The meeting was called to order by President Strain at 3:05 p.m. Senator Stoner was named parliamentarian for the Faculty Senate beginning with the December meeting. Guests included L. Lindsay (Assoc. Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs), M. Pitts (Gen. Ed. Com.), Jayme Marler (Reveille), and Mary Boudreaux (Staff Senate).

The LSU System’s ‘95-96 budget request was received and passed at the Board of Supervisor’s meeting (11/4/94). This document contains the budget for all the institutions in the LSU System and will be submitted to the Board of Regents for incorporation into their Higher Education Budget request which then goes to the Division of Administration in the Governor’s office. There were a number of increases: one of special interest is a recommendation for a 7% faculty pay raise and a 4% pay raise for unclassified employees. President Strain, however, pointed out that this is not the final word, but only the System’s recommendation. He also noted that if a faculty raise is funded, it is unknown whether it would be across the board, or if the Board of Regents would go along with the proposed numbers. It now appears less likely that there will be midyear cuts, unless something unexpected occurs.

President Strain reported that the SACS reaffirmation site visit went well and that the administration has now received a draft of the team’s report. As expected, LSU’s accreditation has been reaffirmed; however, there were 27 Recommendations and 29 Suggestions made by the team to which the University must respond and with which it must attempt to comply. There were no surprises in the report, and...
One recommendation of the SACS Self Study was that all courses, both undergraduate and graduate, provide students with a written syllabus in which the bases for grades are stated. This is currently covered in PS-44 (Grades), but PS-44 does not require that it be in a written syllabus. The Executive Committee has drafted minor changes to PS-44 to meet this SACS' recommendation and submitted it to the Provost for his approval and forwarding to the Chancellor.

One of the SACS' requirements for LSU is the need for official documentation of the academic credentials of all current and future faculty. This can be accomplished through copies of diplomas or grade transcripts. The Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates met in Alexandria on October 15th and a number of actions were taken. President George Strain was elected Vice President. Faculty Senate Resolution 94-01 (Faculty Liaison with the Board of Regents) was adopted by ALFS. Mary Sue Ply, the new ALFS' president, is the designated representative, and President Strain, as ALFS' Vice President, is the designated alternate. However, since most of the Board or Regents meetings are held in Baton Rouge, President Strain will probably be the liaison at these meetings. Having a faculty liaison will be beneficial to LSU and other universities that participate in ALFS. In addition, ALFS has set up a meeting on Saturday, November 19th, at the Pennington Center with the chief financial officers from the three state systems. Bill Silva from the LSU System and his counterparts for the Southern System and the Trustee System will meet to discuss finances for higher education. ALFS also passed a resolution that there be no administrative pay raises in the state's colleges, universities, and system offices until faculty salaries are brought up to SREB averages. This was primarily in response to the generous raises that the Trustee's System granted to system administrators, particularly to President Calier. This resolution was sent to the Governor, all Systems Boards and major newspapers throughout the state. Although only a resolution, its intent was to send a message that the faculty of this state feel it is inappropriate for upper level administrators to be given generous salary increases when faculty salaries are well below the SREB averages. It was also noted at the ALFS meeting that the support received by our Senate from Academic Affairs exceeds that on other state campuses and is the envy of all the other senates. Next semester the SGA will present its proposal on the repeat/delete policy. President Strain noted that the Reveille article included some misleading statements on the extent of support within the University and within the LSU System for such a policy. At the last Chancellor's staff meeting it was announced that SGA is planning a Spring Festival that will include a concert on campus by the Grateful Dead. This event has been tentatively scheduled for March 18, from which the University would gross about $1M.

Other Reports:

Senate/Alumni Association Liaison Committee: As a result of Hals Benhard's visit to the Senate last Spring, a Senate/Alumni Association Liaison Committee was established and has met several times. Current faculty representatives on the committee include Senators Poliakoff (Public Relations Committee), McKee and J. Collier. Several initiatives resulted from the meetings including the invitation of President Strain to attend the Scholarship Awards Banquet on 11/10/94 and to address the Alumni Association Board of Directors on Friday, 11/11/94. At the suggestion of this liaison group, copies of the Alumni Magazine will be sent to all full-time LSU faculty. Prominent Alumni Association members throughout the state will be invited to host get-togethers for potential LSU students in their region. Alumni will be asked to distribute to their legislators the final version of the PR document prepared by Senators Ajmera and Poliakoff. This document, which highlights LSU's contributions to the state, will be hand delivered for added emphasis.

The Faculty Senate has agreed to identify faculty with research in areas important to the state who are also good public speakers. These faculty will be asked to speak at regional Alumni chapter meetings. Finally, the Senate is moving to institutionalize this cooperation between Senate and the Alumni Association. As the Senate Bylaws are revised, the Public Relations Committee will be assigned the responsibility of continuing the liaison with the Alumni Association which, in turn, will identify a committee with the same responsibility.

Old Business:

Senate Resolution 94-C2 was introduced by Michael Pitts, Chairman of the General Education Commission. The Resolution modifies the existing curriculum; it adds a lab component; and it changes the requirement from nine to eight hours. This change will allow colleges and schools to decide how to structure the science requirement. In some disciplines it may make more sense to follow the two course sequence with the lab component. In other cases, it may be more reasonable to keep the existing sequence. Senator Collier noted that the eight or nine hr. requirement, as stated in the resolution, might confuse students. He moved to amend the resolution to read that the science requirement be eight hrs. The amendment to the resolution was seconded by Senator Ajmera and passed. There was no further discussion, and the amended resolution passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Emily Batinski
Secretary