LSU Faculty Senate Meeting
3:00 P.M., Tuesday, October 9th, 2007
Atchafalaya Room, LSU Union

Attendance
Faculty Senate Executive Committee members present:
1. Kevin L. Cope (Senate President)
2. Andrew Christie (Vice President)
3. James R. Stoner Jr. (Secretary)
4. Judith Schiebout (Member-at-Large)
5. George Stanley (Member-at-Large)
6. Pratul K. Ajmera (Member-at-Large)
7. William H. Daly (Ex Officio, Immed. Past Pres.)

Parliamentarian: Charles N Delzell (present)

Senators present:
1. Pratul K. Ajmera
2. Linda Allen
3. Kevin L. Cope
4. Hollis Utah Cox
5. Charles N Delzell
6. Dennis W. Duffield
7. Bruce E Elits
8. Emily Elliott
9. Jeffrey Gillespie
10. Robert K. Goidel
11. Wanda Hargroder
12. Scott W. Harris
13. Paul L. Hrycaj
14. Lisa Johnson
15. Jennifer L. Jolly
16. Boryung Ju
17. P Lynn Kennedy
18. Jeff S. Kuehny
19. Richard L. Kurtz
20. Vincent J. Licata
21. Ronald F. Malone
22. Heather McKillop
23. Douglas McMillin
24. Kenneth W. McMillin
25. Jorge F. Morales
26. Su-Seng Pang
27. Dan B. Rinks
28. Patsy Scates
30. Muhammad Wahab

Proxies for absent Senators:
Michelle Livermore for Priscilla D. Allen
Andrew Christie for Nicholas G. Apostolou
Paul L. Hrycaj for William W. Armstrong
Neila Donovan for Brittan A. Barker
Richard L. Kurtz for Henry D. Bellamy, Juhan Frank
Charles N Delzell for D. Larry Crumbley, Michael Wascom
Vincent J. Licata for Steve Hand, Dorothy Prowell
Paul Wilson for Joan M. King
Dennis W. Duffield for Bruce Mark Olcott
George Stanley for Kelly Rusch
Kevin L. Cope for Adelaide Russo
Judith Schiebout for Frederick Sheldon
Jeff S. Kuehny for Maud Maureen Walsh

Alternative Representatives:
Sassy C Wheeler for Beth N. Tope

Senators absent without proxies + (# of absences without proxies):
1. Fred Aghazadeh (1)
2. Sue G Bartlett (1)
3. Paul A. Larock (3)
4. Yiping Lou (6)
5. Katia Madsen (1)
6. Suzanne Marchand (7)
7. Cathy S. Marshall (19)
8. Patrick McGee (1)
9. James L. Murphy (6)
10. Carol E. O’Neil (2)
11. Frederick G. Ortner (5)
12. Erwin D. Poliakoff (2)
13. Keith Robinson (2)
14. Kevin Smith (2)
15. James Sullivan (11)
Introduction of Guests
Guests were introduced and urged to sign in on the attendance sheet. Guests attending the October meeting included: Astrid Merget, Provost; Robert Doolos, University Registrar; and Tim Fields, Staff Senate President.

Consideration of the Minutes for the meeting of September 5, 2007
The minutes for the meeting of September 5, 2007, having been circulated, Richard Kurtz moved that they be approved, the motion was seconded, and the Senate voted their approval.

President’s Report
President Kevin Cope reported to the Senate a number of matters that had been discussed in the Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC), including matters discussed during biweekly meetings with the provost. Several meetings have been arranged with heads of campus units in whose activities faculty have an interest. The FSEC have begun extensive discussions with Brian Voss, head of Information Technology on campus, who is leading a new push to fund, support, and advance the IT agenda. Meetings have also been planned with Donna Torres, head of Accounting Services, hoping to resolve issues concerning travel and other paperwork delays, and with Eric Monday, who oversees contract services such as the dining services and the Faculty Club, as well as Graphic Services. Regarding Faculty Senate Committees, action has begun with the assistance of past president Bill Daly to reactivate the faculty Budget Committee; a member from the social sciences is being sought to serve on the Program Review Committee; and Ravi Rau has agreed to serve as chair of the PS-111 Enforcement and Review Committee, established by Senate Resolution 07-05 at the previous meeting, and members are being appointed. Nominations to the Graduate Council have also been completed. The Educational Policy Committee has been charged to consider a new policy on attendance and matters concerning intersessions. The ASH Committee is meeting with Jim McCoy to help find a way to deal with obstacles that make it difficult for students to transfer into LSU.

Turning to matters beyond the LSU campus, President Cope noted that the Board of Supervisors had approved the freshman residency requirement, to begin in 2009. He noted problems experienced with attempts at faculty governance on other campuses in the LSU System, mentioning the leadership of the LSU Faculty Senate on the Council of Faculty Advisors, composed of the faculty senate presidents at the various campuses in the system. He noted a report to the Board of Supervisors concerning the development of administrative talent from within the university and promised to monitor a new study being prepared for the Board of Regents about the commercial potential of research.

Presentation concerning the LSU Sesquicentennial Celebration and other marketing issues by Michael Ruffner, Vice-Chancellor for Communications and University Relations
Vice-Chancellor Ruffner came before the Senate to outline the university’s plans to mark our sesquicentennial in 2010, a year-long celebration that will not only mark the school’s 150th birthday, but serve as a target for achievement of the Flagship Agenda and completion of the $750 million “Forever LSU” capital campaign. Planning is under way through the efforts of six committees: The History Commission, charged with highlighting the legacy of the past and “ruminating about the next 150 years”; the FSEC, which will serve as the Faculty’s voice regarding the celebration; a student committee, to which new freshmen would be added each year; a Finance Committee charged with raising the funds to pay for the events; an Events Committee, charged with scheduling major activities; and a Community Committee, charged with outreach in the Baton Rouge area, around the state, and to LSU alumni around the world. Ideas for events and projects include arranging academic lectures, developing a concert series, commissioning a musical score and a play, producing an LSU Treasures book, highlighting 150 major research projects, and shooting fireworks. The anticipated total budget is $600,000.

New Business

Introduction of Faculty Senate Resolution 07-06, “Executive Committee Members’ Disclosure of Gifts Received from the Administration”

Senators Charles Delzell and Pratul Ajmera introduced the following resolution on behalf of themselves and Larry Crumbley:
Faculty Senate Resolution 07–06:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS’ DISCLOSURE OF GIFTS RECEIVED FROM THE ADMINISTRATION

Sponsored by Charles Delzell, Pratul Ajmera, and Larry Crumbley

WHEREAS members of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee need to be seen as incorruptible, and

WHEREAS the corrupting influence that dealings with the University administration can have on the integrity of a student leader was described by a recent president of the LSU Student Government,1

THEREOFRE BE IT RESOLVED that the Bylaws of the LSU Faculty Senate be amended by adding a new article, numbered “Article IX,” between the current Article VIII and Article IX (and by re-numbering the current Article IX as “Article X”). The new Article IX will read as follows:

Article IX. Executive Committee Members’ Disclosure of Gifts Received from the LSU Administration

Members of the Executive Committee will disclose any gifts and benefits provided them by the LSU administration, by financial supporters of LSU, or by the administration's consultants or counsel. The kinds of gifts or benefits that must be disclosed include, but are not limited to:

1. invitations or tickets to athletic, artistic, or fund-raising events, or to receptions, parties, ceremonies, lunches, dances, banquets, and other events, whether social or official;
2. travel, including travel on public or private aircraft, cruises, meals, accommodations, entertainment, etc.

Senator Delzell noted that he got the idea for the motion upon reading an article in the Reveille by a recent student government president, referenced in the footnote attached to the resolution; he then opened the floor for questions or comments.

Several members of the Executive Committee strongly objected to the motion. Past President Bill Daly noted that FSEC members attend receptions and other events to represent the faculty voice, as they have been entrusted to do; he thought he had laid out more in money and trouble to attend such affairs than the value of any benefits he had received. Vice President Andrew Christie similarly objected, defending attendance of faculty representatives at sporting events as an important part of networking on behalf of the faculty. President Cope for his part indicated his willingness to make disclosures, though he doubted it was necessary to make this a point of law. Others wondered whether the resolution would not hold FSEC members to a higher standard than the administration itself.

In defense of his resolution, Senator Delzell alleged that, in supporting policies adopted since 1999 that weakened the tenure system, faculty showed signs of administrative influence. Another senator suggested that all senators be required to report gifts and invitations.

In accord with the procedures of the Senate, no vote was taken, and final consideration was reserved for the next meeting of the Senate.

Introduction of Faculty Senate Resolution 07-07, “Fringe Benefit Rates for Sponsored Projects”

Senator Vincent LiCata proposed on behalf of himself and Steven Hand, and Senator George Stanley seconded, the following resolution:

Faculty Senate Resolution 07–07:
FRINGE BENEFITS RATES FOR SPONSORED PROJECTS
Sponsored by Vincent LiCata and Steven Hand

WHEREAS federal and state funding agencies, when granting funds for a multi-year award, most often allocate such funds in equal yearly increments; and

WHEREAS the LSU Office of Finance and Administrative Services has announced a plan to apply updated, annual Fringe Benefits rates to both new and existing sponsored program accounts each year; and

WHEREAS the previous Fringe Benefits policy effectively “locked in” a Fringe Benefits rate for the full duration of a grant at the time of application by applying updated rates only to new applications; and

WHEREAS the new policy will result in a progressive decrease in the remaining portion of funds available for research with each successive year for grants allocated in equal annual increments; and

WHEREAS such a policy would be unintentionally detrimental to the conduct of high quality research at LSU by requiring Investigators to successively decrease the funds available in other budget categories in order to compensate for the increasing Fringe Benefits rate in addition to its associated additional indirect cost expense; and

WHEREAS re-instatement of the previous Fringe Benefits rate policy would make it significantly easier to budget multi-year grants, would further support the research effort of the university, and would thus contribute positively and tangibly to the LSU National Flagship Agenda;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the LSU Faculty Senate recommends revocation of the new Fringe Benefits policy regarding annually updated rates for existing sponsored projects, and requests a reinstatement of a Fringe Benefits policy that locks in Fringe Benefits rates for the duration of the grant at the time of application.

Senator LiCata explained that this was the first of two resolutions he plans to introduce on the question of fringe benefit rates. He thought this resolution self-explanatory. Provost Astrid Merget promised to provide a technical explanation of the university’s policy on fringe benefits rate changes. After discussion of several technical points, action was reserved until the next meeting of the Senate.

Introduction of Faculty Senate Resolution 07-08, “Advancement of the Internationalization of LSU”

Patricia O’Neill and Li Li, co-chairs of the Faculty Senate international Education Committee, rose to explain the following resolution, formally introduced with the sponsorship of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, and seconded by Senator Su-Seng Pang:

Faculty Senate Resolution 07–08:
ADVANCEMENT OF THE INTERNATIONALIZATION OF LSU
Sponsored by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee on behalf of its authors, the Faculty Senate International Education Committee (Patricia O’Neill and Li Li, co-chairs)

WHEREAS in today’s world, a complete university education must include immersion in international cultures and ideas;

WHEREAS LSU’s and its graduates’ success in today’s economy is dependent on understanding
and dealing successfully in the global market;

WHEREAS LSU ranks well behind its peer institutions on almost every measure of internationalization;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the LSU administration must

• Include a statement confirming the important role of internationalization in the “Preamble” of the current revision of the Flagship Agenda and include an explicit international component in all relevant objectives of the Flagship Agenda;

• Invest necessary resources to create and sustain a comprehensive internationalization plan;

• Actively promote and support the international research, teaching and service activities of faculty;

• Hire a person with national stature, vision, skills and expertise in university internationalization endeavors as the Dean of International Programs by the end of academic year 2008 to inspire and lead the faculty in transforming LSU’s international aspirations to reality;

• Devote sufficient resources to the salary of the Dean of OIP and the OIP budget in order to attract the best candidates for that position;

• Advertise nationally, aggressively and quickly in order to fill the position by the end of the academic year 2008.

AND LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the university take under advisement the initial recommendations of the Faculty Senate International Education Committee outlined in its “Plan of Action” and provide the resources necessary to undertake a complete internationalization review that will result in specific recommendations, an institutional strategy and an action agenda.

Patricia O’Neill reviewed the previous work of the International Education Committee, mentioning in particular their report delivered by past chairman Meredith Veldman to the Faculty Senate during the previous academic year. While grateful that the administration had accepted the committee’s suggestion that they search for a dean, not merely a director, of international programs, she nevertheless felt that internationalization efforts at LSU have been underfunded. Li Li added that a resolution supporting the internationalization of LSU had been passed some fifteen years ago [secretary’s addendum: Resolution 90-10]; internationalization was not mentioned in the Flagship Agenda and ought to be when that document is next amended. In response to an inquiry about the practice of other institutions, Provost Merget mentioned the need for LSU to emulate other universities regarding internationalization. Discussion followed of such matters as the difficulty of transferring credits from study abroad, foreign research of many faculty that is not recognized by the university, the relative numbers of foreign students in graduate and undergraduate programs, budgeting and visa issues, and the like. Again, decision on the resolution was reserved for the next meeting.

Adjournment
At 4:37 pm the Senate adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

James R. Stoner, Jr., Secretary