Faculty Senate Meeting
January 20, 1995

The meeting was called to order by President Strain at 3:00 p.m. Senator Collier moved to approve the minutes of the December 1994 meeting; Senator Koehnke seconded the motion, which was approved.

The invited guest speaker, Mr. Womack, Chairman of the LSU Board of Supervisors was introduced along with other guests including Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Provost Jenkins, Dean Fogel (Graduate School), Dr. Rasmussen and Dr. Braymer (President's Office), Associate Deans Blouin and Baszile (General College), Mary Boudreaux (Staff Senate), Vita Levatino (SGA), and Jayme Marler (Reveille).

Guest Presentation:
Mr. Womack thanked the Senate for inviting him to speak and thanked the faculty for their service to the University. He stated that LSU is a great educational institution that has the same funding problems as the University of California at Berkeley. He recalled that when Huey Long was governor, LSU was the fourth best publicly funded university in the United States. When John McKeithen was governor, LSU ranked fourteenth in the country, but has since declined. "We have failed to educate the masses in Louisiana -- 72% of the people in Louisiana do not have a college education and approximately 50% have never even attended college. Louisiana is the only state in the Union in which both health care and higher education budgets can be cut. It is difficult for legislators to give priority to one over the other. Everyone in education, teachers from Kindergarten to faculty with doctorate degrees, must fight for education on all levels. However, due to the decline of the oil industry, the state's revenues have declined as well. Colleges today are getting students that are not properly prepared to receive a college education. Only about 60% of the students who attend college are there to work towards a degree. Those students who do receive a degree will owe from twelve to thirty thousand dollars for their education. Tuition is too high, and our problems here at LSU are basically the same as those in North Carolina, Los Angeles, and Houston. Mr. Womack proposed to ask the declared gubernatorial candidates to come before the Board of Supervisors and indicate what as governor they would do for higher education in Louisiana. The six announced candidates could be heard from before the election in November. Mr. Womack invited the Faculty Senators to submit questions for these candidates to him through the normal chain of command. He urged the faculty to support the candidate whom they felt was the most sincere and who would do the best job. However, the governor is only one person. State legislators still need to be contacted and asked what they intend to do for higher education and how. Governor Edwards had asked Mr. Womack to serve on a committee for the implementation of the recommendations made by the 21st Century Commission. Mr. Womack has reserved giving the Governor an answer until he had spoken to the Faculty Senate and received their input. The University of Southwestern Louisiana is enviable since its
various constituencies continue to ask more and more of us. The faculty of LSU have not had a salary raise in three years. This is the longest period LSU faculty have ever gone without a raise, and the potential for an exodus of many of our best faculty looms as a result. He asked if LSU and the Board can solve this dire pay issue, and would Mr. Womack support efforts to address the problem? Mr. Womack responded that the only way to correct LSU's rank at the bottom of the SREB is to get the legislature to properly fund higher education. He added that the LSU board has the best administration that he can remember. But, whether or not there might be any "fat" in the education budget throughout the state, would require some study. LSU's law school tuition is 1/3 of Tulane's and 40% Loyola's Law School. Yet, the largest percentage of students passing the Bar Exam are LSU law students. This proves that education can be done on a budget. Mr. Womack commended LSU Law School and our Agricultural College as well as every part of this university. LSU is the only public university in the state to have admission standards, but they are necessary. The graduation rate should be rising rapidly with these new admission standards. Community colleges will also make a tremendous difference in Louisiana and serve the needs of many students. "If we all do our role and mission, we will automatically lower the cost of education." President Strain asked if the Board of Supervisors would respond to Dr. Clausen's challenge to educate the public concerning the economic returns which higher education brings, and if asked, would Mr. Womack assist in implementing the recommendations of the 21st Century Commission? Mr. Womack responded that this will require lobbying. At the December meeting the Board of Supervisors supported Dr. Clausen. Mr. Womack promised that the Board of Supervisors would lead the fight for higher education in his next seven months as Chairman. He added that he is waiting to hear specific recommendations from Dr. Clausen. The legislators play a critical role, and we have to deal with them on an individual basis. Higher education needs to support the candidate for governor who will fight for higher education. Senator Carney asked if there would be an effort to include administrators in addition to the LSU faculty in the fight for higher education. Mr. Womack answered that he did not think it was the Chancellor's place to go to the legislature and beg for money. The Board should do this for him. Previously, Troy Middleton, past president of LSU, could walk into the legislature and receive what he had requested. The world is changing and we have to change with it. It is necessary to work with the legislators. Senator Honeycutt asked if there was an organized lobbying effort to persuade legislators to put before the voters an amendment whereby funding for Higher Education would essentially not be subject to mid-year cuts. Could this amendment appear in October of 1995, or since it is an election year, would it be fall of 1996 before the legislature might pass an amendment to be sent on to the voters. Mr. Womack responded that a constitutional amendment is not necessary to raising funds for higher education. The support of the legislature is necessary. The goals of commissions on higher education require help from the faculty.

President's Report:

The official report of the SACS Reaffirmation Team has recommended reaccreditation. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee and members of the administration are considering how to respond to the recommendations and some of the suggestions in this report. The Executive Committee is studying the number of curricula at LSU which require an excess of 128 hours for a bachelor's degree. The Courses and Curricula Committee and the Council of Policy Committee will examine this issue and will report their findings to the Senate. The Office of Research has initiated revision of the University policy on misconduct in Research (PS-69). Committees have been established to look at a campus-wide return policy on overhead from grants, the creation of an LSU Research Foundation and federal requirements for the disclosure of interest. At the next Board of Supervisors meeting, there will be a proposal to approve establishment of Minority Doctoral Fellowships at LSU in response to the desegregation lawsuit settlement. This proposal allows for $600,000/year for 10 years to be provided by the State, with efforts to raise private funds to continue the program beyond that point. There will be a recommendation to approve establishment of the Alan A. Copping Endowed Chair for Excellence in Teaching at the LSU Medical Center through the matching fund provisions of the Louisiana Endowment Trust Fund for Eminent Scholars (6g). The Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates (ALFS) will meet at LSU on February 4 to discuss with Dr. Clausen responses to the report of the Commission on Higher Education for the 21st Century. The Executive Committee plans to meet with Executive Vice Chancellor Coleman to discuss computer resources. Earlier in the year a committee was formed by the Provost to study the management of Summer School. The Provost has placed Assoc. Vice-Chancellor Fogel
B. Collier and M. Masse will serve on this committee. President Strain announced that the Executive Committee will establish a nominating committee from the retiring senators to recommend candidates to the full Senate. President Strain encouraged anyone who is interested in the offices of President, Vice-President, Secretary, or Member At Large to contact him in confidence and he will pass the information on to the Nominating Committee. Candidates do not need to have served on the Executive Committee and they do not need to be nominated by someone else.

Other Reports:

The LSU Access Taskforce developed a proposal for a program to bring applicants not meeting current admission requirements through an academic "boot camp" to see if they were able to handle academic course work that is expected of normally admitted students. A pilot program was authorized by the Senate and has now completed its first semester. The schedule that the Executive Committee established required a report at this time to decide advisability of authorizing continuation of Access as a regular academic program. The Office of Admissions needs the Senate's approval at this time in order to process the applications of students who might qualify for this program for next Fall. End-of-Semester Reports were prepared by Dean Parker (General College) who was responsible for administering the pilot. Associate Deans Blouin and Baszile presented the report.

Dean Baszile (General College) presented the final report of the LSU Access Program. Seventy-three students were invited to participate in the program. One student resigned and 64 enrolled for Spring Semester. The average ACT score was 18.9. The average GPA was 2.2. Nearly 38% earned a GPA 3.0 or higher; 65% earned a 2.0 or higher GPA; 5 earned Deans List Honors. ACT scores were not accurate indicators of success. A team of dedicated professional worked to make the playing field level for Access freshmen. Failing grades were linked to high absenteeism and low motivation. The admissions process should incorporate an element which would indicate the motivation and sincerity of the students. The Access Program needs its own staff and support services. By most measurement tools, the Program was a success. With better planning, more planning time and enough staff, Access can provide an important service to the state. Senator Ajmera asked how it is possible to assess the motivation of students applying. Dean Baszile responded that there is no absolute criterion. However, personal interviews, a written statement in addition to other instruments of evaluation would indicate motivation. Senator Ajmera asked if it was defensible to admit a student with low ACT scores and high motivation, but not admit a student with high ACT scores and apparently low motivation. Dean Baszile answered that the staff would need to examine such issues. As the program grows they will learn more about this admission process. Ms. Harris (Director of Undergraduate Admissions) added that in many cases more than ACT scores are considered. Since there was a short time frame to admit Access students last summer, the high school GPA was the primary consideration. At this time the Admissions Office is collecting information on next Fall's students. It is, therefore, necessary for the office to know if the Access Program will be in place so that some students could be admitted in this program. Senator Collier asked how the Access students compared with the regularly admitted LSU freshmen and if the regularly admitted students had been offered the same services would their performance have been better. Dr. Lindsay (Academic Affairs) answered that the retention rate is better for regularly admitted students. However, there are also services available to these students. Dean Baszile added that the Access Program simply encouraged the Access students to use the resources more. The original intent of the program was that it pay for itself through tuition. Senator Collier asked if there was a compelling reason to continue the program. Dean Baszile responded that Access provides a valuable service to the community. Moreover, LSU prepares students better than those universities which some students attend for a semester or two before enrolling at LSU. Senator Waters asked if students could reenroll in the Access Program. Dean Baszile answered that all were allowed to enroll for the second semester. Students who did not earn a 2.0 GPA were placed on probation. Moreover, Access students must complete 24 hrs. with a 2.0 GPA before regular admission to LSU. Students cannot stay in Access after earning 24 credit hrs. Senator Koehnke asked if the mechanism was in place to track Access students and compare them to transfer students. Dean Baszile said that this could be done.

President Strain read Resolution 94-05. Senator Freiberg moved to introduce the resolution, and it was seconded by Senator Liggett. Senator Van Fleet moved to amend the resolution to limit the Senate's approval to Spring 1997. The amendment was seconded by Senator Waters. Senator Collier offered a friendly amendment to stipulate that Access be designated a pilot program which Senator Van Fleet accepted. The
amendment was moved by Senator Waters, seconded by Senator Liggett and passed. Senator Liggett moved a suspension of the rules to allow the resolution to be voted on at this meeting of the Senate; the motion was seconded by Senator Voyiadis and passed. The amended resolution was moved and passed.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 94-05**

*Whereas* there is a demonstrated need to maximize access to Louisiana State University for students, while at the same time maintaining established standards, and

*Whereas* the General College has run a pilot LSU Access Program as recommended by the LSU Access Taskforce and as approved by the LSU Faculty Senate, Courses and Curricula Committee, and Admissions, Standards and Honors Committee, and

*Whereas* the pilot LSU Access Program succeeded in meeting the criteria suggested by the Faculty Senate while at the same time successfully meeting the academic needs of the students admitted in the LSU Access Program so that an acceptable percentage of them are predicted to be eligible for regular admission after completing all established requirements,

*Therefore be it resolved* that the LSU Faculty Senate recommends approval of the LSU Access Program as a pilot program at LSU through Spring, 1997, and that the Office of Academic Affairs identify a Director to staff and oversee the continued operation of the LSU Access Program, with administrative structure and policy to be jointly developed by the Office of Academic Affairs and the LSU Access Taskforce, its successor, or a designated committee of the Faculty Senate.

*Be it further resolved* that the LSU Access Program continue to be administered under the criteria that all Program instructional, administrative, and other expenses be met or exceeded solely through tuition paid by enrollees, and that no resources or services for regularly-admitted LSU student be diverted to or diminished by the Program.

**New Business:**

President Strain read Resolution 94-03 (Faculty Advisory Council). Senator Van Fleet moved to introduce the resolution, and it was seconded by Senator Batinski.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 94-03**

*Whereas* the faculty is an integral part of the academic community that is the Louisiana State University System, and

*Whereas* it is important that the faculties of the various units of the System maintain a dialog with the governing body and administrators of the System to provide insight and advice on matters of importance to the faculties,

*Now therefore be it resolved* that the Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College Faculty Senate does hereby endorse the formation of the Council of Faculty Advisors as a formal advisory body to the Louisiana State University System President and Board of Supervisors, and encourage the adoption of an amendment to the Bylaws of the Board of Supervisors which would constitute the Council.

President Strain read Resolution 94-04 (Policy Statements). Senator Wittkopf moved to introduce the motion, and second by Senator deCaro.

**SENATE RESOLUTION 94-04**

*Whereas* the stated instructional, research, and service mission, goals, and objectives of Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College (hereafter the University) are inherently academic in nature, and

*Whereas* the faculties of the various schools and colleges of the University are charged with all aspects of carrying out the academic mission, goals, and objectives of the University, and

*Whereas* the LSU Board of Supervisors has explicitly assigned authority and responsibility for formulating and executing academic policy to the faculty as embodied in the Faculty Council and Faculty Senate,

*Therefore be it resolved* that all University policy, except that explicitly confined to the University's physical facilities and auxiliary services, as expressed in the University's Policy Statements, be implemented only with direct approval of the Faculty Senate and Faculty Council, and

*Be it further resolved* that policy statements related to physical facilities and auxiliary services be forwarded to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee for comment no later than ninety days prior to the planned date of implementation.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 P.M.

Emily Batinski
secretary