Insurance Reform Petition

- The senate voted to support a petition by the Coalition of State Employees for Insurance Reform.

Pending Resolutions

- SR-08, Teaching Development, was referred back to the Improvement of Instruction Committee for further revisions.
- SR-09, Drug Testing, was tabled until the actual state policies about mandatory drug testing are clear.

Chancellor's Comments

- Higher education is doing "fairly well" in the legislature, with significant planned expenditures in technology, distance learning, library resources, and scientific equipment.
- He has asked for a proposal to raise the minimum entering GPA for freshmen to 2.5.

Faculty Senate Minutes

May 5, 1997

Meeting called to order at 3:04. Invited guests included Helen Foley (LSU Foundation), Janice Lovett (LSU Today), Art Crawley (Instructional Support and Development), Don Clark (SGA Speaker), Rick Ramsey and Robin Ethridge (Staff Senate), Vice Provost Dan Fogel. April 1 minutes were approved as read (Harris, second Lewis), with correction of the spelling of Gene Wittkopf's name (Stoner).

Capital Fund Drive. Helen Foley of the LSU Foundation reported on LSU’s first-ever capital fund drive, called the LSU Campaign for Louisiana’s Future, with a goal of $150 million and concentrating on LSU A&M and the Agriculture Center. All private gifts support, no matter the size, for the benefit of these units over the next six years concluding in the year 2001, will count toward the overall goal of the campaign. This will include gifts received by three separate support foundations: the LSU Alumni Association, the LSU Tiger-Athletic Foundation and the LSU Foundation. All categories of gifts count, including unrestricted contributions, those restricted to specific purposes, gifts of cash and securities, gifts for endowed and non-endowed purposes, and gifts of property and tangible goods. Planned gifts such as wills, life insurance policies, etc., will also be included. Emphasis will be on five areas: scholarships, faculty support, educational technology, libraries, and unrestricted endowments (undesignated). Funds will also be solicited for specialized program objectives in individual units, such as for the new museum, which will help attract donors with interest in special needs. By FY 2000/2001, the campaign team hopes to have doubled the LSU Foundation endowment to over $130 million, up from the current $61 million. It hopes to raise the total annual contributions from $14.5 million to $30 million. In addition, it hopes to raise awareness about LSU efforts as fund-raising, as we are currently at the bottom in the South. The wider fund-raising teams consist of LSU administrators and volunteers, but faculty participation among rank-and-file faculty, which runs at 80-90% at comparable Research I institutions, is essential. The faculty campaign will begin in the fall and may feature donations to special projects such as faculty travel as well as broader funding goals. Larry Jones of the Alumni Association has worked to raise the number of professorships. Ms. Foley concluded by noting that the Foundation has a small staff and of necessity must concentrate on big donors, but they believe smaller contributors are the heart of the
campaign. Liz Wilson, who heads up the faculty effort, handed out a survey to help determine faculty priorities. President Collier pointed out a variety of ways we can give, noted that the senate has not set goals for individual gifts, and pointed out the importance of the number of faculty who participate rather than the amount of faculty dollars raised.

**Insurance Reform Petition.** Rick Ramsey and Robin Ethridge from the Staff Senate circulated petitions about the Coalition of State Employees for Insurance Reform. They pointed out that the petition was the result of a statewide compressed-video teleconference and a follow-up meeting. Peggy Draughn presented a resolution giving senate support to the petition (second Wilson). Senator Cherry expressed concern at acting on the petition with so little information about what, if anything, was being done at the state level. Rick Ramsey observed that Senator Guidry had presented two strong bills limiting the power of State Group and other "drastic" legislation is being considered. A motion to suspend the rules and vote on the motion today (Hegsted, second Draughn) passed by a hand vote. Sen. Cherry moved to refer the motion to the Executive Committee for action over the summer as events show its necessity, but the motion was defeated by a hand vote. The original motion passed by a hand vote.

**Pending Resolutions**

**SR 96-08, Teaching Development** (complete text in April 1 minutes). President Collier reported that the Executive Committee felt the resolution should be fine-tuned and referred to the Improvement of Instruction Committee. A resolution to that effect was moved by Secretary Richardson and passed by voice vote.

**SR 96-09, Drug Testing** (complete text in April 1 minutes). President Collier said the Executive Committee decided that at the present time challenges are already mounted within the state against widespread drug testing, so any statement on the senate’s part may be counterproductive. Prof. Weintraub, the original sponsor of the resolution, argued that such challenges may fail, while Sen. Richardson argued that the resolution as amended now merely supports current LSU policy against searches without cause and is hence redundant. Sen. Wing suggested a resolution simply supporting current LSU policy. A hand vote was taken and the resolution was tabled.

**Chancellor Jenkin’s Comments:** 1. **Reorganization.** The reorganization of the chancellor’s office is nearly completed. Suzanne Rollins is now Assistant to the Chancellor and Sheryl Ramirez is Executive Secretary. Huel Perkins will remain in his position for the time being. He will need faculty members for special temporary positions with small supplemental stipends from time to time, although they will not officially leave their units. Harville Eaton’s position has been expanded to help develop relationships with business and industry. 2. **Legislative Efforts.** LSU is doing “fairly well” in the legislature so far. The technology fee, if approved, will yield up to $3 million and can create up to $10 million in borrowing power for technology. However, he never used the phrase “computer access fee,” as reported in the press. The current Appropriations Bill has $1 million for “innovative teaching practices,” $3 million for twenty-five distance learning sites (or one at each campus), $10 million for library reference material and scientific equipment, and this is recurrent money. The Louisiana Geological Survey will be transferred to LSU. At the moment $100,000 is included for the Louisiana Library Network, the same for developing a higher education formula, and $1.5 million to enhance the Board of Regents staff. The Louisiana Geologic Survey will be transferred to LSU at no cost to us. He had especially hoped for incremental funding, but this seems to be out of the picture at the moment. 3. **Executive Vice-Chancellor and Provost position.** Since he will be off campus at least one day a week, he needs this position for someone who can administer while he is away. The position will emphasize the centrality of our teaching and research functions. He has had to adjust the job description several times. In addition, such a
position will create cleaner lines of reporting. He expects to have three or four vice-provosts also. 4.

**Dean Searches.** Searches for the Engineering and Design deans are nearly completed and the Agriculture
dean search is under way. 5. **Admissions Requirements.** He has requested that the Executive Committee
propose to him raising the minimum GPA for entering freshmen to 2.5, as was planned for two years ago,
for “it is certainly time to revisit that.” If such a decision is made, it must be made quickly to allow high
school juniors time to make their grades. In addition, Access will probably be turned into a summer-only
program if the raise is made, especially if the community college begins functioning as planned. President
Collier said the Executive Committee would work with the ASH Committee on the raise proposal over
the summer.

**President’s Report.** President Collier presented certificates of appreciation to all retiring senators. He
noted that four candidates for Provost have been invited to campus and encouraged faculty to report their
reactions to the Executive Committee.

**Committee Reports.** None.

**Old Business.** None.

**New Business** None

Meeting Adjourned at 4:31

Respectfully submitted

Malcolm Richardson
Secretary