The Faculty Senate of Louisiana State University

HIGHLIGHTS FROM FACULTY SENATE MEETING

February 9, 2000

Provost's Comments

1. Information Technology Master Planning Task Force
2. Task Force on K-12 Linkages
3. American Association for the Advancement of Higher Education meeting
4. Bookstore
5. Campus maintenance

President's Comments

1. Call for nominations for Faculty Senate officers and Faculty Senate committee members

SR 00-08

2. Second reading of resolution proposing new admissions standards for transfer students; passed

Faculty Sick Leave Accountability

3. Forest Benedict (Associate Vice-Chancellor, Human Resource Management) discussed proposed procedures to report faculty sick leave
Faculty Senate Minutes
February 9, 2000

Meeting called to order at 3:05 pm. Invited guests included Executive Vice-Chancellor and Provost Dan Fogel, Associate Vice-Chancellor Forest Benedict (Human Resource Management), Jennifer Lindsey (Office of Undergraduate Admissions), Beth Paskoff (Chair, Faculty Senate Committee on Committees), Gene Wittkopf (Political Science), Ralph Kinney (retired), and Sarah Hunt (Reveille). Proxies were announced. December 3 minutes were approved as read. January 18 minutes were approved as corrected.

Provost's Comments. Provost Fogel announced that Neil Kestner is chairing an Information Technology Master Planning Task Force. The charge to the task force is to develop and recommend for adoption a master plan for information technology by the end of the spring semester, 2000. Karl Roider (Dean, Arts and Sciences) and Harold Silverman (Interim Dean, Basic Sciences) are co-chairing a Task Force on K-12 Linkages which is exploring the challenges, opportunities and obligations facing LSU as we optimize engagement with K-12 education. The Provost mentioned that the American Association for the Advancement of Higher Education had recently met in New Orleans to discuss faculty roles and rewards. The institutional team from LSU constituted the largest team at the meeting. In response to questions about recent articles and editorials regarding the possible outsourcing of the bookstore, the Provost announced that he has appointed an advisory committee which includes faculty, staff and student representatives. He stated that there is no agenda in place other than to have the best possible bookstore for the academic community, and that no decisions have been made regarding this matter. He anticipates that a decision will be made this spring. In response to questions about campus maintenance and renovation, the Provost announced that RFQ's are being solicited from firms for the facilities master plan and that presentations will be made early in April. The facilities master plan will be announced in April 2001 as the culmination of the 75th Anniversary Jubilee.

President's Report. President Cherry reported that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) had met with Gene Wittkopf and Ralph Kinney to discuss feedback to the recommendations regarding ongoing academic review (OAR) set forth by the Faculty Senate's Commission on Faculty Ranks. Wittkopf and Kinney are involved in weaving the OAR process into the revised version of PS-36. President Cherry hopes to present the revised PS-36 to the senate this spring. She reminded the senators that Associate Vice-Chancellor Forest Benedict would be discussing faculty sick leave accountability later in the meeting, and that senators would hear the second reading of SR 00-08.

The FSEC has appointed a nominating committee, chaired by Senator Roger McNeil. The nominating committee is responsible for presenting a slate of candidates for Faculty Senate offices, including President, Vice-President,
Secretary, and two At-Large Members. Individuals interested in running for office should contact Senator McNeil. The slate of candidates will be announced during the March meeting and elections will be held during the April meeting.

The Faculty Senate Committee on Committees, chaired by Beth Paskoff, is asking faculty members to serve on Faculty Senate standing committees. Descriptions of the committees can be found in the Faculty Handbook and at www.lsu.eduorganizations/faculty. Interested individuals should contact Paskoff by February 18. President Cherry reminded committee chairs that annual reports and names of committee chairs for the coming year must be submitted to the FSEC on or before April 4.

**Faculty Sick Leave Accountability.**

Forest Benedict (Associate Vice-Chancellor, Human Resource Management) discussed new procedures for faculty sick leave accountability. State law requires monthly certification of all faculty absences governed by the University's sick leave policy. In the past, this law has not been strictly enforced. The legislative auditor has indicated that LSU must begin complying with this state law, given that sick leave has a monetary value and the failure to charge sick leave has an economic impact on the University and the State. For example, a faculty member participating in the Teacher's Retirement System receives creditable service for unused sick leave. Benedict then described the practical aspects of implementing faculty accountability.

For the purposes of sick leave reporting only, the law requires the University to establish a forty-hour work week for faculty. State law does not control the faculty member's actual work schedule or hours spent on campus nor does this procedure seek to do so. Again, the purpose of the forty-hour work week is for sick leave reporting only. President Jenkins has established Monday through Friday, 8:00 to 4:30 as the forty-hour work week. Individuals may establish alternative work weeks if there is reasonable justification (for example, teaching evenings or weekends) and the individual's chair approves the request. If, during the established work week, a faculty member does not perform his/her usual duties, and if sick leave is applicable, then sick leave must be taken. For example, if a faculty member had a medical appointment during the hours of his/her work week, then he/she must take sick leave for the appointment, regardless of whether the faculty member missed class, office hours, meetings, and so forth. A certification form has been designed to facilitate this reporting requirement. The form contains a statement (I certify that I have reported all absences required by the University regulations governing sick leave to be so reported) that faculty members would sign each month.

In response to questions and comments, Benedict agreed that the process does not lend itself to the reality of faculty work schedules, and that it is like fitting square pegs into round holes. He reiterated that we must comply with a law that is currently on the books. He said that no one has suggested any mechanism for
verifying sick leave using medical records or insurance claims, and that the University would strongly resist any such mechanism. He also indicated that there will be no procedure which involves monitoring of faculty sick leave by chairs or deans. Finally, he clarified that unused sick leave becomes creditable service in the Teacher's Retirement System only, not the Optional Retirement Plans.

**SR 00-08, New Admissions Standards for Transfer Students** (second reading, complete text attached). Presented by Neil Kestner, Chair of the Faculty Senate Admissions, Scholarship and Honors (ASH) Committee. Senator Kestner explained that many transfer students admitted under current standards have not had a successful experience at LSU. Under the proposed standards, the transfer students admitted will be similar to students who are admitted under current freshman standards, which should improve performance. Two amendments to the resolution were moved and passed. The resolution passed by unanimous voice vote.

**Old Business.** None.

**New Business.** Ron Snider (President, LSU Chapter of the American Association for University Professors) presented a statement urging the Faculty Senate to recommend the immediate revocation of PM-35 (an LSU System permanent memorandum regulating post-tenure review, which went into effect January 1, 2000). There were no questions or comments. President Cherry did announce that she will be meeting with the interim Vice-President of the LSU System, Dr. Marilyn Zimney, on February 16 to discuss ongoing academic review. She requested that senators forward to her specific questions and/or concerns they would like to have raised at that meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Barry, Secretary

Faculty Senate Meeting minutes and transcripts are available at: