Faculty Senate Meeting
February 13, 1995

The meeting was called to order by President Strain at 3:05 pm. President Strain corrected the January meeting’s minutes to indicate that Provost Jenkins had not attended. The minutes were moved and approved. Guests present included Pat Culbertson, chair of the Athletic Council, Mike Blanchard, Gerry DiNardo (football coach), Mary Boudreaux (Staff Senate), and Jayme Marler (Reveille).

President Strain announced that the March 14 meeting would be held at the Lod Cook Center.

Guest Presentation:
Dr. Culbertson announced that for the second consecutive year the Athletic Council had a winner of the NCAA post graduate scholarship award. This year the scholarship was awarded to Mike Blanchard, an LSU football player. Mike Blanchard graduated last December with a 4.0 average. He is a member of Omicron Delta Kappa, Mortar Board and Phi Kappa Phi Honor Organizations. Mr. Blanchard will attend LSU Medical School in New Orleans. Mr. Blanchard thanked the faculty for continuing LSU's tradition. He was happy to have contributed to LSU's great program. He said that he could not ask anything more from the academic program at LSU, and that he is sure that his education will serve him well as he goes on to Medical School.

Dr. Culbertson reported that in the Fall semester, twelve student athletes compiled a 4.0 GPA; 57 student athletes were on the Dean's list with a 3.5 GPA or better; and 141 student athletes earned a 3.0 GPA or better.

Dr. Culbertson introduced Gerry DiNardo, new head football coach for LSU. Mr. DiNardo said that since his appointment he had spent a majority of time addressing student life issues that relate directly to our student athletes. He noted that the coaching aspect of his job was very simple: “you have to be a good coach and win games, or you will be asked to leave very shortly.” One goal that Coach DiNardo wants to accomplish is better integrating student athletes with LSU's student body. He said that athletic dorms are not productive since they segregate part of the student population. Therefore, he intends to break up the athletic dorms, and allow juniors and seniors to move off campus if their academic record is sound. Freshman and sophomore athletes will be placed in regular housing. A second goal of Mr. DiNardo is to increase the graduation rate of the student athletes from the Athletic Department's football program. Mr. DiNardo said that it was part of his responsibility as head football coach to see that these graduation rates improve. Although he was hired primarily to win football games, as an educator he wants to see his players not only winning football games, but also graduating. Mr. DiNardo said that the Academic Support Facility was being improved and that the Athletic counseling in his department should only supplement the counseling needs of the athletes. All athletes should go through the same counselors on campus as the other students. In closing, DiNardo said that it was
an honor for him to be part of a program that has such a rich and great tradition in the football world. Moreover, athletes need to be a part of the mainstream of the university, and he would never do anything to compromise the academic integrity of LSU. Furthermore, he would like to be contacted directly if and when anyone perceives any indication of unfairness or any academic inconsistencies with regard to his student athletes.

President Strain noted that the student athletes that do not meet LSU's admission criteria come in under separate NCAA admission criteria. He asked if Mr. DiNardo would attempt to change this practice. Mr. DiNardo responded that he had never coached at a school where the athletic program required the athletic teams to meet the same academic criteria as the student athletes who are not admitted standard criteria, quickly diagnose where they are deficient, and provide them with the support to bring their skills up to their intelligence level.

President's Report:

ALFS met February 4 with Dr. Clausen in the LSU Union. They discussed ways to promote the message of the 21st Century Commission on Higher Education. Dr. Clausen is establishing a committee to develop recommendations on implementing the Commission’s goals. Mr. Womack's decision to serve on this implementation committee is partly due to the Senate's invitation to have him address them at the January meeting. President Strain announced that he would be the liaison for the faculty of the state to the 21st Century Commission. Dr. Carpenter (SU Senate president) will be the alternate. One area of possible impact is the SECURE group. Its Education Subcommittee is moving to endorse the recommendations of the 21st Century Commission. However, there is some opposition within the main SECURE group, including Mark Drennan, chair of the Public Affairs Research Council. President Strain has written to ask for his support, and he will attend the next SECURE meeting (Feb. 14).

The Budget Committee met to examine how best to spend some unanticipated revenues, and how best to return the funds that were escrowed at the beginning of this fiscal year. In additional revenues, LSU has $200K from increased tuition and $300K from increased interest income. The University's escrowed funds total $1.4M, of which $1M was escrowed from Academic Affairs. The Budget Committee, consisting of President Strain and one other elected faculty member and all the Vice-Chancellors, recommended and the Chancellor approved, putting the $500K new revenue into classroom renovation. From the escrowed funds, $300K will be returned to the Library, to be supplemented by a $200,000 donation from the Athletic Department. The $300K restores the Library's budget to last year's level and the additional $200K provides funds for growth. These transactions will enable LSU to respond to the SACS Report recommendation for increased funding to the Library. The remainder of the escrowed funds will be returned to the colleges from which they were cut in the ratio in which they were cut. These cuts last July were admittedly unfair and were based on vacant positions. Therefore, Business Administration and Veterinary Medicine were each cut over $200K, whereas other colleges were cut smaller amounts. Since the Provost has made up the loss of his share of the $300K which went to the Library from other funds in his office, all the original funds will be available for reallocation. However, each college must justify where the returned funds will be spent, with the constraint from the Chancellor that they must go to instruction. Each dean is mandated to consult with his/her faculty policy committee and administrative council in planning the proposed expenditure of these funds and report back to the Provost. President Strain noted that the reports were due back in about a week and urged Senators to contact him if their policy committees were not invited to participate so that the Executive Committee might intervene on the appropriate level.

Another SACS' Recommendation calls for periodic internal reviews of academic programs. Some programs already do this through accreditation procedures. Associate Vice Chancellor Fogel is forming a committee to examine this proposed review process. Senator Van Fleet will be one of the faculty on the committee. There are still two faculty positions to be filled. Provost Jenkins has established a new committee of faculty and administrators to examine how to enhance the status and security of non-tenure-track faculty. This includes instructors, some of whom have been on campus for 25 years, but still must have their positions renewed annually, research-track professors, some of whom likewise have been here for years, and the clinical-track professors in departments such as Psychology, Communication Sciences and Disorders and Veterinary Medicine. The University is not contemplating tenure for these individuals, but other possible ways to improve their standing and security. This Alternative Career Paths Committee includes two faculty members, President Strain and Senator Ajmera.

Jackie Bartkiewicz, director of Public Relations, is reactivating the Media Experts Guide that in the past was provided to media and other interested groups. President Strain urged the senators to participate since it will enhance the image of the University for the media to feature local experts in their articles. Last month the Board of Supervisors established the Huel Perkins Fellowships, designed to recruit African-
Americans into graduate programs at LSU with the goal of having more African-American faculty in the predominantly white Louisiana universities and colleges.

President Strain announced that Provost William Jenkins will be the guest speaker at the next Faculty Senate meeting. He will present his plans for implementing programmatic planning in response to the college plans that were developed last spring. Dr. Andonie, chairman of the LSU Alumni Association Board of Directors and member of the LSU Board of Supervisors, will speak at the May Senate meeting. The Senate Election Committee, chaired by Senator Van Fleet, will soon be activated to recommend a slate of candidates for next year's officers to be presented at the March meeting. The election will be at the April meeting. Nominations from the floor are welcomed at both meetings. President Strain indicated that he would nominate any interested Senator. The Committee on Committees will be communicating with campus faculty about openings on standing Senate committees.

"Bumpy" Triche, SGA president, will promote voter registration as provided for in the National Voter Registration Act of 1993. This act provided that college campuses could be used for voter registration and voting sites. LSU's SGA will attempt to pass state legislation to allow registration and voting on campus.

As a part of the collaborative efforts between the Senate and the LSU Alumni Association, President Strain will attend a Dallas/Ft. Worth Alumni Association chapter meeting with the Provost to talk about his research and issues affecting faculty.

President Strain then noted that he had been informed that the faculty do not know what the Senate does. President Strain welcomed any suggestions on how to improve communication with the faculty. Some of the responsibility for communication lies with the individual Senators. He suggested that Senators request time at department and college faculty meetings to provide reports about Senate actions and concerns.

Other Reports:

In September 1994, the Executive Committee established an Ad Hoc Committee on Discrimination in response to a resolution introduced the previous spring by Senator Feldman. The committee's charge was to examine ways of improving implementation of existing University policies on discrimination in its various forms, including a review of existing policies, and consideration of any possible need for new policy statements and or procedures. The chair was Senator Arrington. Committee members were Senators deCaro (ENG), Feldman (EE), Drs. Fischer (ENG), Keenan (HUEC), Parker (For. Lang.), and Rau (PHYS). The committee's recommendations, after review of existing policy statements and other relevant documents, as well as interviews with relevant individuals and organizations, are listed in their report. Senate Resolution 94-06 incorporates these recommendations. Senate Resolution 94-06 was moved by Senator deCaro and seconded by Senator Batinski

SENATE RESOLUTION 94-06

Whereas the Ad Hoc Faculty Committee on Discrimination has reviewed existing University Policy Statements and relevant related documents and has interviewed individuals and organizations responsible for administration of such University policies and individuals and organizations representing those traditionally subject to discrimination, and

Whereas the Committee found that the University has no policy statement that speaks to issues of racial discrimination, specifically as these relate to students and the teaching-learning environment, and

Whereas PS-48 (Appeals) is highly technical in its routing procedures, may be intimidating to students, and is generally unwieldy and unsatisfactory, and

Whereas there is a general lack of awareness among students and faculty on what existing policies are and what avenues exist to pursue for redress,

Therefore be it resolved that the University:

1. develop a policy statement on racial and other forms of discrimination and intimidation;
2. revise PS-48 to make it more user-friendly and clear in terms of routing procedures;
3. designate an officer at a sufficient level and authority, and commit sufficient funds, to send a clear message to the University community that harassment or creation of a hostile environment are unacceptable and will draw sanctions; and
4. publicize the existence of the new policy statement on racial and other discrimination, the re-written PS-48, and of the designated office.

Senator deCaro noted that no office has discrimination as its charge. Senator Collier asked if there would be faculty input in the development of a PS on discrimination. President Strain responded that there would be.

More than a year ago, a committee was established by the Dean of Students to address the lack of
collegiality and sense of community on this campus. Students and faculty constituted the committee. The committee has produced a "Statement of Commitment to Community" and has asked numerous campus organizations, including the Faculty Senate, to endorse this statement. If any group chose not to endorse the statement, the Dean of Students' office has asked to be informed why the statement was unacceptable. President Strain suggested that he report the consensus of the Senate regarding this statement. Senator Stoner commented that the document lacked a main statement of purpose, and that there was no reference to LSU as an institution of learning. It was decided to postpone a decision and to get more information. If possible a representative from the Dean of Student's office should be invited to address the next senate meeting in March to provide this information.

Senator Ajmera reported on the Public Relations document which Senator Ajmera began as a response to the 1993 financial crisis, and which became a project of the Public Relations Committee. It was decided to ask the departments: "How has your unit benefited Louisiana in general and individual parishes in particular?", and "How significant is this involvement?" In January 1994 the initial findings were presented to the Ad Hoc Crisis Committee. This document has continued to grow with increased input from departments. The present version was presented with the help of Jackie Bartkiewicz, director of Public Relations. Senator Ajmera emphasized that the committee hopes to maintain this document as a "living document." Provost Jenkins has agreed to let his office be the site to which material can be sent for inclusion in the next version. The Senators were asked to make note of items from their own programs that could be included in this document and to submit any additional entries to Ms. Nancy Brueck (Academic Affairs), in WordPerfect format on a 3.5" disk. President Strain announced that this document has been or will be distributed to Dr. Clausen, the Governor, the Board of Supervisors, the Board of Regents, the Vice-Chancellors, and to the Deans. This document will be hand-delivered by a prominent alumni to each state legislator. The Public Relations Committee will also send a copy to every Library in the state and is investigating how to put it on the University's "gopher" system on the internet.

Old Business:

President Strain introduced the proposal on the revision of the Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws. Senator Collier moved to amend the proposal by deleting the requirement that a proxy be from the same college. Senator Poliakoff seconded the amendment which passed. The amended proposed revision to the Bylaws was passed. President Strain noted that the revisions to the Senate's Constitution will be voted on by Faculty Council. This will be handled by a mail ballot.

Senate Resolution 94-03 (Board of Supervisors Council of Faculty Advisors) was placed on the floor for discussion by President Strain and passed.

Resolution 94-04 (University Policy Statements) calling for faculty approval of new or revised University faculty policy statements was placed on the floor. Senator Collier moved a substitute resolution which called for implementation "only with direct approval of the Faculty Senate or other appropriate faculty governance body." Senator Windhauser seconded the amended resolution which passed. The amended proposed revision to the Bylaws was passed. President Strain noted that the revisions to the Senate's Constitution will be voted on by Faculty Council. This will be handled by a mail ballot.

There being no further old business or new business President Strain entertained a motion to adjourn at 4:15 P.M.