

The Faculty Senate of Louisiana State University

HIGHLIGHTS FROM FACULTY SENATE MEETING

January 14, 1999

Provost Fogel, minutes format, vacation resolution, revision of drop schedule

- Remarks by Provost Fogel
- Discussion of the format for the minutes of senate meetings
- Discussion of Vacation Resolution (SR 99-08); this resolution failed in a vote
- Academic Affairs' proposed revision of the catalog regarding the drop policy was supported unanimously

Minutes

Faculty Senate Meeting

January 14, 1999

Invited Guests: Executive Vice-Chancellor and Provost Daniel M. Fogel, Dr. Laura Lindsay, Dr. Neil Kestner, Academic Affairs; Mr. Robert Doolos, Registrar, Ms. Jenny Heil (The Reveille), Ms. Mary Langlois (University Relations).

Proxies: Judy Kahn for Malcolm Richardson

The meeting was called to order at 3:15 PM.

The minutes of the December meeting were approved.

Remarks by Provost Fogel

Enrollment projections and budget projections were discussed. Specifically, 1,650 more students are projected to enroll next fall. The Provost could not speculate as to how the state budget situation will affect LSU and higher education generally. While LSU has a strong legislative agenda, student tuition will not cover the budget shortfall. Thus, the likelihood of gaining an increase in faculty salaries next year (a top priority of the administration) is small.

The Provost reported on the status of the Chancellor's search. While no formal applications have been received, conferences with Heidrick and Struggles indicate that "prominent people are interested." Part of the LSU homepage is devoted to this topic. The status of other on-going searches were reviewed (i.e., VC Student Life and Academic

Services, CAMD Director, VC for Diversity, Dean of the Graduate School, Dean of the College of Engineering).

University Planning Activities were discussed. March 15 is the due date for submission of planning documents with performance indicators. Program Reviews were also discussed. Six schools/departments will be reviewed this summer and a total of 77 degree programs will be in some phase of review by Spring 1999.

Other topics mentioned briefly included the Memorial Statements of Deceased Colleagues, the Economic Development Foundation being developed by Lynn Jelinski, a call for nominations for two new Alumni Professorships, the Capital Campaign, and the upcoming 75th anniversary celebration for the Baton Rouge campus.

Finally, Provost Fogel reviewed the new Add/Drop Proposal that has been supported by ASH, student government, and the Deans and Directors Council. Currently, the last day to drop without a W is after the last day to add a class. Since this is a disincentive to possibly free up seats for others waiting on classes, the Provost proposes to change this policy. This topic was deferred until later in the meeting.

President's Report

President Fletcher announced that one faculty member had raised the issue that the minutes are "too" abbreviated. Fletcher cited Roberts Rules in saying that the minutes are intended to reflect what is done, not what is said and reminded everyone that the full transcript of each meeting is available.

The President reminded everyone that Student Tech Fee Proposals are due February 1, 1999. The meeting with instructors regarding the report from the Commission on the Status of Academic Ranks is Tuesday, January 19, 1999.

There were no committee reports.

Old Business

Senator Homberger gave a second reading of SR 99-08 (attached) regarding the scheduling of LSU break/vacation time to coordinate with the calendar of East Baton Rouge Parish Schools. Senator Gauthier questioned the resolution since Easter can sometimes come very late. Senator Homberger reported that all the students she's talked to about this seem very positive toward having the chance to be with younger siblings and other family during breaks.

The President recognized Mr. Robert Doolos. Mr. Doolos gave some background on how the university calendar sometimes overlaps vacations with the secondary schools but it is not always feasible to do this. He stated that in 2000, the EBR Parish schools will not take their spring break until April 21-28 and if we did that, we would have to take finals right after the break.

Discussion then turned to the history of Fall Break, which was instituted in 1996. Senators Delzell and Wojtkiewicz asked for the background on this holiday. Mr. Doolos commented that it was the result of a faculty-student committee initiative. Senator Honeycutt proposed an amendment to suggest compromise in scheduling so that we avoid the situation in 2000. Senator Homberger rejected the amendment since the resolution allows for compromise as written.

In a ballot vote, the resolution failed (19 against, 13 for).

Changes to Drop Policy

Senator Paccamonti moved to accept the proposed revision of the catalog in order to address the problems with the current drop policy. Some discussion ensued with questions by Senators Wolenski and Wojtkiewicz on the present situation. Laura Lindsay spoke to clarify the information. Senator Delzell asked how it has happened all these years that the last day to drop without a W has been after the last day to add a class? Laura Lindsay reported that it's just the way it's always been and nobody knows how the policy was established. Judy Kahn (for Senator Richardson) suggested shortening the whole drop/add process even further.

Senator Turnbull made a motion to suspend the rules so a vote on the catalog revision could be taken. This motion was seconded and the rules were suspended. The voice vote to change the policy was unanimous.

The meeting adjourned at 4:33 PM.

Elizabeth J. Wilson, Secretary

Senate Resolution 99-08 (revised)

Whereas many members of the faculty, staff, and administration at LSU are not only full-time employees but also parents of dependent children, and

Whereas it is good business practice to support, or at least not impede, the efforts of employees who combine work with family obligations, and

Whereas one approach to assist LSU employees with children is to schedule breaks and vacations at LSU to coincide with those of the East Baton Rouge School System, and

Whereas LSU did schedule its Spring Break to coincide with the Easter break of the East Baton Rouge School System until and including Spring 1991, and

Whereas the spring breaks at LSU since 1992 were scheduled to coincide with the middle of the Spring semester rather than with the Easter break of the East Baton Rouge School System, and

Whereas this difference in the timing of the spring break at LSU and the Easter break of the East Baton Rouge School System represents a new burden to LSU employees who now need to make special child care arrangements,

Therefore, the Faculty Senate urges LSU's Administration to return to its former scheduling practice which resulted in a better synchronization of its Spring Break with the Easter Break of the East Baton Rouge School System and, furthermore, to make an effort to synchronize other university breaks and vacations with those of the East Baton Rouge School system, such as scheduling a Thanksgivings Holiday Week instead of a Fall Break.