Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, September 8, 2011  
Student Senate Room, LSU Student Union

Attendance

Faculty Senate Executive Committee members present:

1. Kevin L. Cope (President, English)  
3. Bill Daly (Past President, Chemistry)  
5. Larry Rouse (Member-at-large, Oceanography)

2. Ken McMillin (Vice-President, Animal Science)  
4. Joan King (Member-at-large, Food Science)

Parliamentarian: Charles Delzell (present)

Senators present:

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<th>Senator Name</th>
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<td>Sibel Ales (Oceanography/C&amp;E)</td>
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<td>P Juhan Frank (Physics/Sci)</td>
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<td>2</td>
<td>Linda Allen (Chemistry/Sci)</td>
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<td>24</td>
<td>✓ Craig Freeman (Mass Comm/MassCom)</td>
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<td>Gabriel Beavers (Music/M&amp;FA)</td>
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<td>25</td>
<td>✓ Stephen Gaunt (Pathobiological Sci/Vet)</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>Melissa Beck (Psychology/HSS)</td>
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<td>26</td>
<td>✓ Wes Harrison (Ag Econ/Ag)</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>Dana Bickmore (Ed Theory Pol Pract/Ed)</td>
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<td>Richard Holben (Drama/Music &amp; DA)</td>
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<td>Graham Bodie (Comm Studies/HSS)</td>
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<td>Jennifer Jolly (Ed Theory Pol Pract/Ed)</td>
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<td>William Boehlaufer (English/HSS)</td>
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<td>Rajagopal Kannan (Comp Sci/Sci)</td>
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<td>Dorin Boldor (Biol Eng/Ag-Eng)</td>
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<td>✓ Joan King (Food Sci/Ag)</td>
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<td>Stephanie Braunstein (LSU Libraries/Lib)</td>
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<td>Jeff Kuehny (Horticulture/Ag)</td>
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<td>Robb Brunfield (Bio/Sci)</td>
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<td>Michael Leitner (Geog &amp; Anthro/HSS)</td>
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<td>Paolo Chiurambolo (Foreign Lang/HSS)</td>
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<td>Aaron Clopton (Kinesiology/Ed)</td>
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<td>David Lindenfeld (History/HSS)</td>
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<td>✓ Kevin Cope (English/HSS)</td>
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<td>Michelle Livermore (Social Work/SW)</td>
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<td>Larry Crumbley (Accounting/BA)</td>
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<td>Mandi Lopez (Vet Clinical Sci/Vet)</td>
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<td>William Daly (Chemistry/Sci)</td>
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<td>✓ Kevin McCarter (Exp Stat/Ag)</td>
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<td>✓ Jeffrey Davis (Entomology/Ag)</td>
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<td>Patrick McGee (English/HSS)</td>
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<td>Nelia Donovan (Comm Sci Disord/HSS)</td>
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<td>✓ Ken McMillin (Animal Sci/Ag)</td>
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<td>18</td>
<td>Kerry Dooley (Chem/Eng)</td>
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<td>Reem Meshal (Phil &amp; Relig/HSS)</td>
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<td>✓ Kristopher Fletcher (Foreign Lang/HSS)</td>
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<td>Joseph Francis (Compar BioMed/Vet)</td>
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<td>✓ Evelyn Orman (Music/Music &amp; DA)</td>
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Parliamentarian: Charles Delzell (present)

Paolo Chiurambolo (Foreign Lang/HSS)

Consideration of Minutes

Moved and Accepted Conditionally.

President’s Report

- At the May 4 meeting we authorized a committee to study faculty workloads. It has been organized by Wes Harrison and should be reporting back soon.
- The Faculty Senate Monthly newsletter will start publication soon.
- The Chancellor has asked the FSEC to recommend people for a commencement speaker. Please send us any suggestions that you might have.
- A number of committees have been setup over the summer for searches for Provost, VCR & Economic Development, and CIO. We are concerned about the number of administrators and staff on the Provost committee and are forwarding those concerns to the Chancellor.
- The FSEC has worked on updating new versions of: PS-7 (Honorary Titles), PS-22 (Class Attendance), PS-29 (Classroom Decorum), PS-44 (Grading Authority), PS-110 (Appointment of Members of the Athletic Council).
- With the cooperation of Brian Nichols a new Parking Board has been formed to deal with parking violations and related issues.
- We have solved the problem of noisy televisions in the Union. But if you have any further issues, please let us know.
- There will be several Chancellor Forums this year with different formats. LSUnited will also host a forum for local political candidates.
- The Budget has had many tribulations, but LSU has scored an “A” for minimal cuts. We have discussed the lack of faculty and staff pay raises with the upper administration and the importance of providing at least a minimal pay raise in the future.
The Commissioner of Higher Education has held a number of forums across the state. We’d like to see more faculty involvement in these forums that have been dominated by business types.

