LSU Faculty Senate Meeting  
3:00 P.M., Monday, November 3, 2008  
Atchafalaya Room, LSU Union

Attendance

*Faculty Senate Executive Committee members present:*

1. Kevin L. Cope (Senate President, English)  
2. Andrew Christie (Vice-President, Accounting)  
3. George G. Stanley (Secretary, Chemistry)  
4. Priscilla D. Allen (Member-at-Large, Social Work)  
5. Pratul K. Ajmera (Member-at-Large)

Parliamentarian: Charles N Delzell (present)

*Senators present:*

1. Mary Aime  
2. Pratul K. Ajmera  
3. Priscilla D Allen  
4. David Baird  
5. Henry D. Bellamy  
6. Hollis Utah Cox  
7. Jennifer Curry  
8. Charles N Delzell  
9. Susan Dumais  
10. John Fletcher  
11. Wanda Hargroder  
12. Scott W. Harris  
13. Dominique Homberger  
14. Paul L. Hrycay  
15. Lisa Johnson  
16. P. Lynn Kennedy  
17. Joan M. King  
18. Richard L. Kurtz  
19. Edward Laws  
20. Katia Madsen  
21. Heather McKillop  
22. Jorge F. Morales  
23. Bruce Olcott  
24. Su-Seng Pang  
25. Kresimir Rupnik  
26. Kelly Rusch  
27. Michael Russo  
28. Cristina Sabliov  
29. Paul Wilson  
30. Yi-jun Xu  
31. Edward Watson  
32. Susan Weinstein

*Proxies for absent Senators:*

Dominique Homberger for Sue G Bartlett  
Beth N. Tope for Renee Casbergue  
Hollis Utah Cox for Bruce E Eilts  
Edward Watson for Andrea Houston, Joseph Legoria, Richard White  
Jennifer Curry for Jennifer L. Jolly  
Jorge F. Morales for Boryung Ju  
Pratul K. Ajmera for Ronald F. Malone  
Katia Madsen for Alison McFarland  
P. Lynn Kennedy for Carol E. O’Neil  
Charles N Delzell for John Protevi  
David Baird for James Sullivan

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

1. Fred Aghazadeh (5)  
2. Linda Allen (3)  
3. Jacqueline Bach (5)  
4. Brittan A. Barker (9)  
5. Michael Bowman (1)  
6. William H. Daly (7)  
7. Josh Detre (1)  
8. Juhan Frank (5)  
9. Robert K. Goidel (6)  
10. Jeremy King (1)  
11. Jeff S. Kuehny (7)  
12. Frederick G. Ortner (12)  
13. Erwin D. Poliakoff (5)  
14. Keith Robinson (12)  
15. Steve Ross (3)  
16. Lawrence Rouse (1)

*Guests Attending Meeting:*

Brian Ainsworth, Campus Federal  
Gary M. King, Biological Sciences  
Renee Myer, Chancellor’s Office  
Jason Droddy, Chancellor’s Office  
Jordan Blum, The Advocate  
Roy Dokka, Civil & Environmental Engineering  
D’Ann Morris, Chancellor's Office  
Student Reporter, The Daily Reveille
Presentation by Tim Barfield, Commissioner, Louisiana Workforce Commission

- Integration of workforce development programs and demand-driven service delivery responding to the needs of business and industry. Programs flow through US Department of Labor and State of Louisiana. Also integrating local training programs.
- Strengthening the role of Louisiana Community and Technical College System
- $10M rapid response fund/capability
- Fast Start Program: recruiting businesses to LA, job force specialized training to help recruit companies to LA
- General Education (K-12): perception that education has been ignored. More emphasis on improving K-12 education and providing more career and technical training programs. Education is a continuum.
- Workforce preparedness gap: profile where the high school class of 2004 will go: 35% in 4-year colleges, 37% dropout and/or leave state; 20% enter job market directly; 8% enter technical school. Projected job educational requirements for 2014: 21% will require 4 yr college degree; 24% will require HS diploma or less, 55% will require technical degree.
- 2008-09 Priorities: leadership (coordinate many existing programs); very happy with Sally Clausen and her focusing of universities on more specific missions. Students need to understand the advantages of technical degrees, not to dis 4-year or post-graduate programs. 700,000 people are under-trained and could enhance their skills through more training. Lack of “soft” skills (motivation, work ethic, etc). We need to improve the Workforce Commission Performance – greater accountability, clear job expectations, etc.

Q&A, Discussion Summary:

Female senator next to Joan King: You were very careful that you are not just targeting 2-year tech programs. Role of 4-year schools?
Tim: 4-year schools are also important. Improvement of admission standards, higher quality of students. Community Colleges are important for taking students with weaker backgrounds to act as a feeder to the 4-year schools. Continuity of post-secondary education opportunities.

Kevin Cope: It is very clear that in moving from Department of Labor to Workforce Development you are upgrading the institution. Questions about how Workforce Development relates to 4-year schools and training there.
Tim: Workforce is much larger than just labor. Involves K-college education. Yes, we need to do a better job to inform the public of connections between education and workforce development/jobs.

Female senator 2 over from Joan King: Will there be help for local K-12 schools?
Tim: Now that we have plans, we need to make sure that money follows the plan. Where can we focus the education money? Still planning going on with regards to this. Georgia has a great program between local tech schools and K-12 education. Involve local business partners into this as well. You don’t make up for 25 years of educational neglect quickly. Focus on technical schools.

George Stanley: Industry just doesn’t want technically trained workers. They also want workers with broader educational training, problem solving abilities, and creativity. What about getting more cross-collaboration between technical schools and 4-year schools to more broadly train workers to solve broader based problems and be more creative.

Tim: Good point. One of the Texas new technology high schools I visited recently talked about and focused on problem solving, teamwork, project-based assignments, oral & written presentations skills. 21st century skills. We do need better cross-talk and interaction between technical schools, community colleges, and 4-year universities.

Pratul Ajmera: I heard about the number of job vacancies in the state - 60K?
Tim: The most recent number is 87,000.

Pratul: Are these job openings already present or do they also include future positions?
Tim: That is based on a vacancy survey that we send out annually. The biggest challenge we have in workforce development is not the number of vacancies, but how quickly the state can address vacancies and provide workers with the proper training for open jobs that often require specific skill sets. The availability of housing in some areas (southwest La) is also a problem. The lack of public transportation can also be a barrier to workers getting to work.
Andrew Christie: Is this the job of government? I don’t necessarily want a student that can’t make it through high school trained to be an operator at a big chemical plant.

Tim: My job is to understand the needs of industry and to align government programs to help. The second point is why students are failing out of schools and what their true abilities actually are. Can we give them a different type of hands-on technical training that might catch their interest and be something that they can do well in. Rigor and relevance in education need to be balanced. This could keep many more students interested in finishing high school.

Presentation by LSU-Alexandria Chancellor Emeritus and Education Consultant James Firnberg regarding the Louisiana “Funding Formula” for Higher Education

- All of the comments today are mine. They may not agree with anyone else’s.
- One of 31 states that uses a formula to arrive at state appropriations for higher ed. Gap between what the funding formula calculates vs. what was actually funded. Cumulative gap over 32 yrs = $4.8B. We met the SREC average 2 yrs ago, but we have already fallen behind again. LSU’s share would be $10M/yr over 32 yrs, which would make quite a difference.
- New funding formula projects total needs, not just the state appropriation. We are a low tuition state and this has also hurt LSU. Funding should compensate for low tuition.
- New funding formula will use current data and try to project for next year’s budget situation as well. This is an advantage over past funding formulas that were often out of date by 2 yrs when they were implemented.
- Provides more recognition to the role, scope, and unique mission of LSU.
- Not based solely on student credit hours. Higher value given to graduate students relative to undergrads (also new).
- Provides performance incentives based on many factors. One is NSF federal research funding data. But comparisons will be to peer national schools. The formula, for example, will not compare LSU-BR to ULL. This is proposed to be added to the formula, but may still be modified. Percentage of graduates to the total of the entire higher ed system. This should favor LSU due to our considerably higher completion rates.
- Inclusion of Workforce Development. This may favor 2 yr schools and technical schools. How will this be defined and implemented.
- Higher Ed and Health is still very vulnerable to budget cuts.

Q&A, Discussion Summary:
Rich Kurtz: What are the odds of this being implemented? Every institution won’t like one of these new revisions.
Jim: Sally Clausen has visited every institution and has general agreement on the new formula. But the devil is in the details.
Kevin Cope: What is your sense of the workforce development component?
Jim: I hope they take a very broad view of what workforce development is. There was, for example, an article in the paper this morning about hiring Pilipino teachers in Point Coupee parish. You also need a good basic education in addition to specific workforce training.
Conferring of the Certificate of Commendation on the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) as represented by Executive Assistant to the Chancellor D’Ann Morris

Citation based on Faculty Senate Resolution 08-15 (passed at the September meeting) honoring the performance of the LSU Emergency Operations center is read.

D’Ann Morris from the Chancellor’s office accepts the plaque on behalf of the EOC from Kevin Cope.

Presidents report (Kevin Cope):

- **LSU Campus:** We have received a very good report from Rusty Jabor about the 150th Anniversary Celebration in 2010. We have received a preliminary report from the ad hoc committee about PS-111 - Evaluation of Administrators Policy. If anyone wants to see it please let me know. More information on night time parking is being sent out via a Broadcast E-mail. Signs now posted in various parking lots for B and C tag holders. A new committee has been formed by Gary Graham for parking and campus transportation issues. I am one of the faculty representatives and one meeting has occurred with planning in development stages. Ways to accommodate faculty and staff transportation to campus from high densities areas are being discussed. Nov 4 is the next Chancellors forum in the Hill Memorial Library. topic = LSU and the LSU system. Light refreshments will be served. Moodle problems still ongoing and being addressed. Will take some time but IT is working hard on improving user interface and help system.

