technology Center)

Consideration of Minutes from Previous Meeting (December, 2008):

Andrew Christie: spelling correction for Harald Leder's name; add to guest list.

Motion to accept minutes by Andrew Christie, seconded by Susan Dumas. Unanimous vote to accept/approve.

Presidents report (Kevin Cope):

- **LSU Campus:** New campus committee on sustainability.
 - Memorandum on revising procedures for admission to Graduate Faculty status, initial concerns by FSEC - met with Dean Worger and concerns were allayed.
 - Night parking is still not working with 100% efficiency. A meeting of the FSEC and Gary Graham (Parking) will take place to try and work out a better system.
 - There will be more Chancellor Forum's this semester. Schedule and topics to be announced in the near future.
 - Accreditation issues will be discussed by Stacia Haynie.
- **LSU System:** Budget problems are foremost. Kevin is doing his best to represent the faculty at the system level and at LSU Board Meetings. Chancellor Martin is doing a very good job at keeping Kevin informed about the budget situation. Kevin has been invited to a meeting on Jan 22 with the Chancellor and other upper administrators to discuss budget issues on the LSU campus.
 - The FSEC is doing another road trip on Monday, Jan 26, 2009 to LSU-Shreveport and LSU-Med Center to meet with the Faculty Senates there. Benefits issues are still on-going and currently 7 (out of 11) LSU system campus Faculty Senates have passed resolutions to have the system office review the benefits situation.

Q&A summary: no Q&A

Presentation by Vice-Provost Stacia Haynie – Report on SACS Accreditation/Reaffirmation Issues

- An important mid-term report to SACS is due this summer to reaffirm our accreditation and begin to prepare for the next full accreditation process in 5 years. The report especially needs to address problems and deficiencies noted in the 2004 accreditation review. It is important that we take this mid-term report seriously. If we lose affirmation LSU will not be able to accept federal funds for student scholarships, research grants, etc.
- Assessing student learning, for example, is not satisfied by mentioning the grade received by students in a course.
- All the General Education courses were to be reassessed by Spring 2009 and the results included in the mid-term report to SACS. Unfortunately, this fell through the "cracks" and is seriously behind schedule.
- Another important item is assessment and revision of the LSU quality enhancement plan (QEP). This is focused on broad-based learning activities on campus. The three items in the QEP were: 1) Residential Colleges, 2) CXC, 3) Summer Reading program. Evaluation of residential colleges and CXC is well underway with good results so far. The summer reading program, however, has not worked well and will be removed from the QEP. The summer reading program may continue, but not as part of the QEP.
- We are amongst the first universities doing this mid-term report and the consequences of what happens if the report doesn't satisfy SACS is not clear. We could be put on probation as a worst-case scenario.

Q&A summary:

Su-Seng Peng: Question of responsibility? In ABET reviews, individual departments are held responsible. For SACS is the university held responsible for departmental deficiencies?

Stacia: Good question. The university has overall responsibility for the SACS review, but the assessment procedures need to be developed by each department and program. We want to avoid as much duplication as possible, so, for example, your ABET assessment data could certainly be used, where appropriate for SACS. But how the assessment data is developed is up to each individual department.

Joan King: Are there specific learning objectives for general education courses?

Stacia: There are specific objectives for the natural sciences, social sciences, languages, etc. The faculty senate committee will be the ones responsible for determining the final learning objectives. They have been working hard to get input from faculty, but it has been difficult to get faculty involved.

Kevin: What can faculty do to help?

Stacia: This is incredibly important for our reaffirmation in 2014. This is not going away, you can't blow it off, so help your departmental representatives determine strong learning objectives for courses, especially general education courses, and help fill in the assessment matrix.

Andrew: What are the consequences of not doing this?

Stacia: Very serious consequences. No federal monies, no student loans, no NSF grants. This has to be done and done well.

Joan King: Why is indirect evidence (i.e., grades) not as acceptable as direct evidence

Stacia: You all have had students that supposedly had the necessary pre-requisites but come into your class without a good background. A student might have gotten an "A" in a course but not have learned anything. So a GPA is considered indirect evidence. Direct evidence can, for example, include national standard exams so overall comparisons of learning can be made to national standards.

Moodle Development Team - Cynthia Hadden, Pam Nichol, Buddy Ethridge (Moodle administrator), Robert Russo (Moodle Developer), Barbara McManus, Randy Hall

Cindy Hadden: We are here today to tell you where we are going with Moodle and what are our development goals. We are proud that LSU's gradebook has been accepted into the Moodle core as the standard gradebook. 20 million Moodle users will be using it.

