Faculty Senate Meeting
April 12, 1995

President's Report:

President Strain reported Chancellor Davis' response to Senate Resolution 94-08 (administrator's salaries). The Chancellor had agreed with the Senate that there was a need for a public gesture to inform the public and the legislature of the dire need for appropriate funding for higher education as well as the need to address all salaries. Instead of following the Senate's suggestion that the Chancellor donate his raise to the Library and instructional equipment fund, the Chancellor has chosen to donate the disposable portion ($5,000-7,000) of his raise to scholarships. President Strain said that this was still in the spirit of what was asked for in the resolution, and that the Senate was pleased with this decision.

President Strain reported that he had notified the appropriate Policy Committee chairs across campus of the need to hold elections in the colleges for Senate vacancies. The Bylaws specify that the President inform the Senate of the people eligible in each college for the elections. The college representatives are:

- A&S - Mike Hawkins
- Agriculture - Malcolm Wright
- Basic Sci - Bush Jones
- Bus. Adm. - Geoffrey Turnbull
- Design - Cymbre Raub
- Education - Tom Hosie
- Engineering - Gregory Griffin
- SLIS - Patsy Perrett
- Music - David Smyth
- Vet. Medicine - David Horohov
- CAMD - John Scott
- Museum Complex - Michael Fitzsimons
- Social Work - Brij Mohan
- Library - Faith Philips

There were no vacancies to be filled in Mass Comm, General College, or CCEER.

Changes have been made in the operation of Summer School as a result of the recommendations of the Summer School Committee. Faculty representatives on that committee were Jim Honeycutt, Danny Wallace, Bill Daly, and Alan Marshak. A director will be appointed after receipt of the recommendations of the Evening School Committee. It is probable that one person will be asked to be in charge of both those operations. Dean Fogel, acting director of Summer School, has provided the following information regarding Summer School. The schedule was planned to minimize courses being offered at the same time when many students might be expected to want to take both. Course offerings that definitely would be offered were identified early to enable planning by students. Beginning next summer, the short sessions will be 5 weeks long with a short break between these two sessions. Summer faculty are to be compensated at the same rate in...
the Summer Term as during regular semesters. If anyone learns that this is not the case, President Strain or Dean Fogel should be contacted.

The Proaction Commission for the 21st Century has met once. The Commission has been charged with planning the implementation of the recommendations of the 21st Century Commission for Higher Education. The group has agreed to support the concept of a constitutional amendment to protect higher education funding, and to support the development of a new formula for funding higher education. It also agreed on the need for a state-wide educational campaign to inform people about the benefits Louisiana receives from higher education. Governor Edwards has agreed to testify before the House Appropriations Committee in support of a constitutional protection and the need for a new formula. Mark Drennan, president of the Public Affairs Research Council, will also testify in support of the constitutional amendment as an interim solution. SECURE, on which Drennan also sits, has recommended un-dedicating all state funds, but this is unlikely.

President Strain announced the results of the mail ballot on the Faculty Senate Constitutional amendments: 401 votes were in favor and 21 opposed.

President Strain reported that the Board of Trustees of the State Group Benefits Plan proposed a premium rate increase of approximately 5.7% on all insured employees, including those in HMO’s. This is the result of a $45M deficit projected for the next year, primarily the result of heavy usage of the State Plan by retirees. Their solution was to raise rates for everyone and cut benefits for those on the State Plan. The Staff Senate organized a meeting to which they invited the Board to meet, but on the advice of council the Board sent their attorney and the program administrator. The decision to increase the premiums remained unchanged.

Other Reports:

Paul Hoffman (HIST) reported on the Conference of Louisiana Colleges and Universities which he and Patsy Perritt (SLIS) attended as the Senate’s representatives. The topic of this year’s meeting was “Retention: A Campus-wide Challenge.” Recruitment, orientation and the first six weeks of the Freshman year are critical in retention. Faculty are often the missing ingredient in institutional strategies for keeping students. Faculty need to be re-engaged with students: academic culture needs to change to pay attention to student needs. The most effective method for reducing drop out among all students new to an institution is a small-group experience and a close relationship with a particular faculty member. Use of various testing instruments to assist students in assessing abilities such as learning styles, intervention for at risk students, and collection of data on student experiences and performances are part of a successful program to increase retention. The former national trend to replace faculty with student affairs specialists is being reversed. Retention is cost-effective, and the small-group experiences generate SCH’s and tuition. The pattern of freshman instruction needs to be changed from the lecture to more small-group work.

Senator Fletcher (ASH, char) reported on the ASH recommendation concerning repeat/delete. In 1993, the ASH Committee had recommended that the Senate not adopt a repeat/delete policy, and the Senate endorsed its recommendation. In Sept. 1994, SGA requested that the Senate reexamine this issue. Accordingly, Provost Jenkins, Assoc. Vice-Chancellor Lindsay, President Strain and Dr. Fletcher met with members of SGA. A report was sent to President Strain which he forwarded to the ASH Committee who met with officers of SGA. Dr. Fletcher reported that ASH has again recommended that the Senate not endorse a repeat/delete policy.

Senator Stoner commented that the generous drop policy should be examined since the current policy allows students to drop rather than work harder when a course becomes difficult. Dr. Fletcher responded that originally the ASH Committee did address the issue of a drop policy and wrote a policy that was very rigid compared to what LSU currently has. It was approved by the Senate, but by the time it wound up in the catalogue the original wording, which said “that a student shall drop no more than five courses during their college career,” was changed to “should not exceed.” However, this time, the ASH Committee was concerned purely with the concept of changing transcripts. However, the ASH Committee would take up the drop policy if the Senate directed the committee to do so. Senator Ajmera asked Dr. Fletcher if it could be possible to revisit repeat-delete with the students’ concerns in mind. There is a perception problem between the students and the faculty. If ASH reconsidered repeat-delete in conjunction with the drop policy perhaps a compromise could be reached. Dr. Fletcher responded that the vote of the ASH Committee was unanimous. Members of the committee were adamant about the whole concept or philosophy of tampering with transcripts. Senator Ajmera asked if the drop policy was part of the equation when repeat/delete was considered. Dr. Fletcher answered that the committee never got to the operational policy itself because the committee was opposed to the philosophy of repeat/delete. If a transcript is supposed to be an accurate historical record, then it should
not be changed. Senator Ajmera responded that he was concerned about LSU graduates who must compete on the job market with graduates from institutions which have a generous repeat/delete policy.

Old Business:
Resolution 94-07 (Library Funding) was brought to the floor. The resolution was moved by Dr. Fletcher and seconded by Senator Barkley. Resolution 94-07 passed unanimously.

New Business:
Senator Collier moved Resolution 94-09 (Commendation of Jim Richardson) and made a motion to suspend the rules and vote on this resolution at the April 12 meeting. There being a quorum present, the motion to suspend the rules was voted on and passed.

SENATE RESOLUTION 94-09
Whereas, Jim Richardson was appointed to the Louisiana State Revenue Estimating Conference to provide expertise in the field of economics, and
Whereas, Jim Richardson was appointed to the Louisiana State Revenue Estimating Conference to provide objective assessment of fiscal matters of concern to the citizens of Louisiana, and
Whereas, Jim Richardson has discharged these responsibilities with ability and integrity,
Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty of Louisiana State University commends Jim Richardson for ably discharging his responsibilities to the citizens of Louisiana.
Resolution 94-09 passed unanimously.

Resolution 94-10 (Courses and Curriculum Committee Membership) was moved by Senator Hebert and seconded by Senator de Caro.

SENATE RESOLUTION 94-10
Whereas, the Faculty Senate Courses and Curricula Committee is empowered "to consult, when deemed appropriate, with departments which appear to be affected by proposed changes in courses and curricula" (Faculty Senate Bylaws), and
Whereas, the Committee often deems it appropriate to invite representatives from various University units to supply the Committee with information and answer questions, and
Whereas, all curricular proposals for new programs are routinely sent to all Deans and Directors, and
Whereas, the Courses and Curricula Committee is a standing committee of the Faculty Senate, which excludes members of the Council of Academic Deans and Directors,
Therefore be it resolved that the Bylaws of the Faculty Senate of Louisiana State University be changed so that the membership of the Faculty Senate Courses and Curricula Committee does not include any member of the Council of Academic Deans and Directors.
(Note: Faculty Senate Bylaws changes require a ¾ majority vote.)

President Strain announced the candidates for membership on elected Faculty Senate Committees who had been nominated by the Committee on Committees. President Strain asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, it was moved and seconded to close the nominations. Members elected to the University Budget Committee, Jim Honeycutt (Speech Comm); to the Review and Long Range Planning Committee, Kenneth McMillan (Animal Science) and Paul Wilson (Horticulture); to the Committee on Committees, Fakhri Al-Bagdadi (Vet Anatomy), Kenneth Kitchell (Foreign Languages), Andrew Kleit (Economics) and Yvonne Marquette (Human Ecology); to the Faculty Grievance Committee, James C. Garand (Political Science), Michael Gurt (Music), Martin Hugh-Jones (Epidemiology), and Chuck Rush (Plant Pathology). President Strain announced that the Executive Committee would determine which newly elected member to the Grievance Committee would complete the two years remaining in Emily Batinski’s term. Jim Catano (English) and Betsy Garrison (Human Ecology) were elected as delegates to the Conference of Louisiana Colleges and Universities.

The candidates for Faculty Senate Officers, nominated in accordance with the Bylaws of the Faculty Senate, Article VII, Section 2, were announced. The floor was opened for addition nominations. There being none, it was moved and seconded to close nominations. George Strain (Vet Med) was elected President; John Collier (Chem E) was elected Vice-president; Ken Paxton (Ag Economics) was elected Secretary; Roger Stockbauer (Physics) and Barbara Wittkopf (Library) were elected as Members-at-Large.

There being no further new business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:35 PM.

Emily Batinski
Secretary