

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Monday, October 3, 2011
Student Senate Room, LSU Student Union



Attendance

Faculty Senate Executive Committee members present:

1. Kevin L. Cope (President, English)
2. Ken McMillin (Vice-President, Animal Science)
3. Joan King (Member-at-large, Food Science)
4. George Stanley (Secretary, Chemistry)

Parliamentarian: Louay Mohammed (present)

Senators present:

1	✓	Sibel Ales (Oceanography/C&E)	23	Joseph Francis (Compar BioMed/Vet)	45	✓	John Nyman (Renew Nat Res/Ag)	
2	✓	Linda Allen (Chemistry/Sci)	24	Juhan Frank (Physics/Sci)	46	✓	Heather Ondercin (Polysci/HSS)	
3	A	Gabriel Beavers (Music/M&FA)	25	✓	Craig Freeman (Mass Comm/MassCom)	47	Evelyn Orman (Music/Music & DA)	
4	✓	Melissa Beck (Psychology/HSS)	26	P	Stephen Gaunt (Pathobiological Sci/Vet)	48	✓	Rebecca Owens (Curricul & Instruct/Ed)
5	P	Dana Bickmore (Ed Theory Pol Pract/Ed)	27	✓	Wes Harrison (Ag Econ/Ag)	49	P	Rosemary Peters (French/HSS)
6	✓	Graham Bodie (Comm Studies/HSS)	28	Richard Holben (Drama/Music & DA)	50	Suresh Rai (Elect & Comp/Eng)		
7	✓	William Boelhower (English/HSS)	29	✓	Dorothy Jacobsen (Kinesiology/Ed)	51	✓	Margaret Reams (Environ Studies/C&E)
8	✓	Dorin Boldor (Biol Eng/Ag-Eng)	30	✓	Jennifer Jolly (Ed Theory Pol Pract/Ed)	52	Lawrence Rouse (Oceanography/C&E)	
9	A	Stephanie Braunstein (LSU Libraries/Lib)	31	Rajgopal Kannan (Comp Sci/Sci)	53	A	Bhaba Sarker (Const Manage & Ind/Eng)	
10	✓	Robb Brumbfield (Bio/Sci)	32	✓	Joan King (Food Sci/Ag)	54	✓	George Stanley (Chemistry/Sci)
11	Russell Carson (Kinesiology/Ed)	33	Jeff Kuehny (Horticulture/Ag)	55	✓	Suzanne Stauffer (Lib & Info Sci/SLIS)		
12	P	Paolo Chirumbolo (Foreign Lang/HSS)	34	Michael Leitner (Geog & Anthro/HSS)	56	✓	William Stickle (Biological Sci/Sci)	
13	Aaron Clopton (Kinesiology/Ed)	35	Vince LiCata (Biological Sci/Sci)	57	✓	Padmanabhan Sundar (Math/Sci)		
14	✓	Kevin Cope (English/HSS)	36	✓	David Lindenfeld (History/HSS)	58	Gail Sutherland (Phil & Relig/HSS)	
15	✓	Larry Crumbley (Accounting/BA)	37	✓	Michelle Livermore (Social Work/SW)	59	✓	Carol Taylor (Chem/Sci)
16	William Daly (Chemistry/Sci)	38	A	Mandi Lopez (Vet Clinical Sci/Vet)	60	✓	Dianne Taylor (ELRC/Ed)	
17	Jeffrey Davis (Entomology/Ag)	39	Kevin McCarter (Exp Stat/Ag)	61	Jeffrey Taylor (Geology/Sci)			
18	✓	Neila Donovan (Comm Sci Disord/HSS)	40	✓	Patrick McGee (English/HSS)	62	Phillip Tebbutt (Interior Design/A&D)	
19	Kerry Dooley (ChemE/Eng)	41	✓	Ken McMillin (Animal Sci/Ag)	63	Justin Walsh (Art/A&D)		
20	P	Bruce Eilts (Vet Clinical Sci/Vet)	42	Reem Meshal (Phil & Relig/HSS)	64	WanJun Wang (Mech Eng/Eng)		
21	✓	Guillermo Ferreyra (Math/Sci)	43	✓	Louay Mohammed (C & Environ/Eng)	65	Hsiao-Chun Wu (Elect & Comp/Eng)	
22	✓	Kristopher Fletcher (Foreign Lang/HSS)	44	✓	Jeff Nunn (Geology/Sci)	66	David Young (Physics/Sci)	

Guests present:

Robert Doolos
 Gil Reeve

Judith Schiebout
 Derrick Angellos

Ravi Rau
 Tiah Alphonsu

Josh Naquin

Consideration of Minutes

Moved and Accepted Conditionally.

President's Report

- Project to replace commencement regalia is proceeding full speed ahead and is official.
- Improvements to Moodle and especially the gradebook are being worked on. A Moodle "lite" to make gradebook setup and use easier has been developed and is being tested.
- The resolution on Graduate Council Voting is being delayed due to good progress on resolving this issue via the upper administration.
- Policy statement updates are not done on a regular basis leading to out of date resolutions. PS-48, the policy to deal with student appeals, is currently being updated with FSEC input.
- A new proposal from Tom Sofranko (College of Art and Design) to change the time of fraternity and sorority rush in order to avoid problems with the beginning of the semester is being studied.
- PS-22 has been strengthened regarding student attendance and a new version is pending final approval.
- The physics entrance requirement is not equally applied to LA and TX applicants and the FSEC is looking into this issue and will have a meeting on this next week.
- The state-wide faculty senate leadership meeting at LSU-A went well and had good attendance.

- The LSU and SU Faculty Senates (along with other sponsors) are organizing a gubernatorial debate on campus. We will keep you informed on the progress of this.

Presentation by Marie Frank and James Frazier: Pilot Procurement Program (improvements in procurement process subsequent to the LAGRAD act)

The LAGRAD act grants increased autonomy and flexibility in procurement. “High level” autonomy allows LSU to bypass the state procurement code and design a simpler more cost-effective system. LSU, ULL, La-Tech, Southern @ Shreveport, and other state schools have applied to adopt this new system. There are still many bureaucratic hurdles to jump over before we can setup this new system, but things are looking good for it to be setup and in place on July 1, 2012. This is a 3 yr pilot program and we have to show that we can realize the savings we have proposed via the new system.

The LSU system (minus med centers) spends \$320M a year with 148K transactions/yr on the state purchasing card. Purchase orders are down to 12K/yr.

The new procurement system will reduce bureaucracy, provide quicker turnarounds, be designed for higher education and a research environment. There should be more flexibility on what you can purchase without being limited by state contracts and such. There should also be more reasonable spending limits on the purchasing card. Higher limits on equipment purchases will be implemented to give faculty more flexibility in purchasing what they want. Multi-year contracts will also be allowed, unlike the current situation.

Three different state procurements: materials, professional services, and data processing. We can combine these into one system to reduce problems and streamline procedures. This should also save time and money.

Electronic procurement (e-procurement) will also be setup to make internet purchases easier. Electronic templates will be developed that can be electronically signed – this can help to considerably speed bids. We can also use “reverse auctions” where suppliers electronically bid against each other in real time. This has been used very successfully in other states.

Best and Final offer: the ability to accept a bid and then negotiate directly with the vendor afterwards to get a better deal.

Cooperative Purchasing Agreements: work with other institutions or states to get much better discounts from a vendor. This has worked extremely well with Fed Ex and UPS where we have saved a lot of money this last year.

Report of the Museum and Performance Action Plan Task Force (A. R. P. “Ravi” Rau, Chair)

Current Museums: Rural Life, Shaw Center, & various science/natural history collections.

Rural Life and Shaw Center are in pretty good shape. I will concentrate this presentation on the science and natural history collections that are spread out around campus. These were grouped together by state law and designated as the Louisiana Museum of Natural History and Science. These are located across campus in various buildings.

From the standpoint of quality, the collections are widely considered to be superb with unique specimens. The problem is the lack of quality housing. A key point is that whatever is done the collections must be preserved and accessible for research. But additional space and staff to present these for public display would be needed. Some of the collections do need additional preservation and upkeep.

A central museum accredited by the American Association of Museums is highly recommended. But the cost of such a facility is a major factor keeping it from happening. We believe that LSU’s current policies on fund raising are unduly restrictive, which ties the hands of the curators from raising money for a centralized facility or even for more specialized purposes. Outreach programs and traveling exhibits are valuable and many state schools have programs for this.

