Faculty Senate Meeting
December 8, 1994

PROXIES: (as, Joe Smith for Peter Brown)
Margaret Reams for Irvin Mendelenson
Nick Apostolou for Daryl Mockee
Kathy O'Reilly for Carol Foll

The meeting was called to order by President Strain at 3:05 p.m. Senator Jim Stoner was acknowledged as the new Parliamentarian for the Senate. Guests present included Vice-Chancellor and Provost William Jenkins, Mary Boudreaux (Staff Senate), Jayme Marler (Reveille), Dean Jack Parker (General College), and Pat Lipscomb.

President's Report:
President Strain reported that a liaison had been established between the Faculty Senates of the State and the Board of Regents. He met with La. Commissioner of Higher Education, Larry Crain, who welcomed the interest by ALFS (Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates) in exploring additional levels of Faculty-Board communication. Crain invited ALFS to submit a proposal to establish a more formal advisory relationship with the Board, similar to the one established by the Board of Trustees. The Board of Trustees has a Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) of a representative from each school in the Trustees System that represents their faculty to that Board. FAC meets regularly with the Board for information and advising. This is better than the relationship the Faculty Senate has with the Board of Supervisors where faculty representatives are only invited to introduce themselves at the meetings. President Strain also stated that he attends the Board of Supervisors meetings as the Faculty Senate representative and that he would be attending one the next day, 12/9/94, at the University of New Orleans.

As a result of the initiative of this Senate and ALFS, President Strain attended the Board of Regents committee meetings (12/7/94) attended the full Board meeting on 12/8/94. The Board of Regents Finance Committee approved the '95-96 budgets for all state schools. All budgets will be recommended to the Division of Administration with the exception of the personnel salary raises that the Trustees System Board approved to President Caliler and Office System staff. Although the raises may have been deserved, they had been given at a politically inappropriate time since faculty raises were not given. At the full Board meeting that morning, the wording excepting the 'Trustees' raises was stripped from the motion by Regents' Chair Luffey. The rationale was that LSU and Southern had been given similar raises, even though it was not true. It was pointed out by one of the Regents that representatives of all three Systems should have obtained proper approval prior to such personnel actions and, heretofore, the three Systems offices are expected to provide similar personnel action data to the Regents before any action is taken by management boards.

The Board of Regents approved a new doctoral education consortium program for the northern part of the state which will grant EdD degrees in Educational Leadership and Curriculum and Instruction. These degrees will be awarded by the Louisiana Educational Consortium consisting of Northeast Louisiana University, Grambling State University, and Louisiana Tech University. Although presented as a consortium, all three universities are now authorized to grant both EdD degrees. Consequently, with this one action, there are now six new education doctorates in Louisiana. Education doctorates were proposed by the Southwestern Consortium (USL and McNeese State), Northwestern State University, Southeastern Louisiana University and Southern-Baton Rouge - all of which were postponed. Outside consultants and the Board of Regents staff have recommended against approval of all of these postponed doctoral proposals. The outcome of the USL and McNeese proposals is still uncertain. However, the program at Southern-Baton Rouge will probably be approved in January or February because it is part of the desegregation lawsuit settlement which provides that Southern establish six new doctorate programs. When established, the PhD program in Science and Math Education at Southern will duplicate an existing program at LSU-Baton Rouge.
President Strain brought this to Cran's attention. Cran responded that duplication was a concern for high cost programs such as engineering and architecture.

At the Regents' Meeting it was also discussed whether Louisiana university athletic teams should be playing one other in intra-state competitions. LSU is the only school in the state that is totally self-supporting with regard to athletics. All the other state schools in Louisiana rely on state funds to subsidize their athletic programs. These board members feel that the money from competition that our teams are involved in should stay in the state. This would have a significant impact on the state's cities and towns that host the games. A committee has been set up including Bump Trichka (SGA President and student member to the Board) to examine the funding of athletics at state schools and possible future in-state athletic events.

PS-73 (sexual harassment) was revised last June. The document, revised by Joan Thompson (HRM) incorporates suggestions and comments made by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and the Senate's Council of Policy Committees. These suggestions addressed an apparent bias against the accused and the imbalance between the rights of the accused and the accuser. PS-56 (sexual harassment of students) was recently released, but apparently no faculty input was sought. Another PS on nepotism was recently revised. This document contains items unacceptable to some faculty. The Executive Committee will try to develop an acceptable means through which faculty input will be sought and listened to on policy statements that pertain to academic or faculty matters.

Recently, a strongly worded letter was sent to Chancellor Davis through the Provost demanding that $1M be put into the Library budget immediately because of the severe impact of cumulative budget cuts. Although, there is no million dollars available the intended message was conveyed. President Strain said that there is no question that the Library has taken more than its share of cuts and, if anything positive results from the 21st Century Commission Report, the Library's needs are specifically identified as a top priority for available funding. In the meantime however, Library Dean Cargill and her staff have been developing innovative ways to meet faculty journal needs while cutting costs. This is being achieved through utilization of "next-day document delivery services" - not to be confused with the inter-library loan system that can take weeks. Also, the Library will ask faculty to identify those journals not needed to be preserved and whose subscriptions could be terminated. The savings from these cancellations would pay for the costs of the document delivery service as well as new subscriptions to journals.

Earlier in the year, an Ad Hoc Committee was established in response to a resolution introduced last Spring by Senator Feldman to examine discrimination policies at LSU. Raul Arrington, the chair of this committee, informs the Senate that the committee will have their report with recommendations at the January Senate Meeting.

Upcoming Events:

Milton Womack, chairman of the LSU Board of Supervisors, has been invited to address the Senate and talk about his vision for higher education in Louisiana and especially how it will affect LSU.

The revision of PS-36 is nearly complete and will be presented to the Senate for approval early in 1995. A joint Faculty Senate/Administrative Committee has been working for months on these revisions. The Senate representatives are Billie Collier, Connie Van Fleet and Ralph Kinsey.

As part of the revision of the Faculty Handbook, which gets updated every five years, the Senate is also revising its Constitution and Bylaws. A subcommittee of the Executive Committee (Van Fleet and Ajmera) has prepared a draft that the Executive Committee is now reviewing. This will also be introduced to the Senate early in 1995. The Bylaws can be approved by this Senate body; however, the changes in the Constitution have to be approved by the Faculty Council, which is the body of all LSU faculty. Since a quorum must be present to amend the Constitution, 25% of approximately 1400 faculty need to be in attendance. Because getting this many faculty together for a meeting would be extremely difficult, President Strain is investigating the possibility of utilizing a mail ballot for the vote.

Other Reports:

The mid-semester report to the Senate on the LSU Access Program has been prepared by Dean Parker of the General College, who has been administering this pilot program. His report indicates that, of the 73 students admitted through this program, performance has been acceptable in all areas except mathematics, where an unacceptable number of students were failing. The two math sections originally set up were each split into two sections, bringing in two additional instructors in order to provide closer supervision of the students' performance. Early indications are that this action was working. Moreover, since this program was developed late in the summer, the admission process, being a bit rushed, might have accepted some students who might not have been admitted had the process started earlier and more time had been allowed to properly scrutinize applicants. The Senate will receive a final report on the program either in January or February, after which the Senate will debate and vote on the program's continuation. President Strain thanked Dean Parker for his reports on the progress of the Access Program and opened the floor for questions. Dean Parker, in response to Senator Collir's question, noted that actually only eight students will end up failing math - which indicates a dramatic change since mid-semester report. Senator Collir asked if this improvement was due to the students' increased experience or the changes in the math sections? Parker attributed this improvement to the students' becoming familiar with the University and used to the required course work. Senator Poliaikooff asked Dean Parker if the standards for the Access courses were equal to the academic standards for the non-Access credit courses. Dean Parker stated that there was no lowering of standards in Access Courses and that the individual colleges/departments selected their own instructors and monitored the academic standards. Senator Ajmera asked why the students failing math had the higher ACT scores. Dean Parker said that the sample size probably had some bearing on it, but it would be pure conjecture at this time to determine any correlation.

President Strain introduced Dr. Clausen, a member of the Commission on Higher Education for the 21st Century. The final report of the Commission has been issued. Dr. Clausen has spear-headed the process of informing the various constituencies on this report.

Guest Speaker Presentation:

Dr. Clausen thanked the Faculty Senate for giving her the opportunity to speak and also for their interest in helping to educate the community about the value of higher education. She reviewed her role in the Governor's Office. She was the responsible officer to pick and choose issues significant to the Governor and prioritize those issues.* She went on to say that "higher education should have been the number one concern of Louisiana citizens for some time." As a result of the SREB Report, the Governor put together a commission made up of the three branches of government and members of the legislature to restate the value of higher education and develop a strategy through which the public would understand that value. Higher education needs to make necessary changes for the twenty-first century. It must respond to public demands and use the public's tax dollars more effectively. Dr. Clausen noted that those in higher education have failed to make the case for...
its value and, now we have an opportunity to do something about it. The Governor has admittedly failed, and the legislature has virtually admitted that they are unable to grant higher education higher priority since there are serious competing requests for dollars that are simply not there.

Higher education is in a non-protected portion of the budget, and this is true in virtually every state. States are beginning to consider higher education no longer as a sacred agency. Dr. Clausen stated that the reason she was before the Senate today was because there had been an interest expressed by the Faculty Senate to play a different kind of role to reach the public. This report before the Senate is only intended to be a catalyst, not a complete statement on the value of higher education.

Dr. Clausen said that she had come today to present the report from the Higher Education Commission for the 21st Century to the Senate and to let them know the intent behind this Commission. She gave an example of the President of the Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, who when first called and asked to participate on the Commission gave the response: "Are you calling me there to raise taxes, because if you are, I'm not interested." Dr. Clausen responded by saying "I'm asking if you will simply join us for a period of 2-3 months to determine whether or not there is sufficient value in investments in higher education that would warrant a return that you as a businessman might find interesting?" She went on to say that he has since become an "absolute believer" and has now agreed to go back to his Chamber of Commerce and ask for funding. Dr. Clausen said, "I believe if we continue to reach key decision makers such as this, it will change attitudes. We cannot make a difference for higher education unless we begin to do that." Senator Apostolou asked about placing the higher education budget in the same posture as that of elementary and secondary education where it would be constitutionally protected from budget cuts. Clausen responded that this recommendation has been made. Senator Apostolou asked how the formation of a community college would affect LSU? Clausen responded that with a new funding formula consisting of numbers and performance, (not just numbers), LSU would not be affected, and there would be no negative impact. Senator John Collier asked what was the strategy for implementing the Commission's plan. Clausen responded that there were several strategies. The most important was to have a group of high-powered business leaders donating their time and services to the effort of leading a reform initiative. It would probably cost $5M to put on a campaign to saturate the state at all different levels. Another strategy proposed by State Senator Jay Dardenne was to pick out ten conservative legislators to work with businesses to justify why they must raise funding for higher education when there are other competing serious needs. The third strategy involved government and higher education becoming mobilized and restating its value so that it would be well received and understood by all. Dr. Clausen emphasized that it must be a very carefully planned strategy with a public relations campaign to correct the perception problems that exist for higher education. She further added that higher education must refine its mission for the university and clearly state it in a way that anyone could understand.

There being no further old or new business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Emily Batinski
Secretary