HIGHLIGHTS FROM FACULTY SENATE MEETING
March 6, 1997

President's Report
- The controversy over the reduction in HMO's was discussed; the new HMO policy will apparently hold for at least a year.

Committee Reports
- SR 96-05, Writing Across the Curriculum was passed, creating WAC as a three-year pilot program.

New Business
- SR 96-07 passed, calling for better state responsibility for dealing with changes in health care policies and calling on the state Attorney General to look into the legality of recent actions.

Faculty Senate Minutes
March 6, 1997

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 pm. Guests included Janice Lovett (LSU Today), Jason Bullock (Reveille), Sherry Sapp (Advocate), Forest Benedict, Marjorie Whitehead, Gary Allen (UNO), Jim Robinson (LSU-E), and Associate Vice-Chancellors Dan Fogel and Laura Lindsay. During the opening of the meeting President Collier was "tapped" for OAK. The minutes of the Feb. 5 meeting were approved.

President's Report. President Collier introduced the list of candidates for the senate elections, and the list of committee appointments from the Committee on Committees, asking for further nominations from the floor for each. As there were none, a motion to cease nominations was passed.

NOMINATIONS FOR ELECTIONS TO OCCUR AT THE APRIL 1, 1997 MEETING

NOMINEES FOR THE FACULTY SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

PRESIDENT
John Collier (Chemical Engineering)
Jerry Draayer (Physics and Astronomy)

VICE PRESIDENT
Peggy Drauglum (Human Ecology)
Paul LaRock (Oceanography and Coastal Sci)

SECRETARY
Katie Cherry (Psychology)
W. Jeff Moore (Economics)

MEMBER AT LARGE (two to be elected)
Dominique Hornberger (Zoology & Physiology)
Malcolm Richardson (English)
Mike Stine (Forestry/Wildlife/Fisheries)
Daniel Yannitel (Mechanical Engineering)

NOMINEES FOR THE FACULTY GRIEVANCE COMMITTEE (three to be elected)
Fred Aghazadeh (Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering)
Timothy Chandler (Management)
Armando Corripio (Chemical Engineering)
Van Cox (Landscape Architecture)
Gary Crump (History)
Geraldine Holmes (Vocational Education)
O. Carruth McGehee (Mathematics)
NOMINEES FOR THE BUDGET COMMITTEE (one to be elected)
Pual Humes (Animal Science)
Jerry Draayer (Physics and Astronomy)
Emily Batinski (Foreign Languages & Literatures)

NOMINEES FOR THE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEES (four to be elected)
Joel Tohline (Physics and Astronomy)
Joseph Ricapito (Foreign Languages)
Fred Aghazadeh (Industrial and Manufacturing Systems Engineering)

NOMINEES FOR THE COUNCIL OF LOUISIANA COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (two to be elected)
John Collier (Chemical Engineering)
Malcolm Richardson (English)

HMO Controversy. President Collier first complimented Staff Senate President Rick Ramsey on his work on the HMO controversy. He described how last October the Board of Trustees for State Group, believing they had a mandate to reduce the number of HMOs to one per service area, sent out bids for contracts, but without telling the HMOs this was their intent. Mark Drennan does not believe this mandate was actually intended, however. Bids were opened last week, and Advantage was found to have the lowest bid; it was only at this point Advantage learned it would become the sole HMO for this service area. Partly because Advantage indicated they were shocked to find themselves in this position after believing they were bidding to be only one of several providers, the Board re-opened bids, but only Ochsner decided to submit. The LSU service area thus has a choice of two HMOs, plus State Group. Many HMO doctors from other plans are now joining Advantage. President Collier met with Rick Ramsey, Chancellor Jenkins, Forest Benedict, Chuck McMains, William Daniel, and Dan Kyle. Legislators are concerned, and laws governing benefits are statutory rather than constitutional. Current contracts cannot be extended, however, and they expire in July.

Forest Benedict reported that no one knew of the problems until the State Group Benefits meeting the week before. Probably 70% of LSU employees are in "managed health care." Perhaps 25 thousand people are affected state wide, and three thousand on our campus will have to change. Last fall Ron Plaisance, Executive Director of State Group, decided on the authority of the "secure committee" to reduce the number of HMOs from five to four. Despite the apparent misunderstanding, the current arrangement for next year cannot be changed, and we have only Advantage and Ochsner. Even Advantage benefits are unknown beyond what is stated in the RFP. LSU is planning to hold a series of informational meetings in March to provide whatever information is available. Ochsner has said it will maintain the current rate of service despite its low bid, but they will face tough business decisions. During the question-answer period that followed, Benedict noted among other things that Ochsner panels may contain non-Ochsner doctors, that State Group has no pre-existing condition clause nor does Ochsner, that Advantage is a local HMO owned by the Sisters of Mercy and other groups, and that with State Group re-imbursement for non-preferred doctors is only 50% and the paperwork is heavy. Points were made that State Group has always been the chief provider for LSU retirees, and part of the new health care policy stems from an attempt to move more retirees out of State Group. Universities may form their own health plans, but approval comes from State Group and resistance is very high to such moves.

Ombudsman. The Interim Provost and Chancellor have agreed to a one-year trial period. President Collier asked for further nominations in addition to the three already nominated by the Executive Committee.

Senate Elections. President Collier will inform units of the exact number of representatives, but there are no changes in the numbers this year. He read the numbers and names of the nominees.

Provost Search Committee. Nominees will be considered starting April 7 and all candidates will be interviewed this semester. He read the names of the search committee members.

Committee Reports. SR-96-05, Writing Across the Curriculum, from the Improvement of Instruction Committee, was presented for its second reading. Senator Richardson presented a substitute resolution which established Writing Across the Curriculum as a three-year pilot program reporting annually to the senate. The substitute was accepted by a show of hands, with one opposing. Associate Vice-Chancellor Lindsay stated that Academic Affairs supports the principle of Writing Across the Curriculum. The substitute resolution passed with one opposed (attached.)

Old Business. None
New Business. SR96-07, Health Care, moved by Senator Richardson, seconded Senator Wilson. Senator Moore and others expressed concern that so little was known about the planned changes until the last two weeks. Senator Moore moved an additional, third paragraph to the “be it resolved” section of the resolution (passed unanimously) and Senator Yannitell moved a fourth paragraph (passed unanimously). See the attached resolution for the exact wording.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55.

Respectfully submitted

Malcolm Richardson
Secretary