LSU Faculty Senate Meeting
3:00 P.M., Tuesday, February 19th, 2008
Atchafalaya Room, LSU Union

Attendance

Faculty Senate Executive Committee members present:

1. Kevin L. Cope (Senate President)  5. Judith Schiebout (Member-at-Large)
2. Andrew Christie (Vice-President)  6. George Stanley (Member-at-Large)
3. James R. Stoner Jr. (Secretary)  7. William H. Daly (Past President)
4. Pratul K. Ajmera (Member-at-Large)

Parliamentarian: Charles N Delzell (present)

Senators present:


Proxies for absent Senators:

Pratul K. Ajmera for Fred Aghazadeh
Paul L. Hrycaj for William W. Armstrong, Boryung Ju
Beth N. Tope for Jacqueline Bach, Jennifer L. Jolly
Hugh Buckingham for Brittan A. Barker
Kevin L. Cope for Heather McKillop, Dan B. Rinks
Andrew Christie for Paul A. Larock
John Fletcher for James L. Murphy
Bruce E Eilts for Bruce Mark Olcott
Frederick Sheldon for Frederick G. Ortner, Dorothy Prowell
Linda Allen for Erwin D. Poliakoff
Scott W. Harris for Patsy Scates
James R. Stoner Jr. for Edward Song
Maud Maureen Walsh for Michael Wascom

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

1. Sue G Bartlett (2)  5. Suzanne Marchand (9)  9. Kevin Smith (6)
4. Joan M. King (2)  8. Steve Ross (1)
Introduction of Guests

Guests were introduced and urged to sign in on the attendance sheet. Guests attending the February meeting included:

- Astrid Merget, Provost
- Robert Doolos, University Registrar
- Don Howard, Liaison from Staff Senate/Career Services
- Renee Myer, Chancellor’s Office
- Skip Bertman, LSU Athletic Director
- Mark Ewing, Senior Associate Athletic Director
- Herb Vincent, Senior Associate Athletic Director
- Dydia DeLyser, Faculty Athletic Representative

Consideration of the Minutes for the meetings of December 7, 2007, and January 23, 2008

The minutes for the meetings of December 7, 2007, and January 23, 2008, having been circulated, it was moved, seconded, and voted that each set of minutes be approved.

Special Report from LSU Athletic Director Skip Bertman

Faculty Athletic Representative Dydia DeLyser introduced LSU Athletic Director Skip Bertman, who, after introducing his two senior associate athletic directors, Mark Ewing and Herb Vincent, gave a report to the Faculty Senate. He reviewed some basic statistics: Of the 88 sports with championships recognized by the NCAA, SEC teams compete in 20. LSU is one of only 113 Division I-A schools, which qualify for that category by offering at least 16 competitive sports and having at least a certain number of students. We have 64 coaches on staff, who supervise 450 student-athletes. The athletic program is totally self-sufficient, sustained by ticket sales for football, basketball, and baseball, as well as concession proceeds, SEC championship distributions, and money charged for parking at the games; no money comes from the University or the state. Most of the Athletic budget goes to personnel costs and to scholarships for every student-athlete. Moreover, to a significantly greater extent than other schools in our league, LSU Athletics contributes almost $2 million a year to the University, a practice begun under the previous athletic director, Joe Dean. Funded programs include the Chancellor’s Excellence Fund, building renovations, enhancement of campus landscaping and environment, and parking lot improvements. In response to a question about whether tickets to athletic events might be made available to faculty, Mr. Bertman reviewed the current priority schedule for receiving tickets. Other senators asked what faculty can do for sports, to which Mr. Bertman responded with a suggestion that we share with others the news about what a good job LSU Athletics does. He closed with eloquent remarks about how sports break down social barriers: every game starts 0-0, and race, religion, and social class count for nothing on the playing field. We take part in that, and we like to compete at the highest level.

President’s Report

President Kevin Cope, having delayed his report for our guest speaker, began by announcing Wanda Hargroder’s appointment as the faculty representative to UREC, the Student Recreation Complex. He noted that there had been talk about changes in the distribution of funds from the Student Technology Fee, which made discipline-specific projects ineligible, explained that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) had been briefed about the matter, and noted that student representatives actually control the committee and that Student Government had not responded to his request to confer. Senator Paul Wilson was commended for the work of the Commencement Committee, which he chairs, who have developed lists of possible commencement speakers, though they learned that the new Governor has been invited for this spring. President Cope further noted that campus safety has been on everyone’s mind since the killings in LSU housing late last fall and in classrooms at other universities; the FSEC has inquired about the adequacy of campus lighting and is planning a meeting with Lt. Rabalais, who heads the LSU Police, later in the term. Meanwhile, though the use of the Faculty Club facilities is down, the Faculty Senate can report that its website is now up at the new address: http://www.lsu.edu/senate/

President Cope noted that five ad hoc committees established by the Senate are now at work; one, the Committee on Commemoration of Deceased Faculty, will report to FSEC on March 10. Meanwhile, the Committee on
Committees is soon beginning its work, looking for faculty to staff various committees next year. On March 24, FSEC will hear a report about the South Campus. Meanwhile, announcement of the Chancellor Search Committee is imminent, the Faculty Senate having submitted at System President John Lombardi’s request twelve faculty nominees.

President Cope also reported on his attendance at a meeting of the University Planning Committee to discuss adjustments in the Flagship Agenda. There is a new emphasis in the system on growth, with a campus target being discussed of 32,000 students, many of whom, it is hoped, will be at the graduate level, perhaps in programs serving non-traditional populations. FSEC will meet soon with Michael Gargano, who recently moved from Massachusetts to coordinate student recruitment for the System. The administration has also expressed interest in integrating Athletics into the Flagship Agenda.

Statewide, former Senate President Bill Daly and current President Cope will be traveling to Natchitoches for a meeting of the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates. Meanwhile the campus chapter of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), which recently sponsored a forum on campus safety, is planning another on how the courtroom affects faculty.

Special Report Concerning the Faculty Club

Senators Priscilla Allen and Jeff Kuehny introduced faculty to the Faculty Club, Inc., not the familiar building but a long-established and recently rejuvenated social club for faculty members, in which they serve as officers. They invited faculty to join, and they described club functions and the benefits of membership, including discounts on rooms at affiliated faculty clubs in cities such as Washington, DC, where affordable hotel rooms are hard to find. They now have eighty members and a website at http://is.lsu.edu/FacultyClub/default.asp

New Business

1) Introduction of Faculty Senate Resolution 08-02, “Enhanced Online Access to Faculty Credentials”

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee introduced the following resolution:

Faculty Senate Resolution 08–02
“Enhanced Online Access to Faculty Credentials”
Sponsored by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee

WHEREAS the LSU web site, along with the many college, department, program, and institute web sites that it contains, serves as the default point of reference for those who seek information concerning the many experts who populate the LSU faculty;

WHEREAS the advancement of LSU as a major, multifaceted research institution requires an unobstructed view of the achievements of its faculty members;

WHEREAS many traditional sources of information concerning faculty such as printed directories or paper bulletins are no longer widely distributed;

WHEREAS both internet search engines and the LSU search system remain imprecise technologies;

WHEREAS policies on the online presentation of faculty credentials and achievements vary widely, with some “units” showcasing complete information but with other units requiring abbreviated or capsule summaries;

WHEREAS a university committed to faculty retention should take pride in the extensive, lifetime achievements of its members;

WHEREAS the storage capacity of the LSU computing grid (and its servers) is so large in comparison to typical text and HTML files as to render the question of data storage for faculty CVs and similar credential
sheets trivial;

WHEREAS institutional and granting-agency requirements such as the appointment of referees or evaluators often require quick and easy access to credential and accomplishment information; and

WHEREAS the community that supports LSU evidences a genial curiosity concerning the works of its intellectual deputies;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the LSU Faculty Senate calls on all deans, directors, and department chairs to insure that the full and complete credentials (including CVs) of all faculty members are accessible on or from departmental web sites, either on the web site themselves or through clickable buttons leading to faculty members’ personal web sites; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LSU Faculty Senate asks all deans, directors, and department chairs to end the practice of abbreviating or otherwise reducing or obstructing the online presentation of faculty achievements.

In explanation, President Cope mentioned that we have found variation in department webpages, some allowing seemingly unlimited presentations by faculty, some restricting them. Real concern has been raised that people investigating the credentials of LSU faculty have been unable to access the information they need through departmental websites. Three friendly amendments were proposed, accepted by the sponsor, and approved: to eliminate the “whereas” clause about storage capacity, to drop the “be it further resolved” clause, and to change the phrase “clickable buttons” to “links.” A vote on the motion will be held at the next meeting of the Senate, in accordance with Senate rules.

2) Introduction of Faculty Senate Resolution 08-03, “Timing of LSU Spring Break”

Senator Vince LiCata introduced the following resolution, which was seconded by Senator George Stanley:

**LSU Faculty Senate Resolution 08–03**

**“Timing of LSU Spring Break”**

**Sponsored by Vince LiCata**

WHEREAS LSU for several years in a row has scheduled its annual Spring Break for the week before Easter; and

WHEREAS the East Baton Rouge Parish School District and the East Baton Rouge Catholic Schools have for many years scheduled their annual Spring Break for the week following Easter; and

WHEREAS this has created an annually repeating two-week period where LSU faculty with school-aged children cannot take a break, and often become less productive due to the necessary ad hoc child care issues; and

WHEREAS LSU is actively seeking innovative ways to provide useful benefits to its faculty and subpopulations of its faculty; and

WHEREAS changing the timing of the LSU Spring Break would be a zero cost policy change that could significantly benefit the productivity and well-being of LSU faculty with school-aged children;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the LSU Faculty Senate recommends synchronizing the LSU Spring Break week with the East Baton Rouge Parish School District Spring Break by moving the LSU Spring Break to the week after Easter. Although such timing of the East Baton Rouge Parish School System Spring Break has been stable for many years, if it should change in the future, the Senate recommends that the LSU Spring Break again be changed to maintain synchrony of the two.

Much discussion followed, concerning issues such as whether it would complicate matters to have a Good Friday
holiday apart from the break, prompting Registrar Robert Doolos to take the floor and explain the history of the whole issue: that the between-semester break will be lengthened again in 09-10, that the East Baton Rouge school calendar is not set as far in advance as ours and does not follow a fixed pattern, and that the students prefer the pre-Easter break that includes Good Friday, since that allows Ash Wednesday to be included in the Mardi Gras break while the requisite number of MWF course meetings is maintained, etc. On a motion from Senator James Stoner, seconded by Senator Paul Wilson, the Senate voted to commit the resolution to a special committee to be composed of Senator LiCata, Senator Beth Tope, Mr. Doolos, and one other member.

3) Open Discussion concerning security in the classroom

At the request of FSEC member-at-large Judith Schiebout, a discussion ensued concerning questions of classroom safety. Several members expressed concern about the exposure of professors in large, unlocked classrooms. Others asked what to do in case of an emergency. It was established that dialing 911 from campus will connect to LSU Police. Provost Astrid Merget mentioned that an emergency operations center kicks in when a disaster ensues, though details are not disclosed for security reasons. President Cope assured the Senate that the FSEC is taking such concerns seriously and will consider suggestions for improving information about emergency plans and protocols.

Adjournment

was moved by Senator Stanley, seconded by Senator Elliott, and acclaimed at 4:53 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Stoner, Jr.
Secretary