LSU Faculty Senate Meeting  
3:00 P.M., Tuesday, April 17th, 2007  
Atchafalaya Room, LSU Union

Attendance  
Faculty Senate Executive Committee members present:

1. William H. Daly (Senate President)  
2. Kevin L. Cope (Vice President)  
3. Lois J. Kuyper-Rushing (Secretary)  
4. Michael Wascom (Member-at-Large)  
5. Claire Advokat (Ex Officio, Immed. Past Pres.)

Senators present:

1. Helene Afeman  
2. Nicholas G. Apostolou  
3. William W. Armstrong  
4. Henry D. Bellamy  
5. Hugh W. Buckingham  
6. Andrew Christie  
7. Hollis Utah Cox  
8. D. Larry Crumbley  
9. Dennis W. Duffield  
10. Emily Elliot  
11. Wayne Gauthier  
12. Randall Hall  
13. Steve Hand  
14. Scott W. Harris  
15. Joan M. King  
16. Jeff S. Kuehny  
17. Richard L. Kurtz  
18. Lois J. Kuyper-Rushing  
19. Paul A. Larock  
20. Catherine Lemieux  
21. Yiping Lou  
22. Suzanne Marchand  
23. Douglas McMillin  
24. Jorge F. Morales  
25. James L. Murphy  
26. Su-Seng Pang  
27. Robert Peck  
28. Robert Perlis  
29. Dorothy Prowell  
30. Dan B. Rinks  
31. Adelaide Russo  
32. Tracy Shaffer  
33. Frederick Sheldon  
34. Kevin Smith  
35. George Stanley  
37. Beth N. Tope  
38. Grover Waldrop  
39. Maud Maureen Walsh  
40. Richard Warga  
41. Michael Wascom  
42. Denis Wu  
43. Lisl Zach

Proxies for absent Senators:

Jeff S. Kuehny for Edward W. Bush  
James R. Stoner Jr. for Kevin L. Cope  
Su-Seng Pang for Kerry M. Dooley, Gerald Knapp and Warren Waggenspack  
Hollis Utah Cox for Jeremy Hubert  
Wayne Gauthier for Kenneth W. McMillin  
Grover Waldrop for Marcia E. Newcomer  
Maud Maureen Walsh for Carol E. O’Neil and Cathleen Williams  
Randall Hall for Erwin D. Poliakoff  
Jon Cogburn for Mary J Sirridge  
Mike Wascom for Judith Schiebout  
Scott Harris for Patsy Scates  
Bill Daly for Robert McMahon  
Robert Peck for Katia Madsen

Senators absent without proxies + (# of absences without proxies):

1. Kenneth Bankston(17)  
2. Mark A. Caruso(17)  
3. James H. Gill(17)  
4. Vincent J. Licata(7)  
5. Ronald F. Malone(3)  
7. Heather McKillop(4)  
8. Bruce Mark Olcott(1)  
9. Frederick G. Ortner(4)  
10. James Sullivan(8)  
11. Ann Trousdale(8)  
12. Rick Weil(3)
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Highlights
-Introduction of Guests
-Consideration of the Minutes
-Presdent’s Report
-Presentations and Election of 2007-8 officers
-Old Business
  Comments on “Draft” PS-36-T, Carruth McGehee, Chair-emeritus of PS-36 revision committee
-New Business
  -Reading of Faculty Senate Resolution 07-03 entitled “To Establish an ad-hoc Committee to Examine Interdisciplinary and Interdepartmental Programs,” James Stoner, Member at Large, Faculty Senate Executive Committee
  -Reading of Faculty Senate Resolution 07-04 entitled “To Urge and Request Chancellor O’Keefe to Secure Funding for the Proposed Renovation of the LSU Union Theater,” Jon Cogburn, Professor, Philosophy and Religious Studies

Preliminary evaluation of the effect of the new W/F policy, Andrew Christie, Chair, Admissions, Standards and Honors Committee
Report on Campus Construction and Domino Impact on Space Evolution, Chuck Wilson, Vice Provost

Minutes

President Daly opened the meeting at 3:00 P.M. with a reading of the proxies.

Introduction of Guests
Guests were introduced and urged to sign in on the attendance sheet. Guests attending the April meeting included Carruth McGehee.

Consideration of the minutes– President Daly asked if there were any comments or corrections for the minutes of March 21, 2007. No corrections were requested, Senator Andrew Christie moved for approval and Senator George Stanley seconded. Minutes were accepted by voice vote.

President’s report
The Student Government passed a resolution supporting the Faculty Senate’s move to a more holistic admissions policy. Specifically the resolution supports the revision of the criteria for freshman admission toward a more holistic admissions model for students entering LSU in the fall of 2007, with specific catalog text adjusted each year to reflect the makeup of the previous entering class. The faculty, through the Faculty Senate or its representatives, the Provost and the Chancellor will determine institutional emphases and expectations.

The ALFS (Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates) meeting scheduled for April 21st is in the Faculty/Staff dining room of the Lavin-Bernick Center for University Life at Tulane University. From 12:00-1:30 PM there will be a panel presentation entitled, “Shared Governance in Louisiana since Katrina.” At 1:30 PM, there will be a speaker, E. Joseph Savoie, Commissioner of Higher Education, Louisiana Board of Regents. His topic will be, “The Future of Higher Education in Louisiana: Faculty's Role in Planning and Implementing Change.” All interested faculty are welcome to attend.

Insurance for LSU graduate students is close to fruition. The plan will cost $835 per year of which $700 will be covered by the university for TAs and RAs. A family plan will be optional as well, and there will be dental and optometry options.
A statement on the objectives of Sabbatical Leave will be issued shortly by the Provost. A reporting procedure will be established that will ensure that a record of sabbatical activities remains on file.

It is time to hold senate elections in the respective colleges. President Daly has already informed the Deans of this issue, but he does not have the names of the chairs of the respective policy committees. He asks those whose terms are expiring to facilitate this effort.

Presentations and Election of 2007-8 officers
Senator Mike Wascom, Chair of the Faculty Senate Nominating Committee, thanked the committee and everyone who agreed to run. Vice President Kevin Cope is the only candidate for President of Faculty Senate. His statement is on the Faculty Senate website. Senator Wascom read Vice President Cope’s statement because Cope was unable to attend the meeting. President Daly opened the floor for further nominations. Seeing none, Senator Larry Crumbley motioned to close nominations, Senator Joan King seconded and Vice President Cope was elected as President by unanimous acclamation.

There were two candidates for Vice President. Both candidates, Senator Andrew Christie and Senator Bill Armstrong, read their statements. President Daly opened the floor for further nominations. Seeing none, George Stanley motioned that nominations cease, Robert Perlis seconded, and the vote was taken.

Senator James Stoner was the only candidate for Secretary. Senator Stoner read his statement. President Daly opened the floor for further nominations, no nominations were received, a motion to cease nominations was made and seconded, and Senator Stoner was elected by unanimous acclamation.

There were two openings for members-at-large, and two candidates, Senator George Stanley and Member-at-Large Judith Schiebout. Senator Stanley read his statement, and Senator Wascom read Judith Schiebout’s statement in her absence. President Daly called for nominations from the floor. Seeing none, Senator Robert Perlis motioned that nominations cease, Wayne Gautier seconded the motion, and Senators Stanley and Schiebout were elected by unanimous acclamation.

Old Business
Comments on “Draft” PS-36-T Carruth McGehee, Chair-emeritus of PS-36 revision committee
President Daly introduced Carruth McGehee, Chair emeritus of the PS-36 revision committee. McGehee referred to the handout, “Comments on Changes in PS-36 T.” This document is available on the Faculty Senate website under “Pertinent Reports.” He asked for comments on the document to be sent to him at his email address, mcgehee@math.lsu.edu.

McGehee gave a summary of the history of this document. In 2002, when Laurie Anderson was President of the Faculty Senate and Laura Lindsey was Acting Provost, during a meeting of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee with the Provost, a new committee was formed to look at PS 36 and related issues, and McGehee was appointed chair of the committee. The work of this committee continued through several Faculty Senate Presidencies, those of Laurie Anderson, Carruth McGehee, Claire Advokat and two years with Bill Daly. Others on the committee were Pratul Ajmera, Emily Batinski, Lou Day, Stacia Haynie, Rick Ortner, Jim Richardson, Roger Seals, Jill Suitor and Roger Stockbauer. He thanked them for several years of service. A partial draft was completed for PS-36T in 2003. From 2003 to 2005, this document was discussed in many meetings of the Faculty Senate. The Senate approved PS-36T in February, 2005. In March of 2006 an administrative review was completed, several non-controversial changes were made. After that McGehee was no longer chair of the committee.

The newest version (which McGehee calls version B) has changes made by the university’s lawyers, and he believes it is much better than the previous version of PS-36, dated July 1, 1997. McGehee opened the floor to questions. Senator George Stanley noted that McGehee has done a fantastic job in his comments on this newest version. Senator Nicholas Apostolou said there were 100 changes from Version A to Version B and he asked if McGehee can live with those changes. McGehee replied that in a few cases the changes are improvements, in some cases we have inconsistencies and bad wording, there are many minor errors, but only some need to be changed. For example, Version A gave specific instructions for stopping the tenure clock in certain instances. In the new document all specificities were removed. Is this better or not? Several questions concerning this were raised, but McGehee says that he believes the change is acceptable. Senator Joan King asked McGehee to read the problems he found as
written on the handout, and discuss them individually. McGehee responded that he’d rather people read the changes and respond. Senator Larry Crumbley asked McGehee to state the five worst changes in the document concerning academic freedom and protection of faculty. McGehee answered that he doesn’t know how to answer that question. McGehee believes that substantively, there is little difference between Version A and B. Senators King and Stanley both stated there are few changes that have to do with academic freedom. McGehee feels we will be heard concerning those things that he commented on, and they will at least consider the changes before finalizing the document. The people who made the current changes are from the Legal Counsel and Board of Supervisors and possibly Provost Harold Silverman, President Daly and Vice Chancellor Chuck Wilson. Silverman believes that wording problems will be reconciled with the original version, there are a few changes that will be discussed. Silverman believes that 90% of McGehee’s changes will be accepted.

Senator Crumbley asked if the document will be finished this year. President Daly answered that it will not because this is only half of the documents, PS-36NT isn’t finished yet. Since faculty review was incorporated in PS-36, PS 109 will have to be changed as well. Senator King asked if the new PS-36 has clarified and shortened the document. McGehee answered that he believes so. He reminded us that the Faculty Senate has already voted to accept this document so there is no need for another vote.

President Daly announced that the votes were counted and Senator Andrew Christie was elected as Vice President of the Faculty Senate for the coming year.

New Business
Reading of Faculty Senate Resolution 07-03 entitled “To Establish an ad-hoc Committee to Examine Interdisciplinary and Interdepartmental Programs” -- James Stoner, Member at Large, Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Senator Stoner read the resolution into the minutes.

Faculty Senate Resolution 07-03
TO ESTABLISH AN AD-HOC COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE INTERDISCIPLINARY AND INTERDEPARTMENTAL PROGRAMS
CoSponsored by Kevin L. Cope and James Stoner
Presented by James Stoner

WHEREAS scholars and teachers at major universities worldwide have frequently demonstrated the value and importance of interdisciplinary teaching and study;

WHEREAS Louisiana State University, like other major research institutions, routinely advertises its commitment to innovative, multi-discipline programs, using the diversity of its programs to attract the best students, faculty members, teachers, and researchers;

WHEREAS both the intellectual value and fundable aspects of interdisciplinary and interdepartmental programs are repeatedly shown in “marquee” programs ranging from the Honors College to the Hurricane Center to Comparative Literature;

WHEREAS the implementation of interdepartmental and interdisciplinary education lags behind both the speedy pace of pedagogical innovation and the enthusiastic rhetoric of university publications;

WHEREAS the deans, directors, and chairs who administer colleges, departments, and programs face formidable challenges staffing interdepartmental programs;

WHEREAS there is presently no mechanism to assess the overall ability of the university to establish, manage, or promote interdepartmental and interdisciplinary education;

AND WHEREAS many major universities have drawn acclaim for the ingenuity and innovativeness of their interdepartmental and interdisciplinary offerings;
THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate shall establish an ad-hoc committee on interdepartmental and interdisciplinary education at Louisiana State University, the purpose of which committee shall be to make recommendations as to how the problems relating to interdisciplinary study might be resolved and as to how interdisciplinary study might be advanced at our University. The committee will report its findings within six months of its inception.

