HIGHLIGHTS FROM FACULTY SENATE MEETING

April 4, 2000

Provost's Comments

1. Academic Excellence Fee
2. Undergraduate Admissions Standards
3. Recognition of August Graduates at May Commencement

President's Report

1. Introduction of Dr. Marilyn Zimney, Interim Vice-President for Academic Affairs and Technology Transfer, LSU Systems Office
2. LSU Web Page Revision
3. Election of Faculty Senators

SR 00-10

1. Second reading of resolution proposing new admissions standards for Fall 2000; an amended version of the resolution was voted on and passed

SR 00-11

1. First reading of resolution concerning the impact of the out-of-state tuition increase

SR 00-12

1. First reading of resolution supporting the recognition of August baccalaureate graduates in the May commencement ceremony
Faculty Senate Minutes

April 4, 2000

Meeting called to order at 3:10 pm. Invited guests included Executive Vice-Chancellor and Provost Dan Fogel, Marilyn Zimney (Interim Vice-President, LSU Systems Office), Vice-Provost Neil Mathews, and John Anderson (Chair, Faculty Senate Commencement Exercises Committee). Proxies were announced. March 9 minutes were approved as read.

Provost’s Comments. Provost Fogel announced that the proposed Academic Excellence Fee passed in the legislature, although the amount was changed from $500 to $250 per year. This fee will be implemented exclusively at Louisiana State University, in recognition of the university's status as the flagship university in the state. The Provost commended President Jenkins and Chancellor Emmert for the work that went into the passage of this fee. The Provost endorsed the resolution regarding undergraduate admissions standards and thanked the Admissions, Standards and Honors Committee. The Provost then discussed the resolution that would allow August baccalaureate graduates to be recognized at May commencement ceremonies. He noted that there were good reasons to eliminate the summer commencement ceremony, but that it is desirable to recognize summer graduates. This can be viewed as reframing commencement as a celebration, rather than a certification ceremony. The Provost expressed his hope that the faculty would support the resolution.

Dr. Marilyn Zimney’s Comments. Dr. Zimney thanked the Faculty Senate for the opportunity to introduce herself. She discussed her background and her belief that the state of Louisiana must view funding for higher education as an investment in the future. Dr. Zimney encouraged senators to contact her at any time.
President's Comments. President Cherry reported that a committee is currently revising the LSU web page. Copies of the proposed faculty web page have been distributed to senators and comments should be sent to the committee. She announced that letters regarding elections of faculty senators will be sent to the appropriate individuals within the next two weeks. President Cherry then briefly discussed the four resolutions on the agenda, and reminded senators that the May 1 meeting will be held at the Lod Cook Alumni Center.

SR 00-10, New Admissions Standards for Fall 2002 (second reading, revised text attached). Presented by Neil Kestner, Chair of the Faculty Senate Admissions, Scholarship and Honors (ASH) Committee. Senator Kestner read the resolution and answered questions regarding the anticipated effect of the new admissions standards. Two amendments to the resolution were moved, voted on, and approved. The revised resolution passed by a unanimous voice vote.

SR 00-11, Impact of Out-of-State Tuition Increase (complete text attached). Presented by Carl Motsenbocker, Chair of the Faculty Senate International Education Committee. Senator Motsenbocker discussed the committee's concerns that the increased tuition for out-of-state students will decrease the number of international students and the number of female out-of-state students; both groups have six-year graduation and retention rates that are significantly higher than other student groups. He then read the resolution, which requests that the LSU administration implement measures to minimize the loss of well-qualified students.

SR 00-12, Recognition of August Graduates at May Commencement (complete text attached). Presented by William Thompson. Senator Thompson presented the resolution, which resulted from the considerations of the Faculty Senate Commencement Committee. The resolution supports the recognition of potential August baccalaureate graduates in the May commencement ceremony, with the provision that respective colleges will certify those students expected to be eligible for August graduation.

SR 00-13, Freshman Forgiveness (complete text attached). Presented by Teresa Summers. The resolution proposes that a regularly admitted first-semester freshman would be allowed to repeat a single class, within one academic year, and replace the grade for the class. A resolution supporting this policy passed in the Student Senate, and was then referred to the Faculty Senate ASH Committee. Senator Summers noted that the resolution was being submitted to the Faculty Senate by the ASH Committee, but was not endorsed by a majority of that committee. Questions regarding the implementation of such a policy were raised. For example, could a student choose to repeat a class in which the student had received a B? What effect would this have on class enrollments? How would this affect the computation of academic actions, such as probation?
Old Business. None.

New Business. SR 00-14, Retraction of PM-35 (complete text attached). Presented by Ron Snider. Dr. Snider read the resolution, which recommends the retraction of PM-35 (the system level permanent memorandum regarding post-tenure review) pending the clarification of the legal ramifications for tenured faculty members regarding the restriction of academic freedom and tenure.

Elections of faculty senate officers were held during the meeting. The results of the elections were as follows: President – Neil Kestner, Chemistry; Vice-President – Carol Barry, Library and Information Science; Secretary – Laurie Anderson, Geology. The run-off election for Member At-Large will be held at the May 1 meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Barry, Secretary

Faculty Senate Meeting minutes and transcripts are available at: