FACULTY SENATE MEETING

Wednesday, March 18, 1987
3:00 p.m.
Vieux Carre Room, LSU Union

AGENDA

1. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of February 17, 1987

2. President's Report

3. Status report from the University Commission on General Education, Dr. Peter Soderbergh, Chairman

4. Address by Dr. Loren Scott (Economics) and Dr. James Richardson (Public Administration Institute): "Tax Reform for Louisiana"

5. Report of the Faculty Senate Nominating Committee. The Nominating Committee, composed of Senators Geoffrey Price (Chemical Engineering), Chairman, Mary Sirridge (Philosophy), Ronald Gough (Dairy Science), M. S. Bolner (Library), and Robert O'Connell as an advisor, will submit a slate of candidates for officers of the Faculty Senate for 1987-88. Nominations may be made from the floor. The election will be conducted at the April 9 meeting.

6. Old Business

7. New Business

If you are unable to attend this meeting of the Faculty Senate, please refer to Article VI, Appendix b, page 36, of the Faculty Handbook (1986 edition) for alternate representation.
VICE-PRESIDENT Hotvedt called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m. and welcomed Dr. Carruth McGeehee, James Richardson, Loren Scott, Peter Soderbergh, and press representative Vicky Brackenridge, Rachel Emanuel-Wallace, Jess Opdyke, and Carl Redman.

Parliamentarian for the meeting was Senator Mike Burnett.

1. Approval of the Minutes of the meeting of February 17, 1987 With the correction that Senator George Roundtree was present at this meeting, the Minutes were approved as distributed.

2. Vice-President’s Report Because of the lengthy Agenda, Vice-President Hotvedt did not give a report. He did introduce Rhonda Atkinson (Junior Division) who will serve the unexpired term of Senator Harley Anton.

3. Status report from the University Commission on General Education, Dr. Peter Soderbergh, Chairman The University Commission on General Education (UCGED) meets monthly to supervise the implementation of the new curriculum. The UCGED has made plans for the dissemination of information regarding LSU’s new requirements (in collaboration with Academic Services and Junior Division) in preparation for spring contacts with prospective LSU students. College deans and department heads have been asked to estimate what the effects of the new requirements will be on enrollment and staffing so that planning may be done prior to the 1987 Fall semester. A new section entitled “General Education Requirements” has been prepared for inclusion in the 1987-88 General Catalog and contains the new “core” courses and specific instructions for students. The UCGED is preparing a written report to the Faculty Senate and Academic Affairs on the Commission’s findings. Dr. Soderbergh stated that he will be part of an April workshop for academic advisors on the theory and philosophy of General Education at LSU and that Dr. Margrave is keeping abreast of all developments in anticipation of any supportive steps her office will need to take. The faculty and administration are organizing to deal with the demands the new “core” will create on campus (academically, financially, and logistically). At this point in time, all work is proceeding very smoothly.

4. Address by Dr. Loren Scott (Economics) and Dr. James Richardson (Public Administration Institute): “Tax Reform for Louisiana” Dr. Scott spoke on a study, supported by the Chancellor and composed of 28 economists from throughout the state, which was started in the spring of 1983, to find a permanent solution to Louisiana tax laws. The study was to analyse the flaws and strengths of the current system and find alternatives. It was brought out that the problems with the current tax structure are that it is unstable, unfair, violates the benefits principle, and is anti-economic development. The results of the study stated that the tax base should be broadened and made more realistic. The Report recommends that the state: repeal corporate income and franchise taxes, the homestead exemption, property tax limitations, the excise tax, the public utilities tax, and the shareholders tax. This would have the effect of lowering the tax income from mineral revenues, business taxes, and sales tax. Other taxes would need to be increased such as income from car-related taxes (license plate fees, etc.) excise taxes (alcoholic beverages, tobacco, soft drinks), and personal income taxes. There was a lengthy discussion in which it was brought out that the people of Louisiana will have to approve changes in the tax structure in order to reverse the economic slump, and that the proposed changes will work only if implemented as a package. Drs. Scott and Richardson feel that the same problems will be faced regardless of who wins the election for governor, and that the solutions proposed represent the best overall approach to attracting new businesses and easing the state’s economic problems.
5. Report of the Faculty Senate Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee, composed of Senators Geoffrey Price (chairman), M. S. Bolner, Ronald Gough, Robert O'Connell (advisor) and Mary Sirridge, submitted the following slate of candidates for officers of the Faculty Senate for 1987-88:

President
Lamar Jones (Business)
Virginia Purtle (Arts & Sciences)

Vice-President
David Johnson (Business)
George Strain (Veterinary Medicine)

Secretary
Abner Hammond (Agriculture)
Bonnie Konopak (Education)

Member-at-Large
Michael Grimes (Arts and Sciences)
James Hotvedt (Agriculture)
Anna Perrault (Library)
Edward Zganjar (Basic Science)

The election will be Thursday, April 9, and nominations may be made from the floor at that time.

6. Old Business

Dr. McGehee offered the Senators a report prepared by C. James Quinn of Washington State University for the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers on "Plus (+) Minus (-) Grading: A Case Study and National Implications" (AACRAO Monographs #32, 1987).

7. New Business

Senator Price introduced Faculty Senate Resolution 86-5

FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 86-5

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the State Employees Group Benefits Program has proposed significant increases in the cost of hospitalization insurance for faculty members and,

WHEREAS, the proposed increases in cost of hospitalization are coupled with unacceptable cuts in coverage, and

WHEREAS, hospitalization benefits are already woefully inadequate, and

WHEREAS, other fringe benefits for faculty, particularly retirement and life insurance benefits, are woefully inadequate and/or poorly managed, and

WHEREAS, proposed cost increases, in essence, are equivalent to pay cuts, and

WHEREAS, the faculty, as a whole, is already significantly underpaid by most standards, and

WHEREAS, the fiscal uncertainty in the future of the retirement program promises to provide cuts in retirement benefits for faculty, and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive benefits package can be used effectively as a tool for attracting outstanding faculty, and

WHEREAS, the faculty of Louisiana State University represents a state asset which can scarcely be replaced particularly in a time of educational crisis,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate, acting in behalf of the faculty as a whole, requests that all university political power be summoned to bear on the problem with all legal and technical expertise which can be mobilized. Recommended action is that the faculty of Louisiana State University be exempted, by state law, from representation by all state employee fringe benefits programs including, but not limited to, hospitalization benefits and retirement benefits. A comprehensive fringe benefits program, exclusively for faculty and the families of faculty which is competitive with benefits for faculty at private universities, should be established and appropriately funded by the state.

Senator Strain suggested that it might take a change in the constitution and/or a change in the state law. It was brought out that the state Teachers are a much larger political body than the LSU faculty and that many of the members are changing to HMOs which will increase the instability of Teachers Benefits. A motion to accept Faculty Senate Resolution 97-5 for a final vote at the April meeting was made by Senator Price and seconded.
Senator Vernon Wright introduced Faculty Senate Resolution 86-6

FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 86-6

WHEREAS, class size is limited in some classes because of physical constraints (i.e., number of computers in EXST 2000 laboratories) and the normal way of limiting class enrollment at LSU is to limit the number of class cards available, and

WHEREAS, many class cards are picked up by students but never turned in, and

WHEREAS, some "students" who "enroll" drop the class without attending, and

WHEREAS, other students are denied access to these classes because of the lack of cards, and

WHEREAS, no formal policy exists at LSU which will allow departments to address this problem,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate request that the administration of the University develop a policy for handling this situation.

Senator Malone asked what percent of the class was not filled (about 10%). Senator Strain asked if computerized registration might solve this problem. Senator Lawrence described how this was handled on other campuses. A motion to change the Resolution from major to minor so that it could be voted on at this meeting was made by Senator Strain, seconded by Senator Malone and passed. The question was called and Faculty Senate Resolution 86-6 passed.

There being no further business, Vice-President Hotvedt adjourned the meeting at 4:20 p.m. The next faculty Senate meeting will be held on Thursday, April 9, 1987.

Respectfully submitted,

Danny Wallace, Secretary