HIGHLIGHTS FROM FACULTY SENATE MEETING
September 6, 1995

Guest presentation from Mr. Harold Suire, President and CEO of Council for A Better Louisiana (CABL). He talked about the 'People's Agenda' and results of surveys conducted by CABL.

President's report
- Welcomed new senators and introduced officers for the year.
- Elected new member at large for FS Executive Committee—Ralph Kinney
- Reported on efforts to evaluate effectiveness of General Education requirements—evaluation of student portfolios by group of faculty and bringing in speakers to assist faculty in implementing writing in general education courses.
- Reported on Computing Services Advisory Committee to provide feedback to Vice Chancellor Coleman
- Summarized recent activities of the University Facilities Planning Committee
- Presented a summary of the budget approved by LSU Board of Supervisors
- Discussed recent efforts to generate pay raises for faculty
- Reported on completed revisions to PS-45
- Reported on upcoming forums for political candidates
- Reported on efforts to develop a homepage for the Faculty Senate

Faculty Senate Resolution 94-11 to create an ad hoc committee to examine drop/repeat policy. Resolution amended to ask ASH committee to examine policy.

Distributed copy of financial exigency document for faculty review to discussed and voted on at October meeting

Revision of PS-36 handed out to be discussed and voted on at the October meeting

MINUTES
Faculty Senate Meeting
September 6, 1995

The meeting was called to order by President Strain at 3:00 pm. Guests present included former senator, Pratul Ajmera, Emily Toth, Chair of the Grievance Committee, Alan Fletcher, Chair of the ASH Committee, Mary Boudreaux (Staff Senate), Eric Monday, SGA President, and Jayme Marler (LSU Today). The minutes of the May meeting were moved and approved.

Guest Presentation:

President Strain introduced the guest speaker, Mr. Harold Suire, President and CEO of the non-profit organization, Council for A Better Louisiana (CABL). Mr. Suire discussed a new project, called The People's Agenda, designed to identify fundamental issues of importance to the citizens of Louisiana and then challenge voters to hold candidates accountable for dealing with those issues and living up to what they've promised.
Accompanying Mr. Suire was Ms. Mary Ann Coleman, a volunteer from the Baton Rouge area. Mr. Suire gave a brief history of the organization and summarized some of the projects of CABL. He indicated that CABL is not a governmental agency, but rather is supported by the private sector. The primary objectives of CABL are to watch government, research government, and lobby when appropriate. CABL has been involved in education and economic development issues on a state-wide basis in recent years.

Mr. Suire went into some detail on the 'People's Agenda' and the various surveys conducted as a part of that project. Some of the primary findings of the survey include: (1) there is a crisis of confidence in Louisiana; (2) there is a lack of trust in politics and government; (3) politicians work for themselves and not the good of the state; (4) there is a perception that corruption is widespread, and (5) the voters are frustrated and cynical and want change.

From the research conducted by CABL five basic issues were identified in what Mr. Suire called 'a crisis of confidence': (1) Ethical Public Service, (2) Reconnecting Voters (they felt disenfranchised), (3) Education, (4) Crime and (5) Economy/Jobs. Mr. Suire discussed results of a CABL survey addressing each of the issues.

After his presentation, Mr. Suire entertained questions from the audience and distributed literature from CABL. He announced upcoming forums supported by CABL and invited Senators to attend. NOTE: The complete text of Mr. Suire's presentation is available in the Senate office if you wish to have a copy.

President's Report

President Strain began by welcoming all of the newly elected senators by having them stand and be recognized by the Senate. He also noted that the Senate still has three positions vacant and that when these positions have been filled, a complete list of all senators and Senate standing committees would be provided to everyone. President Strain then reminded the Senate of their elected officers for the upcoming year by introducing Vice President John Collier of Chemical Engineering, Secretary Ken Paxton of Agricultural Economics, two Members-At-Large, Roger Stockbauer of Physics and Barbara Wittkopf of the Library, and Past President, Billie Collier of Human Ecology. The third Member-At-Large was to be elected at the September meeting. These seven people make up the Executive Committee. President Strain also inquired if anyone would be interested in filling the position of Parliamentarian, noting that it is an appointed position.

The first item of new business initiated was the election of the new Member-At-Large so that the voting and vote counting could proceed during the rest of the meeting. President Strain noted that the third Member-At-Large is elected from the incoming new senators at the September meeting and introduced the two nominees listed in the Agenda: Nina Lam from Geography and Anthropology, and Ralph Kinney from Electrical and Computer Engineering. After the nominees were introduced, President Strain opened the floor for additional nominations. There being no additional nominations from the floor, a motion was made and seconded for the nominations to be closed. The nominees then each gave a brief introductory background speech about themselves and the issues they felt the Senate should address this year. After their introductions, ballots were distributed to the senators. President Strain began to report that the General Education Committee has as part of its charge to evaluate the effectiveness of the general education requirements. The committee has begun to do so, beginning with an assessment of student writing. A pilot project will have a group of faculty evaluate portfolios from a small group of students over a year of enrollment in general education courses. Malcolm Richardson of English will be running the program, reported President Strain.

Over the past few years there has been considerable discussion of a concept known as "Writing Across the Curriculum" where all disciplines are encouraged to include writing as a part of the course work, especially in general education courses. President Strain noted the example of one of our math faculty utilizing writing in a calculus course. The motivation behind the interest in this concept is the overall level of writing ability of the student body. There has been both support and resistance, the resistance being at least in part because of a lack of understanding of what is involved. As a result, the Executive Committee is setting up an ad hoc committee to study how the concept of writing across the curriculum might be specifically adapted for implementation on the LSU campus, with the recognition that fiscal constraints will limit an initiative with any significant associated cost.
President Strain said that this committee will be asked to report back to the Senate at the January meeting. Dan Marin of Business will act as the chair, other faculty include Michael Pitts (Arch.), Zaki Bassiouni (Petr. Eng.), Gayle Kirwan (Physics), Malcolm Richardson (Engl), Pauline Rankin (DIDS), and Carol Barry (SLIS) ex officio (Chair, Courses & Curricula).

Next President Strain reported on the Computing Services Advisory Committee established by Vice Chancellor Jim Coleman to provide feedback and act as a sounding board on computing and telecommunication services on campus. This is not intended to replace the Senate Academic Computing Committee, but instead to encompass all aspects of computers and telecommunications for the campus. Faculty include Bob Holmes (Vet. Med.), Neil Kestner (Chem.), Neal Stoltzfus (Math), Barry Moser (Exp. Stat., chair of Senate Academic Computing Committee) and President Strain.

As President of the Faculty Senate, Dr. Strain also serves on the University Facilities Planning Committee, which approves all physical plant changes of any magnitude. President Strain gave the following updates:

- Computing Services Building - will not be occupied until Christmas because of furniture problems; it will house a new IBM 3000 computer.
- Public Safety Building - will probably be occupied in September and will house Campus Police, Safety, and Parking and Traffic.
- The Pleasant Hall space now used by Parking will go mostly to Continuing Ed.
- Campus Police Building will be razed and made into visitor parking for Student Services located in Johnston Hall.
- There will be a new student parking lot north of the Maravich Assembly Center and east of New Field House for special events like Science and Engineering Fairs, SS Fair, etc.
- Life Science Annex construction ($22M) will begin in spring; parking will be relocated.
- Land south on River Road has been donated to the Tiger Athletic Fund for a new golf course; no University funds will be used and the old golf course will remain.

President then announced that the LSU Board of Supervisors approved the budget for this campus and the entire System last month (August). The total System budget is $1,185,661,514. The unrestricted portion of that is approximately $732,400,000 (excluding grants & contracts, auxiliaries, tuition, and a few other small categories). LSU-BR’s share of this unrestricted amount is $218,594,000, an increase of 0.46% over last year. The increase fell under statutory dedicated funds, mostly risk management. The interesting facts to come out of the presentation is the growth in unfunded mandates required of the LSU System by the legislature. In 93-94 it was $1M. In 94-95, it was $2.2M. For 95-96 it has jumped to $6.7M. This includes civil service step raises, faculty promotions, insurance premium increase match, and others. We have had to find cuts in existing programs to pay these mandated costs.

President Strain then reported on the Board of Regents last meeting:

- Faculty Advisory Council approved at August meeting.
- Duplicate programs - staff devised an approach to determining which programs to review: excluded programs “essential to every college or university;” programs part of institution’s role, scope & mission; programs needed for student access or “geographical access” - result cut from 1,322 to 543 statewide; LSU 35B, 37M, 1SSpec, 9Doc = 82 total, mostly Ag, Bus, Engr, Arch. LSU programs not thought to be in jeopardy.

The University Budget Committee met early this summer and discussed ways to provide faculty with a raise. President Strain recommended a tuition increase of $80/semester (in state students), which would work out to about $5/week. This increase would have given an average 3% raise either July 1 or September 1. President Strain said that we even had partial support form Eric Monday, SGA President, although he was only willing to endorse $50. Several Board of Supervisors members objected, so the item was taken off of the agenda and the raise was postponed until January. The Chancellor recently told the press that there would be a 3% raise in January and he hoped to do so without any tuition increase. The necessary funds can be found from salary savings in this academic year, but next year we will have to find $3M to continue the raise. The Executive Committee expressed to the Chancellor our concern that faculty lines would be used to continue the raises and would lead to faculty downsizing without any strategic planning. If there is no increased funding from the State, President Strain said he didn’t see how LSU could proceed without tuition increases. He noted that the last faculty raise was July, 1991.
The Senate Courses and Curricula Committee and Academic Affairs have completed revision of PS-45, Courses and Curricula. The Executive Committee has reviewed the document. The procedures have been simplified and new forms have been produced. President Strain told the senators to see him if they had any questions concerning it.

President Strain said that Sally Clausen, new President of Southeastern Louisiana University, has organized a gubernatorial candidates forum on higher education, scheduled for 7:00 pm on Monday, September 25 in Hammond at the SLU University Center. The Executive Committee has provided questions to be posed to the candidates. It was uncertain as to whether or not the debate would be televised. President Strain told the senators to see him if they wanted more details. President Strain mentioned that he had been contacted by J. E. Jumonville, who will be running against Tom Greene for senator from District 17. President Strain said that Jumonville had asked to make a presentation to the Senate, which was thought to be inappropriate. Instead, President Strain said that we are looking into holding a forum for senatorial candidates on the campus sponsored by AAUP. If the details can be worked out, President Strain said he would contact the senators.

Finally, President Strain noted as one of his goals for the fall the development of a Faculty Senate home page to be linked to the LSU home page. President Strain said that it could provide a list of officers, senators, constitution & bylaws, committee members, and the E-mail address of president.

Old Business

Last May, Senate Resolution 94-11 was introduced by Senators Pratul Ajmera and Jim Stoner on the issues of the drop date for courses and how GPA should be calculated for courses that are repeated for credit, the latter of which has been referred to as a repeat/delete policy. The purpose of this resolution was to set up an ad hoc Senate committee to look at these two issues and decide whether there should be a change.

Senator Stoner introduced the resolution by stating that it asks for the establishment of a special ad hoc committee to take a fresh look at existing drop and repeat policies at LSU. He gave a brief chronology of events leading up to the present situation culminating in the introduction of Resolution 94-11. According to Stoner the new proposal in Resolution 94-11 asks for a fresh look at these two policies and would set up a special committee to ensure that fresh look. He then pointed out that this proposal is faculty initiated and arises from concerns some of the faculty have with the current policy. He further said, that in his opinion, the existing policy encourages the students to quit when the going gets rough. Finally, Stoner said that a student transcript is not a given historical record of events and should not be viewed as such by the University.

