LSU Faculty Senate Meeting  
3:00 P.M., Thursday, May 3rd, 2007  
Atchafalaya Room, LSU Union

Attendance  
Faculty Senate Executive Committee members present:

1. William H. Daly (Senate President)  
2. Kevin L. Cope (Vice President)  
3. Michael Wascom (Member-at-Large)  
4. Judith Schiebout (Member-at-Large)  
Parliamentarian: Andrew King (present)

Senators present:

1. Nicholas G. Apostolou  
2. William W. Armstrong  
3. Henry D. Bellamy  
4. Hugh W. Buckingham  
5. Edward W. Bush  
6. Andrew Christie  
7. Kevin L. Cope  
8. Hollis Utah Cox  
9. D. Larry Crumbley  
10. Kerry M. Dooley  
11. Dennis W. Duffield  
12. Wayne Gauthier  
13. Randall Hall  
14. Steve Hand  
15. Scott W. Harris  
16. Joan M. King  
17. Jeff S. Kuehny  
18. Richard L. Kurtz  
19. Catherine Lemieux  
20. Vincent J. Licata

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

1. Helene Afeman(4)  
2. Kenneth Bankston(18)  
3. Mark A. Caruso(18)  
4. Emily Elliot(1)  
5. James H. Gill(18)  
6. Jeremy Hubert(1)  
7. Lois J. Kuyper-Rushing(1)  
8. Paul A. Larock(2)  
9. Ronald F. Malone(4)  
10. Suzanne Marchand(6)  
12. Heather McKillop(5)  
13. Robert McMahon(4)  
14. Kenneth W. McMillin(2)  
15. James L. Murphy(4)  
16. Su-Seng Pang(1)

Proxies for absent Senators:

Kerry M. Dooley for Gerald Knapp  
Robert Perlis for Jorge F. Morales  
Randall Hall for Erwin D. Poliakoff  
Douglas McMillin for Dan B. Rinks  
Jon Cogburn for Mary J Sirridge  
George Stanley for Kevin Smith  
Felicia Wu Song for Denis Wu

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

1. Helene Afeman(4)  
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5. James H. Gill(18)  
6. Jeremy Hubert(1)  
7. Lois J. Kuyper-Rushing(1)  
8. Paul A. Larock(2)  
9. Ronald F. Malone(4)  
10. Suzanne Marchand(6)  
12. Heather McKillop(5)  
13. Robert McMahon(4)  
14. Kenneth W. McMillin(2)  
15. James L. Murphy(4)  
16. Su-Seng Pang(1)  
17. Dorothy Prowell(2)  
18. Patsy Scates(5)  
19. Tracy Shaffer(2)  
20. James Sullivan(9)  
21. Warren Waggenspack(4)  
22. Michael Wascom(4)  
23. Rick Weil(4)
President William Daly opened the meeting at 3:10 p.m. with a reading of the proxies.

**Introduction of Guests**
Guests were urged to sign in on the attendance sheet. Guests attending the May meeting included: William L. Jenkins, President of the LSU System; Harold Silverman, Interim Provost; Frank Cartledge, Associate Provost; Kirsten Schwehm, LSU Ombudsperson; Cassie Alsfeld, President of Student Government (her introduction of fellow students is mentioned below).

**Consideration of the minutes of April 17, 2007**
Senator Andrew Christie moved that the minutes of the meeting of April 17, 2007, be approved as distributed. Senator Robert Peck seconded the motion, which passed by voice vote.

**Comments from Kirsten W. Schwehm, Ph.D., University Ombudsperson**
President Daly introduced Dr. Kirsten Schwehm, the university ombudsperson, who proceeded to give a brief report about her office and to distribute a brochure describing it. She became the first person in this new position ten months ago, and over the course of the academic year dealt with a number of members of the faculty and staff, maintaining strict confidentiality – her office, in fact, is tucked away on the third floor of Howe Russell, close to the center of campus but not in a heavily trafficked area, to facilitate confidential visits. She promises to continue to advertise the availability of her services and to produce an annual report at the end of the summer. In response to questions from the senators, she mentioned that her Ph.D. is in clinical psychology and that she has networked with the student ombudsperson, a second-year law student appointed each year by the Student Government Association.

**Introduction of Cassie Alsfeld, President, Student Government**
President Daly next introduced Cassie Alsfeld, a junior in Mass Communications who was recently elected president of the Student Government Association. Elected with vice president Josh King on a platform promising service, integrity, and results, she spoke of her support for the flagship agenda and her dedication to the improvement of life at LSU. She introduced several other student officers: Colorado Robertson, president of the Student Senate; Bradley Tolar, director of academics; and Liz Dunn, his assistant director. Mr. Tolar spoke of the need to insure student appointments to various Faculty Senate committees, promising to make student attendance at committee meetings a requirement of service.

**Comments from William L. Jenkins, President, LSU System**
President Daly gave William Jenkins a warm welcome for his final address as President of the LSU System to the Faculty Senate. Dr. Jenkins spoke of the vital role of a faculty senate in university governance and then more particularly of the importance of LSU in the state of Louisiana and of the respect accorded LSU by the citizens of the state. Looking ahead to challenges facing higher education in Louisiana, he mentioned: the escalating level of government oversight of universities at every level of government; the non-traditional student, including college graduates looking to acquire specific knowledge, for example of a foreign language or of a particular region of the world; the continued need for research in a knowledge-based economy, and especially the need at LSU to raise the number of doctoral students; the high proportion of citizens in Louisiana not achieving degrees in higher education, indeed the generally shortcoming in producing a capable workforce. Dr. Jenkins concluded by saying, graciously, that LSU was a great university, not known for its great administrators, but for its faculty.

**President’s Report**
President Daly gave the Senate his final report, incidentally commending the play "Cocktail," co-written by LSU Professor of Biochemistry Vince LiCata and currently being performed at the Reilly Theater in the old Swine Palace. He said of the provost search that the committee (which he chaired) had finished its work and turned its recommendation over to the Chancellor, who had promised a decision by graduation day. President Daly also asked outgoing senators to expedite elections in their units and asked committee chairs to submit their annual reports. Finally, he gave a token of appreciation to each of the outgoing senators, commending them for their service.

In an unscheduled moment, Vice-President (and President-elect) Kevin Cope took the floor to present the outgoing president with a token of appreciation from the Senate, which, in recognition of Dr. Daly’s skill as a gardener, was a lemon tree.
Old Business: Final Consideration of Faculty Senate Resolution 07-03 entitled “To Establish an _ad-hoc_ Committee to Examine Interdisciplinary and Interdepartmental Programs”

Kevin Cope was recognized to speak on Faculty Senate Resolution 07-03, which had been introduced and discussed in the previous meeting. He noted the short-term basis for the committee to be established, and noted that its members would examine how the university promotes interdepartmental and interdisciplinary outreach. The motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Faculty Senate Resolution 07-03
TO ESTABLISH AN AD-HOC COMMITTEE TO EXAMINE INTERDISCIPLINARY AND INTERDEPARTMENTAL PROGRAMS
CoSponsored by Kevin L. Cope and James Stoner

WHEREAS scholars and teachers at major universities worldwide have frequently demonstrated the value and importance of interdisciplinary teaching and study;

WHEREAS Louisiana State University, like other major research institutions, routinely advertises its commitment to innovative, multi-discipline programs, using the diversity of its programs to attract the best students, faculty members, teachers, and researchers;

WHEREAS both the intellectual value and fundable aspects of interdisciplinary and interdepartmental programs are repeatedly shown in “marquee” programs ranging from the Honors College to the Hurricane Center to Comparative Literature;

WHEREAS the implementation of interdepartmental and interdisciplinary education lags behind both the speedy pace of pedagogical innovation and the enthusiastic rhetoric of university publications;

WHEREAS the deans, directors, and chairs who administer colleges, departments, and programs face formidable challenges staffing interdepartmental programs;

WHEREAS there is presently no mechanism to assess the overall ability of the university to establish, manage, or promote interdepartmental and interdisciplinary education;

AND WHEREAS many major universities have drawn acclaim for the ingenuity and innovativeness of their interdepartmental and interdisciplinary offerings;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate shall establish an ad-hoc committee on interdepartmental and interdisciplinary education at Louisiana State University, the purpose of which committee shall be to make recommendations as to how the problems relating to interdisciplinary study might be resolved and as to how interdisciplinary study might be advanced at our University. The committee will report its findings within six months of its inception.

Old Business: Final Consideration of Faculty Senate Resolution 07-04 entitled “To Urge and Request Chancellor Sean O’Keefe to Secure Funding for the Proposed Renovation of the LSU Union Theater”

Senator and past-president Claire Advokat spoke about her membership this spring on the Union Board and reviewed the history of the attempt to fund renovation of the theater: its having been included in the original plans, then cut after a hurricane-induced rise in building costs made impossible the originally planned renovation; a fee to cover the additional cost having been rejected in a vote of the student body. Senators discussed at some length the wider community use of the theater, as well as alternative proposals to help fund the theater, in particular encouraging gifts to the LSU campaign. When the motion was put to a vote, it passed unanimously by voice vote.

Faculty Senate Resolution 07-04
TO URGE AND REQUEST THE LSU BOARD OF SUPERVISORS TO SECURE FUNDING FOR THE PROPOSED RENOVATION OF THE LSU UNION THEATER
Sponsored by Lois Kuyper-Rushing, Robert Peck, and James L. Murphy
WHEREAS the mission of a flagship university is to promote and support excellence in the arts, humanities, and sciences; and

WHEREAS, the LSU A&M Student Government Senate (S07RS SGCRR 1) noted that, “the mission of the LSU Union is to serve students, faculty, staff, alumni, and guests as the community center of the campus; to provide a comprehensive program of cultural, educational, social, recreational and service activities; to cultivate leadership development in students; to provide appropriate facilities, services, and conveniences for the diverse needs and activities of the campus community; and to create a sense of community that fosters enduring loyalty to the university;” and

WHEREAS, the LSU Union Theater plays a crucial role in this mission, providing a venue for events attended by thousands of patrons including students, faculty, staff and community members each month, and

WHEREAS, the LSU Student Senate and Student Body voted, in Spring 2003, to approve a $60 student fee for renovation of the LSU Union and Theater, and

WHEREAS, the hurricanes of August 2005 increased construction costs by 40% in the state of Louisiana, making the student fee insufficient to fund the renovation of the Union Theater; and

WHEREAS, the current condition of the LSU Student Union Theater is untenable by any artistic, academic, or communal standard due to: the presence of standing water in its orchestra pits; sagging ceiling tiles in the theatre main; enforced closure of the Union Colonnade Theatre; insufficient number of restroom facilities; and inadequate technology essential to the cultivation of a dynamic and engaging lively arts community as envisioned by the Flagship Agenda; and

WHEREAS, the LSU to compete with its peer institutions it must demonstrate its commitment to the arts as inherently important to the cultural vitality of the university community; and

WHEREAS, the original plans allowed for the creation of a theater that would be both state-of-the-art in its technological innovation and a showcase for the performances that make LSU the Flagship University of the state of Louisiana,

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the LSU A & M Faculty Senate hereby urges and requests that LSU Chancellor Sean O’Keefe, LSU System President William Jenkins and the LSU Board of Supervisors make every effort to identify and secure sufficient funding for the renovation of the LSU Union Theater as originally proposed.

New business: First Reading of Faculty Senate Resolution 07-05, “Administration Appraisal Committee”

Senator Larry Crumbley introduced Faculty Senate Resolution 07-05, “Administrator Appraisal Committee,” as follows:

Faculty Senate Resolution 07-05:
ADMINISTRATOR APPRAISAL COMMITTEE
Sponsored by Larry Crumbley

WHEREAS, PS-111, effective February 2, 2005 was a necessary first step involving Faculty in the evaluations of University administrators;

WHEREAS, the Faculty involvement in evaluating University Administrators has somewhat improved over the past two years;

WHEREAS, this experience with PS-111 has shown the review process to reflect a top down rather than bottom up review philosophy;

WHEREAS consequently, the PS-111 evaluation procedure should be regularly reviewed to improve the manner and weight of Faculty involvement of evaluating their administrators,
WHEREAS, some important LSU administrators are not covered by PS-111 in Practice; and

WHEREAS, PS-111’s requirement that each covered administrator promulgate an annual report on the progress and plans of his or her unit, and invite comments on the report from all covered faculty of his or her unit has been unevenly implemented, and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that the Faculty review implementation of PS-111 after two years,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate create a special committee, to serve for 2 years, entitled the Administrator Appraisal Committee, to work with the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, to achieve the following:

- Review implementation of and compliance with of PS-111, with a charge to develop Recommendations for more appropriate faculty involvement;
- Review and report on annual University compliance with PS-111;
- Update or modify the evaluation questionnaire and procedures currently used in the PS-111 process in accordance with the faculty’s and evaluees’ feedback,
- Assist the Faculty Senate Executive Committee in providing an annual report on the effectiveness of faculty participation in and of Administrator responsiveness to the PS -111 review;
- Assist the Faculty Senate Executive Committee in ensuring that:
  - Administrators subject to PS-111 review shall be evaluated at least once every two (2) years, including: chancellor; executive vice chancellor and provost, and vice provosts; dean and associate dean of the graduate school; dean of LSU libraries.

The special AAC shall consist of five (5) members elected by the Faculty Senate to serve two -year terms. There shall be no more than two members from any one school or college. At least one of the five (5) members shall be a faculty senator. Any member who misses more than two (2) meetings shall be subject to replacement. The Committee will issue a final PM -111 assessment report to the faculty at the conclusion of its term.

The hour having grown late, discussion of the motion was limited. President Daly suggested that the intent of the motion was to move PS-111 along: not to reinvent the wheel, but to make sure the wheel was turning.

New Business: Information on Chancellor’s Commission on the History of LSU

Senator Andrew Christie introduced the Chancellor’s Committee on the History of LSU, newly formed to celebrate in 2010 the 150th anniversary of the founding of the University. His hope was that the university would celebrate academic excellence in every way imaginable, gaining in the process national recognition. Faye Phillips has been named chair of the commission.

Adjournment was proclaimed by the President at the appointed hour.

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Stoner, Jr.,
for Lois Kuyper-Rushing, Secretary