HIGHLIGHTS FROM FACULTY
SENATE MEETING

October 9, 2001

Comments by Executive Vice-Chancellor and Provost Fogel:

• The Provost is considering a “teach-in” for the campus related to events of Sept. 11.

• Provost Fogel and Pres. Kestner have received a new draft of PS-36 from the Ad Hoc Committee. Following campus-wide conversations to improve it, Provost Fogel believes the Committee should receive comments and consider changes or additions to the document.

• The Provost endorses the charge to the Ad Hoc Committee on Policies for Reviewing Administrators, believing its work will improve the evaluation process.

• Provost Fogel explained that it is important for all faculty to understand the Information Technology (IT) initiative, its imperatives, and how it was presented to the legislature, as an economic development initiative to be met through higher education. For information on the IT Initiative, faculty can see www.lsu.edu/lsucapital.

• The University Planning Document, Release 2.0, which has changed substantially, will be broadcast to the University next Monday.

Comments by Faculty Senate President Neil Kestner:

• Pres. Kestner reported on recent discussions with members of the Student Government Association (SGA) concerning new ways for students to evaluate teachers and courses on-line.

• The IT Master Plan, different from the IT Initiative, is part of LSU’s Strategic Plan. Reviewed by consultants last spring, it is now being revised.

• The FS Executive Committee is considering procedures for managing discussion of the revised PS-36, a complex and lengthy document. We intend to post it at a web site with a structure to allow for sending emails about specific sections. The FSEC will compile and forward written comments to the Ad Hoc Committee to Revise PS-36 who will then revise the document before the Senate considers it for approval. Specific instructions about the web site and procedures for discussion will be given at the November meeting.
Old Business:

SR 02-01, requesting that a letter of acknowledgment and thanks be sent to the Governor and members of the Louisiana Legislature for support of higher education in the last legislative session was revised, amended, and passed.

New Business:

SR 02-02, Request LSU faculty be able to review administrators on the Velocity Squared website, was introduced and briefly discussed, with a vote to follow at November’s meeting.

Faculty Senate Minutes
October 9, 2001

The meeting was called to order at 3:05 p.m. with a quorum present. Invited guests included Executive Vice Chancellor and Provost Daniel Fogel and Ralph Kinney and Katie Cherry from the Ad Hoc Committee to Revise PS-36.

Proxies were announced, and minutes of the September 7 meeting were approved as corrected: LSU now has 304 endowed professorships.

Chancellor Mark Emmert, who was to present "Access to Excellence," was called out of town.

Comments from Executive Vice-Chancellor and Provost Fogel:

• The Provost is considering a “teach-in” for the campus community related to the events of Sept. 11. He invites Senators’ suggestions on speakers to invite or issues to address.

• Provost Fogel and President Kestner have received a draft revision of PS-36 from the Ad Hoc Committee who has served “long and hard.” Committee members are Gene Wittkopf, chair; Neil Mathews; Russ Chapman; Ralph Kinney; Katie Cherry; Karl Roider, replaced by Jane Collins; Jack Hamilton; and Janie Frickie, as staff resource. Now as faculty begin campus-wide dialogues to improve it, Provost Fogel believes the Committee should be the body who receives and considers changes or additions to the document; he intends to meet with them as they revise it, acting as a resource. The Senate will be asked to endorse the final version.

• The Provost endorses the charge to the Ad Hoc Committee on Policies for Reviewing Administrators, believing its work will improve the evaluation process. He has “no problems” with Velocity Squared providing space on a web site at www.universitytools.com to evaluate administrators, but the University will not fund it to do so. LSU funds only that portion of the site that helps students with registration.
• Provost Fogel explained that it is important for all faculty to understand the Information Technology (IT) initiative, its imperatives, and how it was presented to the legislature, as an economic development initiative to be met through higher education. Through LSU CAPITAL (Center for Applied Information Technology and Learning), the University has submitted twelve-month and five-year plans for spending the funds. Joel Tohline, chair, is seeking suggestions for how 45-50 new full-time faculty positions might be defined during the next three years. For every six faculty members, there will be a new graduate assistant and support personnel. Projects to be funded this year with the $7 million available include the purchase of a large cluster of parallel processors. In mid-November external consultants will visit campus to advise us on the project. The University will be accountable for showing the Governor and the Legislature how funded projects have made an economic impact through patents, licenses, etc. For information on the IT Initiative, faculty can see www.lsu.edu/lsucapital.

