The Council of Faculty Advisors met at 12:00 noon in the Systems Building on Thursday, August 28, 2008. Kevin Cope, called the meeting to order. Members present were James Robison, LSU Eunice; Dennis Paul, LSU Health Science Center – New Orleans; Kevin Cope, LSU Baton Rouge; Tammy Dugas, LSU Health Science Center – Shreveport; Arthur Rankin, LSU Alexandria; Sanjay Menon, LSU in Shreveport; and guest Dr. Robert Rasmussen, LSU System Office.

Kevin recognized Dr. Rasmussen who reviewed the agenda for the committee meetings. Bob pointed out that the scheduled two meetings were consolidated to one day.

The benefits afforded faculty in the form of tuition exemptions for universities within the system for the family of a faculty member was discussed. Civil service employees within the system are often allowed free tuition & time to take coursework, but faculty are denied benefits in this area. Tuition exemption is a practice found in many systems in the country (including Louisiana) to allow faculty’s families either partial or total fee exemption. This can be a “perk” in recruitment. It was suggested that all senates within the system poll their faculty or senates as to their feeling on such a benefit so that a system wide report could be generated.

The issue of IT privacy was discussed to warn individuals that as the computers at the campuses are state property, and time spent there is state time, one should not expect privacy in this domain.

Compensation toward retirement for clinical staff at some universities has been based on base salary only, providing a smaller amount that would otherwise be calculated. It was suggested that the fringe benefits for grants be locked in for the life of the grant, to preclude surcharge escalations diminishing such benefits over time.

It was requested that all senates set up a website similar to LSU with “/senate” (lsu.edu/senate) to post minutes, issues of the campus, etc., allowing each institution ready access to the issues of other campuses.

Kevin asked for the issue of faculty governance at the various LSU institutions to be covered at the next meeting. Faculty have reported a feeling of intimidation with ever-present administrators at faculty senate meetings such that many ideas that may benefit both faculty and the university are suppressed. As the LSU System of Faculty Advisors can make reports & communicate directly with President Lombardi, reasonable suggestions and ideas are certainly encouraged.

Respectfully,
James W. Robinson
Vice-Chair