- **System level:** Faculty Senate Executive Committee delegation (Kevin Cope, Bill Daly, Pratul Ajmera, & George Stanley) drove up to LSU-A and met with their Faculty Senate. Very nice and productive visit.

- **State level:** The FSEC met with Campus Federal Credit Union to discuss ways to improve service and features. Discussions on revisions to previous HB-179 (leave & time off for illness) continue. Lilly Allen is on the committee working on this.

- **Personal news:** Pavani Gottipati, the Faculty Senate web master and graduate assistant, is getting married (round of applause). Unfortunately she is leaving to take a full-time GA in engineering. So we are looking for a new student helper. Please nominate to Kevin. Small supplement available.

**Q&A, Discussion Summary:**

Gary King: I recently got hit on my bike. This is not a bike friendly campus. I would like to see improvements in this area.

Kevin: A number of improvements in this regard have been proposed. One-way streets. Bike lanes. More bike storage as well.

Report from the Ad Hoc Committee on Interdepartmental Programs (FS resolution 07-03; Chair: Roy Dokka)

- 20+ page report that will be posted on FS web site.
- Is there a problem? Systemic? Isolated?
- Why doesn’t interdisciplinary/interdepartmental programs flourish? What do other universities do?
- This is a problem everywhere, difficult to find solutions.
- Committee spoke to many on campus and on other campuses, including upper administrators.
- There are barriers: structural barriers – the way the university is organized. Got to ask Chair, Dean, etc to setup collaborations that require additional resources. Teaching barriers as well for teaching interdisciplinary courses. P&T issues.
• Cultural and other differences between Arts & Humanities and Basic Sciences/Engineering also represent a barrier. University structure is very old and perhaps not conducive to these types of interactions.

• Must experiment and try new ways of organizing and doing things. Could be a combination of things to get better interactions.

• We are not in the top research tier. No nationally competitive research center. Recommendations to advance research efforts.

• Recommendations: 1) Not in flagship agenda, put it in; 2) Create a permanent committee to study this and make ongoing recommendations; 3) List of other smaller suggestions in report; 4) Take a big step and create an incubator to get different faculty together to cooperate on interdisciplinary projects and create brand new communities.

Q&A, Discussion Summary:
Andrew Christie: There are two major barriers: promotion & tenure and departmental structure.

Roy: This comes back to the way that the university is organized. Dean’s fight for their college and Chair’s fight for their departments. Credit needs to be given for these interdisciplinary actions where the benefits are spread out over several departments and colleges.

Paul Wilson: What do you mean by space? New space with new instrumentation? Reallocation of existing space? How do you decide what money to allocate for this?

Roy: You need space organized as office & laboratory space for interdisciplinary work. A plan for bigger projects that span different disciplines needs to be developed.

New Business:

Comments on Memorial Day Holiday: Professor Gary King (Biological Sciences)

People in the military have sacrificed much for our country and we should honor them via a Memorial Day Holiday. LSU is probably one of the few educational institutions that does not celebrate Memorial Day. I ask that the Faculty Senate support a Memorial Day holiday.

Q&A, Discussion Summary:

Unidentified Senator: Other institutions in the south often do not have a holiday for Memorial Day. There are historical reasons for this tied into its origin as a northern holiday related to the Civil War.

Gary: I believe that it should be recognized as a national holiday to honor all that have lost their lives in service to America. Whether or not other institutions honor Memorial Day should not impact on our decision.

Ed Laws: I would like to make a motion that LSU celebrate Memorial Day.

Kelly Rusch: We had a Memorial Day holiday a while back.

George Stanley: FSEC discussed this after the last Memorial Day holiday. State law limits the number of paid holidays that we can celebrate. So it is a complicated issue.

Andrew Christie: Yes, this is a lot more complicated than you think due to state law/rules. Robert Doolos needs to be consulted on this issue.

Jim Stoner: State law makes a maximum of 14 paid holidays.

Kevin Cope: We need to type up a resolution on this and figure out what other holiday will be dropped. FSEC committee will meet with Robert Doolos to consider what can be done on this and what other university holiday can be sacrificed.
Consideration of Minutes from Previous Meeting (October 7, 2008):

Corrections on minutes with regards to Resolution 08-11 by Charles Delzell. Secretary will make sure the most recent version is included.

Motion to accept minutes by James Stoner, seconded by Andrew Christie. Unanimous vote to accept/approve.

James Stoner moves that we adjourn.
Seconded by many. Adjournment. 5:10 PM.