The meeting was called to order by President Collier at 3:06 pm. Guests included Lisa Brock (Staff Senate), Provost William Jenkins, Sandy Hubbard (LSU Today), Daryl Thomas (Grad Student Assn), Dean of Students Tim Risch, Stephen Moret (SGA), Stephanie Lewis and Carol Coldthorp (Board of Regents Office).

Senator Liszko moved to approve the minutes of the February meeting; Senator Hebert seconded the motion, which was approved.

Visitor Presentations

Louisiana Commissioner of Higher Education: Larry Crain, with 30 years in higher education and 11 years as a faculty member, informed the Senate that the faculty have sustained higher education in Louisiana. He reported that we are behind in almost every comparison that the SREB can make: we rank 13/15 in the SREB in salaries (8% below SREB ave); average LSU salary is $45,148 vs SREB $48,877 (down 7.6%); funding/student SREB $6,206 vs LSU $4,994 (19.3% below). Where to go from here? Most important is to shore up our image problem. Implement the Master Plan: 1) Elimination of low completer programs; don't yet know how many will continue. On the block are undergraduate programs with < 8 graduates/year. 2) in May will begin working on duplicate programs between campuses - we have over a 5 year ave, MS programs with < 5/year, PhD programs with < 2/year. This will produce no significant fund savings, but will be more efficient, "cleaning up our act." 2) in May will begin working on duplicate programs between campuses - we have in the state 6 engineering programs, 5 in architecture, 4 in law, and 3 medical schools, which we can't afford any more. Buildings are in dire need of repair; we are serving more students than ever before; there has been a deterioration of our image in the US. Second, and more important, is the extraordinary high quality of faculty and staff in Louisiana higher education. The Governor this week named a Commission to develop a new thrust for higher education, with 16 members including Commissioner Crain. Their charge is to examine the role of higher education in the 21st century and provide recommendations to the Governor and Legislature. He distributed copies of a paper by Gerald Baliles (with SREB, former gov. of VA) titled "Higher Education: A Prized Asset in Need of Change" that would guide the Commission. He would love to see LSU move forward as the leading flagship university in the America today - the potential is there.
President Collier asked if there was likely to be an eventual return to formula funding, to which Crain answered that he hoped so. Vice President Caitano asked if Crain had any ideas about the desegregation agreement. Crain was not free to discuss this, but said that the Governor thinks the case will go to trial and he agrees. Senator Ajmers asked criteria for elimination of duplicate programs. Crain said since LSU is the flagship school it will be in good shape; other criteria include the school's rank, outside resources, needs of industry. Senator Batinski asked about criteria for eliminating low-completer programs. Crain replied that the flagship university has an edge since it must be comprehensive; other factors include lack of alternative programs in the state, accessibility to students, projections of growth for the future, foreign student graduates that leave the US, and so on. Discussion also addressed approaches to enhancing the image of LSU in the eyes of the Legislature and the citizens of the state.

President's Report

President Collier reported the initiation of review of PS-36. A joint faculty-dean committee will work with Provost Jenkins. Faculty members are Billie Collier, Ralph Kinney, and Connie Van Fleet; deans are yet to be named. The Executive Committee has begun review of the document in anticipation of committee review. The FSEC met with VC Norman Moore and discussed progress in the planning process in his area, which was actually initiated in 1989. Also discussed were procedures for handling academic dishonesty, especially the lack of intermediate penalties. He said this was covered by the Code of Student Conduct Committee (faculty members: Jill Brody [Geography], Bob McIlhenney [Industrial Eng], Paul Hoffman [History], Steven Rose [Social Work]). Nate Bennett (Mgmt) and we should contact them. VC Jenkins is spending time working on low-completer programs, but will be appointing a committee to look at guidelines for sabbaticals. Dean Dan Fogel is now spending 50% time in Academic Affairs, responsible for routine personnel forms, 8g academic proposals, and summer school. Commencement committee has recommended a policy for indicating honors by wearing ribbons/cords at commencement because of a proliferation of these.

The SACS draft self-study report has been distributed and is available at several campus locations. Comments are sought; the FSEC is responding. The Commission on General Education is making recommendations to the Senate Gen Ed committee to increase access for students immediately, with consideration of general philosophical changes to be made later.

If approved, history courses will be considered as humanities instead of social sciences, beginning level foreign language courses are to be considered for possible acceptability, and other existing courses are to be sought out that meet criteria 7 and 9. A motor coach convention will be on campus during spring break, with an anticipated 4,000 motor coaches and 10,000-12,000 people. Student parking lots will be dedicated to the convention, but employee lots should not be impacted.

Other Reports

Senator Kinney, chair of the Nominating Committee, announced the names of Committee nominees for Senate officers for 1994-95. President: Billie Collier; Vice President: Connie Van Fleet and Bill Metcalf; Secretary: George Strain; Members at Large (2 positions): Pratul Ajmers and Erwin Poliaoff. The floor was opened for other nominations but none were received. Elections will be at the April meeting, at which time additional names can be placed in nomination.

Senator Hebert reported on the annual Conference of Louisiana Colleges and Universities which she and Senator Grodner attended in New Orleans. Dr. Crain was one speaker; most of his comments are repeated above. Most of the 16 members appointed to the Governor’s new Higher Ed Commission are from the Baton Rouge area. SREB officer Balles (see Crain report above) spoke on areas of change in higher education. Dr. Arceneaux emphasized more emphasis on recruiting than retention. Federal guidelines for accreditation, issues of remediation, legal issues in higher education, gender equity, hate speech, and community college system benefits were also discussed.

Elections will be at the April meeting, at which time additional names can be placed in nomination. Senator Strain reported on the meeting in New Orleans of the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates. Continuing issues of concern to the group are the role of adjunct and part-time faculty, faculty productivity (Accountability Committee), proper assessment of low-completer programs, and faculty participation in university decision making. ALFS will attempt to file an amicus curiae brief in support of the lawsuit against the lobbying law to be filed by the state employees retirement system.

Old Business

Pat Culbertson, chair of the Calendar Committee (Craig Cordia, Robert Doolos [Records & Regis], Paul Lee [ASH Comm], Laura Lindsay [Acad Aff], Stephen Moret [SGA], Tom Risch [Dean Stats], Frances Roper [Acad Aff]), reported on the proposed 1995-96 academic calendar. The summer term will have one concentrated study day for the long term but none for the short term. Constraints on the calendar include: can’t start before 8/15, orientation of new students should start on a Monday, walk-through registration (soon to be just 1 day) cannot start on Monday because of Union set-up time. Therefore start registration on Tuesday and start classes on Wednesday. More class days are then possible, so there will be a 2 day Fall break, scheduled for Oct. 26-27, 1995. Senate Resolution 93-01 set the concentrated study day and final exam schedule. Senator Kinney suggested that Fall break be Mon-Tue instead of Th-Fri, since Thanksgiving holiday already took out one Th-Fri and this would doubly penalize end-of-week lab sections; Culbertson said this could be done.

New Business

Two new resolutions were introduced and seconded, to be voted on at the April meeting. Elsie Hebert, Chair of the Senate Grievance Committee, introduced the following resolution, which resulted from a recognition that many recent grievances resulted from lack of familiarity with PS-36:
SENATE RESOLUTION 93-04

Whereas, most of the faculty grievance petitions received by the Faculty Senate Grievance Committee in the past few years have concerned procedural violations involving promotion and tenure, and

Whereas, most of these violations have been caused because of the lack of knowledge and familiarity with the procedures set forth in PS-36 and in individual departmental, school, or college promotion and tenure documents,

Therefore, be it resolved that the Faculty Senate recommend that the PS-36 document be published in every issue of the University Faculty Handbook and recommend that the University administration require administrators involved in hiring new faculty members to call attention to the importance of PS-36 and to give each new member a current copy of the departmental, school, and/or college promotion and tenure policy guidelines.

Jay Geaghan of the Senate Library Committee introduced the following resolution pertaining to funding of LSU libraries:

FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 93-06

Whereas LSU Libraries have ranked 64th in the Association of Research Libraries overall ranking of its 108 member libraries as recently as 1991, and

Whereas LSU Libraries’ 1992 ranking has fallen to 81 out of 108 ARL institutions,

Now therefore be it resolved that

The University urgently should take steps to provide additional funding for the Libraries to remedy this decline in the campus research resources as measured by the ARL ranking.

SGA President Stephen Moret introduced the SGA Teacher Evaluation Program developed with the Senate Improvement of Instruction Committee. He asked for faculty participation and explained the anticipated benefits of the program.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:31 pm.

George Strain
Secretary