DISCUSSION: Senator Christie commented that so much stands in the way of giving faculty credit for interdisciplinary activity. McGehee said that PS36 supports joint appointments (secondary departments are consulted) but there is little addressing interdisciplinary teaching, evaluation, funding, etc. President Daly said there lots of models available, and this committee will look at these, should the resolution pass. Hugh Buckingham wanted to know what initiated this proposal, did it have to do with cluster hires? Stoner replied “No, it came from my own experience with interdisciplinary collaborations.” Senator Kurtz asked if six months (as proposed by the resolution) is too brief a time to conclude this project favorably. Senator Stoner said this was a good point, he’ll consider the suggestion that a longer time might be needed. Senator Cogburn stated that we need to look at interdisciplinary activity between the Sciences and the Humanities, not just within the Sciences or Humanities. Senator Adelaide Russo hopes the committee will get input from lots of programs that may not be well-known. Senator King asked if there is a graduate degree program for interdisciplinary topics? There are degrees in Linguistics and Comparative Literature, for example, or in Engineering Science. Senator Stanley stated that he doesn’t think there are many barriers to interdisciplinary degrees.

Reading of Faculty Senate Resolution 07-04 entitled “To Urge and Request Chancellor O’Keefe to Secure Funding for the Proposed Renovation of the LSU Union Theater” – Senator Jon Cogburn

Senator Cogburn read the resolution into the minutes.

LSU Faculty Senate Resolution 07-04
To Urge and Request the LSU Board of Supervisors to Secure Funding for the Proposed Renovation of the LSU Union Theater

Sponsored by Lois Kuyper-Rushing, Robert Peck, and James L. Murphy
Introduced by Jon Cogburn

Whereas the mission of a flagship university is to promote and support excellence in the arts, humanities, and sciences; and

Whereas, the LSU A&M Student Government Senate (S07RS SGCR 1) noted that, “the mission of the LSU Union is to serve students, faculty, staff, alumni, and guests as the community center of the campus; to provide a comprehensive program of cultural, educational, social, recreational and service activities; to cultivate leadership development in students; to provide appropriate facilities, services, and conveniences for the diverse needs and activities of the campus community; and to create a sense of community that fosters enduring loyalty to the university;” and

Whereas, the LSU Union Theater plays a crucial role in this mission, providing a venue for events attended by thousands of patrons including students, faculty, staff and community members each month, and

Whereas, the LSU Student Senate and Student Body voted, in Spring 2003, to approve a $60 student fee for renovation of the LSU Union and Theater, and

Whereas, the hurricanes of August 2005 increased construction costs by 40% in the state of Louisiana, making the student fee insufficient to fund the renovation of the Union Theater; and

Whereas, the current condition of the LSU Student Union Theater is untenable by any artistic, academic, or communal standard due to: the presence of standing water in its orchestra pits; sagging ceiling tiles in the theatre main; enforced closure of the Union Colonnade Theatre; insufficient number of restroom facilities; and inadequate technology essential to the cultivation of a dynamic and engaging lively arts community as envisioned by the Flagship Agenda; and
Whereas, for LSU to compete with its peer institutions it must demonstrate its commitment to the arts as inherently important to the cultural vitality of the university community; and

Whereas, the original plans allowed for the creation of a theater that would be both state-of-the-art in its technological innovation and a showcase for the performances that make LSU the Flagship University of the state of Louisiana.

Therefore, be it resolved that the LSU A & M Faculty Senate hereby urges and requests that LSU Chancellor Sean O’Keefe, LSU System President William Jenkins and the LSU Board of Supervisors make every effort to identify and secure sufficient funding for the renovation of the LSU Union Theater as originally proposed.

