



LSU Faculty Senate Meeting

3:00 P.M., November 16, 2005, Atchafalaya Room, LSU Union Building

Attendance

Faculty Senate Executive Committee members present:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| 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 C. 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) | |

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Highlights

- Consideration of Minutes**
- President's Report**
- Report by Robert Ward, Faculty Senate(FS) representative to Board of Regents(BOR)-Budget Rescissions and other BOR Actions**
- Report by Provost Risa Palm -Impact of Budget Rescissions on LSU**
- Report by John Casey from Student Government Association(SGA)-Student Perception of Book Buy Back Activity**
- Report by Brenda Macon, President Staff Senate-Forum on Parking Policy**
- Report by Brian Voss, Chief Information Officer(CIO)-Progress toward Strategic Plan for Computer Service Center**
- Consideration of Revised PM-35**

Minutes

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

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

Guests attending the November meeting included:

Risa Palm, Provost

Robert Doolos, University Registrar

Frank Cartledge, Academic Affairs

Brian Voss, Chief Information Officer(CIO), Information Technology Services(ITS)

Sheri Thompson, Office of Chief Information Officer(OCIO)/Information Technology Services(ITS)

Robert Ward, Faculty Senate Representative to the Board of Regents(BOR)

Brenda Macon, Staff Senate President

Joanne McMullen, Immediate Past President Staff Senate

John Casey, Student Government Executive Staff, Assistant Director of Academics

Bradley Tolas, Student Government Faculty Senate Representative

Mala Erwin, Student, Department of Educational Leadership, Research, and Counseling (ELRC)

Consideration of Minutes

Several suggestions concerning the minutes of the October 11th meeting were made by Senators Ajmera and Saunders. Changes were approved by voice vote and the submitted minutes were approved with corrections.

President's Report

President Daly reported on the recent heart attack and the successful bypass surgery for Senator and Vice President, D. Larry Crumbley.

Also discussed was a broadcast message from Dr. Silverman, Vice Chancellor (VC) for Research and Graduate Studies, concerning the organizing efforts for revitalization of the Gulf Coast research. Rather than have multiple LSU contacts for state and federal restoration funding, an umbrella organization was envisioned to be entitled "Interdisciplinary Program to Facilitate the Restoration and Evolution of the Urban, Rural and Coastal Ecosystem of the Gulf Coast Region." Dr. Robert Twilley, currently director of the Wetland Biogeochemistry Institute, was named as the person who would be responsible for overseeing the umbrella research effort at LSU.

The recent incidents involving controversial purple and gold confederate flags displayed on campus have demonstrated a need for discussion of underlying issues. A forum jointly sponsored by the Faculty Senate and the Student Government Association was suggested. At least one forum, and most likely several, would be used to frame the issues and provide opportunity to air issues of diversity and free speech. President Daly asked senators to use the Faculty Discussion Board to present other constructive ideas concerning these issues.

Budget Rescissions and other Board of Regents(BOR) Actions

Dr. Ward, the Faculty Senate representative to the Board of Regents(BOR), presented a report on recent BOR meetings and the legislative session.

Both Hurricane Katrina and Rita have had a negative impact on the financial health of the State of Louisiana. Both hurricanes wiped out eleven years of job growth in the state, and reduced the state population by more than 500,000.

This year, non-farm jobs will fall by more than 59,000, and next year it is estimated that almost 160,000 jobs will be lost.

The loss of jobs and businesses resulted in a loss of state tax and fee revenues. The various state agencies involved in revenue estimation calculated that this fiscal year the state government would take in between 956.7 million and 970.6 million dollars less than originally estimated, and that the next fiscal year the state will be from 624.9 million to 786.1 million dollars less than estimated. As a result of these estimated revenue shortfalls, the Governor took action, as required by the State Constitution, to reduce spending in all State government agencies. This report focuses on the impact that such reductions have on publicly funded Higher Education in Louisiana.

Under Executive Order KKB 2005-82, The Governor reduced the State General Fund Allocation for Higher Education by \$66,599,062. This reduction amounted to a 6 percent reduction from the original \$1,105,223,718 State General Fund Allocation for Higher Education. Additionally, the Governor, under the authority contained within the State Constitution, further reduced the Dedicated Statutory Fund Accounts by 5 percent. Dedicated Fund reductions related to Higher Education were:

LSU System Tobacco Tax Health Care Fund	\$1,350,450
LSU System Fireman Training Fund	\$133,585
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LSU System Equine Health Studies	\$37,000
Southern System Agricultural Program Fund	\$75,000
Southern System Tobacco Tax Health Care Fund	\$50,000
Southern System Gaming Control Fund	\$2,500
U of L System Calcasieu Parish Fund	\$20,985
LCTC System Higher Education Initiative Fund	\$10,000
LCTC System Calcasieu Parish Fund	\$6,994
Board of Regents LA Quality Support Fund	\$1,927,451
Board of Regents Higher Education Initiative Fund	\$982,109
Board of Regents Health Excellence Fund	\$115,856
Board of Regents Louisiana Fund	\$104,668

Total reductions in Dedicated Statutory Funds for Higher Education were \$4,824,450. The total reduction by Executive Order for Higher Education was \$71,423,160.

Since the Executive Order Reductions did not cover the shortfall in revenue, thus maintaining an unbalanced budget, the Governor, by State Constitutional requirements, called a Special Session of the State Legislature to deal with the issue of a revenue shortfall.

In the November 4, 2005 meeting of the BOR the economic impact on the state's universities and colleges was discussed in detail, including the 83,000 students who were displaced and the 8,000 displaced faculty and staff. Many students have reapplied elsewhere but 46,000 students still remain displaced. The LSU BOS has not yet filed exigency plans but the Southern Board approved a tentative exigency in October, especially for SUNO. The LSU Medical Center has already approved a layoff plan as has Delgado. Nunez has reduced hours in lieu of layoffs. It is believed that there will be at least two years of revenue shortfalls. The Legislature requested that all higher education entities submit cuts.

Senator Russo suggested that the information be put online. Senator Delzell suggested that the data be presented as percent of budget rather than actual dollars.

There will be another legislative session in January which may include discussion of higher fees at universities. It is hoped that the state revenue estimates come in higher than is currently forecast.

Senator Gauthier suggested that President Daly invite Jerry Luke LeBlanc, Commissioner of Administration, and Dr. E. Joseph Savoie, Ed.D., Commissioner of Higher Education, to address the faculty senate. Senator McMillin asked about using revenue from unexpended and statutory funds. Dr. Ward replied that funds could be taken if the governor approved.

Impact of Budget Rescissions on LSU

Provost Palm addressed the impact of budget reduction to the Baton Rouge campus. She stressed that the reduction in state funding was not a cut but rather as rescission since it was specified as a one year reduction in the budget and not a permanent cut. The state fund reduction did not impact student fees and tuition. A reduction of 6 to 6.2% was instituted for non-academic units while academic units had varying reductions. If the state lessens the 6% reduction, then academic units will get the funding back. Next year's budget for higher education will be addressed in the January special session and the March regular session of the legislature. LSU will ask that the plan endorsed by the BOR last year be adopted by the legislature which allows universities and colleges to set their own fees and tuition. Increases in fees and tuition may partially substitute for losses in state Funds.

The provost said that faculty searches and interviews currently underway should continue since these are included in next year's budget. There is discussion of a possible salary increase next year and the Chancellor wants to keep the discussion ongoing. Provost Palm said that we should continue the flagship agenda and would resist having the faculty picked off by other universities.

Senator Ajmera asked if there was a "doomsday" scenario being discussed and the provost replied that there would be no furloughs and no layoffs. She said that Dr. Savoie has stated that there would be no across-the-board cuts.

Senator Gauthier asked about any guidance being given to the deans. The provost responded only that one-time expenditures should be deferred, searches should continue and that there should be no layoff of staff.

Senator Tague asked about the hiring of faculty from closed Louisiana universities. The provost said hiring would not be automatic but that those faculty members were welcome to apply for new or vacant LSU positions.

Student Perception of Book Buy Back Activity

John Casey, Student Government Executive Staff, addressed the Faculty Senate about student concerns with the bookstores. Book buyback is an important issue for students and it is important for faculty to get next semester's orders in early so that the bookstore will know which books will be used. This allows the bookstore time to buy back used books from students before new ones are ordered.

Senator Ajmera remarked that this is not always a faculty issue since sometimes deans and chairs wait until the last minute to assign classes which puts the teacher in an awkward position.

There was also a question of major book revision changes and informing students of such changes before a buyback.