We are posting “leaked” documents from the deliberations of the Higher Education Governance Commission on the Faculty Senate website. These are pretty boring but will be there for those of you interested.

There will be a Sept 24 summit of Faculty Senate leaders at LSU-A. All interested faculty are invited to attend.

The common course numbering commission has slowed down due to the complexity of the number of and types of courses. A much pared down plan for 25 courses is currently underway.

This summer has been a battleground for benefits. There was a plan to privatize the Office of Group Benefits, which has about $500M in reserves in the retirement fund, but this has been delayed for further study.

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**Report with Q&A from Interim Chief Information Officer Brian Nichols and Associates**

New E-mail system and login Portal. In November we will be transitioning to Office 365 E-mail that will be hosted by Microsoft. We are one of the first universities in the country to adopt this system. E-mail storage will change from 1 GB to about 25 GB’s!! The web interface will also look better. It will also save LSU quite a bit of money. We are going to work with your departmental IT people to make this as transparent as possible. This transition could take up to a year. Remember that your E-mail is a public record and it will be archived for 10 years.

**Q&A Summary:**

Wes: Will the new system work with iPhones and iPads?
Brian: Yes.
Larry Crumbly: What do you mean by public record?
Brian: We will archive all e-mails. If you want private e-mails you should get a Gmail or other similar account.
Larry: Who can get to these E-mails?
Brian: Only the admin’s at LSU and only under special circumstances.

[Considerable discussion about e-mail privacy – see video]

**Sherry Thompson**

We are currently alpha testing Moodle 2.0. But I want to talk about the new LSU portal. PAWS is going away and will be replaced by a new portal called myLSU. This will offer enhanced communication and access to everything you used to have on PAWS. You can customize your homepage. The main left navigation pane will temporarily be very similar to that in PAWS. This will slowly be rolled out in October.

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**Report with Q&A from Office of Career Services: Mary Feduccia, Joan Gallagher, and Trey Truitt**

- We are currently located in the basement of Coates Hall and Patrick Taylor Hall. But we will be moving to the Student Union after the bookstore moves to its new location next year. We have 14 professional staff, 4 support staff, 3 grad assistants, and 20 student workers.
- We have a Careers 2 Go web site to assist students in finding career opportunities. You can sign up as well to see what is being offered.
- We also offer mock interviews, resume assistance, and information on internships and related activities.
- We sponsor career expos and company visits/interviews.
- Please encourage your students to contact us early and use all our services.

**Q&A Summary:**

Wes Harrison: Who would we contact in your office if we know a company that is interested in interacting with you?
Mary: Trey Truitt
Joan: Are students already signed up in you system?
Mary: They all have accounts but they need to go and login to activate the account.
Showing of New Doctoral and Undergraduate Commencement Regalia

We’d like to especially thank Robert Doolos for helping arrange everything for the new regalia, including bringing the samples and hangers over today.

Report from SU Faculty Senate President Sudhir Trivedi

I want to thank Kevin Cope for inviting me to speak to you today. Kevin has been extremely supportive with our Faculty Senate over the last several years, especially for the last several weeks with our financial difficulties. Kevin also wrote a very strong letter to our Board of Supervisors that I believe helped prevent them from declaring exigency. Southern is not the first university to face this issue and probably won’t be the last. There is an attack on tenure that we need to fight and educate. My plumber, for example, wants to know why I have tenure and he doesn’t. I’ve explained to him that I have many years of higher education and worked my way up through the ranks to earn tenure.

Our Chancellor Jim Lorens came to Southern with a mindset that the only way to solve Southern’s problems was to declare exigency. Less than 30% of the budget at Southern involves faculty salaries. So we do not understand why the faculty are being attacked. Chancellor Lorens wanted the faculty to give up 10% of their salary as part of a furlough plan and agree to shortened dismissal times. We are expecting a sharp decline in our enrollment and this will also have a serious impact on our budget. So the threat of exigency is not over. About 60% of the Southern faculty did sign the 10% furlough document, including our Faculty Senate Executive Committee and myself. But there is now an issue between the 40% that did not sign the furlough document and those that did.

Kevin: We would like to thank Sudhir for coming and working so hard for faculty issues at Southern. He has been Faculty Senate President at Southern for 11 years.

Report from LSUnited Co-President Michael Russo

The union started a year ago. Since then we have 106 members. We were very active over the summer lobbying with legislature, which is the first time that this was done on behalf of the faculty. The purpose of this union is to give the faculty a voice and address faculty issues. We also knew that there would be resistance to a faculty union. After a cordial meeting with the Chancellor and other administrators, we did not anticipate running into problems getting the university to deduct dues for union members from LSU paychecks. The university is fighting us on this simple issue that is commonly done at many other universities. Is this OK with you? We are not sitting down and we are not shutting up. We plan to appeal this to the LSU Board of Supervisors and higher if necessary. This is one of the things that a union can do for you – fighting the administration and giving faculty a voice. I’m asking you to support the resolution 11-11 and LSUnited.

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

Motion to suspend the rules and recruit someone for this position. Passes unanimously.

Election to be held next meeting.
Old Business

Second and Final Reading:

**FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 10–18**

“Increased Spending on Higher Education and the Timely Pursuit of Excellence”

*Sponsored by Justin Walsh*

**Whereas** Louisiana State University has, since 2002, charted its progress towards national prominence by means of the Flagship Agenda;

**Whereas** the Flagship Agenda hopes to improve LSU’s service to the state by offering “a world-class knowledge base that is transferable to educational, professional, and business enterprises; an incubator for the development of new products and technologies; prominence in the national arena for federal projects and funding; nationally-ranked programs that prepare students for the most competitive and prestigious graduate programs and employment opportunities; and a competitively educated workforce, trained for attracting high-growth industries”;

**Whereas** the job market for scholars currently offers an almost unprecedented “buyer’s market” (even by the usual low standards) for universities seeking new faculty members at both the junior and senior levels;

**Whereas** state higher education leaders, from the LSU campus, to the Board of Supervisors, to the Board of Regents, to the Legislature, to the Governor’s office, have consistently reacted to the current state budget situation only by arguing over how much to cut from university budgets, faculty, and curricula;

**Whereas** LSU Chancellor Michael Martin has remarked publicly on the vulnerability of LSU to the poaching of its high-quality faculty by other institutions;

**Whereas** academic programs across the university have indeed lost staff since budget cuts began in January 2008, first through unreplaced attrition due to retirement and departures of faculty for better opportunities elsewhere, and more recently through active layoffs, leaving some programs down to only half of their normal strength or less, while faculty responsibilities and student enrollment have continued to increase;

**Whereas** the Louisiana economy has not, in fact, been as deeply affected by the recession relative to most other states, particularly some that already have National Flagship University systems, such as Michigan, California, North Carolina, Ohio, and Virginia;

**Be it hereby resolved** that the Faculty Senate calls upon all of the aforementioned higher education leaders to change the terms of their debate radically, to argue for increased spending on higher education rather than reductions, and specifically to support the opportunistic hiring of the very best rising and established scholars, who will contribute greatly to the intellectual life and accomplishments of LSU, who will dedicate themselves to furthering the education of Louisiana’s students, who will bring new energy to the fulfillment of the Flagship Agenda, and who will raise the reputation and standing of the state as a whole.

Kevin: Justin has moved on to another job and is not here to present his resolution. [Kevin summarizes the resolution]

**Resolution passed unanimously on voice vote.**

Second and Final Reading.

**Faculty Senate Resolution 11-11**

“Call to Support and Join LSUnited”

*Sponsored by Senator Patrick McGee*

**Whereas** LSU has suffered financial setbacks since 2008 that have dramatically damaged its morale and the intellectual climate here for research, teaching, and learning;

**Whereas** the Louisiana legislative bodies have cut critical taxes and failed to propose new ones that support higher education without proposing or permitting adequate alternative means of funding, particularly at LSU as the state’s flagship university;

**Whereas** in the most recent statistics on Gross State Product from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Louisiana ranks 23rd in the country1; and at most flagship universities in states that rank below Louisiana in GSP, including Alabama, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Nebraska, Nevada, Oklahoma, Oregon, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Utah, and Wyoming; faculties have higher average compensation (salary and benefits) than the LSU faculty, according to AAUP figures for 2009-2010;

**Whereas** the Chancellor has been forced by the economic and political circumstances in this state to support unilateral actions of the LSU administration in order to cut the budget of LSU, and has had to seek and endorse private solutions to the university’s financial problems;

**Whereas** as a result of this crisis, termination notices are being extended from term-to-term to critical though untenured LSU faculty members, many of whom have either resigned or are seeking employment elsewhere;
Patrick makes a statement about the resolution – please see video for details.

**Q&A Summary:**

David Lindenfeld: Has the union come up with any solutions for the financial problems that the university faces?

Michael: We are aware of the budget shortfalls and problems facing LSU.

Michael Jones (??): The solutions for our monetary problems cannot be found on this campus. It is in the halls of the legislature and the public.

Anna Nardo: I was chair of the English Department for 6 years and I joined LSUnited because of the termination notices that our instructors received. I fought this and tried to go up through the channels and the administration was not interested in correcting this situation. Data shows that there is a steady decline in non-tenure-track faculty and increased hiring of temporary non-tenure track faculty.

Bill Daly: I believe that a strong union representative could be useful on universities committees to represent the faculty.

Michael Russo: I believe that there are a lot of problems with faculty apathy. Faculty think that many of these issues do not affect them. There are a number of problems that we believe that the union can positively impact.

George Stanley: I’m opposed to this resolution because I feel that the Faculty Senate represents the faculty more than adequately and we do not need a union to represent the faculty.

Patrick McGee: I agree that the Faculty Senate has done a great job. But I think we need the power of the contract and a union to fight for and represent the faculty. The Faculty Senate may not always be as effective as they are now.

Bill Stickle: I’m also opposed to the union and this resolution. I came from Slippery Rock University, which had a faculty union. The union protected the weakest faculty and penalized hard working faculty. I was also chairman of a department and had to balance a budget. It is no fun to have to cut personnel, but 80+% of our budget is salaries.

Wes Harrison: What are the responsibilities when you join the Union? Striking? Can you tell us more about it?

Michael Russo: We do have a constitution & by-laws. The responsibilities are to stay informed and to vote.

Wes: What if the vote is to strike or picket and you don’t want to?
Patrick: You always have the right to not participate. This is a right to work state. Strikes are the nuclear weapon of unions and should be used very carefully.

Kevin: I want to remind you that the resolution is not to form a union but to support it.

Senator: What message would it send to the administration if it is voted down?

Michael: If the resolution is defeated that would give the administration less reason to deal with the union.

Wes: I’d like to suggest that you change the last paragraph from “join LSUnited” to just “support LSUnited”.

Patrick: I’d be more comfortable with “consider joining” but will agree to the amendment.

Larry: I call the question.

**Friendly amendment passes via a hand vote to change last paragraph to just “support LSUnited”.

Vote via raised hands on amended resolution passes.**

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**New Business**

First Reading:

**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.

**Accepted into debate**

**Q&A Summary:**

Louay Mohammed: What would be in the report?

Reader: It will be a report to summarize the international activities on campus and to point out the importance of these activities.

Louay: I think this is a good resolution, but there are things going on to support international activities via the international office.

Larry Crumbly: Who will be responsible for preparing the report?

Reader: Not sure.

Larry: Well, I think you should specify who will be responsible for preparing the report.

Reader: OK

Wes: Are you saying there isn’t an annual diversity report?

George Stanley: There is an annual diversity report issued by the Vice-Provost for Diversity’s office.

Patrick: So you want an international report.
First 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.)

**Accepted into debate**

**Q&A Summary:**

Joan King: How many faculty are on this committee?

James: 9

Larry Rouse: What is different?

James: This changes the wording to fit better with our current university structure. Some of the units mentioned in the original working, for example, no longer exist.

Ken McMillin: What will be the new number?

James: 10

First 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 if 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.

Accepted into debate

Q&A Summary:

Stephanie Barunstein: You might want to clarify “offensive” material in your resolution or remove that part of the resolution.

Graham: OK

Wes Harrison: Would this impact the student newspaper or student organizations? I’m in favor of this but I want to make sure it is as clear as possible.

Graham: OK

Several Senators: Perhaps you want to specifically add vending machines to the title.

First Reading:

FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 11-17
“Elections for Members of the LSU Graduate Council”
Sponsored by Ken McMillin

Whereas the LSU Board of Supervisors Bylaws and Regulations 1-2.7. on the establishment of the Graduate Council on each campus offering graduate work states that each campus shall formulate a policy regarding the operation of the Graduate Council, including membership, length of terms, and function to advise the Dean of the Graduate School in the administration of the academic affairs and policies of the Graduate School; and

Whereas Board of Supervisors Bylaws and Regulations 1-2.2b. grants authority to the faculty to generally determine educational policy, subject to the authority of the Board; and

Whereas Faculty Senate Resolution 10-03 “Replacing the Current System of Appointments with a New System of Elections for Members of the Graduate Council” that recommended the election of all members, other than ex officio members, of the Graduate Council and reaffirmed its commitment to and responsibility for shared governance in establishing curricula, fixing standards of instruction, and determining requirements for graduate degree programs was adopted March 15, 2010; and

Whereas Faculty Senate Resolution 10-03 recommended that a policy on Graduate Council members on the LSU campus be sent to the LSU System that called for elections within each College or School by the Graduate School to provide membership representing the breadth of disciplines on the LSU campus, and

Whereas it has been 18 months without any activity from the Graduate School to hold elections for Graduate Council membership,

Therefore be it resolved that the LSU Faculty Senate again calls upon the Graduate School to hold elections for Graduate Council membership, and

Therefore be it further resolved that the LSU Faculty Senate Executive Committee will begin the process of elections on October 17, 2011 for Graduate Council membership within each College or School according to the allocation plan proposed in Faculty Senate Resolution 10-03 if the election process has not been initiated by the Graduate School by October 14, 2011.

(The allocation plan from Faculty Senate Resolution 10-03 adopted March 15, 2010 is shown below)

Graduate Council Membership

The Graduate Council is composed of faculty who consider policy matters related to the Graduate School and who advise the Dean of the Graduate School in the administration of academic affairs and policies of the Graduate School. To provide membership representing the breadth of disciplines on the LSU campus, each College or School oversee by a dean and that offers a graduate program of study at LSU are represented on the Graduate Council such that units that award less than 9% of graduate degrees are allocated one member on the Graduate Council whereas units that award more than 9% of the graduate degrees are allocated two members on the Graduate Council. Allocations will be recalculated each decade; allocations for 2010 through 2019 are based on degrees awarded from 1999-2000 through 2008-2009 as reported by the LSU Office of Budget and Planning. Members will be graduate faculty with outstanding records of scholarly and creative activities, who do not currently hold administrative positions, who are full Professors, and who are full Members of the Graduate Faculty. The overall membership of the Council will represent the diversity of faculty and students. Members will serve a term of five years, with membership end dates staggered to provide for
continuity of the Council Activities. The Graduate School will hold elections within each College or School as needed to fill positions; all Graduate Faculty within those Colleges or Schools are eligible to nominate and vote. Members of the Graduate Council will elect from themselves a Chair who will serve a one-year term. The Dean of the Graduate School and the Associate Dean of the Graduate School are ex officio members with the same rights as other members except that they may not serve as chair of the Graduate Council or chair of subcommittees of the Graduate Council.

Allocating the members of the Graduate Council among the colleges and schools overseen by a dean and that offer a graduate program of study in a manner that represents the diversity of faculty and students.

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<th>M.S. programs</th>
<th>Ph.D. programs</th>
<th>M.S. degrees</th>
<th>Ph.D. degrees</th>
<th>total degrees</th>
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^-a These data were not adjusted to reflect that M.S. degrees with a major in Biological and Agricultural Engineering are awarded by the College of Agriculture but are reported by the Office of Planning and Budget as in the College of Engineering.

^-b The number of graduate degrees were determined from data available on the website of the LSU Office of Budget and Planning for the years 1999-2000 through 2008-2009. These numbers were modified to remove degrees credited to the Graduate School, which is a practice that ended in 2000-2001.

Accepted into debate

Q&A Summary:

Due to the lateness, there was little discussion, aside from some sentiment to suspend the rules and pass it right away. But the fact that there wasn’t a quorum anymore led the remaining senators to wait till next meeting for discussion and a vote.

Adjournment @ 5:43 PM