DISCUSSION: Senator King asked if LSU owns the Shaw Center. Cogburn answered that neither Manship Theater nor Swine Palace is owned by LSU. It is a “front door” to the university. Gautier is surprised that there are thousands of people coming to events, don’t their tickets pay for the renovation? No, they don’t pay for it. President Daly queried if the Faculty Senate resolution would override the student referendum which didn’t support the renovation. Senator Perilis asked if this theater should be in the Union. Cogburn replied that the master plan has it in the Union. Senator Suzanne Marchand asked if the faculty couldn’t help pay for the theater, that is, could the faculty be assessed for the charge. Senator Cogburn said there are some laws that might prohibit this. President Daly suggested that faculty donate money to Forever LSU to support the Union renovation fund. He thanked Senator Cogburn for his work on this issue.

**Preliminary evaluation of the effect of the new W/F policy -- Andrew Christie, Chair, Admissions, Standards and Honors Committee**

The new “W” policy is working, in that the number of withdrawals has decreased. The committee is continuing to analyze data concerning grade point averages for students now that they are allowed fewer “drops.”

**Report on Campus Construction and Domino Impact on Space Evolution -- Chuck Wilson, Vice Provost**

Capital Outlay Presentation

Residential Life, the Union, the Recreation Center, Parking and Athletics all have master plans. These are funded either by the State, self-generated revenues, or private funds. The campus has four capital outlay categories. Emergency projects (for example, the leaking roof at the Vet School and Choppin Hall) are given the highest priority for State funds; self-generated projects are funded by revenue that LSU receives such as Residential Life and the Student Union, continuing projects (like the Choppin Annex) are projects funded by State dollars in prior Legislative Sessions, and new projects are projects funded by State dollars in the pending Legislative Session. All projects involving any State funds go through the legislative approval process. Emergency projects get funding because they are critical, self-generated projects have an identified source of funds so they are approved, but among the rest, only top projects get approval. Out of 30 projects on LSU’s 2007-8 Capital Outlay request four or five make it into the request to the legislature by the Board of Regents.

The only new project that has gone forward in the Board of Regents requests in this Legislative Session is renovation of Old Howe-Russell. Senator Gauthier asked if this process is for LSU-Baton Rouge only. Vice Provost Wilson answered that the requests mentioned above were only for the LSU – Baton Rouge (including the Vet School), our Capital Outlay requests were separate from the Ag School, the Law School, and Pennington; they request money separately. A problem with recent construction projects has been cost overrun due to increased materials and labor. LSU must request the extra dollars to pay for the overrun from the State which can slow down the process.

Vice Provost Wilson asked senators to consider what brings students to LSU. Based on a recent nationwide survey, the condition of facilities, (housing, library, laboratories, and classrooms) was the number one criteria in selecting an institution. So facility management is crucial for recruiting.
LSU has been very successful in getting federal matching dollars to help make LSU a more pedestrian-friendly campus. A student fee and athletics are providing matching dollars for this federal grant program.

Vice Provost Wilson described what he calls the Domino Study. Three things are driving it: Kirby Smith is being vacated by Residential Life, Barnes and Noble will vacate the union and move into the new parking garage and The Music & Dramatic Arts Building will be completed which will empty Hatcher. There is a domino effect when you start moving people. The Vice Provost then discussed some examples of the ‘domino effect’ produced by these vacancies: Disability Services, Career Services and the Office of the Dean of Students could move into the Student Union when the bookstore moves. Kirby has thirteen floors; each floor can have up to thirty offices. All Admissions functions could be moved into Pleasant Hall if we relocate all or part of Continuing Ed into Kirby Smith. Music and Dramatic Arts will leave Hatcher Hall in fourteen months, they will then return to the renovated Music and Dramatic Arts Building. Hatcher will be “swing” space for the Howe Russell renovation, but since they don’t need it all, the Speech Disorder program will move to the basement of Hatcher Hall. The Senators thanked Vice Chancellor Wilson for this presentation and update.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm.