HIGHLIGHTS FROM FACULTY SENATE MEETING

March 9, 2000

**Provost's Comments**

1. Academic Excellence Fee
2. Class scheduling for Spring 2001
3. Facilities Master Plan
4. Arts and Sciences Dean search

**President's Report**

1. Report on Status of Research Rank Faculty
2. Slate of candidates for Faculty Senate offices announced

**SR 00-09**

1. First reading of resolution designating March as Career Month; the resolution was read, voted on and passed

**SR 00-10**

1. First reading of resolution proposing new admissions standards for Fall 2002

**SR 00-12**

1. First reading of resolution supporting the recognition of August baccalaureate graduates in the May commencement ceremony
Report of Faculty Senate Commencement Exercises Committee

1. Recognition of August baccalaureate graduates at May commencement ceremony

Faculty Senate Minutes

March 9, 2000

Meeting called to order at 3:05 pm. Invited guests included Executive Vice-Chancellor and Provost Dan Fogel, Vice-Provost Neil Mathews, Robert Doolos (Registrar), Cleve Brooks (Interim Director, Admissions), Joanne McMullen (Staff Senate) and John Anderson (Chair, Faculty Senate Commencement Exercises Committee). Proxies were announced. February 9 minutes were approved as read.

Provost’s Comments. Provost Fogel described the proposed Academic Excellence Fee. Full-time students would pay $250 per semester ($500 per academic year), with a pro-rated fee for part-time students and summer semester. It is estimated that the fee would generate $13-14 million per annum. This revenue would be used to ensure a quality learning environment at the state’s flagship university. The Provost pointed out that many students at community colleges are currently paying less than students attending LSU. Details still need to be worked out concerning exemptions. At this point, there seems to be strong support for the fee from members of the legislature, the state system, and student groups. The Provost reported that he has asked the Registrar to develop an algorithm to assign class sections more evenly across available time periods, which would alleviate some of the current scheduling problems. This process would be in place by Spring 2001. Eleven firms submitted proposals for the Facilities Master Plan. A short-list of three firms will be identified. Those firms will be invited to make presentations on April 12 and a decision will then be made on April 13. Finally, the Provost reported that the search committee for the Dean of Arts and Sciences is being formed. There will be an external, national search, and the university is looking for the best possible candidates for this very important position.

President’s Comments. President Cherry announced that Dr. Marilyn Zimney, Interim Vice-President of the LSU System, was unable to make today’s meeting and will be attending the April meeting. She reminded senators that they had received the Faculty Senate Commission on the Status of Academic Rank’s report concerning the status of research rank faculty. She requested that senators send any comments about the report to Secretary Barry. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee will then transmit concerns to the committee that is revising PS-36. She then read the slate of candidates for Faculty Senate offices.
President Cherry then briefly described the resolutions and committee reports on the agenda.

**SR 00-9, March as Career Month** (complete text attached). Presented by Richard Bengtson. Senator Bengtson read the resolution, which resolves that the LSU Faculty Senate declare March as Career Month at LSU and encourages the LSU community to support the program. A motion to suspend the rules and vote on the resolution carried. The resolution then passed by a unanimous voice vote.

**SR 00-10, Committee Reports, New Admissions Standards for Fall 2002** (complete text attached). Presented by Neil Kestner, Chair of the Faculty Senate Admissions, Scholarship and Honors (ASH) Committee. Senator Kestner discussed the general principles that guided the ASH committee in identifying new admissions standards. These included the desire to raise academic standards, increase chances of success for all students at LSU, attain a graduation rate of 63% by 2008, and increase diversity of the student body. He explained that recent data at LSU suggest that the best predictors of success are high school GPA, then rank in high school class, and then ACT scores. The proposed admissions standards take this data into account by stressing students' success in a strong academic program in high school. Given that all high schools cannot provide such academic programs, other admissions options are open to their students. The committee has proposed a two-tiered system of automatic admissions and regular admissions (previously called committee admissions). The former group will be assured of admission while the latter will be subject to availability of space. During discussion of the resolution, the concern was raised that the standards for automatic admission will allow so many students to be admitted that there will be no room left for students applying under regular admission, which would have a detrimental effect on the diversity of the student body.

**Faculty Senate Commencement Exercises Committee, Committee Reports.** John Anderson, chair of the committee, presented a brief report on the subject of recognition of August graduates at the May commencement ceremony. Anderson explained that Provost Fogel had met with the committee in February to propose that the commencement ceremony be viewed as a celebration of students' accomplishments rather than a certification ceremony. Undergraduate students who are certified by their colleges as having a reasonable expectation of completing degree requirements by August would be recognized at the May commencement. The change would take effect for the May 2001 ceremony. Anderson reported that, in view of the stipulations in the proposal (i.e., recognition includes undergraduates only and colleges must certify students
expected to be eligible for August graduation), the committee supports the proposal.

**Old Business.** None.

**New Business.** None.

Meeting adjourned at 4:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Barry, Secretary

Faculty Senate Meeting minutes and transcripts are available at: