President's Report
- SR 96-06, endorsing Governor Foster’s plan to renew the one-cent sales tax to support higher education, passed.

President’s Report
- The Ombudsman position has received favorable reviews from the administration and may begin next year as a pilot program.

Chancellor’s Report
- A Provost Search Committee with about a dozen members will begin work immediately, with August being the target date for having a new Provost in place.

Faculty Senate Minutes
February 5, 1997

Meeting called to order at 3:04. Guests included Chancellor William Jenkins, Linus Lee and Donny McCallum (Reveille), Sherry Sapp (Advocate), Janice Lovett (LSU Today), Paul Estes, Joy Erwin. Minutes of the January 14 meeting were approved.

1. PS-22. Paul Estes, SGA president, spoke of an issue reported that day in the Tiger Weekly about a cancer-stricken student whose professor refused to give him adequate opportunity for make-ups despite the severity of the case. Estes said the case “utterly repulses” him and asked for clarification on PS-22 from the Executive Committee. Sen. Cherry asked about the response of the faculty member’s dean and was told that the dean allowed the make-ups but by that time the student was hospitalized. Sen. Stoner complimented the SGA’s interest in class attendance, and expressed hope that it would continue working on student class attendance, which he estimated at 60-70%. Sen. Strain asked if the syllabus of the professor in question specified attendance policies; Estes responded that he did not know, but would look into it.

2. President’s Report.
   A. Boyd Professor William Cooper will chair the Provost Search Committee, which will have around a dozen members. Sen. Kinney asked if a revised job description for the new position was available and was told it was not.
   B. Ombudsman. A draft description of the ombudsman position has been favorably reviewed by the administration; a one-year pilot program is now under consideration because the new Provost may wish modifications.
   C. Faculty Administrative Interns. A policy to allow faculty to serve as interns in administrative positions for one or two semesters has been proposed by the Executive Committee.
   D. A Faculty Tour of Louisiana for entering and first-year faculty will begin August 4, sponsored by the senate, Academic Affairs, and the Alumni Association. New faculty (volunteers) will spend four days and three nights visiting sites, industries, business, schools, and government to become familiar with the state and to serve as ambassadors. This is patterned after a nineteen-year-old program at the University of Georgia. The senate president, someone from Academic Affairs, and alumni representatives will also probably be on board. The Athletic Department may supply a bus, and the alumni office is setting up the stops.
   E. President Collier urged senators to contact their representatives about the sales tax.
   F. The Committee on Committees is at present dealing with nominations for Executive Committee, Budget Committee, and the Conference of Louisiana Colleges and Universities for 1997-98, and is also soliciting volunteers for other senate committees.
G. President Collier and George Strain have spoken with Steve Perry about getting faculty representatives on
the Boards, with a positive response.

3. Resolution 96-06 (Sales Tax and Higher Education Restructuring). George Strain reviewed Steve Perry’s
presentation last month and read the resolution. Senator Rossman asked if the federal government would refuse to bail
out the state if the sales tax is not renewed. Sen. Strain said this was apparently the case, and then moved to suspend
the rules to vote on the resolution at this meeting. This passed by a show of hands.

Senator Kinney moved to remove all references to the sales tax in the resolution, stating that such promises
have been made to education before, particularly about the lottery, but, after taxes are passed, inadequate or no funds
actually go to education. Chancellor Jenkins noted that deferred maintenance is not part of the proposed sales tax
funds. The motion failed by a vote of hands.

Senator Stoner moved to amend the resolution to the wording it had when passed (see attachment). The
motioned passed by a show of hands.

Discussion shifted to changing “provide recurring funds” to “provide incremental recurring funds,” as moved
by Sen. Harris (seconded Sen. Wing). Various other suggestions were made to assure the intended meaning would
show that the senate wished the funds from the renewed sales tax to go to education. This failed by voice vote and
also by a hand vote, as called for by Sen. Kinney.

Sen. Hornberger objected to the political nature of the resolution and moved to strike references to the sales
tax, leaving only general comments about our support for Gov. Foster’s efforts to provide funds for education (second
Kinney). Sen. Di Maio agreed, arguing that the senate was being used as a pawn in a political game and, in any case,
sales tax is regressive despite Steve Perry’s comments to the contrary. Sen Rossman observed that without the
references to the sales tax the resolution had no real meaning, and Sen. Wing noted that, however one feels about a
sales tax, the current option is realistically the only one available to raise money for education. Sen. Hornberger’s
motion failed by a show of hands.

A motion to cut off debate was passed. The amended resolution was then passed.

4. Committee Reports, Improvement of Instruction Committee, including Resolution 96-05 (Writing Across the
Curriculum). Senator Richardson presented the report and accompanying resolution. He noted that the material
presented by the committee was the result of work of several senate committees over several years, but that the length
and complexity of the documents made it desirable to hold discussion until the next meeting.

5. Comments by Chancellor Jenkins.
   A. He has almost finished his round of visits to departments and units, twenty-five so far.
   B. He has found an enormous sense of optimism among LSU supporters.
   C. LSU is expected to take the lead in changes in Louisiana.
   D. On the search for the new Provost, he wished the committee to include student, faculty, and administrator
      voices, including the presidents of the faculty, staff, and student senates, two deans, and perhaps someone from
      Business Affairs. He will probably not appoint an assistant professor to the search committee because of the time
      demands, but will appoint an executive secretary to the chair of the search committee. His deadline for having a
      Provost in place is August.
   E. He intends to “carry the LSU banner” to the legislature, but does not wish to spend all this time downtown.
   F. The first phase of the request from the state auditor is completed and the second phase is underway.
   G. A description of the new Executive Vice Chancellor’s position is in progress.
   H. LSU is now monitoring by way of a computer all legislative bills as they are filed.

Respectfully submitted,

Malcolm Richardson
Secretary

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