Ajmera said that he concurred with most of the things said by Senator Stoner, but that he wanted to emphasize the idea of a fresh look - to look at it as the balancing of both issues - the dropping as well as the repeat/delete as it exists.” Ajmera said that the university needs to take the complete package and described the two things that were significant to him. The first point made by Ajmera was that students, after a couple of years, may change their majors and could possibly carry with them some of the bad grades from one discipline that are requirements of a complete package of their GPA when they interview for jobs. The second point was that because the job market is so competitive and so important to the students as prospective employees, that a poor GPA should not reflect badly on them because of past errors in selecting courses.

Senator John Collier responded by saying that he would like to speak against the resolution because it was putting into place another committee to study an issue that has already been studied by a Faculty Senate standing committee. He said that the two composers of the resolution were making the point that this issue needs a fresh look. Senator Collier indicated that given the make-up of the committee and the fact that about one-third of the committee is new each year, he feels that the ASH committee could approach the issue with a fresh look. He indicated that he felt that it was wrong to appoint a new committee simply because the Senate disagreed with the recommendation of the committee. Senator Collier noted that the Senate could simply debate the issue on the floor of the Senate if they did not agree with the recommendation of the committee.

Pratul Ajmera responded that he had no problems if the ASH committee looks at these issues again, as long as it is a fresh look. He said that “the point is not who looks at it, the issues are the point and not how we do it.” Ajmera
went on to say that the only reason they had suggested an ad hoc committee was because of the minutes of the meeting where ASH looked at it last. He read an excerpt from those minutes to the Senate. ... "members of the ASH Committee were adamant about the whole concept or philosophy of tampering with transcripts" ... "the committee never got to the operational policy itself because the committee was opposed to the philosophy of repeat/delete.... if a transcript is supposed to be an accurate historical record then it should not be changed." From reading these minutes, Ajmera and Stoner presumed that the ASH Committee had already 'cast itself in stone' or for some reason had become dogmatic about the issue.

Alan Fletcher, Chair of ASH, indicated that the committee was merely asked to respond to a proposal from the Student Government Association regarding repeat/delete. Fletcher said that their response had nothing to do with anything except "repeat/delete." He also indicated that at the time, the SGA did not make any arguments that were compelling to them. Fletcher reiterated that the ASH Committee was not asked to investigate the matter themselves. They were only asked to listen to the SGA arguments in favor of the issue and, after doing so, his committee concluded that the arguments were inconclusive and lacked substance.

Senator Stockbauer moved to amend the resolution to read "Therefore, be it resolved that the Senate charge the ASH Committee to take a fresh look at the existing policies..." The motion was seconded by senator Yannitel. The amendment passed.

There was a call for the question on the motion as amended and President Strain called for a vote. The resolution, as amended, passed. President Strain then thanked the Senate and said that he would communicate this information back to the chair of the ASH Committee.

President Strain announced that Ralph Kinney had won the election by a very close vote and congratulated him. President Strain then announced that the Executive Committee meets every Tuesday at Noon in the Orleans Room and invited the senators to attend any of these meetings if they had any concerns.

New Business

About one year ago, at the urging of the Executive Committee, the Provost set up a committee to write a policy on dealing with financial exigency on the Baton Rouge campus in the event of severe financial cutbacks. This was done at the time because the financial status of funding for the University appeared stable. Therefore it was thought that the development of this document at this time would not give the appearance that there was some hidden impending disaster that the university was preparing for. The Bylaws of the LSU Board of Supervisors contain an exigency policy, but it does not spell out for a given campus the steps leading up to a declaration of exigency. It was not a policy for its implementation. The foundation for the committee's work was a draft policy developed by the Senate Executive Committee several years ago when Ralph Kinney was president. The members of the policy development committee were Erwin Poliaoff, John Collier, and President Strain, representing faculty. Karl Roeder, Loren Scott, and Dan Fogel were also on the committee representing various levels of administration. Fogel served as chair. The proposed policy, which has now been approved by the Provost and Chancellor, was provided as a handout in the meeting. It provided for full disclosure to faculty of the financial bases for proposing to declare exigency, and how we would deal with implementing. President Strain pointed out that he did not think the university would ever need to use this, but it is nevertheless important to have in place. A steering committee, made up of eight faculty, two vice chancellors and two deans would oversee the process, so the faculty would hold a majority. Everything is summarized in two flow charts appended to the end of the document. This proposed policy is now before the Senate for its approval. President Strain asked the Senators to please take this document and read it carefully, sharing it with their colleagues.

The next item of new business was the revision of PS-36, the University Policy Statement that deals with hiring, reappointment, non-reappointment, promotion and tenure. President Strain noted that the most recent version was approved July 1, 1991 and has functioned fairly well. However, a few minor problems in it became apparent with time, and the organization of the document was less than user-friendly. The Provost appointed a committee to propose a revision, consisting of Billie Collier, Ralph Kinney, and Connie Van Fleet as faculty representatives, and Ken Carpenter, Eddie McLaughlin, and Karl Roeder as administrative representatives; Ken Carpenter served as chair. The proposed revision was a handout at this meeting. President Strain noted that the
proposed changes were highlighted on the cover page memo from the Provost and announced that this proposed revision was before the Senate for its approval. He asked the Senators to take this document and read it carefully, sharing it with their colleagues.

President Strain then asked if there was any new business and there being none, a motion to adjourn was moved and seconded. Motion passed

Respectfully Submitted
Kenneth W. Paxton
Secretary

FACULTY SENATE MEETING ATTENDANCE

Date September 6, 1995

[✓ = Present, * = Proxy]

Barkley, Mary
✓ Bartlett, Sue
✓ Badinski, Emily
✓ Beck, Stephen
✓ Blouin, David
✓ Brind'Amour, Lucie
✓ Carney, Robert
✓ Cassidy, Jane
✓ Cherry, Katie
✓ Cherry, Mike
✓ Cohn, Marc
✓ Collier, Billie
✓ Collier, John
✓ Cronin, Neal
✓ Davis, Annmarie
✓ de Caro, Frank
✓ Dorman, Wade
✓ Draughn, Peggy
✓ Drayer, Jerry
✓ El-Amawy, Ahmed
✓ England, David
✓ Foll, Carol
✓ Fossey, Richard
✓ Franke, Donald
✓ Freiberg, Barbara
✓ Gasiorowski, Mark
✓ Hammond, Abner
* Hargrave, Carolyn
✓ Harris, Steven
✓ Hudson, Amelia
* Johnson, Seth
✓ Jordan, Ruth
* Kappel, Leonard
✓ Kinney, Ralph
✓ Lam, Nina
✓ Lawson, Jimmie
✓ Luzar, Jane
✓ Martin, John
✓ McGeehee, Mary
✓ McKee, Daryl
✓ Mendelsohn, Irv
✓ Mohan, Bjx
✓ Moore, Jeff
✓ Moroney, James
✓ O'Reilly, Kathy
✓ Paxton, Ken
✓ Rossman, Doug
✓ Sanchez, Rosa
✓ Schneider, Linda
✓ Shane, Barbara
* Shindo, Charles
* Stater, Victor
* Stockbauer, Roger
✓ Stone, Greg
* Stoner, James
✓ Strain, George
✓ Tang, Kwei
* Tolbert, Charles
✓ Waggenspack, Warrer
✓ Watson, Dana
* Wharton, James
✓ Wilson, Gregory
✓ Wilson, Paul
✓ Windhauser, John
✓ Wittkopf, Barbara
✓ Worthy, Terry
* Yannitel, Daniel
* Zagacki, Kenneth

PROXIES: (i.e., Joe Smith for Peter Brown)

Sue Bartlett for Mary Barkley
Jerry Drayer for James Wharton
Abner Hammond for Seth Johnson
Ralph Kenny for El-Amawy

Nina Lam for Charles Tolbert
William Metcalf for Michael Cherry
Perry Precholdt for Katie Cherry

Charles Shindo for Victor Stater
George Strain for Leonard Kappel
Kwei Tang for Carolyn Hargrave