HIGHLIGHTS FROM FACULTY SENATE MEETING
April 1, 1997

Senate Elections
- John Collier re-elected President, Jerry Draayer re-elected Vice-President, Katie Cherry elected Secretary

Committee Reports
- SR 96-08 introduced, calling for formative evaluation of faculty teaching through peer observations, teaching portfolios, and other methods of improving committees
- General Education Committee recommended against giving pass-fail credit for upper-level General Education courses

New Business
- SR 96-09 introduced, opposing drug testing of faculty.

Faculty Senate Minutes
April 1, 1997

Meeting called to order at 3:30. Invited guests included David Hurlbert (HRM), Linus Lee (Reveille), Janice Lovett (LSU Today), Art Crawley (Faculty Development), Associate Vice Chancellor Laura Lindsay. Minutes of the March 6 meeting were unanimously approved by a voice vote.

Faculty Senate Elections. Elections for 1997-98 were held by paper ballots throughout the meeting. Most candidates made short addresses.

1. Faculty Senate President. No additional nominees came from the floor. John Collier was elected.

2. Faculty Senate Vice-President. Peggy Draughn withdrew her name and nominated Jerry Draayer. Nominations were closed by a voice vote. Jerry Draayer was elected.

3. Secretary. No further nominations were forthcoming, and nominations were closed by voice vote. Katie Cherry was elected.

4. Executive Committee Members-at-Large. Peggy Draughn was nominated by Elizabeth Wilson. Nominations were closed by a voice vote. Malcolm Richardson was elected, as was Dominique Homberger after a run-off.

5. Committee Elections:
   - Grievance Committee: Timothy Chandler, Van Cox, Carruth McGehee
   - Budget Committee: Emily Batinski
   - Committee on Committees: all nominees elected by acclamation.


President's Report
Medical Insurance and HMOs. President Collier went over the steps in the decision-making about HMOs for state employees, as detailed in the March 6 minutes. He explained the motives of the State Group Trustees, especially the goal of moving more retirees into HMOs, and explained the criteria for the selection of HMOs and the rating system during the proposal stage. Part of the selection was based on a per-family bid by each HMO. He pointed out, however, the actual reduction of the number of HMOs was in excess of what was originally desired, and no indication was given in the RFP that such a reduction was imminent. After commending Rick Ramsey, president of the LSU Staff Senate, President Collier reported on his meeting with Donald Ray Kennard, Steve Perry, Chuck McChains, Dan Kyle, Jim Brown, and other state officials, along with LSU employees JoAnn McMullen, Rick Ramsey, and Forest Benedict. He discussed the "shell" bill about HMOs being filed in the legislature, noting that the "shell" nature of the bill enables legislators to modify it as more facts come to light and that it now calls for stricter legislative oversight of Group Benefits.
Group South has filed suit. Open enrollments begin April 21, although there may be a delay in implementation of the current plan. State Group has told universities they will disapprove of university sponsored HMOs. So far, no illegalities have been found in the HMO selection process.

Executive Vice-Chancellor and Provost Position. President Collier, who serves on the search committee for this position, said that they have looked at applications. Laura Lindsay announced that the new structure of the administration will not be complete until the new Executive Vice-Chancellor and Provost is chosen and in place. Harville Eaton’s new title is Vice-Chancellor for Corporate Relations and Strategic Initiatives, while Dan Fogel’s will be Vice-Provost and Graduate Dean. The Chancellor wants faculty consultation on the restructuring.

Lab School. President Collier has been on the Lab School admissions committee, which is trying to make the admissions process less susceptible to political pressure. Under current guidelines, 20% of open positions go to political appointments and 80% to students chosen at random, although weighted for various classifications such as LSU faculty and staff, siblings, etc. This year two-thirds of faculty-staff applicants had children selected. He observed that admission policies should be tied to the school’s mission statement, which is lacking at the moment. He will refuse to serve on the admissions board if a mission statement is not developed. Sen. Freiberg, a lab school teacher, said that teachers do not know the mission and she welcomed the news that such a statement is being considered.

Committee Reports.

General Education Committee (presented by Pam Monroe). The committee report (distributed at the meeting) on Pass-Fail policies recommended against allowing General Education courses at the 3000-level and above to be taken for pass-fail credit. It noted that while the original sentiment was to allow pass-fail for such courses, a survey of department chairs in affected departments showed strong opposition.

Improvement of Instruction Committee (presented by Robert Lax). The committee report (also distributed at the meeting) recommended a series of possible methods of formative evaluations of faculty such as peer observations and teaching portfolios and possible methods of remediation such as mentoring and analysis of videotapes of classes. (The resolution is attached below.) Standards and policies would be developed by each department. Art Crawley said that the Center for Faculty Development could support such efforts with aid from departments. Questions arose about the cut-off point in student evaluations which would require remediation and the relationship among the various measuring instruments. Concern was also expressed that there was no coordination or authority behind the standards. Laura Lindsay stated that Academic Affairs supports the idea of having faculty use and be aware of alternative methods of teaching evaluation.

Arts and Sciences report on Copyright Materials (presented by Gene Witkopf). Current policies on the copying of copyrighted course materials are extremely restrictive and encourage violations among both students and faculty. Prof. Witkopf discussed the well-known Kinko’s case and reminded the senate that in 1994 LSU said it would only back professors in similar suits if they had printed their course packets through the LSU Book Store. However, at the book store the cost is high and the time required lengthy. The reserve system in the library has been changed so that a course packet can only be used once and then destroyed or cleared for copyright. He suggested the Provost bring together attorneys and others to discuss this problem. President Collier said the report was being sent to the library committee for further steps.

New Business.

Senator Lawson presented SR 96-09 for a colleague, Steven Weintraub:

Senate Resolution 96-09, Drug Testing

Whereas the ceding of fundamental rights, including the right to privacy, cannot be a precondition to the employment of LSU faculty; and

Whereas drug testing is a severe invasion of privacy,

Therefore be it resolved that the LSU faculty strongly opposes any policy which would require LSU faculty
to submit to drug testing.

Prof. Weintraub said he felt the "right to privacy" is a personal, not a legal right in the sense used here, and he believes legal standards for searches are being violated by drug testing. Dave Hurlbert of RM said that LSU already has PS-67, which recognizes two situations for drug testing, probable cause and on-the-job accidents. Sen. Stoner asked if the current resolution opposes PS-67. Upon Sen. Homberger’s question about drug testing of students, Mr. Hurlbert said that only athletes and student employees are tested. Sen. Moore moved to add the words "without probable cause" at the end. Amendment passed by voice vote. Sen. Harris moved to suspend the rules and refer the resolution to the executive committee. Passed by a voice vote.

Adjourned at 5:14

Respectfully submitted

Malcolm Richardson
Secretary

Senate Resolution 96-08, Departmental Teaching Development Programs

Whereas the Faculty Senate has charged the Improvement of Instruction Committee to examine alternate/additional measures of evaluation of instruction that would be both intellectually defensible and economically feasible for implementation; and

Whereas the Committee strongly feels that formative evaluations, which are developmental in nature, and summative evaluations, which are used for tenure and promotion decisions, should be separate processes; and

Whereas formative evaluation is an essential element of instructional improvement,

Be it therefore resolved that the Faculty Senate approves the recommendations set forth in this report, dated January 16, 1997, by the Faculty Senate Improvement of Instruction Committee, including the institution of departmental teaching development programs.

Senate Resolution 96-09, Drug Testing

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Whereas drug testing is a severe invasion of privacy

Therefore be it resolved that the LSU faculty strongly opposes any policy which would require LSU faculty to submit to drug testing without probable cause.