The meeting was called to order by President Collier at 3:03 pm. Senator Liuzzo moved to approve the minutes of the March meeting; Senator Hebert seconded the motion, which was approved. Visitors included Vice Chancellor Coleman, Jenkins, Baudin, Eaton, and Moore; Assoc. Vice Chancellor Fogal, Zganjar and Undaay; Francea Roper (Acad Affairs); Staff Senate President Ken Colby; SGA President Stephen Moret; and Sandy Hubbert (LSU Today).

Visitor Presentations

Representative Yvonne Dorsey of District 67 spoke on the Legislature and higher education. She admitted to not being an education expert in the Legislature (focus is on criminal justice) but because LSU is in her district she will be coming up to speed. She is sympathetic to LSU’s problems and the past funding cuts and will be fighting very hard for higher education in general and LSU in particular. She was elected in mid-session and had to vote to renew taxes to fund higher education. This was hard to do because many of her constituents are indigent. She is in favor of a non-regressive tax. Current activities in the Legislature: The desegregation lawsuit (March 1974) will have a trial date April 18 if no settlement is achieved before that. The Louisiana Accountability in Public Higher Education Committee established by the 1993 Legislature was due to report in March 30. She serves on the Higher Education Budget Reduction Committee. The October, 1993 Master Plan adopted by the Board of Regents has 5 goals: improve access, promote high quality programs and academic excellence, strengthen economic development, acknowledging the importance of diversity, and improving effectiveness and accountability in higher education. Implementation is thought to depend largely on the Board and the new Commissioner of Higher Education. Dorsey does not support dedication of funds for higher education, but instead supports undedicating other areas of the budget. She supports a community college system since many young people don’t go to college but a form of higher education is needed for them. She supports our efforts, supports funding at an "appropriate level," knows of the need for faculty raises and building maintenance.

Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost Jenkins spoke as the representative of Chancellor Davies who was absent for a funeral. Jenkins reported that there is no clear resolution of next year’s budget yet. The Governor’s Executive Budget is flat (absent even normal continuation budget growth items) with an additional supplementary budget relying on gambling revenues to pay for raises for state employees. Jenkins asked VC Baudin to discuss further. The Executive Budget (H.B. 1) submitted by the governor is standstill based on 93-94 minus civil service step raises which LSU has to pay. LSU requested $34 million for continuation budget which was taken out by the governor, so there is less money to do the same work. Problems of 7/1 include $330K for faculty promotion and $750K for civil service step raises, or over $1M shortfall in addition to loss of other continuation needs. Question: were tuition raises permanent? Yes - they kept financial exigency away and avoided layoffs. There is no support for further tuition increases this year. Question: is the proposed deferred maintenance fee issue still alive? Yes, but just barely. Senator Catano: we have a flat budget and 8-9% increased costs? Yes - we have to make up the one-time levy last year of $1.5M from LSU auxiliaries, $2.3M from decreased student enrollment this year, and faculty promotions and civil service step raises. Jenkins reported that the proposed calendar is now with the System Office. PS-36 is a good document, but it is relatively new and has a few ambiguities and conflicting statements. It needs to be fine tuned but he is pleased with it. Jenkins has charged
Assoc VC Fogel with reviewing the entire summer school "exercise," he will constitute a committee with faculty and others. There is some unfairness and some disadvantages, especially for graduate students. Changes will be effective Summer 1995. Student recruiting is not a trivial matter: see two needs. 1) Need to attract students to LSU - currently establishing "Chancellor's Quality Recruitment Teams" splitting the state into 11 districts; they will include faculty, admissions staff, alumni, and administrators. 2) Need to work on reducing student attrition, which is as important as need 1.

President's Report
President Collier summarized the year. Most of the college Planning documents are now in; they will be reviewed by the Strategic Planning Committee, the Council of Policy Committees, the Executive Committee, and the Budget Committee. Planning is also in progress Research and Economic Development and in Student Affairs. The CPC was constituted this year and is functioning. A Commission on General Education was established, chaired by Michael Pitts who also chairs the Senate Gen Ed Committee. They have made an interim report suggesting short-term improvements, but will continue to consider general philosophical issues. The delay in crediting of payments to the Optional Retirement Plan has been corrected. The Executive Committees has begun review of PS-36 (a summary of suggested PS-36 revisions from the FSEC was distributed). Senate standing committees are to review their charges in light of an upcoming revision of Senate Bylaws and Constitution. The Association of Louisiana Faculty Senate was established last Fall; members have been meeting with legislators to explore establishing a higher education caucus. An Accountability Advisory Committee was established by the Legislature; through efforts of Bill Silva of the System Office one faculty representative to one of the subcommittees was approved (Strain). President reviewed all Senate resolutions passed since the last Faculty Council meeting (92-10 to 93-03); none had received requests from faculty for reconsideration. Hala Bernard, new president of the Alumni Association, will speak at the May Senate meeting. The Alumni Association will host a reception honoring retiring members of the Senate following the May Senate at the Faculty Club.

Other Reports
Senator Strain reported on the Ad Hoc Committee to Review PS-78 (Smoking Policy). Executive Vice-Chancellor Coleman set up the committee in response to student efforts and a past Senate resolution. Members included two faculty (Strain - Vet Physiol, Betinski - For Lang), staff (Glenna Simms - Hum Ecol, Doris Winfrey - Res Life) and students Stephen (Moret, Tracy Smith, chair). A draft revision of the PS has been written and is being finalized. The new policy, which must be approved by the Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, Deans and Directors, Vice-Chancellors, Chancellor; and University attorneys, bans smoking in non-residential University buildings, but provides a mechanism for obtaining exemption. Copies of the draft will be mailed to Senators as soon as available.

Old Business
Senate Resolution 93-04 - Publishing PS-36 in the Faculty Handbook was discussed. Senator Hebert, the author, stated that every new faculty member gets the Handbook; if PS-36 is not published in the Handbook they may never see it. Because of the additional cost Senator Strain suggested that reference be made to the availability in every department office of the PS; Senator McGehee didn't want an abbreviated form printed for fear of misinterpretation of an already complicated document. Senator Kinney asked if printing just the flow charts from the PS would be sufficient; McGehee felt this was not sufficient. Senator Kinney moved tabling the resolution. Senator Condrey seconded the motion, which passed.

Senate Resolution 93-05 - Additional Funding for LSU Libraries was briefly discussed and passed.

New Business
Elections were held for Senate officers of 1994-95. Those elected were: President - Billie Collier (Hum Ecol), Vice-President - Connie Van Fleet (SLIS), Secretary - George Strain (Vet Physiol), Members-at-Large - Pratul Ajmera (Elec Eng) and Erwin Poliakoff (Chem).

Elections were held for those Senate and University committees specified as requiring election. Elected for Committees on Committees were: Ellen Glickman-Weiss (Kinesiology), Arlo Landolt (Physic.), Beth Paszkoff (SLIS). Elected for Grievance Committee were: Emily Betinski (For Lang), Ron Snider (Vet Path) and Barbara Witzkopf (Library). Elected for Review and Long Range Planning were: Wissapa Jayawardana (Ports & Waterways), Eugene Witzkopf (Pol Sci), and Marc Cohn (Plant Path). All of the above are 3-year terms. Elected to the Budget Committee (2 years) was George Strain (Vet Physiol). Elected to represent LSU at next year's Conference of Louisiana Colleges and Universities were: Paul Hoffman (History) and Patsy Perritt (SLIS).

Senator Feldman, seconded by Senator Mandladelsohn, moved the following resolution, which will be considered at the May Senate meeting:

Senate Resolution 93-06

Whereas, acts of sexual or racial discrimination interfere with the University's function as an educational institution, and
Whereas, the University does not condone such acts, and
Whereas, such acts nevertheless continue to occur on campus,
The Faculty Senate resolves that such acts by an individual, especially if repeated, are strongly condemned and may be considered as evidence of that individual's moral turpitude.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:33 pm.

George Strain
Secretary