Buddy Ethridge: The beauty of Moodle is that it is open source and we can incorporate the best ideas into Moodle. Randy Hall is the faculty liaison with the Moodle development team and head of the Moodle Development Advisory Committee (MDAC). If you have ideas about improving Moodle or comments please click on the MDAC link on the side of your Moodle page. The Moodle welcome course has not used as much as we hoped. The user forum can be a good source of help to users. We currently have 4117 teaching courses in Moodle, of those 1583 are being actively used. 24,000 students are using the system, 1422 primary instructors, 419 non-primary instructors or TA's.

Robert Russo: We are working on adding drop/add tracking, inputting and tracking clicker numbers (student response system input devices), plus other things that faculty have requested. Section/instructor changes will be facilitated. We are working closely with the registrar's office and hope that this will get rid of enrollment headaches.

Pam Nichol: Director of the Academic Technology Services division in ITS. The Faculty Technology Center is located in 109 Middleton. We have 5 full-time staff to help faculty with technology issues. We are not just Moodle, however. We can help you with any teaching technology issue. We will come to your office to help you with technology issues. Requests to the FTC are entered into a "ticket" system for tracking and making sure quick answers are issued. Over 500 support tickets were worked on last semester. E-mail = ftc@lsu.edu

Q&A summary:

Fred Aghazadeh: The FTC can help with what types of technology issues?

Pam: Faculty Technology Center was setup to help faculty with technology issues, including Moodle. Student response systems (clickers), software training, hardware solutions.

Wanda Hargroder: Of those 500 tickets, 400 were mine. Is there a direct phone line to FTC?

Pam: Direct phone = 8-1020. There is also a Moodle option from the IT help line.

George Stanley: There are a number of problems with the help features within Moodle and not enough PR on the FTC and where to go to get help.

Buddy: The Help link in Moodle will now provide info on how to get help from FTC.

Ron Malone: I have spent endless hours with Moodle but still have problems with getting up to speed each semester relearning Moodle. Menu structure and terminology can be very confusing. Most of my faculty only use 10% of the Moodle capabilities. What about bolding the key menu items or improving the user interface?

Buddy: There are issues with the user interface that we are working on.

Kevin Cope: What about helping novices with a Moodle interface for "dummies" and one for experts.

Pam: With regards to help, we have added hundreds of GROK entries and better help within Moodle that corresponds to and links one to the GROK system.

Buddy: Changes and suggestions for Moodle must be taken through the MDAC committee.

Renee Casbergue: One of the problems with Moodle is some of the abstract terminology being used. What about doing a simple survey to gauge faculty understanding about the various terminology being used in Moodle?

Buddy: I think that is a great idea if faculty respond.

Randy Hall: As the head of the MDAC I have seen many surveys and for any particular piece of verbiage in Moodle 50% will want change and 50% will want to keep things the same. If you want things changed, please submit your requests to MDAC.

Beth Tope: The FTC is wonderful!! Thanks!!

Sue Bartlett: Semester Book had a good option for directing student e-mails to a separate account. Can Moodle do that?

Robert: Yes, it is open source and we can do almost anything. We have heard from several other faculty about this. But we have not implemented it as yet.

Boryung Ju: Many faculty are unhappy and have taken a lot of time and frustration to learn Moodle. I know you saved money by getting rid of Blackboard but the amount of faculty time wasted is considerable as well. Are you planning to do some sort of user interface design process or review?

Buddy: MDAC needs to review these issues.

Fred Aghazadeh: I want to repeat Kevin's point about setting up a simple interface for Moodle for simple users.

Buddy: We can setup templates to do that but it won't satisfy everyone.

Michael: Many of you are used to using Blackboard or Semester Book and need to get used to Moodle.

Andrew: What about add/drop issues?

Michael: We are working on that and it should be fixed for next semester.

Kelly Rusch: I would like to see a novice, moderate, expert interface selection.

Michael: Once again, we can do anything with Moodle, but that is also a problem.

Edward Song: What about a setup wizard when you start a course? I also pulled out my hair in the beginning but now I think Moodle is fantastic.

Old Business

Second reading of revised resolution:

Faculty Senate Resolution 08-16

“Establishment of Memorial Day as a Holiday for LSU Faculty, Staff, and Students”

Sponsored by Senator Edward Laws

WHEREAS, the faculty, staff and students of Louisiana State University have a long and proud history of military service; and

WHEREAS, that service continues today, and is plainly evident in the ROTC corps, and students, staff, and faculty who are members of National Guard and Reserve units; and *WHEREAS*, Memorial Day is a day of remembrance for those who have died in our nation's service; and

WHEREAS, LSU supports several observances of Memorial Day, but does not annually observe Memorial Day as a paid holiday for its employees; and

WHEREAS, LSU, as a public institution heavily dependent on State and Federal tax dollars, should observe Memorial Day fully and annually; and

WHEREAS, Memorial Day is regularly observed as a holiday by most major public universities in the southeast; and

WHEREAS, at LSU, faculty and staff are provided fourteen holidays. Half of these are used in the Christmas and New Year timeframe. The remaining seven include Martin Luther King Day, Mardi Gras, Good Friday, Independence Day, Labor Day, and two days at Thanksgiving;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the LSU Faculty Senate hereby affirms its support for observing Memorial Day as a full annual holiday for all employees, and requests that the LSU administration transfer one of the other fourteen currently observed holidays to Memorial Day.

Q&A Summary:

Robert Doolos: I have a handout showing the winter break holiday flow for the last several years. There are some challenges in implementing this if you want to take one of the Christmas Holidays. Christmas Eve turns out to be the best bet, unfortunately.

Ed: I removed the Christmas Break and opened it up to take any of the 14 current holidays.

Michael Russo: Which holiday? Is that an issue here?

Ed: We have to live with the 14 holiday limit.

Michael: Most of my constituents would like to have Memorial Day Holiday, but there was a lot of disagreement over which other holiday would be given up.

Joan King: The other issue concerns people with joint appointments between Ag and main campus. This resolution would only apply to the main campus.

Chip Delzell: We are basically asking other people (staff, other colleges) to make sacrifices if we pass this. So I would like to table this until the Staff Senate has time to consider this. But I delay that until there is further discussion.

Erwin Poliakoff: I agree that we should let the Staff Senate consider this and get their opinion.

Ed: I agree as well.

Lilly Allen: How many holiday days for Mardi Gras?

George Stanley: Just one staff holiday.

Chip: I now move that we table this motion until we hear from the Staff Senate about this.

Jim: Second

Unanimous voice vote to table the resolution for the time being.

New Business

First Reading:

Faculty Senate Resolution 09-01
“Scheduling Class Start Time on the Hour and Half Past the Hour”

Sponsored by Senator Fereydoun Aghazadeh

Whereas, classes at LSU start at either ten or forty minutes past the hour;

Whereas, most meetings at LSU are scheduled to start either on the hour or half past the hour;

Whereas, classes at Tulane, Southern University, BRCC, Louisiana Tech, and many other neighboring universities such as University of Houston, University of Texas, University of Mississippi, Rice University start either on the hour or half past the hour;

Whereas, this skewed class start time at LSU creates confusion and results in inefficient use of time due to frequent late start of meetings;

Therefore be it resolved that the LSU Faculty Senate hereby recommends to the Office of the Registrar to change the class times at LSU to start either on the hour or half past the hour.

Seconded by Chip Delzell

Q&A Summary:

Sue Weinstein: How does the current time schedule make people run late for meetings?

Fred: If a meeting starts at 3 PM and a class ends at 3 PM then there is no time to attend the meeting.

Ron Malone: LSU time means that meetings actually start at 3:10 PM.

Fred: We often have dissertation defenses that start on the hour or half hour and faculty with classes right before always run late.

Jim Stoner: Have you confirmed at these other schools that the actual listed starting time is the real starting time. Many years ago, LSU listed class start times as on the hour or half hour but they actually started at 10 mins after. I think you need

to delete the second whereas concerning meetings, since our true mission should be teaching with attending meetings coming second.

Senator: I disagree. I think for dissertations and such we often want to actually start on the hour or half hour and this current schedule can cause delays and problems with faculty leaving classes at the same time.

Joan King: Why not just schedule meetings 10 mins after the hour or half-hour?

Erwin Poliakoff: The rest of the world does it exactly the way this resolution proposes. It has mystified everyone why we do this 10 mins after scheduling.

George Stanley: I agree with Erwin. But to answer Joan's point, we did schedule meetings for 10 mins after and people showed up 20 mins after.

Linda Allen: This might be a problem for summer school which works on a different time schedule.

Chip Delzell: Just specify that this is for Fall and Spring semesters.

Adjournment

George Stanley moves to adjourn, seconded by Michael Russo. Approved!!