Minutes of the Called Faculty Senate Meeting
7 October, 1992

1. Welcome to Senators and Visitors. President Pat Culbertson called the meeting to order at 3:03 P.M. and stated this meeting was called in response to a petition for a meeting for this date and time.

Senators and visitors were welcomed and proxies were announced. These included:
- Tom Hribernik for Hollis Cox
- Nick Apostolou for Thomas Beard
- Samuel Godber for Kenneth McMillin
- Margaret Severson for Ruall Arrington
- John Konopak for Gary Rice

2. President's Report. The rescheduled time for the Board of Supervisors meeting in which the tuition increase is to be considered was announced, and it was stated that the Finance Committee of the Board will meet prior to this scheduled 30 October Board meeting.

President Culbertson attended the recent rally at the capital and reported on this, thanking student leaders for an effective crowd. It was reported the governor spoke to the rally saying he is willing to address the issues with a special session as soon as he is sure the legislature is equally willing to address the crisis.

2. Address to the Senate by Assistant to the Chancellor David Devillier. A meeting between the Chancellor and Governor Edwards was described, and Mr. Devillier reviewed some of the Chancellor's plans. Among the comments made were:
- The Chair of the Budget Committee thought if we continue to ask for a special session, we will get it. The Governor says LSU is the only school griping. The Board of Trustees says the other schools will take the cuts. The feeling was that the state wants LSU to take the cut and go on about our business.
- It was explained LSU has been cut many times in the recent past unlike these other schools, and at this point the other schools in the state are not strongly supporting us.
- The Governor wants to eliminate sales tax exemptions, and says if the state doesn't do something to deal with revenues, LSU's budget will be cut 20-40% next year as only higher education and health and human resources can be cut in the budget.
- LSU administrators are working hard to get a special session. Letter writing efforts were described and encouraged, within the context that we do have to work with the present governor and legislators as they are the only ones who can help us.
- It was mentioned the Board may rather have LSU declare financial exigency than raise tuition.

3. Old Business. The status of Senator Svoboda's resolution at the last meeting was discussed. This resolution went to the Executive Committee for further consideration and the Executive Committee will hold it for a time as it feels it is premature to consider such a resolution. Senator Svoboda will further investigate the ramifications of leave without pay (voluntary time off) versus making donations.

4. New Business. Senator George Strain, a member of the Budget Committee, reported on a meeting with Executive Vice Chancellor Coleman. Douglas Harrison, also on the Budget Committee was part of this meeting. Vice Chancellor Coleman was told the faculty's response to the Chancellor's visit to the Senate the previous meeting was somewhat negative. Coleman informed the committee that cancelling classes as a protest has been considered by the administration, but there was concern this may keep students from graduating on time. The Athletic Department has some funds that might be used, but the Chancellor wants to save this for possible further cuts in the spring. Chancellor Coleman would like to see a resolution from the Faculty Senate asking the Board to pass the requested tuition increase. And, the recommendation was made to continue writing letters to legislators as this is believed to be effective.

A number of other questions and comments were offered by Senators at this point. Among these:
- President Culbertson reported the "Crisis in Education Steering Committee" has met. It is solidly behind a long-term solution which will require a special legislative session. As for the short-term, they have not come up with recommendations for internal solutions different from the LSU Administration yet.
- A senator reported making contacts to receive information from other campuses that have faced this problem in the past.
- Senator Pollaroff stated the Chemistry Department faculty suggested asking industry CEOs to contact legislators on LSU's behalf. There was talk of a resolution from the Senate to support this, but it was stated that deans do not need a mandate from the Senate to do this. Other comments were made supporting this action. The chair of Chemical Engineering was reported to be thinking about doing this as well.
- It was reported the Dean of the Vet School is contacting veterinary-related groups in the state asking for support in calling for a special session.
Faculty Senate Resolution 92-03

The current fiscal emergency facing the University is a grave threat to the scope and quality of education at LSU. The state government has unfairly burdened LSU with over 10% of the total fiscal shortfall. Just as it is wrong to burden LSU so heavily in seeking a solution to this crisis, it is wrong to pass that financial burden on to staff and faculty. The current administration proposal requires staff to absorb serious financial losses and requests faculty to take what amounts to a pay cut. Any solution short of a full restoration of state funding is inherently divisive, damaging relations between faculty, staff and students.

The staff and faculty of LSU are among its most valuable resources. Yet LSU faculty pay is far below that for comparable universities in the region. In addition, the physical plant has seriously deteriorated during 10 years of financial neglect. Finally, the students, a key resource for the University and the future of the state, suffer as higher education continues to be seriously underfunded. In the long run there is no free lunch: the University must be funded or it will die.

The LSU faculty is deeply concerned for staff who are directly threatened in this crisis, and for that group of students who cannot afford increased costs. At the same time, we wish to state a basic principle that has somehow been lost in the current crisis: neither staff nor faculty are responsible for subsidizing higher education in Louisiana. That responsibility belongs to the state, through the governor and legislature, as well as to those students who take advantage of the opportunities of higher education. An LSU that no one wants to pay for is an LSU of which no one will be proud.

Under these circumstances, the Faculty Senate firmly believes that no steps should be taken that would further weaken the University. We request the administration to openly and accurately set forth the current state of affairs and convey this to the Board of Supervisors and the people of Louisiana. We ask the administration to support, and the Board to adopt, a tuition increase of $300 per semester beginning the Spring of 1993.

And we urge the administration and the Board of Supervisors to explore alternative methods of raising revenues so that inadequate solutions such as salary cuts need not be considered and that adequate funding be assured in the future.

Senator Yanitell moved and Senator Doucet seconded a resolution that read:

Faculty Senate Resolution 92-06:

LSU cannot absorb the currently projected funding cuts without serious damage to our mission or the quality of education, the Faculty Senate strongly urges the convening of a special session of the state legislature to address the funding crisis in higher education.

By vote, the Senate approved suspending the rules to enable a vote on this resolution during the current meeting, and subsequently this resolution passed.

Senator Strain reported the Board is considering procedures for declaring financial exigency. It was pointed out that an LSU copy of the resolution, and the administrators in the past came up with an exigency document and forwarded it for consideration and action. There were questions concerning the status of this document. The Georgia Plan was mentioned as one under study by the Board of Supervisors. It was pointed out the AUAP has problems with this plan.

Senator Strain said the plan developed at LSU went to the LSU administration, but never received final approval.

Senator Kinney elaborated on the fate of the LSU document, and he stated he intends to introduce a resolution at the next Senate meeting asking the Administration to support the plan developed at LSU.

In response to a request from Senator Collier, President Culbertson agreed to identify the Board members that are on the Budget and Finance Committee and fax this list to Senators so they could be targeted in particular with letters expressing faculty concerns.

Senator Hrabernik asked concerning the Chancellor's external plans, and President Culbertson responded with what he knew of the Chancellor's planned activities.

A Senator asked the Faculty Senate Office send to all the faculty the addresses of legislators, Board of Supervisors member, and those on the budget committee, along with some of the comments by David Devillier.

The meeting adjourned at 4:29 P.M.