HIGHLIGHTS FROM FACULTY SENATE MEETING

September 5, 2000

Chancellor's Comments

1. Review of legislative sessions over spring and early summer
2. University priorities

Provost’s Comments

1. PS 36 revision
2. IT master plan
3. K-12 taskforce
4. Residential college
5. Provost's seminar
6. Use of excellence fee
7. Faculty salaries
8. Search for VC of Research and Development

President's Report

1. Resolution updates
2. Admissions
3. Commencement
4. PM 35
5. Group Benefits

SR 00-01
1. First reading of resolution recommending changes in the bylaws of the Faculty Senate

Old Business

1. FPS 36 update by Russ Chapman, acting chair of PS 36 revision committee

New Business

1. Election of third at-large member of FSEC
2. Presentation on Air Force ROTC by Colonel Elwood "Woody" C. Turcuit

Faculty Senate Minutes

September 5, 2000

Meeting called to order at 3:05 p.m. Invited guests included Chancellor Mark Emmert, Executive Vice-Chancellor and Provost Dan Fogel, Vice Provost F. Neil Mathews, Karen Denby (Dean of Enrollment Management; Office of Academic Affairs), Robert Doolos (University Registrar), Teresa Devlin (University Relations), Russ Chapman (CCEER and Department of Biological Sciences, Interim Chair PS 36 revision committee), Colonel Elwood "Woody" C. Turcuit and Captain William Brigman (LSU Air Force ROTC), and Heidi Cenac (Reveille). Proxies were announced. May 1, 2000 minutes were approved as read.

Chancellor’s Comments. Chancellor Emmert reviewed LSU’s successes and disappointments in the three legislative sessions over the spring and early summer. The legislature approved the $250/year academic excellence fee for LSU. Funds are earmarked for improving educational quality. The legislature also approved a statewide $250/year tuition increase, which was covered by TOPS. The Chancellor also noted that about 90% of this year’s freshmen are on TOPS. Despite funding increases, LSU is still facing significant budget issues, including a large number of unfunded mandates such as an increase in risk management insurance, increased civil service salaries, and some facilities costs. However, LSU avoided budget cuts faced by most of state government this year. This fall is the vote on a constitutional amendment to swap sales and income taxes (STELLY bill) that if passed would increase tax revenues by $100-200 million, all of which is earmarked for education. The Chancellor's priorities this year, in addition to advancing LSU’s academic priorities, are to find funds to increase faculty pay and to improve facilities. In response to questions and comments, Chancellor Emmert expressed the opinion that the procedures called for in PM 35 should not be a deterrent to attracting new faculty, and that PM-35 does not infringe on academic freedom. The Chancellor clarified that the tuition increase
approved this spring was a one-time increase and further increases will again require a two-thirds majority. Also, the Chancellor has plans to bring the STELLY bill to the public. Finally, the Chancellor thinks that most legislators have a very positive view of LSU.

**Provost's Comments.** Provost Fogel stated that a revised draft of PS 36 will be submitted to the Faculty Senate this year and he has high hopes that the Senate will carefully review and provide thoughtful comments to improve the policy. The committee developing the information technology master plan has nearly completed its work, and is presently devising a plan to receive comments from the campus. The committee worked with a consultant who visited in August. The mainframe will be replaced over the Thanksgiving holiday. The K-12 task force has completed its report. This report also will be presented to the faculty and community. The first Residential College opened this fall. The Provost sees this as a pilot for what soon will be the freshman experience of all students (required on-campus residency of all freshmen). The Provost's Seminar on service learning will be held September 14 - 15. The Provost reported that most of the academic excellence fee funds have been deployed. Most of the fee went to funding teaching directly, especially to reduce class size in MATH 1550 and English Composition. Most faculty hiring funded by the excellence fee was in non-tenure track lines. The Provost stated that these positions may be moved over to tenure-track lines in the future. The excellence fee also provided funds for supplies and technicians in some instructional labs. Provost Fogel stated that faculty salary increases are very important, and that the administration is looking into ways to fund such an increase. In response to questions and comments, the Provost stated that not all disciplines are being targeted for decreases in class size. In addition, bids are being received from executive search firms to coordinate the search for a new Vice Chancellor of Research and Development. A search committee will be formed once the firm is in place, probably in late September or early October.

**President's Comments.** Faculty Senate President Neil Kestner introduced the new office manager, Namita Oswal, and the members of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. New senators were also welcomed and introduced. President Kestner updated the Senate on several items of old business. The admissions policy passed spring semester (SR 00-10) was passed by the Board of Supervisors in July, 2000 and will go into effect in Fall 2002. In May, the FS requested that the commencement committee present recommendations to resolve problems that have arisen due to the lack of an August graduation ceremony (SR 00-12). The committee has been working and will probably present a report at the October Senate meeting. Resolution 00-14 (to repeal PM 35) was transmitted to the System office and President Kestner has discussed the resolution with Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs & Technology Transfer Marilyn Zimny. The system has taken no action and it is the view of Vice President Zimny that the meaning of PM 35 will depend on how it is implemented through the policies of each campus. Policy to address PM 35 is included in the
draft revision of PS 36. In response to SR 00-14 and other concerns about faculty input to System policy, the Faculty Advisory Council to the Board of Supervisors sent a letter to President Jenkins requesting he use that body more in preparing Policy Memoranda. President Jenkin's reply was very favorable. As for Group Benefits issues, Forrest Benedict lost the election for the Higher Education Representative to the Board of Trustees for State Employees Group Benefits Program. The election was held in July, when many faculty are off campus and were not able to vote. Barbara Cicardo who was reelected to the committee, has volunteered to come to speak to the LSU Faculty Senate or other representative bodies of the faculty. Because of concerns about rate increases and coverage, the LSU System is currently trying to find alternatives to being part of the State Employees Group Benefits Program

President Kestner is planning a number of relevant presentations at the Faculty Senate meetings. In October, Senator James Richardson will present a report on the STELLY amendment. Other topics could include the campus master plan and the IT master plan. President Kestner would also like the Senate to use more electronic communication, and asked senators to check the roster to see that their address information was correct.

SR 00-01, resolution recommending changes in the bylaws of the Faculty Senate (first reading, complete text attached). Presented by Carol Barry. Vice President Barry explained that Article VII, Section 3 of the Faculty Senate Constitution directs the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to review the Constitution and Bylaws every year that ends in zero or five and to make appropriate recommendations for revisions, when needed. The FSEC did so over the summer and found two instances where current practice did not match the procedures called for in the bylaws. Proposed changes include distributing Faculty Senate minutes to the campus after the senate has approved them. Another change would allow the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to appoint ex officio members, in addition to those called for in the bylaws, to standing committees. The resolution was read and will be voted on at the October meeting.

Old Business. Russ Chapman, interim chair of the Ad Hoc PS 36 committee, provided an update on the revision of PS 36. Committee members include three faculty (Katie Cherry, Ralph Kinney, and Gene Wittkopf) and three deans (Jack Hamilton of Mass Communications, Karl Roider of Arts and Sciences, and Russell Chapman of CCEER). Administrative support to the committee comes from Janie Frickie and Neil Mathews. Gene Wittkopf, the committee’s chair, is on sabbatical fall semester, but will return in the spring. The committee’s current strategy is to handle the three types of faculty (tenure-track, instructional, and research faculty) separately. A draft of the section concerning tenure-track faculty is complete but is being continually revised as the other sections are drafted. The committee’s goals are to finalize the section on instructional faculty in September and the section on research faculty in October. The complete draft will then be
reviewed. When complete, the Provost will release a draft to various groups, including the Faculty Senate and the Council of Deans and Directors. After the draft revision is released, the role of the PS 36 committee is to receive and evaluate input from these various bodies. In response to a question concerning how the committee members were chosen, Provost Fogel stated that all members were appointed by him but that the three faculty members of the committee were nominated by the Faculty Senate. Provost Fogel also added that once the committee gets feedback, they will produce another draft, which will be returned to the Senate for further review. This process may see several iterations.

**New Business. Election** Nominations were solicited for the third at-large member of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, who must be a new Faculty Senator. Mark Johnson (Agriculture) and George Voyiadjis (Engineering) were nominated, and Senator Voyiadjis was elected.

**Air Force ROTC** Colonel Elwood "Woody" C. Tircuit (Chair of Aerospace Studies Department and Commander, Air Force ROTC Det 310) made a presentation to the Faculty Senate concerning opportunities for students in the Air Force ROTC. Col. Turcuit provided a brief history of ROTC at LSU, an overview of Air Force ROTC at LSU today, some information on the students and where they go after LSU, and various opportunities including student scholarships. Today, the AFROTC focuses on training USAF leaders and having students attain LSU’s academic goals.

Meeting adjourned at 4:31 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Anderson, Secretary

Faculty Senate Meeting minutes and transcripts are available at: