Faculty Senate Meeting
8 September 1993

Senator Frank de Caro, President of the LSU Chapter of the American Association of University Professors, discussed plans for the coming year. The AAUP was founded in 1917 for the protection of academic freedom. The organization agrees with cooperating with faculty senates; the LSU chapter has obtained information from their national office for use by the Senate and looks forward to increased cooperation in the future. The AAUP can get more involved in political matters than the Senate, and plans to meet with Baton Rouge legislators to forge useful connections. The possibility of a future LSU faculty political action committee was mentioned. Various AAUP publications were made available.

Stephen Moret, President of the Student Government Association, discussed the past negative image of the SGA, intended changes in the operation of the SGA, and the new SGA constitution being voted on that day. A document, "Highlights of the New Student Government," was distributed.

President Collier presented the members of the Senate Executive Committee for the 1993-94 year: Jim Catano, Vice-President; George Strain, Secretary; and Connie Van Fleet and Ralph Kinney, Members At-Large. Pat Culbertson, ex officio as past president, was out of town, and the third At-Large position was to be filled by election later in the meeting. President Collier also introduced Senator Joe Kotrlik as Parliamentarian for the year. Vice President Catano reported on progress made toward completion of the Planning Document and the Exigency Document which continued from last academic year. We still do not have an Exigency Document per se. The latest version of the Planning Document, now titled "Planning Process For Academic Organization and Resource Allocation," has been verbally approved through the Chancellor, with implementation to begin within two weeks. Copies were distributed.

President Collier reported activities related to the issue of a faculty workload document or policy. The Legislature has communicated concerns about faculty workloads, eventually resulting in the passage of Louisiana Senate Bill 402, authored by Senator Picard, to establish the Louisiana Accountability in Public Higher Education Advisory Committee, directed to address
a number of higher education-related issues, of which faculty work load is a minor component. Committee membership consists of Sen. Picard, a few legislative officers, and higher education administrators, including President Copping and Chancellor Davis. The Executive Committee has met with LSU System Vice President for Administration and Finance Bill Silvia, who represents President Copping on the Committee, to provide input into possible faculty participation and development of the work load issue. In the interim the issue has been referred to the Faculty Personnel Policies Committee for developing a policy for LSU; the College of Agriculture Policy Committee has already completed preliminary work on the issue. 

Vice President Catano reported on the organizational activities of the Council on Policy Committees, now a standing committee of the Faculty Senate (as of May 7, 1993). 

Old Business

Senate Resolution 92-14 on Dead Week Policy, introduced at the May 7, 1993 meeting, was brought up for discussion. Senator McGehee, who had moved to accept the resolution at that meeting, substituted (there being no objection) the following resolution:

FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 92-14

Resolved, With regard to the February 22, 1993 "Final Report of the Committee on Dead Week and Finals," the Faculty Senate (1) disapproves the recommended campus-wide prohibition (in the second paragraph) of certain tests during the last three class days, believing that such testing should be at the discretion of teachers and departments; (2) approves the recommended restrictions on extracurricular activities and athletic events during those 3 days and the weekend before the Final Exam Period; (3) confirms its support of the present policy requiring a final examination to be given during the Final Exam Period except by advance approval of the Office of Academic affairs; and (4) directs the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to undertake to resolve or clarify those points by means of discussion with the Office of Academic Affairs and student representatives, and report back to the Senate.

Extensive discussion, pro and con, ensued. SGA President Moret spoke against the resolution and for the proposed policy, stating that the resolution takes away the significance of the whole policy. Senator Condry opposed the resolution as unfair to the students, who need protection, and pointed out that faculty cannot know whether other faculty are likewise examining during Dead Week. Other senators spoke of the benefits of Dead Week exams in preparation for the final, of opportunities to provide make-up exams, and the logistical problems of scheduling exams within course content structure, especially in Spring semester. Questions were raised about what constituted a "minor exam" and differences between an exam schedule announced at the beginning of the semester vs last minute announced exams. The resolution passed by a vote of 27 to 21.

Senate Resolution 92-16 introduced at the May meeting, concerning a proposed faculty workload policy circulating at that time, was discussed. Senator Kinney commented that the issue was no longer timely, since the proposed policy was no longer under consideration. Senators spoke of concerns of possible misstatements of fact in the resolution. President Collier pointed out that a different but related resolution was passed at the May meeting. The resolution was unanimously defeated.

New Business

Election was held to fill the remaining Executive Committee Member-At-Large position, traditionally filled by an incoming new senator. Senator Emily Batinski from Foreign Languages was elected.

Recommended guidelines from the Office of Academic Affairs concerning commercial note-taking services on campus were distributed. The opinion of University attorneys is that faculty objecting to note-taking services associated with their courses have no recourse beyond these guidelines.

Sabbaticals: of approximately 50 requests submitted this year, 19 were approved, a much lower percentage than in previous years. The Executive Committee has discussed the matter with the Provost.

The Ad Hoc Senate Committee on Non-tenured Faculty did not meet last year; their charges have been transferred to the Faculty Personnel Policies Committee.

A report to the Faculty Senate from the Admissions, Standards, and Honors Committee with recommendations on repeat/delete/drop policies was briefly discussed; copies will be distributed to all senators.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:21 pm.

George Strain
Secretary