

Faculty Senate Meeting  
17 November, 1992

The meeting was called to order by President Culbertson at 3:05 P.M.

Proxies announced were:

Perry Prestholdt for William Waters  
Michael Orłowski for Eric Achberger  
George Strain for Hollis Cox  
Pat McGee for Malcolm Richardson  
George Strain for Tom Hribernik  
Billie Collier for Maren Hegsted  
Sarah Liggett for Deborah Normand  
Stephen Beck for Kathlene Roundtree  
Jeanette Money for William Arp

President Culbertson introduced Mr. Johnny Rombach of the Legislative Fiscal Office who spoke to the Senate.

Mr. Rombach distributed three handouts providing information on the state's budget and expenditures. It was mentioned in 1988 Governor Roemer was faced with a \$200 million recurring problem, and by 1990 the state had a \$700 million surplus. He discussed information presented in the handouts on items and programs, some of them new, that were in this year's budget, focusing on several in particular that indicate higher education was not a high priority in developing the budget.

Mr. Rombach reported his office provided the Legislature information all during the session indicating there could be major problems with the budget and that revenue estimates were low. He suggested the finances of the entire state needs to be restructured and that both the Federal and Louisiana governments are borrowing money from future generations to pay for present services which is even a bigger problem for future generations that borrowing to improve the infrastructure. Our debt and debt service were said to be a major cause of our present problem.

He pointed out expenses associated with the Minimum Foundation Program are growing rapidly as a percentage of the overall budget, and that about a third of this is administrative costs. The formula for this budget is structured in such a way that there is little chance of controlling growth of this budget with the present system. When asked if we should seek something like a dedicated tax for higher education such as is done for the MFP program, Mr. Rombach indicated there are problems now with too many designated taxes and constitutionally protected budgets, and that at this time there is little consensus for a dedicated tax for higher education.

President's Report: Progress is being made in completing the first round of faculty reviews of deans and department heads/chairs, and the Provost is now meeting with faculty for the feedback step in the dean reviews.

Concern was expressed over procedures for the chair review in the College of Arts and Sciences. The Institution on Faculty Governance Report was said to be incomplete at this time.

It was reported that the University's current financial problems are resulting in considerable faculty discussion which is to be encouraged. In particular, the Arts and Sciences Faculty Senate, the policy committee of Basic Sciences, and the policy committee of the College of Business Administration were mentioned.

It was announced that later in the meeting the Senate would be voting for a replacement of an at-large member of the Executive Committee. Donna Mealey resigned from the Executive Committee to keep up with a heavy workload.

President Culbertson reported the Chancellor has not yet responded to Faculty Senate Resolution 92-06 requesting the Chancellor specify in writing that the faculty would be involved in any necessary restructuring of the University in response to possible additional funding reductions. It was explained a response was likely delayed due to the Chancellor's efforts in planning a major demonstration by the LSU community at the Capitol today in conjunction with his appearance before a legislative committee hearing on budget reductions for the University. The Provost's Office is expected to be the center of planning toward how to proceed with possible restructuring efforts.

President Culbertson reviewed the events of the day, specifically the decision made by the Chancellor over the weekend to cancel morning classes for 17 November and call for a large demonstration of support for LSU by faculty, staff, and students. The demonstration coincided with a meeting of a legislative committee interviewing a number of higher education officials for the purpose of identifying where further cuts can be made to higher education. President Culbertson reported a large, effective turnout.

President Culbertson introduced two faculty visitors (Wade and Suzann Dorman) to the Senate that managed to get into the legislative panel hearing room as visitors earlier in the day. They reported on the attitude of the legislators toward the demonstration, and some of the comments and questions of the legislators directed to Chancellor Davis specifically pertaining to University expenditures.

New Business: Following their presentation, President Culbertson asked Senators for their comments on this

event and related matters.

One Senator reported that the Administration indicate one-third to one-half of the faculty have already participated in the voluntary donation program.

Senator Miles Richardson suggested it might be appropriate for the Senate to express its appreciation for the efforts made by the Chancellor on behalf of the University this day pointing out that at last the Chancellor made a decision, desired by many faculty, to support a "visible" statement from the LSU community to the legislature and people of the state. Also noted was that as a result of this action, the Chancellor was the target of considerable hostility expressed by some legislators. Senator Richardson offered a resolution pertaining to this later in the meeting.

There were other comments on the relationship between research and teaching at the University and either the Chancellor's view of this relationship or the way he presents his view.