• The University Planning Document, Release 2.0, which has changed substantially, will be broadcast to the University next Monday. Final comments should be forwarded immediately to the Provost, who thanks those who participated in the review and revision process.

Comments form President Kestner:

• Pres. Kestner reminded Senators to use a microphone when speaking. Also, Senators are asked to send copies of resolutions to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) in advance so they can plan the agenda accordingly. Resolutions should be introduced in writing as well as orally.

• Senators received three handouts: 1) FSEC guidelines sent to the Provost regarding the charge to the Ad Hoc Committee on the Review of Administrators; 2) information on the General Education web site; 3) drafts of revised Chapter VII of the LSU Bylaws and Regulations and of the new PM-15 (Intellectual Property Guidelines Regarding Electronic Learning Ownership). Comments on these policies from the LSU System’s Office should be sent by Nov. 2 to Marilyn Zimny.

• Pres. Kestner reported on recent discussions with members of the Student Government Association (SGA) concerning new ways for students to evaluate teachers and courses on-line. The SGA plans to post on PAWS within the year a student/teacher profile asking students at the end of each semester to complete surveys on course they’ve taken—how the course was taught, what kinds of materials were used, what projects were required, etc. Patrick McCune, SGA President, is gathering suggestions from faculty and others about site design and questions.

• The IT Master Plan, different from the IT Initiative, is part of LSU’s Strategic Plan. Reviewed by consultants last spring, it is now being revised. Within a few weeks the Committee, chaired by Pres. Kestner, intends to broadcast a new version of the IT Master Plan for faculty input.
• The FSEC has received a draft of the newly revised PS-36. We are considering procedures for managing discussion of this complex and lengthy document. We intend to post it at a web site with a structure to allow for posting comments about specific sections. For example, Ralph Kinney explained that the new PS-36 has sections about ongoing academic review and about the appointment and review of instructors and other nontenure-track professorial faculty. Following preliminary discussions, the FSEC will compile and forward written comments to the Committee who will then revise the document before the Senate considers it for approval. We may appoint ad hoc committees to examine particular issues such as the appointment and review of nontenure-track faculty or hold public meetings related to particular issues. Pres. Kestner introduced April Davis, a graduate assistant who will help us manage the web site. Specific instructions about the web site and procedures for discussion will be given at the November meeting. Until a new version of PS-36 is adopted, the Provost reminded Senators that the old version is in effect. If there are discrepancies in its implementation, faculty should make them known to their Deans or to the Provost.

• Senators will hear from Committee on Collective Bargaining and possibly the Admissions, Standards, and Honors Committee next time.

Old Business:

• Senator Lawrence offered a second reading of Faculty Senate Resolution 02-01: Acknowledgment and thanks to the Governor and members of the Louisiana Legislature for support of higher education in the last legislative session. Senator McGehee moved to substitute a revised version of the resolution. Senator Hammond moved an amendment to the substitute whereby "will be fruitful" would be replaced by "will be a vital part of Louisiana's future." The Senate voted to adopt the amendment, the substitute, and the resolution as modified.

New Business:

• SR 02-02, Request LSU faculty be able to review administrators on the Velocity Squared website, was introduced by Ron Snider (proxy for Senator Bell). In the following discussion, Senator Giger questioned whether this resolution was headed in the right direction, preferring that we forbid public evaluation of administrators, hoping in turn to forbid such evaluations of faculty. (However, such sites may be protected speech according to some court cases.) Senator McGehee asked whether having a site on www.universitytools.com would allow anyone with an LSU address, faculty or not, to post an evaluation. Provost Fogel said he will tell Velocity Squared that LSU funding would not end if evaluations of administrators are posted, but he will not provide additional funding to do so. Senator Raman questioned whether reviews could be posted on-line within the University. (LSU-Shreveport uses Blackboard to support its evaluation system.) Senator Richardson, questioning the purpose of the resolution, commented that it seems more vindictive than helpful. Senator Hammond sought clarification on what might be posted. Senator M. Cherry said that we might be mixing issues here: validity and usefulness of teacher evaluations, validity and usefulness of on-line evaluations, and processes for evaluations of upper administration. He thinks a
site for teacher evaluations can provide useful information for students but doubts that a similar site on administrators would be useful to faculty or administrators. Senator Snider believes that positive effects can come about by evaluating administrators online. The resolution will be voted on at the November meeting.