HIGHLIGHTS FROM FACULTY SENATE MEETING

October 2, 2000

Provost's Remarks

1. Commencement Committee's Report and Resolution
2. Formation of Group to Provide Input on Class Scheduling Guidelines for Fall 2001
3. State Bond Commission Approval of Three Renovation projects
4. Stelly Plan

President's Report

1. Parliamentarian
2. Listserv
3. Board of Supervisors September Meeting
4. State Group Benefits
5. Vice Chancellor of Research and Graduate Studies Search Committee
6. PS 36 Update

Committee Report

1. Committee on Committees by Past Chair Beth Paskoff

SR 00-01

1. Second Reading and Approval of Resolution Recommending Changes in Faculty Senate Bylaws

Old Business

1. November Constitutional Amendments on Tax Restructuring (Stelly Plan) by Faculty Senator James Richardson
New Business

1. Update on New Direct Deposit of Payroll Guidelines by Donna Dewailly, Director of Payroll
2. Report and First Reading of SR 01-02 to Reinstate August Commencement by Faculty Senator Elaine Smyth, and Aimee Fifarek and Timothy Louwers, Commencement Committee Co-chairs
3. Presentation on Freshman Residency Requirement by Provost Fogel

Faculty Senate Minutes

October 2, 2000

Meeting called to order at 3:05 p.m. Invited guests included Executive Vice-Chancellor and Provost Dan Fogel, Vice Provost F. Neil Mathews, Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Academic Services Bobbie Walker, Karen Denby (Dean of Enrollment Management; Office of Academic Affairs), Aimee Fifarek (co-chair Commencement Committee), Tim Louwers (co-chair Commencement Committee), Beth Paskoff (past chair Committee on Committees), Doris Collins (Student Life and Academic Services), Debora Baker (Residential Life), Donna Dewailly (Director of Accounting Services), Donna Torres (Executive Director of Accounting Services), Bhavna Pandit (SGA), Chris Eldredge (SGA), Justin Germany (SGA), Anthony O'Connor (SGA), Robert Wood (SGA President), Craig Cancienne (SGA), and Heidi Cenac (Reveille). Proxies were announced. September 5, 2000 minutes were approved as read.

Provost’s Comments. Provost Fogel announced that Chancellor Emmert and he support the Commencement Committee's report and resolution to be presented today. He hoped that the Senate could act swiftly and favorably on SR 01-02 so that the reinstatement of August graduation can be announced prior to spring-semester registration, which could prevent class oversubscriptions by students trying to graduate in May instead of August. The Provost stated that a working group will soon be formed to address issues related to new class scheduling requirements anticipated for fall semester. Requirements were already modified for spring 2001, but further changes are anticipated. This group, made up of Faculty Senate representatives, chairs, and deans will provide input as additional changes are developed and implemented. Provost Fogel also announced that LSU’s agenda on capital outlay is moving forward. The State Bond Commission has approved lines of credit for the planning stages of three renovation projects: (1) the Music and Dramatic Arts Building ($1.47 million); (2) the old Engineering Shops, the Engineering Lab Annex, and new Chemical Engineering Building ($900,000); and (3) the Journalism Building ($225,000) were funded. Other urgent facility needs exist and these projects must also advance through the approval process. In addition, funding sources other than
capital outlay are being sought. Provost Fogel mentioned the Stelly amendments on the ballot in November. These amendments would reform the state's sales and income taxes, and the tax revenues generated are earmarked for education, including higher education, and would, in particular, be directed at increasing faculty salaries.

**President's Comments.** Faculty Senate President Neil Kestner announced that the Senate has a parliamentarian, Robert Edgeworth, who will start at the November 3 meeting. The Faculty Senate office is now functioning, our web page is being updated, and the Faculty Senate Listserv is now in operation. All senators should have received a message stating that they had been added to the listserv. Senators who did not receive this message should contact Namita Oswal or Laurie Anderson. President Kestner reported that the Board of Supervisors voted to support the Stelly amendments at their September meeting, although there was concern about the lack of political backing for the amendments. Rob Poston of the Staff Senate and President Kestner are working together to address concerns on State Group Benefits. The program is having serious problems with deficits, and solutions other than ever-increasing premiums are being sought. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee has been asked to nominate faculty for the Vice Chancellor of Research and Graduate Studies search committee. Please send any suggestions to President Kestner soon. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee is also setting up a set of procedures to gather input on PS 36, once a draft is released by the PS 36 committee.

**Committee Report.** Beth Paskoff, last year's chair of Committee on Committees, presented a report and membership lists of Faculty Senate Standing Committees (compiled by Carol Barry; to be available at Faculty Senate Web Site http://its2.ocs.lsu.edu/guests/senate/public_html/index.htm). There are continuing vacancies on committees. If Senators know of persons listed on committees who are no longer at LSU, or other errors or corrections, please let the Committee on Committees know. Also senators are encouraged to nominate people to committees. The Committee on Committees will put the call out again for nominations in January. President Kestner commented that the FSEC is striving for all committees to be active and will provide agenda items and liaisons with the FSEC if needed. The FSEC would also like to meet with committee chairs and to receive the minutes of committee meetings.

SR 00-01, resolution recommending changes in the bylaws of the Faculty Senate (second reading, complete text attached). Presented by Carol Barry. Vice President Barry read the resolution, which passed by a unanimous hand vote.

**Old Business.** Faculty Senator James Richardson made a presentation on the Stelly plan, two constitutional amendments concerning tax restructuring on the November ballot. Both amendments must pass for either to be implemented, and would move the state away from the use of sales taxes toward using income
taxes to gather revenue. If passed, additional funds generated will be invested in education. One amendment eliminates the four-cent sales tax on food and utilities (a temporary tax since 1986). The other amendment makes up the money lost and generates extra income by no longer allowing Federal taxes to be deducted from a taxpayer's gross income, through the elimination of excess deductions, and by compressing tax brackets. Another consequence for many people will be a reduction in federal taxes because state income taxes (but not sales taxes) can be deducted from Federal taxes. The statewide impact of the Stelly plan will be to increase income taxes by $646 million, reduce sales taxes by $440, and provide $110 million in saving on Federal taxes. As a result there would be a net tax increase of $96 million for State tax payers, but an additional $206 million to the State. The use of the extra revenue for education is statutorily, not constitutionally, guaranteed. This restructuring is seen as a shift to a more progressive and growth oriented tax, and the elimination of "temporary" taxes should increase the State's bond ratings on Wall Street. Some of the plan's opponents say that a comprehensive package is needed, and Stelly is only a small part of fiscal reform. After the October election, there will be a campaign to support the Stelly plan. In response to questions, Senator Richardson stated that 80% of the income tax revenue would come from the elimination of deductions and the other 20% from the compression of tax brackets. Senator Richardson also stated that it is possible to simulate different tax structures so that the funds earmarked for education can be accurately estimated year to year.

**New Business. Changes in Payroll Policies** Donna Dewailly, Director of Accounting Services, outlined two new policies applicable to all LSU employees. First, by January 2001 all employees must use direct deposit of their paychecks. The benefit to employees will be earlier access to pay and increased security. For the University, direct deposit will streamline procedures and cut costs (by $30,000 not considering loss from fraud). Options for employees without a current bank account will be available, and waivers will be considered on a case by case basis. Second, Accounting Services is eliminating paper pay stubs by January 2001. Pay stubs will be available electronically through Paws. Staff without email access will still get a paper copy of their pay stub. Senators raised concerns over security, availability of access, the reliability of PAWS, and the capacity of Paws to handle traffic on pay days.

Commencement Committee Report and SR 01-02 to reinstate August Commencement (first reading, complete text attached). SR 01-02 was presented by Elaine Smyth for the Commencement Committee. At the May 2000 Faculty Senate meeting, the Senate sent SR 00-12 (to recognize August graduates at the May commencement) back to the Commencement Committee, asking them to consider reinstating August graduation. As a result, the Commencement Committee has drafted a new resolution, SR 01-02, which Senator Smyth read. A motion to suspend the rules passed. In response to questions, Provost Fogel stated that the cost of August graduation is about $40,000 - $50,000 and that between 550 and 780 undergraduates attended the last several August
graduations. The resolution passed by a hand vote. In the Commencement Committee's report, co-chair Aimee Fifarek noted that the resolution was limited to the reinstatement of August graduation, which all the committee members supported and which would eliminate problems of recognizing students such as university medallists. The committee felt other changes to commencement, such as ways to allow students only attend part of the ceremony, need to involve other bodies such as Student Government and the Graduate School.

**Freshman Residency Requirements.** Provost Fogel presented a proposal to require all unmarried freshman under the age of 21 to live on campus for their first academic year beginning in the fall of 2003. Goals of freshman residency are to enhance intellectual climate, strengthen the collegiate experience, and engage students in the university community. Research indicates higher academic performance and retention rates for students living on campus. A residency requirement may also increase graduation rates. Completion of a new apartment complex, acquisition of Broussard Hall from the Athletic Department, and reconfiguration of existing residence hall space will increase capacity. Funds for these changes are available within Residential Life. Provost Fogel seeks endorsement of the broad concept of freshman residency by the Faculty Senate and Student Government Association when he presents the proposal to the Board of Supervisors. In response to questions, the Provost stated that peer institutions with required freshman residency include the Univ. of Tennessee, Virginia Tech., Univ. of Virginia, Texas Tech., Univ. of Mississippi, Univ. of Colorado, and Univ. of Arkansas. Auburn has an 80-90% freshmen residency but no requirement. Freshman residency at LSU is 60%. In response to concerns about costs, the Provost stated that costs would be $2,400/yr, that costs would be figured into financial aid packages, and that by 2003 100% of entering freshman will be on TOPS. Exceptions at other universities typically include age, marital status, and if students have children. The Provost stated that the university was not avoiding accessibility requirements by providing exceptions for special needs. If freshman residency is a success so that sophomores and juniors want to remain on campus, the system may be temporarily stressed but because Residential Life is self-funded they can quickly respond to facility needs.

Meeting adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Anderson, Secretary

Faculty Senate Meeting minutes and transcripts are available at: