LSU Faculty Senate Meeting
3:00 P.M., Wednesday, April 16th, 2008
Atchafalaya Room, LSU Union

Attendance
Faculty Senate Executive Committee members present:
1. Kevin L. Cope (Senate President)
2. Andrew Christie (Vice-President)
3. James R. Stoner Jr. (Secretary)
4. Pratul K. Ajmera (Member-at-Large)
5. Judith Schiebout (Member-at-Large)
6. George Stanley (Member-at-Large)
7. William H. Daly (Past President)

Parliamentarian: Charles N Delzell (present)

Senators present:
1. Pratul K. Ajmera
2. Priscilla D. Allen
3. Nicholas G. Apostolou
4. William W. Armstrong
5. Sue G Bartlett
6. Henry D. Bellamy
7. Kevin L. Cope
8. Hollis Utah Cox
9. D. Larry Crumbley
10. Dennis W. Duffield
11. Bruce E Eilts
12. Jeffrey Gillespie
13. Steve Hand
14. Wanda Hargroder
15. Scott W. Harris
16. Paul L. Hrycay
17. Lisa Johnson
18. Boryung Ju
19. Jeremy King
20. Richard L. Kurtz
21. Paul A. Larock
22. Vincent J. Licata
23. Kasia Madsen
24. Patrick McGee
25. Heather McKillop
26. Douglas McMillin
27. Kenneth W. McMillin
28. Jorge F. Morales
29. Carol E. O’Neil
30. Bruce Mark Olcott
31. Frederick G. Ortner
32. Dorothy Prowell
33. Steve Ross
34. Kelly Rusch
35. Adelaide Russo
36. Frederick Sheldon
37. Edward Song
39. George Stanley
40. Jeffrey Tiger
41. Beth N. Tope
42. Dottie Vaughn
43. Muhammad Wahab
44. Maud Maureen Walsh
45. Richard Warga
46. Paul Wilson

Proxies for absent Senators:
Kevin L. Cope for Pratul K. Ajmera (until 3:40 pm)
Sue G Bartlett for Linda Allen
Dottie Vaughn for Charles N Delzell
Jeffrey Tiger for Emily Elliott
Richard L. Kurtz for Juhan Frank, Erwin D. Poliakoff
Jeffrey Gillespie for P. Lynn Kennedy
Paul Wilson for Joan M. King
Muhammad Wahab for Ronald F. Malone, Su-Seng Pang
John Fletcher for James L. Murphy
Scott W. Harris for Patsy Scates
William H. Daly for Kevin Smith

Senators absent without proxies + (# of absences without proxies):
1. Fred Aghazadeh (3)
2. Jacqueline Bach (2)
3. Brittan A. Barker (5)
4. Robert K. Goidel (4)
5. Jennifer L. Jolly (3)
6. Jeff S. Kuehny (5)
7. Suzanne Marchand (11)
9. Dan B. Rinks (4)
10. Keith Robinson (8)
11. James Sullivan (17)
12. Michael Wascom (3)
13. Richard White (2)
Introduction of Guests
Guests were introduced and urged to sign in on the attendance sheet. Guests attending the April meeting included:
Astrid Merget, Vice Chancellor and Provost
Brooks Keel, Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development
Robert Kuhn, Vice Provost for Fiscal Management
Stacia Haynie, Vice-Provost
Robert Doolos, University Registrar
Prentiss “Penny” Ferguson, LA Federation of Teachers
Jordan Blum, The Advocate
Liz Condo, The Advocate

Consideration of the Minutes for the meetings of February 19, 2008, and March 14, 2008

The minutes for the meetings February 19, 2008, and March 14, 2008, having been circulated, it was moved by George Stanley, seconded, and voted that each set of minutes be approved.

President’s Report

President Kevin Cope delivered his report to the Senate. Among the items he brought to the attention of the Senate were the following. The ad hoc Committee on the Whistleblower Policy and the ad hoc Committee on Interdisciplinary and Interdepartmental Studies have been going about their work, the former submitting a preliminary report. The question raised at a previous meeting about multiple commencements during the year has been referred to LSU historian Paul Hoffman, who will report in May. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) received briefings (a) about campus safety from Police Major Lawrence Rabalais, who is working with Associate Vice Chancellor Eric Monday to develop an information sheet on emergency procedures for faculty, and (b) from Vice Chancellor Brooks Keel, who discussed plans for the development of the South Campus at the old GSRI site below Baton Rouge. The Chancellor Search Committee will meet April 21; thus far few applicants have been named publicly. President Cope has met with Carolyn Hargrave of the LSU System to express concern about the downscaling of admission requirements at LSU. He has also met with the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates, received a briefing regarding the university’s budget before the legislature, and will attend a conference of SEC Faculty Senate Presidents at the end of the month. He also noted that the AAUP has issued a new report on the economic status of the profession.

Special Report from Major General R. G. Richard, USMC (ret.), CEO of the Tiger Athletic Foundation

Major General R.G. Richard, USMC (ret.), reported to the Senate on the activities of the Tiger Athletic Foundation, stressing the primary mission of the TAF, to ensure that every student athlete graduates, and secondarily that TAF provides financial support to the Athletic Department. He spoke at some length about specific projects funded by the Foundation, for example the development of the Academic Center for Athletes and the adjacent Campbell Auditorium, as well as the reconstruction of the upper west side of Tiger Stadium a few years ago. Registrar Robert Doolos commended the Foundation for its financial support for renovating classrooms on campus. The General closed with an expression of gratitude towards LSU, from which he graduated and to which he attributed his achievements.

Extraordinary Report from Brooks Keel, Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development, Astrid Merget, Vice Chancellor and Provost, and Robert Kuhn, Vice-Provost for Fiscal Management

Vice Chancellor Brooks Keel had been scheduled to address the Senate, but a particular crisis having arisen concerning next year’s funding for the university, he began by speaking to this issue. LSU had requested a tuition increase and the addition of an operation fee, but student government leaders had voiced their opposition to these, and officials in the governor’s administration had apparently let it be known that they would support the increase in tuition and fees only if the students did. Provost Merget mentioned the importance of maintaining momentum with the Flagship Agenda, but expressed concern that student leadership has not fully understood the reason for the tuition and fee hike, making it potentially difficult to represent the proposal as having the support of the campus. Vice-Provost Kuhn went into details about proposed additions to LSU funding in the budget now before the legislature. Mandated costs would be funded by the state, but funds for merit salary increases for faculty and staff
are not in the current bills before the House, and additional funding is needed as well for the two new scholarship programs, Pelican Promise and the National Scholars Program. He detailed how raising tuition could fund faculty salary increases and allow us to continue advancing the university, noting as well how affordable an LSU education would still be in comparison with most other universities.

President Cope then suggested a motion might be introduced to endorse the efforts of the administration to obtain additional funding, and former president William Daly responded by proposing:

**LSU Faculty Senate Resolution 08–08**

“Endorsement of LSU Administration Efforts to Secure Funding”

Sponsored by William Daly

WHEREAS the University needs $18.7 million to carry forward the Flagship Agenda and maintain high quality faculty,

WHEREAS the first option for obtaining this funding would be a direct appropriation from the general fund,

WHEREAS an alternate option would be to allow a tuition increase,

WHEREAS a second alternate option would be to institute an operational fee,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate encourage and support the efforts of the administration at LSU to achieve these goals.

The motion was seconded by Vice President Andrew Christie. A motion to suspend the rules passed unanimously, allowing an immediate vote on Resolution 08-08, and it, too, was unanimously passed.

**Special Report from Brooks Keel, Vice Chancellor for Research and Economic Development**

At this point, with the consent of the Senate, Vice Chancellor Keel resumed his planned report. He explained that his office funded research across the campus. He spoke particularly about the Multidisciplinary Hiring Initiative, as part of which three initiatives were approved for support last year – in Computer Science, Materials Science, and Atlantic Studies – and two more were approved this spring: a digital media and entertainment initiative called “AVATAR” which blends the humanities and high-powered computing, and a Louisiana Poverty Center, which would bring in scholars to help us understand and cure that disease. In addition, $1 million has been allocated to two major opportunities: faculty travel grants, and faculty research grants which provide seed money to help faculty seek major outside grants. The Council on Research manages these programs and is considering assembling an administrative team that could be deployed to departments to help them prepare major grants.

Senator Paul Wilson asked about occupancy of the new building for emerging technology; apparently its opening is imminent and all its space is spoken for. Senator Heather McKillop spoke approvingly of the Council on Research grants and hoped that program would not be displaced by plans for a grant-writing team. Several comments followed concerning the advantage of locating teams of scholars working on related projects in adjacent space. In response to a question from Senator Sue Bartlett, Vice Chancellor Keel explained the peer-review process by which finalists for the Multidisciplinary Hiring Initiative were identified.

**New Business**

The Senate agreed to the President’s proposal that, due to the shortage of time and the lateness of the term, new business be admitted before old business, allowing resolutions to be introduced so as to permit a vote this semester.

**1) Introduction of Faculty Senate Resolution 08-07, “Parking during the Evening”**

Senator Patrick McGee introduced the following resolution:
WHEREAS, those faculty with C Lot passes who teach evening courses have experienced difficulties with parking for decades;

WHEREAS, many evening courses begin at 6 pm, and those faculty usually have office hours for evening students who work during the day from 5 to 6 pm, while other courses begin at 4:30 pm;

WHEREAS, currently the gates open for student entry between 4:00 and 4:30 pm in a seemingly random manner that creates havoc in some C Lots during the time when many faculty are trying to reach their offices in order meet with students or their classrooms in order to teach;

WHEREAS, increased fees for parking at LSU, particularly in the C Lots, have been substantial in relation to overall compensation but have not led to any corresponding increase in services;

WHEREAS, the current solution of the Office of Parking, Traffic, and Transportation, which makes the C Lot and ten spaces in the lot adjacent to Taylor Hall available to faculty with C Lot passes who teach in the evening, does not present a viable alternative to those faculty who teach at some distance from those lots;

WHEREAS, offering evening courses that represent all levels of the curriculum from lower division undergraduate courses to graduate seminars is crucial to the community that LSU serves, and departments frequently struggle to offer an appropriate number of courses during that time period;

WHEREAS, teaching in the evening is voluntary for some faculty and mandatory for others, and the problem with parking becomes a disincentive to those faculty who would volunteer and consequently enhances the burden of those faculty who have no choice in their teaching assignments;

BE IT RESOLVED, that the LSU Faculty Senate strongly recommends that the Office of Parking, Traffic, and Transportation keep all C Lots closed to students until 5 pm so that faculty who teach during the day and faculty who teach in the evening may exit and arrive without conflict with students in search of parking; and that the gates be scheduled to open simultaneously so that no single lot becomes the primary focus of student drivers. Furthermore, if it is feasible, the gates to the C Lots should be programmed to open for faculty with B passes after 4:00 pm.

The motion was seconded by Senator Adelaide Russo. Brief discussion followed, during which the resolution was praised as “fantastic,” but consideration was, according to the usual rules, delayed until the next meeting of the Senate.

2) Elections

At this point, election of officers for the Senate during the 2008-09 academic year were held. Without opposition, President Kevin Cope and Vice President Andrew Christie were reelected; President Cope thanked the Senate and commented that his term of service had been one of the most wondrous years of his academic career. George Stanley was elected Secretary without opposition, too. There were three candidates for two positions as member-at-large, the third member-at-large position being reserved for a member of the incoming class of new senators in the fall. The three candidates – Pratul Ajmera, Priscilla Allen, and Judith Schiebout – addressed the Senate. A secret ballot was conducted, and it was later announced that Pratul Ajmera and Priscilla Allen had been chosen members-at-large.

3) Comments on HB 179 and Introduction of Penny Ferguson of the Louisiana Federation of Teachers

Past president William Daly introduced Penny Ferguson, vice president of the Louisiana Federation of Teachers, to explain to the Senate HB 179, which proposes changes to leave policy at Louisiana colleges and universities and
which he recommends faculty oppose. The bill would change annual leave and sick leave for 12-month employees and sick leave for 9-month employees into one category of leave called “Paid Time Off.” The new form of leave would be established as a matter of policy at various institutions rather than fixed as a matter of state law, and the current ability to accrue leave, and sometimes receive monetary compensation for unused leave when terminating employment, would apparently not remain under the new legislation. Mr. Ferguson insisted that if this bill moves forward, faculty will lose.

4) Introduction of Faculty Senate Resolution 08-09, “Appropriate Selection of LA Core 4 Curriculum as the TOPS Criteria”

Past president William Daly introduced the following resolution:

**LSU Faculty Senate Resolution 08–09**

“Appropriate Selection of LA Core 4 Curriculum as the TOPS Criteria”

Sponsored by William Daly

WHEREAS the Louisiana Senate is considering making the TOPS core curriculum the same as the LA Core 4 curriculum as adopted by BESE on August 15, 2008. (Senate Bill 362 by Senator Nevers),

WHEREAS there are multiple options within the LA Core 4 curriculum,

WHEREAS TOPS is a merit based college tuition program,

WHEREAS to assure that high school graduates are eligible for TOPS awards, secondary schools are stimulated to offer rigorous high school core curricula,

WHEREAS TOPS provides financial incentives as a reward for excellent academic performance in a rigorous high school core curricula,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate encourage and support the adoption of the LA Core 4 Academic Endorsement Option as the criteria for the TOPS award. This option requires 19 units, which include 4 units of English, 4 units of Math including advanced math selections, four units of rigorous Science, 4 units of Social Studies, 2 units of Foreign Language and 1 unit of Art. The rigorous Science units would preferably include Biology, Chemistry and Physics.

The motion was seconded and past president Daly spoke briefly in its favor, full consideration being reserved for the next meeting.

5) Announcement from Amy Muse, Textbook Manager at the LSU Union Bookstore

Amy Muse, Textbook Manager at the LSU Union Bookstore, announced to the faculty that Tuesday and Wednesday, April 22 and 23, would be Textbook Audit Day, when a special booth would be set up between 9:00 am and 4:00 pm next to the Cox booth on the ground floor of the Union, to allow faculty to check on the status of their textbook orders for fall semester.

6) Introduction of Faculty Senate Resolution 08-10,

Senator Russo, on behalf of the Faculty Senate Library Committee, introduced the following resolution in more or less this form (appendix omitted):
LSU Faculty Senate Resolution 08-10
Flagship Library Status Improvements
Sponsored by Adelaide M. Russo

WHEREAS a Library is a pivotal facility in higher education, by virtue of its instructional, educational, and research support for campus, academic colleagues and public;

WHEREAS the useful library is not a static entity, but adapts to changing needs and new developments while preserving for access the accumulated wealth of society;

WHEREAS the LSU Flagship Agenda identifies the Rank of the LSU library as a performance indicator of achievable success using “the Rank of libraries (according to the Association of Research Libraries)” (ARL);

WHEREAS the LSU Flagship Agenda includes the goal “to increase annual library collections and access to scholarly material by 50 percent”;

WHEREAS the LSU ARL rank has been, for many years, at the bottom ten percent of the 114 ARL institutions in terms of expenditures and recognized sub-categories of holdings, resource use, and student and faculty support (see appendices); and LSU expenditures were ranked 107 of 114 in 2006;

WHEREAS the LSU campus seeks to increase enrollment, which will put further demands on the Library;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate requests the LSU administration to develop a Plan for implementing improvements in the LSU library budget sufficient to raise it to a rank commensurate with the goals of the Flagship Agenda status. The rank shall be identified using metrics comparable to the Association of Research Libraries and a timetable identified. For example, the goal might be stated to be the 30th ranked library in terms of expenditures within 10 years. A plan shall be developed to implement this goal with annual milestones that include financial commitments, and this plan will be reported to the Faculty Senate, perhaps with the involvement of the Faculty Senate Library Committee.

The motion was seconded, but there was no time for discussion this afternoon.

Adjournment, by rule, at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Stoner, Jr.
Secretary