MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL FACULTY SENATE MEETING

NOVEMBER 8, 1991

ATTENDANCE: (✓ present) (*) proxy

✓ Eric Aebischer
✓ Fred Aghazadeh
✓ Nick Apostolou
✓ William Arp
✓ Althea Ashe
✓ Mary Balthazar
✓ Thomas Beard
✓ Michael Book
✓ James Borck
✓ James Byo
✓ Griffin Campbell
✓ James Campbell
✓ Michael Carpenter
✓ James Catano
✓ Peggy Chalaron
✓ Billie Collier
✓ Hollis Cox
✓ Neal Cronin
✓ William Daly
✓ Thomas Dietz
✓ Larry Farh
✓ Martin Feldman
✓ George Frankfurter
✓ Robert Gambrell
✓ Wayne Gauthier
✓ Gary Ginter
✓ Samuel Godber
✓ Robert Grodner
✓ Elsie Hiebert
✓ Jan Herlinger
✓ Dan Hillman
✓ D. Homberger
✓ Tom Hribernik
✓ Richard Imlay
✓ James Kaiser
✓ William Kelso
✓ Ralph Kinney
✓ John Konopak
✓ Joe Kotrlik
✓ Nick Markovich
✓ Norma Martin
✓ Spencer Maxcy
✓ Kenneth McMillin
✓ Donna Mealey
✓ Kenneth Nagelberg
✓ Robert Neuman
✓ Deborah Normand
✓ Thomas Owen
✓ Margaret Parker
✓ Charles Parks
✓ Dorothy Pashley
✓ John Pizer
✓ Gene Reagan
✓ Miles Richardson
✓ L. Leslie Rosso
✓ Eron Sejo
✓ Peter Soderbergh
✓ George Strain
✓ Emily Toth
✓ Suzanne Turner
✓ John Wefel
✓ Lutz Weis
✓ James Werbel
✓ James Wharton

Proxies:

Strain for Hribernik, Cox, Hillman
Catano for Cronin, Normand
Maxcy for Ginter
Rosman for Neuman
Homberger for Dietz
Aghazadeh for Parks
Armstrong for Turner
Beck for G. Campbell
Money for J. Campbell

A special meeting of the LSU Faculty Senate was called to order at 10:05am, Friday, November 8, 1991, in Middleton Library, Room 241D. The purpose of the meeting was to provide a forum for interested faculty to voice concerns over incidents of racial hostility and religious intolerance which have occurred on the LSU campus or which have otherwise involved students/faculty/staff of the University.

Pat Culbertson, President of the Senate, welcomed senators and visitors, including Chancellor Bud Davis and Vice Chancellor and Provost Roland Haden. Culbertson read a sign-up sheet for prospective speakers. Culbertson addressed some of his concerns, and then introduced the first speaker, Rodger Kamenetz, professor of English, who suggested that Chancellor Davis appoint a committee to monitor hate incidents and to establish chaired professorships of Holocaust studies and African-American studies. He presented the Chancellor with a petition signed by Jewish faculty. Gwen Searse, President of the Black Faculty and Staff Caucus and Director of Junior Division, presented the concerns of black faculty, staff, and students, as did Mitchell Rice, professor of Political Science and Vice President of the Black Faculty and Staff Caucus. George Frankfurter, professor of Finance, spoke of his concerns and described his personal experiences during the Holocaust. Ken Nagelberg, professor of Journalism, John Fischer, professor of English, and Brij Mohan, professor of Social Work, also addressed the Senate with their concerns. Gene Reagan, professor of Entomology, voiced his concern over the possible repercussions of the Faculty Senate’s assuming a political stance. He moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion failed for lack of a second. Michele Masse, professor of English, voiced her concerns for the safety of students and women on campus in light of recent incidences, and she stressed the role of professors and their responsibility to teach tolerance and unity and to speak out against racism and discrimination.

Culbertson introduced Vice Chancellor Haden who stressed the role of professors in encouraging unity, civility, and good behavior. Culbertson introduced Chancellor Davis who related his pride in the progress black students have made on the campus and stated that, although the University has not yet met its goals of attracting additional minority students, it will continue to strive in that direction. He mentioned the
recent article in the Chronicle of Higher Education which is embarrassing and damaging to higher education in Louisiana. He asked that any incidents with racial overtones be reported to him immediately. He spoke of the possibility of establishing chaired professorships in Holocaust and African-American studies. He also suggested the possibility of faculty wearing armbands to demonstrate unity within the University and support for minorities.

Emily Toth introduced Faculty Senate Resolution 91-02, the text of which is included below. The motion was seconded by Senator Kotlik. Culbertson reminded the Senate that in order for the Senate to vote on a resolution at the meeting in which it is introduced a two-thirds vote is required to accept it for consideration. A favorable vote of 41 of 43 Senators present resulted in the Resolution being brought to the floor for discussion. Senator Feldman moved that an amendment be made to the Resolution adding "...as well as the general population of the State, ..." to the last line. Senator Catano seconded the motion. The amendment passed with 34 of the 43 Senators present in favor. The Resolution as amended was approved with 34 of the 43 Senators present in favor.

Culbertson recognized Senator Werbel who introduced a new resolution requesting that Chancellor Davis establish a panel on discrimination. Senator Keisler seconded the motion. Action will be taken on that resolution at the next Faculty Senate meeting, November 15, 1991. The meeting was adjourned at 11:20am.

FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION # 91-02

Introduced and adopted November 8, 1991

Whereas increases in racial hostility and religious intolerance threaten the well-being of the State of Louisiana; and

Whereas such hostilities jeopardize the disinterested pursuit of knowledge to which higher education is committed; and

Whereas the promulgation of racist and Nazi ideas, however veiled, precipitates violence and has already endangered the safety and well-being of students and faculty on the LSU campus;

The Faculty Senate of Louisiana State University urges its faculty, staff, and students, as well as the general population of the State, to reflect upon these concerns as they prepare to vote in the upcoming election.