HIGHLIGHTS FROM FACULTY SENATE MEETING

November 3, 2000

Provost's Remarks

1. Positive news on student performance indicators
2. Budgetary increases for utilities and health insurance

President's Report

1. LSU 2000
2. Direct deposit and electronic pay stubs
3. State Group Benefits
4. Direct deposit and electronic pay stubs
5. Stelly amendments

Old Business

1. Update on direct deposit and electronic pay stubs by Donna Torres and Donna Dewailly, Accounting Services

New Business

1. First reading of SR 01-03 to modify LSU 25+ credit-hour limit by Faculty Senator Abe Biswas for Academic Standards and Honors (ASH)
2. First reading of SR 01-04 to develop procedures to remove tenure from administrators by Ron Snider (proxy for Faculty Senator Dan Hillmann)
Faculty Senate Minutes

November 3, 2000

Meeting called to order at 3:08 p.m. Invited guests included Executive Vice-Chancellor and Provost Dan Fogel, Vice Provost F. Neil Mathews, Karen Denby (Dean of Enrollment Management; Office of Academic Affairs), Karl Roider (Dean of Arts & Sciences and co-chair K-12 Task Force), Harold Silverman (Dean of Basic Sciences and co-chair K-12 Task Force), Donna Torres (Executive Director, Accounting Services), Donna Dewailly (Director, Accounting Services), and Heidi Cenac (Reveille). Proxies were announced. October 2 minutes were approved as read.

Provost’s Comments. The Provost noted increases in several student performance indicators. The six-year graduation rate (for the class entering spring/summer 1994 and graduating by spring/summer 2000) rose to 54%. This graduation rate was 50% two years ago and 52% last year. LSU is making rapid progress in increasing graduation rates. In addition, the average ACT has risen to 24, from 23.4 - 23.6 for the last several years. With increased admissions standards for this fall's entering class and again in 2002, these numbers are expected to continue to rise.

Provost Fogel reported that utilities have risen more than anticipated. Although utilities were upbudgeted by about $500,000 for this year's budget, utility costs are anticipated to be $2 million over budget. In addition, health insurance rates are expected to rise by 13-18% on January 1, 2001. Both university and subscriber rates will increase. University costs will rise by $900,000 - $1,150,000 for this fiscal year, and $1.8 - $2.3 million next year. Any slack in the budget that could have been used for faculty and staff raises in the event that the Stelly amendments do not pass has been greatly reduced.

President's Comments. Faculty Senate President Neil Kestner introduced the new Faculty Senate parliamentarian Robert Edgeworth at the beginning of the meeting.

President Kestner provided an overview on recent activities by this campus and the system to remedy problems with health insurance benefits. Forest Benedict and member of the LSU system office have been meeting with Commissioner Mark Drennen and the Governor to try to find ways to correct the problem of rising costs and decreasing benefits. Thus far Commissioner Drennen has agreed to form a task force, mostly of legislators, to study the problem. Currently the state budget is carrying a $100 million deficit from the State Group Benefits Program. Forest Benedict
plans to write an LSU Today article for release in early December that will outline what the campus and the System are trying to do to solve the health insurance problem for its employees.

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President Kestner briefly reviewed a memo (full text available from Faculty Senate Secretary) outlining LSU System policy issues for the near future. A system committee called the LSU 2000 Committee that was chaired by Roger Ogden produced this document. The Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) to the Board of Supervisors met on November 2 with President Jenkins and discussed the contents of this memo. President Jenkins considers this a work in progress and the ten policy issues outlined have now been referred to several Board of Supervisors committees. President Kestner noted that issue VIII concerns post-tenure review and accountability. At the November 2 FAC meeting President Jenkins stated that Issue VIII is about rewarding faculty and that he is strongly committed to tenure.

In other business, President Kestner thanked senators for their comments on the implementation of required direct deposit and electronic pay stubs. He forwarded the approximately 60 emails to Donna Torres, Executive Director of Accounting Services, who is making a presentation later in this meeting. Opinion polls indicate that many voters are undecided on the Stelly amendments. These undecided voters felt they did not have enough information to evaluate the amendments, and also did not trust the legislature. President Kestner also noted that the task force to produce a master plan for information technology is in the process of bringing consultants to campus.

Report of K-12 Task Force. Co-chairs Harold Silverman and Karl Roider presented a report on the activities of a K-12 Task Force that was active from January, 2000 until in completed its report, which was presented to the Board of Regents in August, 2000. Members of the task force included faculty and administrators from across campus, area teachers and administrators, and Board of Regents member Frances Henry, who is chair of a Board of Regents blue ribbon commission on educational quality. The
charge of the task force was to find ways to effectively demonstrate LSU’s commitment to Louisiana schools. The task force developed three recommendations, that the university: (1) support educators and as a matter of professional respect lobby for higher teacher pay, (2) aggressively support alternative means of teacher certification for those who through education and experience are qualified to become excellent teachers, and (3) create an institute called the LSU Institute for Partnerships in Education (LSUIPE), that would keep track of, coordinate, and be a resource for pre-K-16 outreach activities. The task force also prepared an inventory of over 150 programs where faculty and students presently assist in K-12 education, as well as prepared a grant proposal to the US Department of Education Gear-Up Grant. This proposal for about $2 million was funded and is aimed at developing interventions for high-risk middle school students to prepare them to enter and graduate from college. In response to questions Deans Roider and Silverman acknowledged that a number of solid programs already exist in various colleges. They pointed out that often people outside these colleges do not know about these efforts. The task force recommended the establishment of LSUIPE to provide support for these programs as well as a meeting ground for interaction among programs. Provost Fogel thanked the task force and acknowledged that we cannot take on all the problems of the educational system but the whole university needs to participate as part of the community of this state. The Provost stated that he approved the establishment of LSUIPE and a funding through Federal grants is available for the director's salary for several years. LSU will be working with Southern University on a pre-K-16 council that will include industry, pre-K-12 educators, and the universities. A statewide pre-K-16 council is also being developed and LSU will participate in these statewide efforts. Provost Fogel admitted demands on faculty are already very heavy, but LSU is already doing a lot and want to find ways to reward these people.

Old Business. Donna Torres and Donna Dewailly of Accounting Services updated the Faculty Senate on the implementation of direct deposit and electronic pay stubs. In response to faculty and staff concerns, Accounting Services has made several changes in their implementation plan. Electronic pay stubs will become available in December, 2000 with paper copies also printed through April or May of 2001. Anyone can request to continue to receive paper copies by sending a brief note to Accounting Services. Anyone without email will automatically continue to receive paper pay slips. Accounting services will provide email notification of pay slips for any supplemental checks. They will also expand the number of pay slips available online to 12 months (rather than 3-6 months). A pilot project done with the School of Music has been generally well received. In response to questions, Donna Torres added that W-2 forms will still be provided on paper but Accounting Services plans to make an earnings-to-
date W-2 form available on the web so that employees can do their tax planning more easily.

New Business. SR 01-03, resolution to modify LSU 25+ credit hour limit. Presented by Faculty Senator Abe Biswas. Senator Biswas explained that presently a student in the LSU 25+ program can earn up to 24 credit hours. Recently, the requirements for transfer students were increased and students now need 30 credit hours to enter LSU. As a result LSU 25+ students have to transfer out of LSU and earn 6 credits at another institution before they can transfer back into LSU. ASH, therefore, proposes that the maximum number of hours that can be earned in LSU 25+ be raised to 30. The resolution was read (full text attached). In response to questions, Senator Biswas stated that ASH will examine the question whether raising the credit limit to 32 could prevent cases where students with 28 or 29 credits must find a one or two credit class to meet the 30 credit maximum. This resolution will be voted on at the November 30 Faculty Senate meeting.

SR 01-04, resolution to develop procedures to remove tenure from administrators. Presented by Ron Snider (proxy for Faculty Senator Dan Hillmann). Dr. Snider sees a conflict of interest for administrators holding tenure evaluating tenured faculty in post-tenure review procedures. The resolution was read and will be voted on at the November 30 Faculty Senate meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 4:22 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Anderson, Secretary

Faculty Senate Meeting minutes and transcripts are available at: