HIGHLIGHTS FROM FACULTY SENATE MEETING,
March 7, 2002

Comments from Executive Vice-Chancellor and Provost Fogel:

· The Committee to Develop Recommendations on Review of Administrators is making progress, having developed a consensus that faculty should have a central role in the process.
· The Degree Audit Task Force has been reworking the current form to make it easier for students and faculty to interpret.
· Faculty may see sobering budgetary news in the special and regular sessions of the Legislature.

Comments from Faculty Senate President Neil Kestner:

· Forest Benedict will speak to the Board of Supervisors about a new group benefits plan.
· Faculty will soon receive a memo from Provost Fogel and Vice-Chancellor Neil Mathews suggesting ways to handle students’ excused absences due to illness.
· Annual reports from standing committees of the Faculty Senate are now due.
· If Senators wish to discuss the Codification of Graduate Council Policies, they should ask to have the item put on next month’s agenda.
· The Blue Ribbon Commission on Teacher Quality is insisting on curricular changes in the College of Education with a Board of Regents deadline that does not allow for vetting by appropriate faculty committees (such as approval by the Courses and Curricula Committee).

Report of the Nominating Committee:

The Committee to Nominate the Faculty Senate Executive Committee for next year presented the following slate: President–Laurie Anderson; Vice President–Carruth McGehee; Secretary–Paul Bell; members at large (two to be elected)–Nicholas Apostolou, Michael Cherry, and Claire Advokat. The floor is open for nominations.

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Investigate Collective Bargaining by Pat McGee:

An executive summary was distributed. Before the April meeting, Senators should study the full report, available at the Faculty Senate website. The html version is available at http://unix1.sncc.lsu.edu/guests/senate/public_html/finaldraft.htm.

Updates from the PS-36 Revision Committee: A revision of Chapter 1 is on the PS-36 web site. Senators are encouraged to check this site regularly and read the new drafts.
Old Business:

Resolution 02-04: "Contracts for Instructors and General Librarians," introduced by Senator Carruth McGehee, was tabled.

New Business:

· Senator James Catano updated the Senate on the financial woes in the College of Arts & Sciences.
· Resolution 02-05, "Listing a Second Major on the Transcript of a Student Obtaining One Bachelor's Degree," was introduced by Senator McGehee, seconded, and discussed.
· Resolution 02-06, "Concentrated Study Period Policy," read by Senator Apostolou, was seconded a discussed.

The next Faculty Senate Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2002.

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

The meeting was called to order at 3:10 p.m. A quorum was present; proxies were announced. Harold Mixon served as Guest Parliamentarian. Minutes of the February 15, 2002 meeting were approved as distributed. They may be viewed at the Faculty Senate website, best accessed through Faculty Senate under the LSU A-Z Directory.

Comments from Executive Vice-Chancellor and Provost Fogel:

· The Committee to Develop Recommendations on Review of Administrators is making progress, having developed a consensus that faculty should have a central role in the evaluation of administrators who may be asked to submit annual reports keyed to their unit plans.

· The Degree Audit Task Force has been reworking the current form to make it easier for students and faculty to read and to assist administrators and advisors in helping students make steady progress toward their degrees. To continue improving LSU’s graduation rate, we must find new ways to help students earn degrees in a timely manner. One such way may be to identify critical track courses that students need at particular times in their studies. Students who have not taken these courses at key points will be encouraged to see an adviser; LSU will ensure that critical track courses are offered as needed. This program will be piloted with a few departments before being implemented campus wide.

· Faculty can expect to see sobering budgetary news in the special and regular sessions of the Legislature. According to Provost Fogel, it is not so much a question of revenues as of renewal of key taxes. There remains, however, a strong commitment from state government to higher education and for some favorable funding specifically for LSU.
Comments from Faculty Senate President Neil Kestner:

· Frank Chaffin is the permanent Faculty Senator replacing Anne Spafford.

· Forest Benedict will speak to the Board of Supervisors March 8 about a new group benefits plan. One proposal is from Definity, the national health care group used by the University of Minnesota with a similar consumer-driven health care plan.

· Faculty will soon receive a memo from Provost Fogel and Neil Mathews, Vice-Chancellor of Student Life & Academic Services, suggesting ways to handle students’ excused absences due to illness. The Student Health Center does not issue a doctor’s statements concerning health problems.

· Annual reports from standing committees of the Faculty Senate are now due. Chair of the Committee on Committees, Kelly Blessinger, encourages Senators and other faculty members to volunteer for committee assignments for next year.

· President Kester is also encouraged by progress being made by the Committee to Develop Recommendations on Review of Administrators, chaired by Paul Hoffman, Department of History. Senators should have a report yet this year.

· As part of Disability Awareness Week, there will be a free Faculty/Staff Luncheon on March 20; faculty should RSVP by March 14 by calling 578-4310.

· An additional Faculty Senate meeting may need to be called in mid-May to complete key projects for the year. The agenda for the April meeting will include reports from the Admissions, Standards, and Honors Committee and from the Commission on the Status of Women (postponed from this month), resolutions from the Ad Hoc Committee to Investigate Collective Bargaining, and in-depth discussion of the revised PS-36.

· If Senators wish to discuss the Codification of Graduate Council Policies, they should ask to have the item put on next month’s agenda.

· A new draft of PM-15 on intellectual property rights will be sent out on the Faculty Senate listserv for comments. This version is much more “pro-faculty” than the first.

· The Blue Ribbon Commission on Teacher Quality is insisting on curricular changes in the College of Education with a Board of Regents deadline that does not allow for vetting by appropriate faculty committees (such as approval by the Courses and Curricula Committee). The Provost will write a cover letter explaining that the changes described will not be implemented without faculty consent.

Report of the Nominating Committee:

The Committee to Nominate the Faculty Senate Executive Committee for next year (James Richardson, chair, Irene Di Maio, Charles Shilling, and Andrew Wojtanowicz)
presented the following slate: President–Laurie Anderson; Vice President–Carruth McGehee; Secretary–Paul Bell; members at large (two to be elected)–Nicholas Apostolou, Michael Cherry, and Claire Advokat. The floor is open for nominations. All current senators, the President, and sitting members of the Executive Committee are eligible to be nominated for FSEC positions.

Report of the Ad Hoc Committee to Investigate Collective Bargaining by Pat McGee:

An executive summary of the report was distributed. Before the April meeting, Senators should study the full report, available at the Faculty Senate website. The html version is available at http://unix1.sncc.lsu.edu/guests/senate/public_html/finaldraft.htm. Although the report is inconclusive as to the effectiveness of unions, numbers indicate that unions are effective in terms of compensation. The Chancellor has cautioned, however, that State Government would be opposed to the unionization of faculty. Also, unionization often creates an adversarial relationship between faculty and the administration or the representatives of the state, which is the source of the funding.

Whether LSU unionizes or not, the committee concludes that action should be taken to increase faculty involvement in compensation decisions and in shared governance. The report recommends procedures to determine the next steps of the Faculty Senate with respect to collective bargaining. For example, two resolutions will be introduced next time, one to bring an AAUP representative to campus to discuss the viability of collective bargaining for the LSU Faculty and another to set up an ad hoc committee to poll faculty members to determine their opinions about collective bargaining and shared governance. Senator James Richardson questioned which of these two actions should happen first. Senator McGee thinks the representative should speak first so that faculty might be more informed when polled and so that the committee conducting the poll will know what to ask. He noted that Senators can determine the order when the resolutions are discussed.

Updates from the PS-36 Revision Committee:

A revision of Chapter 1 is on the PS-36 web site. We should have a complete revision perhaps as early as April. Senators are encouraged to check this site regularly and read the new drafts.

Old Business:

Action on Resolution 02-04: "Contracts for Instructors and General Librarians," introduced by Senator Carruth McGehee, was postponed at the last meeting because the Committee to Revise PS-36 asked for time to revise Chapter 3. Senator McGehee said that adopting the resolution would put the Senate on record as supporting multiple-year contracts for instructors and would establish a committee to work on policy for hiring and promoting instructors and on guidelines for the transition to a new system. However, conditions have changed since the resolution was drafted; the Committee to Revise PS-36
is likely to have a new draft of Chapter 3 soon, and LSU is in a transition period with provosts. The Senate voted to table the motion.

New Business:

· Senator James Catano updated the Senate on the financial woes in the College of Arts and Sciences and their impact on teaching. In reference to recent news stories, he explained that the funding problems are not “rumors” or “misunderstandings,” but that “precise budget-cut numbers” were given to the chairs who then planned accordingly. Indeed some plans, such as suspending phone service, had been endorsed by administrators.

· Resolution 02-05, "Listing a Second Major on the Transcript of a Student Obtaining One Bachelor's Degree," was introduced by Senator McGehee, seconded, and discussed. At the present time, when the second major and primary major are in different colleges, a student cannot have the second major listed on the transcript without earning two degrees. The additional requirement for earning two degrees is the "30-hour rule" (see page 60 of the catalog). Resolution 02-05, which ASH has endorsed, would eliminate the 30-hour rule as a requirement for merely having the second major listed. In particular, colleges would still determine when students would be encouraged or allowed to use a pair of majors in this manner. The Resolution, together with information on other universities' practices, can be found at http://www.math.lsu.edu/~mcgehee/SecondMajors.pdf. The Resolution will be brought up for further discussion and for action at the April meeting.

· Resolution 02-06, "Concentrated Study Period Policy," was read by Senator Apostolou with part three of the printed draft, distributed at the meeting, deleted. The resolution seconded. And discussed. Patrick McCune, SGA President, spoke for the resolution, which sets at 10% the most a major assignment given during the concentrated study period can count. Senators are addressing this change because catalog guidelines for the concentrated study period were originally approved by the Faculty Senate. Senator Di Maio, explaining that the kind of assignments that teachers make during the final class periods are highly courses specific, noted that students may be ill served when a major quiz cannot be given during the final class, resulting in more material on the final exam. She believes that students might appreciate extra class periods to finish major projects and hence favors restoring point three that would allow major projects to be due during the concentrated study period. Senator Mary Lou Cutrera asked how the resolution would affect a portfolio grading system in which students turn in all completed work during the last class period. She too favors restoring point three. Senator Cherry asked if there might be better language to ensure that student complaints would be dealt with expeditiously. A friendly amendment to add point three back to the resolution failed because when Senator McGee pointed out that such major projects might count more than 10% of the final grade, the majority of Senators were persuaded that the resolution needed further clarification. It will be revised for the April meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.
The next Faculty Senate Meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 9, 2002.

Respectively submitted,
Sarah Liggett

*If you wish to be represented by another faculty member from your college or division, or if you wish to give a proxy vote to another member of the Senate, please give written notice to the Senate President prior to the meeting. Please refer to “Bylaws of the Faculty Senate,” Article VI, in the LSU Faculty Handbook.

Listserv: FACSEN-L@listserv.lsu.edu email: facsen@lsu.e

FACULTY SENATE MEETING ATTENDANCE

College of Agriculture (8)

ü__Paul Bell
ü__John Chandler
ü__Abner Hammond
ü__Stephen A. Harrison
*__Mark K. Johnson
ü__Joan M. King
ü__Fran Lawrence
*__Charles L. Shilling

College of Arts & Sciences (17)

*__Jack Beggs
ü__Karola Gray
ü__Mary Lou Cutrera
ü__Irene Di Maio
ü__Claire Advokat
__Sylvie Dubois
Paul Farnsworth
James Honeycutt
Stuart Irvine
Christopher Kenny
Sarah Liggett
Patrick McGee
Carruth McGehee
James Catano
John Rodrigue
Jill Suitor
William Adkins

College of Basic Sciences (7)
John Battista
Andrew Maverick
Michael Cherry
Jeffrey Clayton
Don Kraft
Mark Slovak
George Stanley

College of Business Administration (5)
Nicholas Apostolou
Don Deis
Jim Richardson
William J Moore  
Ji-Chai Lin  

**College of Art and Design (3)**  
Cynthia Handel  
Caroll Mathews  
Anne Spafford  

**College of Education (6)**  
Dennis Landin  
Nancy Nelson  
Thomasine Mencer  
Frank Rusciano  
Dianne Taylor  
Michael Welsch  

**College of Engineering (5)**  
Aravamudhan Raman  
* Danny Reible  
George Voyiadjis  
* Bhaba Sarker  
Andrew Wojtanowicz  

**School of the Coast and Environment (3)**  
* Mark Benfield  
Margaret Reams  
* Richard Shaw
Library (2)

* __Marilyn Christianson

ü __Kelly Blessinger

Library & Information Science (1)

ü __Elizabeth Dow

Mass Communication (1)

ü __Susan Brown

Museum Complex (1)

__Jim McGuire

College of Music & Dramatic Arts (3)

* __Andreas Giger

* __Lori Bade

__Louis Gagliano

School of Social Work (1)

ü __Kristin Gansle

Veterinary Medicine (4)

* __Pat Crawford

ü __Phillip Elzer

* __Marge Gill

* __David Horohov

Parliamentarian

__Andy King
PROXIES:

William Armstrong for Marilyn Christianson
Richard Condrey for Mark Benfield
James Cowan for Richard Shaw
John Chandler for Charles Shilling and Mark Johnson
Phil Elzer for Pat Crawford, Marge Gill, and David Horohov
Karola Gray for Lori Bade and Andreas Giger
Christopher Kenny for Jack Beggs
Tiwanna Simpson for John Rodrigue
Andrew Wojtanowicz for Danny Reible and Bhaba Sarker