### LSU Faculty Senate Meeting

**3:00 P.M., Monday, December 8, 2008**  
**Cotillion Ballroom, LSU Union**

### Attendance

**Faculty Senate Executive Committee members present:**

1. Kevin L. Cope (Senate President, English)  
2. Andrew Christie (Vice-President, Accounting)  
3. George G. Stanley (Secretary, Chemistry)  
4. Renee M Casbergue (Member-at-Large, Education)  
5. Priscilla D. Allen (Member-at-Large, Social Work)

Parliamentarian: Charles N Delzell (present)

**Senators present:**

|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|---------------------|

**Proxies for absent Senators:**

George Stanley for Linda Allen  
Charles Delzell for Dorothy Vaughan  
Kevin L. Cope for Wanda Hargroder  
Kevin L. Cope for Scott Harris  
Kevin L. Cope for Joan King  
Kevin L. Cope for Kelly Rusch  
Kevin L. Cope for Carol O’Neil  
Kevin L. Cope for Jeff Kuehny  
Fred Sheldon for Mary Cathie Aime  
Priscilla Allen for Lisa G. Johnson  
Muhammed Wahab for Pratul Ajmera  
Susan Weinstein for Jeremy King  
Dominique Homberger for Sue Bartlett  
Joshue Detre for Lynn Kennedy  
Ed Watson for R. White  
Richard Kurtz for Erwin Poliakoff

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

1. Brittan A Barker (10)  
2. Renee M Casbergue (1)  
3. Robert Kirby Goidel (7)  
4. Wanda Hargroder (2)  
5. Lisa Gaye Johnson (3)  
6. Jennifer L Jolly (6)  
7. Jeremy W King (2)  
8. Frederick G. Ortner (13)  
9. Keith Robinson (13)  
10. Steve Ross (4)  
11. Kresimir Rupnik (1)  
12. Jeffrey H Tiger (1)  
13. Susan Weinstein (1)  
14. Kelly Ann Rusch (1)  
15. Edward H K Song (2)

**Guests Attending Meeting:**

Robert Doolos (University Registrar)  
Jane Chandler (Assistant Director, International Programs)  
Harald Leder (Director of Study Abroad)  
Lakshman Vellupillai (Associate Vice-Chancellor, International Programs)  
Donna Torres (Associate Vice Chancellor, Accounting and Financial Services)
Consideration of Minutes from Previous Meeting (November 3, 2008):

Motion to accept minutes by Andrew Christie, seconded by Susan Dumas. Unanimous vote to accept/approve.

Presidents report (Kevin Cope):

- Thanks were given to Pavani Gottipati for her excellent work as the Faculty Senate Graduate Student assistant and her upcoming marriage. A thank you to Utah (Hollis) Cox on his retirement after many years of service to the Faculty Senate & LSU. Rounds of applause for each.

- **LSU Campus:** The FSEC met with Vice-Provost Jim McCoy about full-folder undergraduate application reviews and the circumstances under which it will occur. Currently, a limited number of full folder reviews (~20/yr) will be handled by a faculty committee. May become an issue down the road, however, as the number of applications being reviewed increases.
  - Electronic ticketing/tracking system for some administrative functions such as travel, facility services, purchasing, was proposed by Randall Hall (Chemistry), discussed with Academic Affairs, and is currently being considered for implementation by a FS committee.
  - The Chancellor brought up salary compression issues at the last forum and the FSEC has discussed this with Academic Affairs in order to try to develop solutions to this problem.
  - There have been night-time parking problems with reserved faculty spaces. Kevin is working on fixing these problems with parking. The Campus multi-modal transportation committee has met and is also working on this issue.
  - Potential problems with the Interfolio resume service not converting student resumes into good-looking electronic resumes – the FSEC will have a conference call with the head of Interfolio to get more information and try to resolve the issues that have been brought up.
  - The new IT privacy policy developed by Pratul Ajmera and Brian Nichols has been edited, refined, and approved by Academic Affairs. Not sure when it will be formally released, probably Spring 2009.
  - CV format specified in PS-36 being checked into and possibly cleaned up. The caveat is that we do not want to slow down adoption of the new PS-36-T and NT documents.
  - LSU Forever Campaign update – looks good and may succeed.

- **LSU System:** Proposal floated at last Chancellor Forum by Chancellor Martin and George Stanley to explore the possibility of System Summer Faculty Fellowships to have colleagues from our sister schools receive a summer fellowship to work with an LSU-BR faculty member(s) on a joint research project. Possible seed funding from SEC athletics dedicated to academics.
  - On behalf of the other system Faculty Senate Presidents, Kevin spoke to the LSU Board of Supervisors at the last meeting concerning benefits and faculty governance. Kevin heard that “eye-brows” were raised. A formal proposal to review and improve the benefits packages at the system schools will be introduced at one of the next two board meetings.
  - The message was delivered to System President John Lombardi that there are limits to the enrollment here on the main campus and Kevin believes that a more measured approach to the growth of student enrollment is forthcoming.
  - Faculty Senate Presidents meeting at Southern University – presentation by Roger Laine on Benefit Issue brought in a big crowd. More cooperation and support from other system schools on pushing issues of joint interest.

Presentation by Campus Federal Credit Union President & CEO John Milazzo

- Meeting with FSEC a few weeks ago raised some issues and lack of knowledge about the CFCU.
- CFCU is safe and sound in these troubled financial times.
- What is a credit union? A co-operative of people with like interests. Founded in 1934 by 7 LSU professors. 79th Credit Union chartered out of 24,000 in the USA.
- Members are owners. Board of Directors is made up of LSU Faculty & Staff (among others). Supervisory Committee also made up of LSU Faculty & Staff from the various LSU campuses.
• Assets = $383M; 40,000+ members
• Lagniappe Checking: 5.01% interest up to $25K in checking account = big success
• Trying to do a better job with business-related functions
• Teaching Enhancement Fund – funding for LSU faculty to attend teaching and educationally related conferences.
• CFCU employees do volunteer activities on- and off-campus; Financial Literacy Education activities by CFCU employees
• Deposit insurance = $250K per account ($500K per IRA)
• New website in January 2009; first financial institution in the state to have an online presence (1994); online support (chat-room); improved online bill paying capabilities

Q&A summary:
Fred Aghazadeh: Regular banks make money and give it out to shareholders as dividends. What happens to your profit?
John: Our capital reserves is where we use money for improvements and pay the generous 5% interest on the Lagniappe Checking
Michael Russo: How does the financial literacy program work?
John: This program is administered from our main office and we are willing to meet with groups of people to do educational programs about financial literacy. This is a free service we offer.
Kevin Cope: Availability of ATM’s outside the CFCU network?
John: Fees up to $30/month rebated for use of non-Campus Federal Credit Union ATM’s when you have a Lagniappe account.
George Stanley: My Visa debit card has a $400 limit on point of sale issues. I understand the ATM limit, but using it to purchase an expensive item in a store is a different situation.
John: The limit was mainly set for ATM transfers. But we can change that for point of sale issues.
George: Debits used to just list an address and not the vendor, but that has changed and now lists the vendor – thanks! I also thought that paperless statements would include a PDF file of the “paper” statement. But you get nothing and this can make reconciling Quicken accounts more difficult.
John: Yes, we are aware of some of the problems associated with paperless statements and are working on developing fixes.
John Protevi: Problem I had recently was arranging a European funds transfer. Supposedly could transfer via a Dallas Bank, but it didn’t work out that simply. The European bank needed a commercial bank here in the USA to facilitate the transfer.
John: There have been some problems with these kinds of transactions in the past, but I believe that we are working on resolving these as well.
Kevin Cope: What about the availability of foreign currencies?
John: We have been doing foreign currency exchanges available for 1.5 years.

Kevin: We would like to thank Lilly Allen and the School of Social Work for the treats at the back table. Help yourself.
Our new Faculty Senate Computer/Webmaster is Vamsi Jonnalagadda [E-mail: vjonna1@lsu.edu]

Special Forum on International Programs – Jane Chandler (Assistant Director, International Programs), Harald Leder (Director of Study Abroad), and Lakshman Vellupillai (Associate Vice-Chancellor, International Programs)

Lakshman Vellupillai:
• We organized this presentation into 3 parts, I will give a broad overview; Jane will talk about the faculty role in international programs & studies; and Harald will brief you on the Study Abroad program.
• Various international efforts merged into a new office in May, 2008 with me as the overall director. We looked at programs at other schools that had vigorous international programs.
• Vision for internationalization for our campus: is it mainly externally directed (Study Abroad) or is it intended to fundamentally reshape the living and learning environment on campus?
• Is LSU ready to assume an international leadership role?
• Are we ready to form partnerships with universities and organizations abroad?
• Does LSU have an international vision and are faculty open to internationalization?
• We want to establish LSU as a truly international institution. We want to produce students that are internationally informed, interested, educated, and engaged. We want to implement this with a service and outreach culture to integrate international studies into the LSU curriculum.

Jane Chandler:

• In order to address the questions that Lakshman brought up we need to have strong support from the administration. The first act was to make Lakshman an Associate Vice-Chancellor appointment.
• Any internationalization plan has to be coordinated, integrated, comprehensive, and strategic.
• The role of faculty is critically important and at the hub/core of any plan to increase internationalization of LSU. Each Dean will appoint a faculty liaison to work with International Studies and the College to help implement the internationalization plan and communicate with the college faculty. Information received from the faculty liaison about college activities and interest will be entered into a database to promote multidisciplinary activities.
• We want to make programs and funds available to send more faculty and students abroad. Currently only 2% of students study abroad.

Harald Leder:

• Study Abroad program/exchange program. LSU is at about the average nationally and sends about 2% for semester or year abroad programs.
• We need to send more faculty abroad to have experiences so they can encourage our students to consider study abroad and other international activities.
• Summer programs abroad are another opportunity for faculty and students. Many enthusiastic junior faculty would like to be involved in international studies programs and visits but face the promotion and tenure issue. Can international studies be included in tenure decisions to reduce this barrier?
• Language problem? Many English-speaking country options as well as non-English countries that would like English instruction. So lack of a foreign language should not be considered a barrier.
• Credit transfer problems for students that study abroad or lose TOPS due to a lower GPA earned overseas. Working to find solutions to this problem.

Q&A summary:

Andrew Christie: Inflexibility of course/credit transfer was discussed by ASH. I think you should talk to the Chair of ASH to work on this further. Our 150th Celebration will be creating a web site where internationals can communicate with LSU to relate their experiences. So you should talk to Rusty Jabour about this. I also think that we need to be working much harder to develop links to Central and South America. Agriculture links to Latin America are one obvious connection. Contacting our many Latin American former students also should be done, but not easy to get e-mail addresses, but perhaps requesting these from the various Alumni groups should be tried.

Lakshman: Good points. We are trying to make stronger links to Latin America. We are meeting with a group from Honduras to discuss enhanced interactions plus a number of other initiatives. Tomorrow we are meeting with the Dean of Education to talk about efforts in Viet Nam and east Africa. So we are trying to develop better synergy across campus.

Dominque Homberger: Housing is a serious problem for visiting students. Students going overseas need to learn the language of that country in order to interact better with the people of that country. LSU has whittled down the foreign language programs and reduced their importance.

Harald: I sympathize with the language concerns. We are also working on the housing issue.

Jane: Students do not need to be fluent, but should have some working knowledge of the language/culture.

Cristina Sabliov: How do we make information available to foreign graduate students, especially in certain countries?

Lakshman: We are working with graduate admissions to try and improve materials for foreign students.

Rich Kurtz: The MHI Materials initiative is setting up a dual-degree program with Nanking University. But housing for visiting students is a very serious problem here at LSU.

Lakshman: I am aware of the program and efforts by Ward Plummer. Dual degrees are much easier than joint degrees and they are certainly coming our way. Piloting this will be done. Housing is an ongoing problem.
Jim Stoner: What kind of resources did Academic Affairs commit to this? The other issue concerns the development of our junior faculty via international research efforts and travel. If this is structured correctly it could be very useful for their development.

Harald: We are working on programs targeted for junior faculty.

Andrew: The Provost appears to be very supportive of international efforts.

Kevin: Do you interact with any of the other campuses? Do they have international programs and efforts?

Harald: UNO has a big program with the University of Innsbruck. They sort of take over Innsbruck and operate it like a little UNO for some period of time, then leave. We also have a new system agreement with Hessian Univ. in Germany. Too early to tell where that will go or accomplish. But this could pave the way for other system-wide agreements.

Lakshman: LSU-A has expressed interest in more interactions on international programs.

Jane: I agree that system-wide agreements could be important and provide increased funding for study abroad and more inter-university interactions.

Old Business – none

New Business

First Reading of:

Faculty Senate Resolution 08–16
“Establishment of Memorial Day as a Holiday for LSU Faculty, Staff, and Students”
Sponsored by Senator Edward Laws

WHEREAS, the faculty, staff and students of Louisiana State University have a long and proud history of military service;

WHEREAS, that service continues today, and is plainly evident in the ROTC corps, and students, staff, and faculty who are members of National Guard and Reserve units;

WHEREAS, it is ironic then that LSU does not annually observe as a paid holiday for its employees what is arguably now the Nation's most patriotic holiday, Memorial Day;

WHEREAS, LSU supports several observances of Memorial Day, but these do not substitute for a holiday;

WHEREAS, as a public institution heavily dependent on State and Federal tax dollars, LSU should observe Memorial Day fully and annually; and

WHEREAS, in the Baton Rouge area, LSU is unique in not doing so. For the 2008 Memorial Day holiday, all local, State and Federal offices were closed, including Baton Rouge Community College and Southern University. Elsewhere in Louisiana, Southeastern Louisiana State University and Tulane observed Memorial Day; and WHEREAS, in the southeast, Memorial Day is regularly observed by the University of Florida, Florida State University, the University of Georgia, the Georgia Institute of Technology, North Carolina State, the University of North Carolina, the University of Virginia, the University of Tennessee, the University of Kentucky, the University of Arkansas, the University of Texas, the University of Mississippi, Mississippi State University, the University of Southern Mississippi, and Auburn University;

WHEREAS, other than LSU, the only major public universities in the southeast that do not observe Memorial Day include the University of Alabama, the University of South Carolina, and Clemson University; and WHEREAS, at LSU, faculty and staff are provided fourteen holidays. Half of these are used in the Christmas and New Year timeframe. The remaining seven include Martin Luther King Day, Mardi Gras, Good Friday, Independence Day, Labor Day, and two days at Thanksgiving; and

WHEREAS, the most obvious option to provide for an annual Memorial Day holiday is to move one of the seven holidays from the Christmas break to Memorial Day. This will provide a three-day weekend annually in late May; and

WHEREAS, though it may seem that transfer of a holiday as inconvenient, it should be noted that active duty personnel routinely sacrifice their holidays and much more, and often serve apart from their families. Moving one day to honor Memorial Day is a relatively small sacrifice by comparison;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the LSU Faculty Senate hereby affirms its support for observing Memorial Day as a full annual holiday for all employees, and requests that the LSU administration transfer a holiday from the Christmas break to Memorial Day.


**Q&A summary:**
Fred Aghazadeh: Moves to admit to discussion, seconded, and approved.

Utah Cox: I am not opposed to Memorial Day as a holiday. But we shouldn’t forget about Veteran’s Day (Nov 11). One could easily substitute Veteran’s Day in the resolution. The holiday schedule handed out doesn’t appear to be correct for some of the years where we only had 6 Christmas holidays and did have Memorial Day off. I feel that each is equal and that we should have both off.

Robert Doolos: We did have Memorial Day off in 2006 and gave up Jan 2 as a day off. Sean O’Keefe requested that when Jan 2 could be used as a work day that we give Memorial Day off. So that was done in 2006. Our Mardis Gras holiday is something else that most other schools do not have to deal with. Could we occasionally use Dec 22, 23 or Jan 2 and give Memorial Day off? That certainly is possible.

Andrea Houston: What about Good Friday? That is a religious holiday. I would rather give that up.

Ed: This needs to go up to the administration and one of the 7 Christmas Holidays seems like the easiest choice.

Dominque Homberger: If we are really serious about honoring our service members should we do this via a holiday? I would suggest that we be more progressive by contributing something that could help some of the military families that are suffering financially. Is taking a holiday day off the best way to honor our servicemen and women.

Andrew Christie: I feel strongly about honoring and supporting our service people, my own son is serving in the military. But I don’t think we should be taking a day away from Christmas break for this when many travel to visit family and friends.

Jim Stoner: Have you consulted with the Staff Senate to get their opinion? I would be very reluctant to vote on this without hearing from the Staff.

Ed: No, not yet.

Robert Doolos: The Staff Senate is aware of this resolution, but it has not be formally discussed.

Ronald Malone: Is the whereas binding or are we only voting on the last part (the Therefore)?

Kevin: The whereas’s just constitute the “justification” per say, the key issue is the “therefore” portion of a resolution.

Senator: What about the 2-day Fall Break?

Kevin: I have heard a lot of grumbling about it.

Robert: Fall break is not a holiday for Faculty and Staff. Just for classes and students.

Andrea Houston: Could we propose 15 days of holiday?

Su-Seng Pang: How many days of annual leave do Staff have? It depends on years of service.

A Senator: 14 hrs per month.

Su-Seng: Staff could use annual leave to extend the Christmas holiday if one or more of those days is given up for Memorial Day.

---

**Adjournment**

George Stanley moves to adjourn, Jim Stoner seconds. Approved!!