A previous study (5 yrs ago) estimated that a dedicated facility for a natural science museum would cost around \$78M. Three possible locations were identified on the south side of campus around the Ag facilities.

Recommendations: LSU should do a better job at fund-raising for this type of museum facility and assign responsibility for this at the Vice-Chancellor level. Increased security and a centralized inventory of the collections also have to be considered and done. Establish policies and procedures for ownership, documentation, and maintenance of objects. Seek accreditation of the Louisiana Museum of Natural History.

Q&A Summary:

William Boelhower: You mentioned that the collections would sell themselves if people knew about them. Are there descriptive narratives about the collections? This would help promote them.

Ravi: Some of that does exist on the web. One of our recommendations is to have a virtual museum before we have a physical centralized facility.

Jeff: If a new building was built do you recommend that the entire collection be moved to it?

Ravi: Yes, and that includes exhibit space.

Kevin: Have you spoken to the State Tourism Office about this for support?

Ravi: Not yet, but that is a good idea. NSF also supports these kinds of activities.

Brief Update from the Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Workload (Wes Harrison, Chair)

We are working on this and have collected information from other universities, including workload definition documents being prepared at LSU. This involves teaching, research, and service and how they translate into teaching credit in order to “judge” whether faculty are doing their job. We are not ready to make a recommendation as yet, but have collected quite a bit of information from other schools, which range from non-existent to extremely detailed. I have met with Jane Cassidy, Vice-Provost, and LSU has requested Deans of each college to develop their own faculty workload policies. She has agreed to make these available to our committee to include in our report. We will try to have this ready for the November meeting, but will take enough time to prepare a good report and come up with some recommendations.

Annual Report from the Faculty Athletic Representative Dydia Delyser

I normally give a report in the Spring, but due to scheduling conflicts I did a presentation to the FSEC.

NCAA update: the academic progress rate (APR) system is being reconsidered. 1000 is perfect. 925 represents a 50% graduation rate. After more study the 925 score was not properly representing a 50% graduation rate and will be increased to 930 points. This 5 pt increase will have an impact especially for smaller team sports like basketball. APR was designed to encourage coaches to bring in recruits that could do the academic work. Instead coaches continue to recruit just the same and rely more on academic centers to help their student athletes make the grade and graduate on time.

The second NCAA issue is the presidential retreat that Emmert held with some university presidents. Four working groups were formed to address the four major issues that came out of this meeting: finances, rules, enforcement, and student athlete well-being. I’m part of the rules group that will try to streamline the NCAA rules manual that is quite thick.

LSU Campus issues: PS-111 was revised to update the rules for the appointment of the Faculty Athletic Representative (FAR) to a full professor on a 5-year appointment. I have served in this position for 10 years on rotating 3 yr terms. Bill Demastis will be the new FAR starting on January 1, 2012 and I am working with him on the transition.

I’ve also written a lot of letters for student athletes for postgraduate scholarships. I meet and interview each of these students in order to get to know them better. Student athletes are not a separate part of our campus, they are an integral part of the campus academic environment.

Staff Senate Update from President Kristie Galy

Let me tell you about some of the initiatives from the Staff Senate. We attended the state-wide governance meeting in Sept and are trying to help build staff senates at other institutions across the state. On Nov 29 we are hosting our 22nd Holiday on Campus in the Student Recreational Complex after the candle light ceremony. There will be events, light refreshments, and Santa Clause. We would love to have you and your families attend.

We give out two \$500 scholarships each year to staff children that are chosen by Admissions and Financial Aid. We also award \$750 scholarships to staff members to help with fees. We award one in the Fall and one in the Spring.

We are currently taking nominations for our Chancellors Spotlight Award for a staff member that demonstrate excellence in “customer service” to faculty, students, or visitors. Two were awarded last year (one each semester) and we plan to award two more this year. Please e-mail me or the staff senate office with nominations or more information.

We now have a Facebook page which is up and running. Our web site should be working soon. Our Staff Senate meetings are held 225 Peabody Hall the third Wednesday of each month.

Faculty Members Rights and Routes of Recourse: Brief Summary Requested by Senator Michelle Livermore

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee was asked about faculty rights. We can host forums to address topics of interest, or faculty can come to the FSEC with questions or problems. The LSU Board of Supervisors is another forum for bringing up questions in a very public format. Finally, the Board of Regents would be the highest authority that one could address as a private citizen. You should not address the Board of Regents as a LSU representative.

Short Tutorial on the Retirement Plan Problems (Kevin Cope)

Problem # 1: Unfunded Accrued Liability. A large debt resulting from underfunding of the defined benefit plan that is administered by TSRL. The Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) is now being “docked” to help cover this unfunded liability. If you are in the defined benefit plan (teachers retirement plan) you are also being affected by this.

For the unfunded liability, ORP employees contribute 7.95% and LSU contributes 23.7%.

LSU is being hit this year with a \$10M charge for this unfunded liability. This money could most definitely be used for other things such as pay raises.

Problem # 2: Lack of Choice. ORP and TRP are the only options. The ORP vendors are chosen by the state with minimal input from faculty.

Problem # 3: The ORP plan is managed by TRSL but ORP members are not allowed to vote in TRLS elections for board members. Higher education only has one member on the TRSL board and that member is from a community college.

Problem # 4: No other state has a system like ours so comparisons with other higher education retirement plans are extremely difficult to make. Pushing the unfunded liability onto ORP members is of questionable legality.

Problem # 5: Poor customer service for ORP retirement vendors. This includes personnel, web sites, and general information available with poor comparisons to best practices.

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee is hard at work on fixing these problems. Some of our activities are still confidential and will be released in due time.

Q&A Summary:

Guillermo: What is the origin of the unfunded liability?

Kevin: The state is not putting enough “matching” money into the system.

Dorin Boldor: According to federal regulations the state should be putting in more money into the ORP to exempt us from the social security system.

Kevin: Yes, that is correct. We are pursuing legal avenues to address this fact.

Election of a Member of the Executive Committee from the Newly Elected Senators

We need to elect a first year senator for membership of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. I will call a roll of the new faculty members and hope to find a candidate.

Kenny Fasching-Varner volunteers and is *elected unanimously*.

Old Business

Second and Final Reading: **Resolution 11-03 - “Thanksgiving Break Schedule”**

Delayed to November meeting.

Second and Final Reading: **Resolution 11-14 – “Including International Activity in LSU’s Diversity Report”**

Kevin Cope reads the resolution because none of the International Committee members are present.

FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 11–14
“Including International Activity in LSU’S Diversity Annual Report”
Introduced at the Request of the Faculty Senate International Education Committee

Whereas Diversity is one of the four goals for LSU Flagship 2020

Whereas Expanding supportive communities for international students is an integral part of the diversity definition

Whereas Engagement is one of the four goals for LSU Flagship 2020

Whereas Extending the influence of scholarly expertise to benefit our state, region, and the globe is an important part of our engagement goal

Whereas LSU faculty and administration have struggled in recent years to find information and statistics that document campus international related activities

Whereas the lack of documentation hinders any true measure of progress in regarding campus-wide international activities

Whereas including all international related activity into an annual international activity report will document international related activities that involve administration, faculty and students

Whereas including international related activity into an annual report will demonstrate LSU’s commitment to international related activities

Whereas including international related activity into LSU’s official reporting will enable us to measure and report any progress we made annually

Therefore be it resolved that the LSU Faculty Senate recommends including campus international-related activities in an annual international activity report.

Q&A Summary:

George Stanley: We had asked for more clarification at the last meeting. For example who will do the report and when will it be done? The title includes “LSU’s Diversity Annual Report” but it is not clear whether it should be included in the diversity report or whether it should be its own report issued by someone else.

Kevin: So you would offer a friendly amendment to make that change?

George: Yes.

Joan King: I believe that they want this international report to be included with the diversity report.

George: Well, if Academic Affairs wants to do that, fine. Gil, are you here for comment?

Gil Reeve: We will consider the resolution if it is passed.

William Boelhower: Will this report include visiting professors from other countries?

Kevin: I believe so.

William: Shouldn’t someone from International Studies be here to answer questions about this?

William Stickle: I move that we postpone this till the November meeting when some members of the International Committee can be present to answer questions.

George: I second that and call the question.

Passes unanimously. Delayed to November meeting.

Second and Final Reading:

FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 11–15
“Membership of the General Education Committee: Bylaws Revision”
Introduced at the Request of James Murphy, Chair General Education Committee

Whereas changes in the academic structure of the University have changed the undergraduate degree granting units either in name, composition or both; and

Whereas current language of the Faculty Senate Bylaws; Article IX. Committees; Section 4. The Standing Committees of the Senate; General Education Committee; Membership no longer equitably serves all undergraduate degree granting units;

Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Senate Bylaws; Article IX. Committees; section 4. The Standing Committees of the Senate; General Education Committee; Membership be amended to read as follows:

The Faculty Senate Committee on General Education shall be comprised of experienced faculty, one from each college or school not within a college granting undergraduate degrees: one upper-division undergraduate student; the Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs (or designee), ex officio; the Director of the Office of Assessment & Evaluation, ex officio; the University Registrar (or designee), ex officio; the Chair of the Courses and Curricula Committee, ex officio. (Experience is defined as having had one or more years of active participation on a department, school, or college curriculum committee.)

Q&A Summary:

Joan King: Can we change that to “one from each college and school”?

Kevin: Can you explain your recommendation?

Joan: To make sure that schools are included.

Kevin: Are there schools that aren’t part of colleges?

General Senate: Library school, Social Work, Manship.

Kevin: So that sounds like a good friendly amendment.

Joan: Just change “one from each college or school” to “one from each college and school”

Gil Reeve: I’m not clear on the part that says: not within a college granting undergraduate degrees.

Kevin: I believe we only need a comma after college to fix that.

Friendly amendment passes unanimously.

Resolution passes unanimously

Second and Final Reading:

Faculty Senate Resolution 11–16
“Vending Machines and Advertising within Academic Buildings”
Sponsored by Graham Bodie

Whereas auxiliary services at Louisiana State University (LSU) is responsible for, among other things, procuring appropriate vending services for campus buildings; and

Whereas vending machine technology has advanced to include abilities to advertise products other than those contained within a given machine; and

Whereas various LSU offices and departments currently place restrictions on campus-based advertising; and

Whereas vending machines now include computer screens and speakers that generate advertising messages that create noticeable distractions for faculty and students in their learning environments; and

Whereas these distractions can thwart student and faculty productivity; and

Whereas LSU is a place of higher education with numerous academic buildings erected for the sole purpose of advancing knowledge; therefore be it

Therefore be it resolved that the LSU Faculty Senate recommends auxiliary services purge academic buildings of vending machines whose special effects, messages, or media devices permeate the student environment with distracting or assertively non-academic content.

Therefore be it further resolved that the LSU Faculty Senate urges the University to pursue corporate contracts with vending companies that provide machines void of advertising paraphernalia that denigrate the sanctity of the faculty and student learning environment, examples of which include:

1. Speakers that produce noticeable audible advertising messages,
2. Screens that produce noticeable visual advertising messages, and

Therefore be it further resolved that the LSU Faculty Senate urges the University to enforce current policies that place restrictions on the types and formats of advertising allowed in its academic buildings.

Therefore be it further resolved that the LSU Faculty Senate urges the University to establish additional policies that place restrictions on the types and formats of advertising allowed in its academic buildings.

Q&A Summary:

George Stanley: I’m all in favor of this.

Senator: You said that there was a typo?

Graham: The sixth Whereas statement should not have a “therefore be it” at the end. I’ll remove that.

Resolution passes unanimously

New Business

First Reading:

Faculty Senate Resolution 11-18
Scheduling Class Start Time on the Hour and Half Past the Hour
Introduced at the request of Professor Fereydoun Aghazadeh

Whereas, classes at LSU start either 10 or 40 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 LSU Office of the Registrar to change the class times for fall and spring classes to start either on the hour or half past the hour.

Accepted into debate

Q&A Summary:

Bill Stickle: This would be fine during the Fall & Spring semesters, but summer school and intersession hours are different and your resolution should include this exemption.

Fred: OK

David Lindenfeld: I wonder if this will affect traffic on campus?

Fred: I don't think so.

Larry Crumbley: Why do we have the current system?

Fred: Tradition.

Robert Doolos: I don't know the reason. We did change it a number of years ago to reflect the true starting time as 9:40, 10:10, etc. There might be some programming issues to make these changes.

George Stanley: There was a very similar resolution a while back and the students raised a huge stink about the change. The Student Senate voted against it and we had a bunch of students at our Faculty Senate meeting complaining about making them get up 10 mins earlier in the morning.

Adjournment @ 5:30 PM