LSU Faculty Senate Meeting
3:00 P.M., Wednesday, March 21st, 2007
Hill Memorial Library Auditorium, LSU

Attendance

Faculty Senate Executive Committee members present:

1. William H. Daly (Senate President) 4. Michael Wascom (Member-at-Large)
2. Kevin L. Cope (Vice President) 5. Judith Schiebout (Member-at-Large)
3. Lois J. Kuyper-Rushing (Secretary) 6. Claire Advokat (Ex Officio, Immed. Past Pres.)

Parliamentarian: Andrew King (present)

Senators present:


Proxies for absent Senators:

Lois J. Kuyper-Rushing for Kevin L. Cope and Judith Schiebout
Bill Daly for Beth Tope
Cathleen Williams for Wayne Gauthier, Jeff S. Kuehny and Kenneth W. McMillin
Hollis Utah Cox for Jeremy Hubert and Bruce Mark Olcott
Randall Hall for Richard L. Kurtz, Erwin D. Poliakoff and Kevin Smith
Michael Wascom for Paul A. Larock and James R. Stoner Jr.
Mary J Sirridge for Suzanne Marchand
Maud Maureen Walsh for Carol E. O’Neil
William H. Daly for Marcia Newcomer, Adelaide Russo and James L. Murphy
Robert Tague for Heather McKillop
Gerry Knapp for Warren Waggenspack

Senators absent without proxies + (# of absences without proxies):

LSU Faculty Senate Meeting
3:00 P.M., Tuesday, March 21, 2007, Lecture Hall, Hill Memorial Library

Highlights
- Introduction of Guests
- Consideration of the Minutes
- President’s Report
- Committee Reports
- New Business—Presentation of PS-36T (Working Version) by Chuck Wilson
- Report of Nominating Committee for 2006-2007 Faculty Senate officers

Minutes

President Daly opened the meeting at 3:00 P.M. with a reading of the proxies.

Introduction of Guests
Guests were introduced and urged to sign in on the attendance sheet. Guests attending the March meeting included:

- Robert Doolos, University Registrar
- Chuck Wilson, Executive Vice Chancellor

Consideration of the minutes—President Daly asked if there were any comments or corrections for the minutes of January 24, 2007. After minor corrections were noted, Senator Andrew Christie moved for approval and Senator George Stanley seconded. Minutes were accepted by voice vote.

President’s report
President Daly announced an ALFS (Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates) meeting scheduled for April 21 at the Faculty/Staff Dining Room in the Lavin-Bernick Center for University Life at Tulane University. E. Joseph Savoie, Commissioner of Higher Education, Louisiana Board of Regents, will speak on, “The Future of Higher Education in Louisiana: Faculty's Role in Planning and Implementing Change.” All faculty are welcome and encouraged to attend.

The Board of Supervisors has approved two new scholarship initiatives. The first, the Pelican Promise, will provide need-based support to Louisiana students who are economically disadvantaged and academically qualified. Details are in the Board of Supervisors agenda item which was circulated. The second initiative, the LSU National Scholars’ Award, will target high school students: (1) who score at or above the eightieth percentile on the PSAT, SAT or ACT and/or rank in the top 10% of their class; (2) who are eligible to enter LSU; (3) who have been recognized as finalist or semi-finalist in national academic competition review programs such as the National Merit Award. Details are in the BOS agenda item (a copy is included in this report).

The International Education Committee met with Provost Silverman and Vice-Provost Wilson to review the status of international education at LSU and to make some proposals to enhance its efforts. A copy of the report was provided. The Chairman of the committee, Patricia O'Neill, has been invited to consider drafting a resolution supporting the committee’s efforts.

LSU is in the midst of Provost candidate interviews. Professor Ronald Rousseau, Georgia Technical University, interviewed at LSU on March 19-20, and LSU Interim Provost Harold Silverman will be interviewing March 22-23. Dean Jeffrey Vitter from Purdue University will be on campus March 27-28, and the final candidate, Dean Astrid Merget, Indiana University, will interview immediately upon our return from Spring break, April 9-10. Faculty are encouraged to attend the fora presented by each candidate and to complete the candidate assessment forms and to send them to either President Daly or
Peggy Miller. The search committee will compile the comments and consider them carefully when preparing recommendations for Chancellor O’Keefe.

Committee Reports

Leonard Ray, Chair, Courses and Curricula Committee

Senator Ray reported first on the routine operations of the committee. Last year there were sixteen meetings and 536 requests for course or curriculum changes were approved, which is a bit of an increase from prior years. Administratively, support staff member Sue DuPont of Academic Affairs retired, and Karen Denby of Academic Affairs moved to another position in the LSU system. Academic Affairs is now represented on the committee by Frank Cartledge. Administrative support for the committee has shifted from Academic Affairs to the Registrar’s office. The Committee’s archives are kept in the Registrar’s office. Paperwork is managed by Stephanie Champagne of the Registrar’s office.

A new form (Form R) was developed for use when changing the course number for a class. The process used to require many forms, now one form will re-number a course. This form can only be used to renumber within the same course level so a change from a 4000 to 3000 level course, e.g., cannot be accomplished using Form R.

The Committee’s meeting minutes are on the Faculty Senate website and running tally of every change since the last catalog is kept on the website.

Senator Ray audited the catalog checking for inconsistencies in various curricula. He found that 125 courses didn’t work across the various curricula (either the course didn’t exist or it wasn’t offered frequently enough). Appendix A of the Faculty Senate Courses and Curricula Committee Report, 2006, reports these inconsistencies. Appendix B shows courses that haven’t been taught in at least five years. Only 11 percent of all courses offered at LSU are in this category. Appendix C lists prerequisites in various curricula that aren’t taught or don’t exist. Seventy-eight such courses were found.

Appendix D, entitled, “Mismatch between General Catalog and Mainframe” highlights mistakes in the catalog that will need attention in the future. Appendix E is a list of all actions taken in the 2006 calendar year and provides an online running tally of all action since January.

Senator Ray reported on issues that the committee will address in the future. For example, in the catalog, classes are identified as either a lecture class or a laboratory class. The committee feels that there is a third type of class, one that is neither a lecture nor a lab but more like a seminar, and proposes that a new category be considered for this type of course.

Senator Ray mentioned that LSU is about to face “Life without the catalog” because by fall, 2008, LSU will have an all-electronic catalog.

The committee is considering the meaning of “contact hours” for internships. The definition isn’t obvious, it isn’t explained or described consistently so the committee is developing a consistent definition for this.

Senator Christie asked about final exam policy. Senator Ray answered that, at this point, every class has to have a final exam unless there is administrative permission not to have one. The new class form will allow the instructor to opt out of a final, and if the dean, chair and department head all sign off on the form, the exam requirement will be dropped for that class.

Senator Stanley asked about the format of an electronic catalog. Neither Senator Ray nor Vice Chancellor Doolas could speak to this. President Daly asked about the student who wants to graduate under the regulations of the catalog with which he entered LSU, how can he or she do this if the catalog is dynamic? Senator Ray acknowledged that this is a problem.
David Kurpius, Chair, Student Aid and Scholarships Appeals Committee

Two years ago the committee was changed by vote of the Faculty Senate, and he feels this was a success. The committee continues its involvement with the Chancellor’s scholars, but its main function is to hear student appeals. During the previous year, there were just under seventy student aid and scholarship appeals filed, five were approved by the Office of Student Aid without a hearing. The committee was convened to hear ten cases, two were denied and eight were approved.

The Committee structure changed when it was reorganized by the Faculty Senate, now it is a committee of one. The members of the hearing board each have three-year appointments, so one-third of the committee changes each year. This structure is working well.

Louay Mohammed asked about how the Top 100 scholars are selected. Dr. Kurpius responded that the committee doesn’t handle that anymore, now the GPA and SAT scores are used to make the decision. This happened after the Committee voted to change it to a score-based award. Mary Parker, Director of Student Aid, said that some students with a 36 SAT and 4.00 GPA were not being offered the Top 100, so in order to give them these awards this change was made. It simplified recruiting and decision-making. It is much easier to recruit top students if you can guarantee something for a 36 SAT score and a 4.0 GPA. Clear ways to discuss what we can offer a student are necessary for recruiting top students. Senator Stanley asked how many Top 100 awards are offered. Ms. Parker replied that 300 are awards are offered, just to get to one hundred acceptances, but LSU won’t cut off qualifying students if there are more than one hundred acceptances.

New Business

Distribution of PS-36T (Working Version) – comments by Vice Provost Chuck Wilson

The document was distributed at the meeting. Vice Provost Wilson noted that many people have worked on this document including Carruth McGeehee, Claire Advokat, Janie Fricke, and Bill Daly. The LSU lawyers have gone through it looking for and correcting conflicts with other policies. The resulting document is more “faculty-friendly” and it is easier to follow than the previous version of this policy statement. PS 36 was originally written for tenure track faculty but became the default for all faculty. Now there are two parts to the document, PS 36-T and PS 36-NT (for non-tenure track faculty). Now is the time for feedback from Faculty Senate. For it to become a usable document, we must have PS 36-NT finished at the same time.

Senator Larry Crumbley asked to see the version of PS 36-T without the changes that the lawyers made. President Daly said it is on the web. Senator Crumbley asked how many people were being fired because of post-tenure review (PS 104), Wilson answered at this time that none are in process. Senator Crumbley further queried, “What about lawsuits?” and Wilson answered that there were none that he knows of. Senator Stanley said it would be helpful to know where the big changes are in the document between the pre-lawyer version of PS 36-NT and the new version, rather than having to compare the two documents side by side. Wilson replied that this can be provided. Senator Crumbley asked about the procedure for approving PS 36-T, does the Faculty Senate vote on this today? Daly replied that we read it this month and discuss next month. Senator Robert Perlis asked if this document is for LSU or is it system-wide. Daly answered that it is campus wide. Senator Crumbley wondered what policy is in effect for an existing faculty, is it the policy under which a faculty member is hired or is the new one in effect for all? Past President Advokat answered that it was her understanding that, for at least a certain period of time, a faculty member could ask for one or the other. Vice Provost Wilson replied that the instant a policy statement is signed, it is in effect for everyone, but he’ll ask Taylor Porter (LSU’s law firm) for confirmation. Senator Su-Seng Pan asked whether the new policy will be in effect this fall. This depends upon how much time it takes to make it official.

Vice Provost Wilson spoke briefly on facilities development. Kirby Smith dormitory is being vacated and the Student Union renovation is in progress. At the next Faculty Senate meeting we will talk about that. We should have more money in the capital outlay budget for next year, and this will be discussed next time as well.
Report of Nominating Committee for 2007-8 officers

Mike Wascom, Chair of the 2007 Nominating Committee, introduced the members of the nominating committee and thanked each of them. He presented the slate of nominees and asked for further nominees from the floor.

Vice President Kevin Cope was nominated for President, no other candidates were nominated. The acceptance of his nomination was motioned, seconded and passed.

Senators Andrew Christie and Bill Armstrong were nominated for Vice President, no other candidates were nominated. The acceptance of these nominations was motioned, seconded and passed.

Senator James Stoner was nominated for Secretary, no other candidates were nominated. The acceptance of his nomination was motioned, seconded and passed.

Member-at-Large Judith Schiebout and Senator George Stanley were nominated for Members-at-Large, no other candidates were nominated. The acceptance of these nominations was motioned, seconded and passed.

Senator Stanley asked if others can be nominated later. After some discussion, it was decided that others could be nominated at the next meeting, but that their statement would have to be contemporaneous.

Election of New Members of Educational Policy Committee. Faculty Grievance Committee, Budget and Planning Advisory Committee, and Senate Committee on Committees

Elections were conducted for three committees by paper ballot. Results were reported at the end of the meeting.

Budget Update from Chancellor Sean O’Keefe

Chancellor O’Keefe offered his thanks to President Daly for chairing the provost search committee. The Chancellor congratulated the committee on a well-run search and said he is impressed with the aggressive effort by the new search firm. There should be a decision before the next academic year begins. Good word has gone out concerning LSU by way of the search.

Last Thursday Governor Blanco gave LSU substantial budgetary support. We are especially pleased with the 20% increase because this is a recurring increase, and our budget will build from here in the future. In March 2006, we were looking at an 8% reduction from the last year, or $65 million, instead we went up to $190 million, and this year we’re at $230 million. We are uniquely prepared to implement the flagship agenda in terms of recruitment, retention of faculty, graduate students and research opportunities with the extra money. With this year’s budget, the 3-5 percent mandated cost increases were built into the budget unlike earlier years. Secondly, included in the budget were laboratory and library support as a recurring cost, something that will be annually replenished. Thirdly, there is a provision in the budget for a faculty pay raise like last year. This is the first time in 12 years it had been in the budget, and now it is not a fixed number of dollars, but an average percentage raise. Lastly, a specific amount is set aside for 100 percent of the formula funding. We were spending $5500 per student (not including TOPS) now we’re up to $7600 per student per year. This makes up half the budget, and it will take us up to the average of our peers. This budget will put us 12th in our comparative national peer group in the number of dollars per student.

LSU is working on recruitment of students, and we must focus on graduate students. We want a 35-40 percent ratio of graduate students to undergraduates, currently we’re at 16 percent. We are providing additional incentives to attract graduate students, like affordable health insurance. By April we’ll have a health insurance carrier on board. LSU will cover the baseline cost of this. We’ll be ahead of other universities, we’ll be progressive, distinguished. It really puts LSU in the flagship university level, no more debate about it.
A question was raised from the floor, “Does Governor Blanco’s decision not to run for reelection change anything?” The Chancellor answered that the Governor’s budget can hardly be changed by the state legislature. They can’t debate this for very long because there is a mandated date for dismissal of the session, there isn’t time for changes in the budget. All state universities must show unified support to be sure this budget goes forward. Also we must show that we are ready to spend it. We must be ready to implement on June 29th. We must layout our budget to show where the money will be spent.

Senator Buckingham noted that on April 21 the leadership of Louisiana’s Faculty Senates will meet to discuss reorganization of universities, led by Savoie. The Senator asked whether the Chancellor sees big changes coming from that meeting. Chancellor O’Keefe doesn’t anticipate big changes. He says that Savoie is a strong advocate of LSU being the flagship institution, but that nothing big is going to be unveiled. Senator Buckingham said that admission requirements and formula funding will be on Savoie’s agenda, so those could be affected. O’Keefe noted that the problem is that once we’ve gotten 100 percent formula funding, how does one ask for 105 percent? This funding level still puts us only at an average level among our peers, we must realize we have to ask for more. Savoie wants us to reach this goal.

Currently, admissions for out-of-state students are up 40 percent and our in-state admission numbers are up as well. This is exactly what we wanted even though the fear was that we’d have fewer students with higher admission standards.

Senator Stanley noted that LSU has seen the best year in chemistry in undergraduate registration in years. He asked if Chancellor O’Keefe knew about the governor’s educational initiative before the Governor announced it. O’Keefe answered, Yes, but he didn’t declare victory until it was published. Senator Stanley stated that the Chancellor mentioned the pay raise that is in the new budget, but we have gotten pay raises in the past. Why is this one different? O’Keefe said raises in the past weren’t put into the budget by the legislature, LSU had to scrape it up from somewhere else. Last year they set pay raises aside for faculty but not staff, this year they have set some aside for both faculty and staff raises. This happened once before in the last decade, and it was a set percentage, usually given in October rather than at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Senator Buckingham asked Chancellor O’Keefe if the governor pulled out of the race because of the budget. Chancellor O’Keefe doesn’t know, but he doubts that was the reason. Senator Crumbley asked if Chancellor O’Keefe was going to run for any office. O’Keefe answered emphatically that he would never run for office.

The results of the election were these:

Two were elected to the Budget and Planning Committee: Paul Wilson and Mike Wascom. Ronald Garay was elected as alternate.

Three were elected to the Committee on Committees: Bruce Sharkey, Robert Carney and Laura Lindsey. James Catallo was elected as alternate.

Three were elected to the Faculty Grievance Committee: Claire Advokat, Pratul Ajmera and Karl Roider. Young Chun was elected as alternate.

Four were needed for the Educational Policy Committee, five were nominated. Andrew Christie withdrew his nomination so the new members to the committee are the four people who accepted the nomination: Robert David Laird; Larry Rouse; Roland Mitchell; Brian Woshon. No election was needed.

The meeting adjourned at 5:10pm