Resolution 92-02 was brought to the floor for discussion. This resolution states:

WHEREAS financial support for higher education in Louisiana has resulted in a ranking which is among the lowest in both the United States and among peer institutions within the Southern Regional Education Board, and  
WHEREAS current economic prospects indicate continuing difficulties with regard to state and federal support for higher education, and  
WHEREAS these conditions seriously threaten the ability of Louisiana State University to fulfill its mission to its students and to the citizenry of the State of Louisiana,  
BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of Louisiana State University - Baton Rouge - urges the LSU System Board of Supervisors to seek new and innovative means with which to secure an adequate level of and growth in the funding needed to preserve and enhance Louisiana State University in order that its vital missions be achieved. In particular, the Senate encourages the Board to consider the possibility of instituting automatic annual adjustments in tuition and fees with such adjustments proportional to the increase or decrease in a representative United States Cost of Living Index.

Among the comments by senators and visitors were: "The Board of Supervisors has had problems considering tuition increases." "The Senate should pass this now to have this statement of agreement for other points it contains when we need it." "Students have given me a negative reaction to this resolution, and the timing for it is bad right now." "The timing is a problem for now rather than the principle." "We have more important things to be concerned about at present." A motion to table this resolution was made, seconded, and passed.

An election was held to replace Donna Mealey as a member-at-large on the Executive Committee. Senator Metcalf of the Physics Department was placed on the ballot by the Executive Committee and Senator Parker nominated George Strain from the floor. Senator Kotrlík moved the nominations be closed and there were no objections. Senator Metcalf was later announced as the elected member-at-large on the Executive Committee.

Senator Miles Richardson offered Resolution 92-07 that "The Faculty Senate desires to express its support of Chancellor Davis' efforts on 17 November, 1992 on behalf of the faculty, staff and students, to bring attention to the state legislature, the governor, and the public the potential disastrous circumstances confronting LSU." Senator Imlay seconded the motion. Discussion by senators included "This body made recommendations along these lines (suspending classes and holding rallies) to the Chancellor earlier and he rejected it." "If done with better plans, it (the rally at the Capitol) might have been more effective." "The Chancellor was taken to task today by the legislative committee. Concerning suspending classes for the morning and holding a rally, the Chancellor told the committee the faculty and staff had previously urged him to do something like this, the students had also, and now he made the decision it was something that needed to be done for faculty, staff and students."

Because this resolution was introduced today, a motion to suspend the rules to permit a vote on the same day was required. Such a motion was made and seconded, but the motion to suspend the rules did not receive a two-thirds vote. Senator Richardson's motion was not brought to the Senate for a vote on this date, but will be brought to the floor for a vote at a future meeting.

Senator Catano stated at the last meeting there was discussion about setting up a coordinating body to gather information and respond appropriately to information that becomes available concerning the University's financial situation. He mentioned efforts to get the Public Relations Committee to do this, but at present, they are a few members short and it was suggested either this committee or perhaps a new committee should be working for the Faculty Senate in this area.

After some discussion about the Senate or Executive Committee providing guidance or leadership in planning demonstrations, it was generally agreed this would not be the best use of the Executive Committee's energy. The discussion shifted to an area the Senate thought the Executive Committee can more effectively address. President Culbertson reminded the Senate that it wanted the Executive Committee to be active in getting faculty involved in plans for how any possible restructuring might be done. The Executive Committee is working hard for this and making good progress.

Senator Catano read to the Senate resolutions from the Arts and Sciences Faculty Senate and the AAUP concerning the LSU Faculty Senate planning effective demonstrations or other visible means of highlighting our problem and appealing for support. Two Senators agreed, but pointed out this should be a joint effort including other state universities and that if we planned demonstrations, we should first identify our needs and focus the planning and activities to address these needs. Other senators also spoke in favor of the Faculty Senate or Executive Committee getting involved with planning demonstrations, but others felt the Senate and Executive Committee are not in a position to plan and organize effective demonstrations, especially since the Baton Rouge campus is the only unit in the state showing the necessary interest as yet.

Senator Catano read a resolution to the Senate: "Whereas higher education in Louisiana is in a state of crisis, be it resolved that the Faculty Senate Public Relations Committee begin to organize itself for gathering information and planning action in support of higher education." This received a second by Senator Kinney and can be brought before the Senate for discussion and a vote at a future meeting.

At 4:50 P.M., a motion was made and approved to adjourn.