Forum on Parking Policy

Brenda Macon, Staff Senate President, and Joanne McMullen, Immediate Past President Staff Senate, addressed the Faculty Senate concerning a meeting with the parking task force. She stated that the Staff Senate submitted questions to the parking task force but the questions were not answered. When asked, the task force resisted allowing an open forum but rather provided a presentation only. President Macon said staff members are afraid that parking fees are rising at a time when they may not get raises. She also mentioned that while fees will increase quickly up-front, the benefits are stretched out over several years' time. Another issue is disabled employees who are forced to pay high fees for reserved parking but may be lower paid employees. She thanked the Faculty Senate for its support and asked to partner with them in requesting an open forum with the task force for February.

Senator Gauthier expressed concerns of an open forum. Senator Saunders asked about the chain of command for the task force. Senator Knapp questioned the overall rationale of paying for parking and the ultimate destination of parking fee moneys. Senator Ajmera asked whether staff and faculty should be paying for "bricks and mortar."

It was mentioned that the overall \$24 million in fees will be split evenly between faculty/staff (\$12 million) and students (\$12 million) - even though students will have more slots. Senator Dooley asked about the parking fees collected on game days and where that money goes. Senator Cope suggested that the LSU Faculty Senate(FS) introduce a resolution for the joint open forum with the parking task force. Senator McMillin mentioned that such a forum had already been presented but that the total fee structure and survey results were not complete at that time.

Progress toward Strategic Plan for Computer Service Center

LSU's new Chief Information Officer(CIO), Brian Voss, addressed the Faculty Senate and presented his views of campus computing environments. He stated that networks have become the campus environment of the future which enable faculty to teach better, students to learn better and research scientists to be more productive. Students are already hooked up as can be seen by strolling through the Union. Voss stated that the goal for LSU should be for excellent infrastructure and leadership in Information Technology(IT). He said we should be talking about IT "abundance" rather than IT "scarcity."

LSU should embrace IT and technology which will enable it to become a great university. Voss presented 5 points for Flagship IT Foundations:

1. Develop a sound IT infrastructure
2. Support learning and teaching
3. Support student experience
4. Support research even non-traditional areas
5. Manage institutional infrastructure

Voss discussed his strategy to enable this outcome. He suggested focusing on a list of outcomes rather than looking at specific priorities and technologies, which become outdated quickly. He believes we should have a set of goals in a 5-6 year time frame. The plan should be more an "LSU" community plan not an "IT" plan. Voss mentioned that IT already has a master plan but it was really for the Office of Computing Services(OCS). The plan had good points but was too centric for IT and was too specific in technology.

Voss stated that the administration is currently focused on IT enablement and is committed to a topnotch IT infrastructure. Some demonstration projects have already begun with Pelican and Tigerware. This new plan will be a community based initiative involving student and faculty representatives assembled as taskforces. The assembled taskforces will meet 3-4 times before Christmas for brainstorming sessions after which the recommendations will be consolidated. In the spring the draft plan will be presented to the Faculty Senate and the Student Government Association for endorsement.

Senator Weil asked about compatibility and standardization issues, whether there would be enforced standardization of email and webpage packages. He believes there should be some freedom to choose. The use of Tigerware gives everyone access to the most up-to-date versions of software so that incompatibilities should be less.

New Business

Consideration of revised PM-35

President Daly spoke on the proposed revision to the LSU Board of Supervisors (BOS) Permanent Memorandum - Review of Faculty Ranks(PM-35) recently submitted to the Provost. The Provost is willing to send it forward but felt that it would be a stronger signal if it was endorsed by the entire Faculty Senate. Daly asked for comments and Senator Ajmera stated that the new version decouples dismissal with cause from performance evaluations. It is a compromise with 04-10 of voluntary performance enhancement. Senator Ajmera stated the existing PM-35 gives too much power to the chairs and this revision corrects this. Senator Apostolou moved to approve and Senator Christie seconded. Senator Perlis mentioned some recent changes in the document and asked whether the proposal was finalized. Senator Ajmera responded that those changes will be included in the final version. Senator Steven Hall asked about the details of application of the PM at other universities. Senator Ajmera said that each campus will have its own policy for implementation.

Senator Tague asked who initiates the performance enhancement. Is it the immediate supervisor who recommends the voluntary enhancement? Senator Ajmera responded that it could be either the chair or the faculty member.

A voice vote was taken to close debate. The vote to close passed.

A voice vote to endorse the revised PM-35 was taken and the endorsement passed unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:55 PM