HIGHLIGHTS FROM FACULTY SENATE MEETING

February 15, 2001

Vice Provost Gregory Vincent Comments

1. Academic Center for Athletes, Comments by Vice Chancellor for Student
   Life and Academic Services and acting Provost F. Neil Mathews
2. Goals for the Division of Student Life and Academic Services
3. Board of Regents Master Plan
4. Pay Raises

President’s Report

1. State Employees Group Benefits Plan (SEGBP) Study Commission
2. LSU Campus Master Plan and Information Technology Master Plan
3. AAUP Forum on Post-Tenure Review
4. Evaluation of Administrators

Old Business

1. Second reading of SR 01-05, to eliminate university-wide commencement
   ceremony for December graduation, by Aimee Fifarek, proxy for Faculty
   Senator Elaine Smyth and co-chair of the Faculty Senate Commencement
   Committee
2. Second reading of SR 01-06, that the LSU Faculty Senate and LSU
   Chapter of AAUP co-sponsor a program for faculty, by Ron Snider (proxy
   for Faculty Senator Pat Crawford
New Business

1. Appointment of Faculty Senate Nominating Committee (for election of officers to Faculty Senate Executive Committee)
2. First reading of SR 01-07, suspension of the definition of academic "prime time" currently in use, by Faculty Senator Irene DiMaio

Faculty Senate Minutes

February 15, 2001

Meeting called to order at 3:07 p.m. Invited guests included Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Academic Services F. Neil Mathews; Vice Provost Gregory Vincent; Karen Denby (Dean of Enrollment Management, Office of Academic Affairs); Robert Doolos (Office of the University Registrar); Emily Batinski (Chair, Foreign Languages and Literatures); Tim Louwers (Co-Chair Faculty Senate Commencement Committee); Bhavna Pandit (Student Government Association); Teresa Devlin (University Relations), and Ryan Goudelocke (Reveille). Proxies were announced. January 23 minutes were approved as read.

Vice Provost Gregory Vincent’s Comments. President Kestner stated that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) received an anonymous email in January expressing concern that fund-raising for renovations of the Old Gym Armory for the Academic Center for Athletes would cut into other fund raising for the university. Because of a full January agenda, Gregory Vincent was asked by the FSEC to speak to the Faculty Senate on the matter at this meeting.

Vice Provost Vincent stated that a $13 million capital campaign to renovate the Old Gym Armory to house the Academic Center for Athletes and build a 1,100-seat auditorium is underway. The Vice Provost also said that the campus needs to develop a strong academic center for athletes. Presently, the academic profile of LSU athletes is lower than in the rest of the SEC and we have a higher proportion of freshman athletes, a large number of which have learning disabilities. In response to questions, Vice Provost Vincent stated that donors targeted for this campaign are those that typically contribute to the Tiger Athletic Foundation rather than the LSU Foundation. When asked about building plans, the Vice Provost stated that one architectural rendering had been produced, and at least five more architects will work with the master planners and Bill Eskew. Plans for the large auditorium are not finalized and a senator asked if two 500-seat auditoriums might be more useful to the campus. In addition to these renovation plans, the staffing levels and technological needs of the Academic Center for Athletes also are being assessed.
Comments by Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Academic Services and Acting Provost F. Neil Mathews. Vice Chancellor Mathews wants to work closely with the Faculty Senate in his new role as Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Academic Services. He wants the Division to become an equal partner to Academic Affairs, to support and enhance the educational mission of the institution, and to increase retention and graduation rates by creating a good learning environment. Vice Chancellor Mathews' immediate goals are to begin a search for a Dean of Students, to develop the Residential College, and to enhance service learning on campus. The Vice Chancellor stated that no final decision had been made about the freshman residency requirement.

Vice Chancellor Mathews also commented on the Board of Regents Master Plan, which is in its fourth draft with another due out the week of February 19th. There will be a period of public comment in early March. LSU A&M has commented on each draft, emphasizing its preeminent role for higher education in the state. However, the LSU system is very concerned that research is still not well articulated. In addition, Vice Chancellor Mathews stated that pay raises will appear in February payroll checks and that January raises will appear retroactively as a separate check.

**President's Comments.** President Kestner stated that the Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Supervisors also has been looking at the Board of Regents Master plan.

President Kestner provided copies of a letter written by Rob Poston (President, Staff Senate) and himself to Angele Davis, who is chairing the State Employees Group Benefits Plan (SEGBP) Study Commission, summarizing their concerns about SEGBP. The Provost sent out a broadcast email to campus about a public hearing by the SEGBP Study Commission to be held Monday, February 19. Meanwhile, SEGBP has proposed a 12% rate increase for next year, and is planning to delay signup from April 1 to May 1 to allow for any transition brought about by the study commission. In addition, the Governor's executive budget includes coverage for the current losses of SEGBP (about $50 million), as well as coverage of the employees share of any rate increases this year (so that the state would pay 55-56% of premiums rather than 50%).

The LSU Master Plan website is now up and can be reached from the LSU webpage. The master planners will be back on campus to conduct public forums and to address the Faculty Senate. Consultants will also be on campus this spring for the Information Technology Master Plan.

President Kestner will speak at the AAUP forum on post-tenure review on March 23 (draft of program provided by Ron Snider). President Kestner will not speak for the Faculty Senate as a whole, but he recently attended an American Association of Higher Education (AAHE) meeting that had a two-day session on post-tenure review. In his March 23rd presentation, he plans to provide
information he gathered at the meeting on procedures at other institutions and concerns about what such a policy should include. President Kestner stated that the most disturbing statistic he heard at the conference was that this year over half of hires in higher education were for non-tenure-track positions (a majority of which were filled by women). President Kestner also noted several senators requested that we have a guest speaker on post-tenure review at a faculty senate meeting, and that he has asked Linda Carroll (Tulane University) to speak on April 10. Dr. Carroll is the author of a recent article in Academe on tenure and academic excellence. Lastly, President Kestner has asked the Council of Policy Committees to give the FSEC an update on their study of PM 35 procedures and implementation. The Faculty Advisory Committee of the Board of Supervisors will probably pass a resolution similar to PS 01-04 at their March 2 meeting, and it may be timely to revisit PS 01-04 at the March 7th Faculty Senate meeting.

**Old Business.** SR 01-05, to eliminate university-wide commencement ceremony for December graduation (second reading, complete revised text attached). Presented by Aimee Fifarek, proxy for Faculty Senator Elaine Smyth and co-chair of the Faculty Senate Commencement Committee. Commencement Committee co-chairs (Aimee Fifarek and Tim Louwers) explained that the resolution would not eliminate the college diploma ceremonies in December. The reason for eliminating the university-wide ceremony in December is to redirect funds so that the May ceremony can be enhanced. The May university-wide ceremony may be moved to midday, with diploma ceremonies before and after. Some senators were concerned about voting on the resolution without considering where Ph.D. degrees will be awarded in December, and Faculty Senator George Voyiadjis proposed an amendment to have Ph.D. hooding ceremonies be a part of December college ceremonies. The amendment passed. The revised resolution also passed.

SR 01-06, that the LSU Faculty Senate and LSU Chapter of AAUP co-sponsor a program for faculty (second reading, complete revised text attached). Presented by Dr. Ron Snider, proxy for Faculty Senator Pat Crawford. Dr. Snider presented a draft of the program on tenure, academic freedom and post-tenure review scheduled for Friday, March 23, 2001. Faculty Senator Jim Richardson introduced an amendment in which the Faculty Senate endorsed the forum but did not co-sponsor it. He reasoned that the Faculty Senate was not an active participant in planning the forum and therefore should not be listed as a cosponsor. Dr. Snider advocated co-sponsorship to encourage more faculty participation. The amendment passed, as did the revised resolution.

**New Business.** The nominating committee for next year’s Faculty Senate officers (president, vice president, secretary and two members-at-large) has been formed. Elaine Smyth is chairing the committee, and the other members are Abe Biswas, Fereydoun Aghazadeh, and Richard Imlay. The FSEC has requested the number of faculty by college from Budget and Planning for election of next year’s senators. Those data should be available in March.
SR 01-07, for the suspension of the definition of academic "prime time" currently in use (first reading, complete text attached). Presented by Faculty Senator Irene DiMaio for the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures. Senator DiMaio provided a copy of an August 30, 2000 memo from the Provost to Deans and Directors outlining changes in the guidelines for class scheduling. Karen Denby stated that she has been working with individual units to work out problems and is willing to work with Foreign Languages and Literatures. Vice Chancellor Mathews said that, although the particulars of guidelines can be worked on, spreading classes out through the school week is an important issue. Senator DiMaio pointed out that a lack of communication is a major issue behind the resolution, and that faculty had little input and no forewarning of changes made in the August 30th memo. Subsequent discussion indicated that a number of units found the changes very disruptive, and Senator DiMaio stated that the Arts and Sciences Faculty Senate unanimously moved to support this resolution. The Provost and the Senate President had appointed a university-wide committee to get faculty input on these changes but apparently even with this the communication with some departments was incomplete.

Meeting adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Anderson, Secretary

Faculty Senate Meeting minutes and transcripts are available at: