HIGHLIGHTS FROM FACULTY SENATE MEETING
March 6, 1996

President's Report

- President Strain appointed to the Louisiana Workforce Development Council
- Ticket policy for LSU baseball games changed
- Reported on discussion with Dean Fogel regarding outside members on graduate committees
- Informed the Senate of request to send letter to faculty outlining pros and cons of repeat policy
- Reported on comments received by the Provost in response to "Reflection" document
- Reported on meeting with Vice Chancellor Eaton regarding evaluation of unit heads

Invited Guest—Executive Vice Chancellor James Coleman

- Summarized recommendations of Higher Education Team recommendations
- Offered his assessment on the potential adoption of individual recommendations
- Stressed the need for the public to make wishes known regarding higher education

Reports

- The Senate received a summary report on the access program
- Barbra Wittkopf reported the slate of nominees for April election from the nominating committee
- Associate Vice Chancellor Lindsay presented a report on the cyclical program review document
- The Senate approved the program review document as distributed

Old Business

- The Senate approved Resolution 95-04—Writing Across the Curriculum
Strain reported that problems associated with outside members of graduate committees had been discussed with Graduate School Dean Dan Fogel. He said that any problems associated with an outside appointed member who seemed to be overreaching his/her authority should be reported directly to Dean Fogel. He also mentioned that the Graduate School would accept suggestions for appointments of outside members, but emphasized that there must be no official or unofficial affiliation with either the major professor or the student.

Strain reported that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) asked him to distribute a letter to the faculty presenting the pros and cons of the repeat policy as discussed by the Senate and other groups. The SGA continues to press this issue; and because many faculty are approached on this, the FSEC felt the faculty should be more informed on the points of discussion.

The Provost has received some responses to his second Reflections document which was presented to the Senate in the February meeting. President Strain reminded the Senators of their duty to study that document and get feedback to the Provost. Strain reiterated that this was their chance to help shape the direction of this process and play an active role.

In closing, President Strain announced that the annual meeting of the Faculty Council would be held Monday, April 15 at 3:30 pm in the Atchafalaya Room of the Union. He also mentioned that the various colleges should be holding elections to replace their outgoing senators during the month of April. Strain said he would announce the persons responsible for handling those elections at the April meeting. He reminded the Senators to check with their council policy chairs.

Vice Chancellor Coleman's Presentation

Note: A copy of the Higher Education Transition Team Report is available on the LSU Home Page.

Executive Vice Chancellor James Coleman began by going over the major recommendations of the Higher Education Transition team and distributing a Summary of Recommendations from the committee. He also indicated he would share his personal views on which recommendations had the best chance of passing in the upcoming special session. Coleman described his committee as a group of 26 very diverse and hard working individuals who had been meeting weekly since before Christmas.

Coleman reported that Steve Perry, the Governor’s chief of staff, made a presentation in Lafayette last week outlining the Governor’s position on higher education. A video was made of this presentation and a copy will be made available to the faculty through President Strain. Coleman reported that the report of the Transition Team had been forwarded to the Governor and he is beginning to meet with key legislators. They are beginning to draft legislation to be introduced regarding higher education. Once completed, the draft should come back to the Transition Team for review.

Coleman began his discussion of individual recommendations with recommendation #7. This recommends an advisory committee be established that would meet with the Governor and his staff twice annually. Higher education does not currently have a real spokesman or committee that meets on a regularly scheduled basis with the administration. Many other states have such a group. Coleman reported that Governor Foster favors a committee that would be seamless from kindergarten through the workforce. Coleman noted that the Governor is also looking at abolish the Department of Labor and putting in a new Department of Workforce Development which will consist of members of K-12 as well as higher education and Economic Development.

Coleman indicated that recommendation #6, regarding restoration of cuts in funding of higher education, would be very difficult to get through the legislature. Because of the time lag involved in implementing the single board concept, if it passes, there is a need to do something regarding funding in the meantime. Recommendation #6 is intended to address this problem. The basic problem is one of finding the necessary dollars. Coleman indicated that while several alternatives for the funds are being explored, it is unlikely that this recommendation will come up in the special session because of the amount of money needed and the financial situation of the State.

Recommendation #5 recommends that certain existing policies, statutes, and practices concerning technology transfer, procurement, property control, travel regulations, capital outlay, and other similar items be changed in order to reduce the personnel time and paperwork required to comply with these regulations. Coleman said that some of these changes will require constitutional amendments, others will require an executive order from the Governor and others can be accomplished simply from a change within the Division of Administration in their practices and policies. This recommendation refers to a wide range of things that have been on the books for years and cause stacks of paperwork. The most significant procedures requiring change are in the areas of procurement and property control. Coleman cited several examples of the time and energy required for carrying out these activities and maintaining the associated reports and records. Coleman indicated that those items requiring constitutional amendments would probably not come up in the special session.

Recommendation #4 recommends that, over the next two years, the revised state appropriation formula be funded at a level sufficient to raise faculty and staff salaries to the Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) average or to comparable medical, legal, and agricultural peer averages, and over the next four years, to the top one-third of the SREB. Coleman indicated that the Governor is committed to this and will push for implementation. Alternative means of funding are being explored and Coleman feels that faculty will see results at least by next fiscal year.
Recommendation #1 calls for deferred maintenance and renovation needs of higher education to receive the highest priority in the annual Capital Outlay request. Coleman indicated a high probability that this would be accomplished. There are several bills the Governor will introduce that will change the capital outlay process. He noted that the Governor has the ability to veto and reprioritize the capital outlay list.

Coleman indicated that recommendation #2, suggesting a single board for higher education, has created a lot of controversy. Although there was general agreement on the recommendation, the Higher Education Transition Team did not reach a consensus. Coleman indicated that two issues dominated the discussion. One was the process of selecting members of the single board and the other was the development of a master plan. Regarding the first point, the Transition Team recommended that the Merit Association of Governing Boards' criteria be used in the selection process. Individuals would be nominated by a committee recommended by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate. Regarding the master plan, Coleman indicated that it should follow the Carnegie classifications with the exception of ensuring the role, scope, and mission of Louisiana's historically black institutions. Coleman noted that this proposal has strong support among faculty and CEO's of business.

Recommendation #1 dealing with the stabilization of funding was ranked first because the committee felt that it was the most critical part of the plan. Coleman indicated that this recommendation would likely face challenges from groups currently enjoying constitutional protection. It is also difficult to draft legislation dealing with unfunded mandates because they originate from many different sources. At a minimum, the recommendation would eliminate mid-year budget cuts.

The next step will be to get this information out to the public, faculty, and the parents of students who are going to have to make their wishes known. Coleman indicated that there were areas of the state with good support for the recommendations, but other areas were less supportive. Coleman indicated that it was important to generate support for these proposals and encouraged faculty to write letters to their representatives. Coleman concluded by addressing questions from Senators.

President Strain thanked Executive Vice-Chancellor Coleman for his presentation and told the Senators he would try to put a list of all the state senators and representatives on the Faculty Senate Home Page. (Subsequently the lists have been placed on the Home Page). Strain also urged Senators to voice their opinion to legislators on this important matter.

Access Report

President Strain gave a brief summary of the access program and the periodic reports on the program. He referred to the latest written report provided by Senator David Blouin, Associate Dean of the General College and Director of the Access Program. The report provided information for the fall semester 1995. Copies of the report were made available to the Senators at the meeting. President Strain asked if there were any questions on the Access program. There were no questions and Strain indicated that the report was self-explanatory.

Nominating Committee Report

The FSEC appointed a nominating committee from senators whose terms expire this spring for the purpose of recommending a slate of candidates for Senate officers for next year. Barbara Wittkopf (Library) chaired this committee and other members included Daryl McKee, (Management), Emily Batinski (Foreign Languages), and Abner Hammond (Entomology). Those nominated by the committee were:

- President: John Collier (Chemical Engineering) and Ken Paxton (Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness)
- Vice President: Jerry Draayer (Physics & Astronomy) and Daniel Yannitell (Mechanical Engineering)
- Secretary: David England (Education) and Ralph Kinney (Electrical Engineering)
- Member at Large: (Two elected) Mike Cherry (Physics & Astronomy), Wade Dorman (English), Kwei Tang (Information Systems and Decision Sciences), and Charles Tolbert (Sociology).

Wittkopf expressed appreciation to the committee members and to the candidates who agreed to run. She also indicated that the committee attempted to ensure that the pool of candidates was balanced in terms of gender and disciplines, however, none of the potential female candidates wished to be nominated. However there will be an opportunity for additional nominations at the April meeting. Anyone being nominated, however, must give their consent.

Program Review Report

President Strain introduced Associate Vice-Chancellor Laura Lindsay to comment on the program review document. Lindsay summarized the five points from the proposal outline distributed to the Senators through campus mail. She also presented a brief background on the development of the report including names of the original committee appointed to draft the report. She noted that the report had gone through several drafts and had been approved by the Graduate Council and the FSEC before it was distributed to the Senators.

President Strain called for a motion to accept and approve the document. Senator Stockbauer moved to accept the report. The motion was seconded by Senator Hammond. President Stockbauer moved to accept the report. The motion was approved. President Strain then asked for discussion on the motion. Senator Draughn asked if the proposed review process could be integrated with other scheduled reviews or would this be an additional review. President Strain responded that the intent was to minimize duplication and scheduled reviews could also be used for the program review process.
Senator John Collier moved to suspend the rules and consider the proposal for a vote immediately. The motion was seconded by Senator Wittkopf. The motion passed by the required two-thirds majority.

President Strain then restated that the motion to accept the program review document and called for additional discussion. The motion passed with no opposition.

Old Business

Resolution 95-04 on Writing Across the Curriculum was introduced at the February meeting. President Strain noted that the resolution called for approval in principle of a plan to implement writing across the curriculum for the LSU campus on a voluntary basis. The Senate Improvement of Instruction committee would be assigned the responsibility of developing guidelines on how the plan is implemented. President Strain then called for discussion on the motion. Senator Luzar spoke in support of the motion. There being no additional discussion a vote was called on the motion. Resolution 95-04 passed.

President Strain reminded the Senators of the upcoming elections at the April. In addition to Senate officers, other elections to be held include a faculty member to serve on the Budget Committee, members for the Committee on Committees, and Grievance Committee.

Senator Kinney moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded and passed. The meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Respectfully Submitted
Kenneth W. Paxton
Secretary

FACULTY SENATE MEETING ATTENDANCE

[✓ = Present, * = Proxy]  Date: March 6, 1996


PROXIES: (i.e., Joe Smith for Peter Brown)

Erwin Poliakoff for Mary Barkley  
Roger Stockbauer for Mike Cherry  
Ralph Kinney for Ahmed El-Amawy

Rosa Sanchez for Gregory Elliot  
Frank deCaro for Rosa Jordan  
Ralph Kinney for Daryl McKee

Carolyn Hargrave for Kwei Tang