HIGHLIGHTS FROM FACULTY SENATE MEETING

January 23, 2001

Chancellor's Comments

1. Campus Master Planning
2. Board of Regents Master Plan

Provost's Remarks

1. Raises for Faculty and Professional Staff
2. Special Presentation "The Future of Higher Education in Louisiana" by Steve Perry, Chief of Staff, Governor Foster's Office.

President's Report


Old Business

1. Discussion of SR 01-04, to develop procedures to remove tenure from administrators, by Ron Snider (proxy for Faculty Senator Dan Hillmann)
   New Business
2. Second reading of SR 01-04 to develop procedures to remove tenure from administrators by Ron Snider (proxy for Faculty Senator Dan Hillmann)
3. First reading of SR 01-05, to eliminate university-wide commencement ceremony for December graduation, by Faculty Senator Elaine Smyth for the Faculty Senate Commencement Committee.
Meeting called to order at 3:06 p.m. Invited guests included Steve Perry (Governor Foster's Chief of Staff); Chancellor Mark Emmert; Executive Vice-Chancellor and Provost Dan Fogel; Vice Provost F. Neil Mathews; Karen Denby (Dean of Enrollment Management, Office of Academic Affairs); Robert Doolos (Office of the University Registrar); Faculty Senate Commencement Committee members Marilyn Christianson, Aimee Fifarek, and Tim Louwers; Student Government Association members Bhavna Pandit and Craig Cancienne; Ryan Goudelocke (Reveille); Nolde Alexious (English); Teresa Devlin (University Relations); Sonya Forte Duhé (ACE fellow); Reneé Boutte Myer and Michelle Cobas (Chancellor's Office); Dick Rigterink (SmithGroup JJR); and Bill Eskew (Director of Facilities Development). Proxies were announced. November 30 minutes were approved as read.

Chancellor's Comments. The Chancellor announced that SmithGroup JJR has commenced work on the campus master plan. The plan will be used to add coherence and thoughtfulness to the use of campus space and facilities; and will address parking, pedestrians and the development of architectural standards across campus. The Chancellor also announced he is in active dialog with the Board of Regents regarding their State mandated Master Plan for Higher Education. There will be a period of public comment on the Master Plan in March. The Chancellor also thanked Steve Perry for visiting campus, calling him a great friend to LSU and to higher education in Louisiana.

Provost's Comments. The Provost thanked Steve Perry for his visit to campus. Faculty and professional staff raises were due in the Provost's office on January 23. The Provost asked Deans and Chairs to make a good faith effort to give an eight-percent or greater raise to one-fifth of faculty. As a result, those with an above average performance may get less than a four-percent raise.

Presentation by Steve Perry. Mr. Perry stated that increased funding for higher education has been the top priority of the Governor's office, and it also has been their hardest goal to achieve. Higher education has received more money under the current administration than in any of the previous 20 years, but funding is still below what is needed. Mr. Perry would like to see LSU become a true regional flagship in all regards, from funding levels to admissions standards, within the next 6 or 7 years.

The Governor's office is developing ways to increase funding to higher education without raising taxes. One source of funds will be through state budget cuts, with higher education being exempted. Much of the $250 million anticipated from these cuts is earmarked for higher education. There are also plans for debt restructuring and debt reduction using tobacco settlement funds. The Governor
also plans to create a State Higher Education Business Council that will provide a political base of support for higher education. The Governor's office hopes that the Council will help raise $1 billion ($250 million for five years) for capitol construction, including renovation, deferred maintenance, and new building construction. In addition, targeted funding may become available, including a $25 million Information Technology initiative for LSU, UNO, ULL, and Louisiana Tech to hire 150-170 faculty in electrical engineering, computer science, information science, and other fields related to digital technology. Finally, there are plans to make recurring one-time funds (i.e., $15 million for funds for library and equipment) a regular part of the state budget.

Mr. Perry expressed a desire for LSU to increase admissions standards, decrease class sizes and enrollment, and increase the number of graduate students. He acknowledged that to do so, the state funding formulas, which are tied to enrollment, must be revised.

In response to questions, Mr. Perry stated that tenure is needed in higher education, although accountability must also be in place. Mr. Perry also noted that K-12 education is greatly underfunded and the Governor's office is working to increase their funding as well. In response to a question about budget cuts to other parts of state government, Mr. Perry noted that DEQ will not be cut because most of its funding is Federal. He also stated that the charity hospitals system needs overhauling because many facilities are out-of-date and cannot provide good care at a reasonable price. One solution is to form partnerships with private facilities, and currently the state is negotiating with Baton Rouge General to take over the load of Earl K. Long.

Comments from Campus Master Planning Firm (SmithGroup JJR). Dick Rigerterink, who is leading the LSU project, gave a brief overview of the planning process, which will take 26 months. The master plan will incorporate both a long-term (20 year) and short-term (1-5 year) plan. The location of facilities and open spaces, pedestrian corridors, and traffic and parking will be considered. The planning team will make 10 visits to campus and have three major sessions for campus and community input. The firm can be contacted via email at lsu_masterplan@aa.smithgroup.com.

President's Comments. President Kestner stated that he is still working with Rob Poston (Staff Senate) and Forest Benedict (Director of Human Resource Management) on the status of and changes in State Group Benefits.

Old Business. SR 01-04, resolution to develop procedures to remove tenure from administrators. A motion to remove the resolution from the table passed. Ron Snider (proxy for Faculty Senator Dan Hillmann) proposed an amendment to the resolution and the substitution passed (full text attached). The amendment called for Faculty Senate to develop a procedure, to be inserted into PS-35, to include faculty input in the evaluation of administrators. Carol Barry noted that
this fall the Faculty Senate Executive Committee charged the Faculty Senate Council of Policy Committees with examining PS-35 and how it is implemented across campus. A report and recommendations from this committee may be available by the end of the semester. Citing the need for the Council of Policy Committees report to evaluate the need for SR 01-04, Senator Jim Richardson made a motion to table the resolution, which passed.

**New Business.** SR 01-06, that the LSU Faculty Senate and LSU Chapter of AAUP co-sponsor a program for faculty (first reading, complete text attached). Presented by Dr. Ron Snider. In the resolution, the Faculty Senate would agree to co-sponsor a program on tenure, academic freedom and post-tenure review on Friday, March 23, 2001. The LSU AAUP Chapter has a guest speaker, Dr. Jeffrey Butts from Appalachian State University, visiting campus that day. Questions raised included whether additional speakers would be available on that particular day, and whether the day chosen (Friday before spring break) was appropriate.

SR 01-05, to eliminate university-wide commencement ceremony for December graduation (first reading, complete text attached). Presented by Elaine Smyth for the Commencement Committee.

Meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Anderson, Secretary

Faculty Senate Meeting minutes and transcripts are available at: