LSU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
3:00 P.M., Wednesday, May 6, 2009
Cotillion Ballroom, LSU Union

Attendance

Faculty Senate Executive Committee members present:
1. Kevin L. Cope (Senate President, English)
2. Andrew Christie (Vice-President, Accounting)
3. William Daly (Past-President, Chemistry)
4. Priscilla D. Allen (Member-at-Large, Social Work)
5. George G. Stanley (Secretary, Chemistry)

Parliamentarian: Charles N. Delzell (present)

Partial List of Senators present:

** The attendance list from the May meeting was lost so we only have a partial list of Senators attending. People listed either asked questions, held proxies, or I remember being there. There was enough for a quorum. **

1. Fred Aghazadeh
2. Charles Delzell
3. Larry Crumbly
4. Josh Detre
5. Bruce Eilts
6. Wanda Hargroder
7. Dominique Homberger
8. Boryug Ju
9. Joan King
10. Jeff Kuehny
11. Richard Kurtz
12. Joseph Legoria
13. Ronald Malone
14. Heather McKillop
15. Su-Seng Pang
16. Faye Phillip s
17. John Protevi
18. Steve Ross
19. Lawrence Rouse
20. Kelly Rusch
21. Mike Russo
22. Tim Slack
23. James Stoner
24. Jim Sullivan
25. Muhammad Wahab
26. Susan Weinstein

Proxies for absent Senators:

Bruce Eilts for Bruce Olcott
Kevin Cope for Pratul Ajmera, Renee Casbergue, Michael Krom
Linda Allen for Sue Bartlett, Kresimir Rupnik
Boryung Ju for Jorge Morales
Joan King for Paul Wilson

Tim Slack for Susan Dumais
Josh Detre for Lynn Kennedy
?? for Ed Watson
Faye Phillips for Paul Hrycay

Senators absent without proxies + (# of absences without proxies):

Incomplete due to lost May attendance list

Guests Attending Meeting:

David Madden (English)
Carol Barry (Library)
Paul Coreil (Ag Center)
Rusty Jabour (Public Relations)
Patricia Milford-Hoyt (Public Relations)
Roger Laine (Biochemistry, Benefits Committee)
Robert Doolos (University Registrar)
Jordan Blum (The Advocate)
Ryan Buxton (Reville)
Astrid Merget (Executive Vice-Chancellor & Provost)
Stacy Haynie (Vice-Provost)

Consideration of the Minutes from April 2009

George Stanley noted a correction for replacing ??? [question marks] with Public Administration in Andrea Houston’s comments. Motion to accept minutes from Fred Aghazadeh and seconded by Larry Crumbley. Passed unanimously.
President’s Report

*LSU-BR News:*

- The Faculty Senate Executive Committee (FSEC) met with Ravi Rau on ways to enforce PS-111. We then met with the Provost who was somewhat receptive. We will continue developing the evaluation plan and report back to the senate.
- Classroom scheduling program malfunctioning for Agriculture. We are working on fixing that situation.
- The proposed Academic-Facilities Tracking proposal has been forwarded to Vice-Chancellor Jerry Baudin.
- The new PS-36T and NT documents have been approved. The faculty handbook now needs to be updated, perhaps in electronic form. We will be working with Academic Affairs on how to do this over the summer.
- Pratul Ajmera has discovered a problem with the policy statement involving the appointment of interim Deans & Administrators. Pratul is working with the upper administration to fix the problems.
- There are some issues with respect to the Pre-K-3 admissions requirements and we are working on that.
- Some of the College Policy committees are not particularly active and we would like to see those committees reactivated and actively engaged in college policies.
- College senatorial elections are underway. Please help by pushing your colleges and colleagues to vote.
- There are some on-going issues with the Graduate School. More dissertations editors are needed to take care of the backlogs that are causing problems for graduating students.
- The Chancellor’s One-Voice memorandum was not especially clear with respect to faculty communication with the state legislature. The Chancellor does want everyone to use their freedom of speech right as individuals to contact their legislators’ about support for LSU and higher education in general.
- Michael Russo is doing a banner job on the new Ad Hoc Committee on Bargaining and Representation for the Faculty. Michael would like to involve anyone with experience with bargaining issues. Please contact him directly.
- 100 Season tickets will be made available via lottery.

*System News:*

- The FSEC visiting LSU-E and had an excellent visit to their Faculty Senate. We plan to carry on discussions with other campuses next year.
- I would like to thank Joan King for inviting me to speak to the Agriculture Faculty Council. One fruit of which is today’s speaker, Paul Coreil.
- With regards to the system, the Board of Supervisors has visited the plans for the South Campus and approved them. But don’t give up on other creative uses of the South Campus.
- We had the ALFS meeting with a very good turnout. Sally Clausen spoke for almost 2 hrs and took a considerably number of questions.
- Budget update: we still don’t know too much.
- Jason Droddy is encouraging us to contact our legislators to support LSU and higher ed.
- I would like to thank George Stanley for his hard work as secretary.

*Q&A Summary:

Joan King: Any progress on appointing a faculty representative to the LSU Board of Supervisors?

Kevin: Yes, there has been discussion, but it has not gone very far. One problem is “Who will be the representative for LSU Faculty?”

*Update on Reorganization Plan – Kevin Cope*

- The Provost can’t be here due to an employee awards ceremony and the Chancellor is downtown.
- We have had many frank and robust discussions with the Chancellor about the reorganization, along with e-mails to the Provost. Where do things stand now? Nobody knows for sure. I believe that the July 1, 2009 deadline has been slowed down. The Task Force for the reorganization is in the process of being formed and should have substantial Faculty Senate input into the membership. We have stressed to the Chancellor that the faculty are not opposed to change, just the lack of faculty input into the plan.
- The Task Force may not be able to do any major changes, but we believe that there are enough FS representatives on the Task Force to have some real input and try to insure that there will be due deliberation on the plans.
- The reorganization plan will be presented to the Board of Supervisors as an informational item.
• I would now like to hear from anyone about this.

**Q&A Summary:**

Dominique Homberger: Would it be possible to have a reorganization plan where the cost and benefits are outlined. We should know what the benefits should be. This is one reason why faculty are upset about the plan. I would like to see a cost/benefit analysis of the reorganization plan.

Kevin: Excellent comment. We have heard both viewpoints that the plan is cost neutral and will result in savings. We will request such a cost/benefit plan.

Chip Delzell: I heard from an administrator that if any of these reorganization plans are delayed past July 1, 2009 then they will have to wait till July, 2010.

Kevin: I think you know full well that that which can be made can easily be unmade. There is some push to have it done by July 1 for budget reasons. But this should not override academic logic.

John Protevi: The administration told us that they couldn’t get faculty input due to time constraints. As a Faculty Senate we should come up with ways to help the administration to gather faculty input (e.g., surveys, etc.).

Kevin: I mentioned to the administration that if there were 1500 opinions from the faculty that would actually be a good thing. I certainly welcome any suggestions to gather faculty input/opinions.

John: Rather than just flooding Kevin’s e-mail box, I think we should have a more coordinated way to gather faculty opinions, perhaps via some web application.

Kevin: I would welcome that. Lilly suggested that John Protevi head this effort up. But if John doesn’t want to do this, the least we can do is setup a special e-mail box for this.

John: But we have people on the faculty that study this and know how to do this. So if you know anyone that has this expertise please talk to them of make some suggestions.

Andrew Christie: ITS does this all the time. Designing the survey is our job, ITS and then post and implement it fairly easily.

Kevin: Bill has an example of a university that had a faculty committee tackle this type of reorganization over a month and produce a good plan/report.

Heather McKillop: I would like to thank the FS for organizing the forum and for posting the video of the forum. We appreciate it. I hope that the administration sees the level of faculty interest. We would like to be more involved.

Kevin: Thanks. I would also like to thank my colleagues on the FSEC for their support and hard work.

Carol Barry: I am part of the School of Library and Information Science and I am very concerned about this reorganization plan. This part of the reorganization plan is one of the biggest overall changes and the resulting college seems like a bit of a mélange. We would like to meet with representatives of some of the other affected units to discuss this further. Kevin and I have spoken and we would like to have a forum of the affected units for more discussion on this. But graduation is next week and people are disappearing over the summer. So I don’t know what to do.

Kevin: We will have a forum and try to drum up as many interested faculty as possible. Having such a forum is a statement in itself.

Boryung Ju: What about the next reorganization? 5 or 10 years from now. Are you planning to do something to make sure that this doesn’t happen again.

Kevin: We are not alone in this type of reorganization without faculty input. So you make a good point. We plan to discuss this with the Board of Supervisors to make them aware of the problems. I believe a Faculty Senate resolution on this might be warranted to try and avoid future problems.

Jeff Kuehny: I thought the Provost was going to setup a special committee to look at this reorganization. What is the status of that?

Kevin: The UPC was involved in the hearing about the reorganization plan. But the UPC is not the same as the faculty or FS. I think you are talking about the Task Force. That should be announced soon.

Dominique: Is it possible to find out who is on the UPC?

Kevin: It is on the LSU website.

**Update on the Benefits Advisory Committee – Roger Laine, Chair**

• We haven’t spent that much time on this. I have summarized this onto a couple of slides. The first is on retirement benefits. LSU’s employee contribution is 28% higher than most other peer institutions. [Key PowerPoint slides shown below – full presentation posted on FS Website.]
Principal Issues, LSU Benefits

- Retirement Benefits:
  - Teachers Retirement System,
  - (LSU Employee Contribution of 8% is high with respect to comparable institutions)
  - Alabama, 5%; Kentucky, 5%; Georgia, 5%
  - Arkansas, 6%; South Carolina, 6.5%
  - Auburn, 5%; Mississippi State, 7.25% (State=9.35%)
  - Iowa State, 4.5%; Texas A&M, Texas Tech, 6.4%
  - Kansas, Kansas State, 5.5%
  - Michigan, 5%; Penn State, 6.25%
  - Oregon, 6%; Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, 7%
  - Average 5.75, LSU is 28% higher.

Social Security

- Social security benefits at retirement can range from $20,000-24,000/year
- This can add 20% or more to retirement income.
- Put it in perspective about retirement:
  - 1000 bottles of $20 red wine
  - 5-10 vacation trips per year.
- Ohio State has 14% state contribution to retirement, no social security.

State Retirement Benefits

- LSU State Contribution to Retirement is 6.77%
- 6.77% is lower than standard employer contributions to Social Security of 7.65%
- LSU has no contributions to Social Security
- Preliminary examination of comparable institutions shows Most institutions to have Social Security contributions of 7.65% matching Employees
- Some institutions have ORP State Retirement System contributions as much as 11%, making the total State Contributions 17.5% of salary;
- Most institutions have 2.5-3 TIMES LSU’s State Contribution to ORP Retirement
- The committee has felt that this is the most egregious example of poor faculty benefits at LSU.

Retirement Benefits

- It was clear from comments of those on the committee who had come to LSU from other institutions that they took a big cut in benefits, including no state contribution to Social Security.
- One member who transferred from the Univ. of Iowa some years ago, calculated $1,000,000 less for retirement at LSU.
- This is a serious matter!

- LSU has the lowest state contribution relative to quite a few peer institutions that we surveyed. About 1/3 lower than the average of other schools. For the total retirement contribution, we are about half of the peer group.
- I have started a draft resolution on retirement benefits. The state contribution should go up to at least 14.4%.
• Sick Leave Conversion to Leave with Pay. Limit currently in place.

Sick Leave Conversion to Leave with Pay.
• Currently there is allowed only conversion of 300 hours of sick leave to salary when retiring.
• The committee recommends that the total of sick leave be converted to salary at the time of retirement. (Some individuals accumulate more than 1 year of sick leave.)

Issues: Health Benefits
• LSU Health Insurance Benefits seem to be in the middle with respect to comparables.
• But: Long Term Care Insurance needs attention.
• Changes in Insurance Benefits have been made in the past without consultation with the faculty; for example the Health Insurance change from Definity to Cygna in the last year.
• However, I was advised by Mr. Krogstad and Michelle Zeber in the systems office that Definity planned to raise rates substantially, and they sought bids from other vendors, culminating in the Cygna adoption.
• “The Benefits Advisory Committee should be consulted on Administrative proposals for insurance changes, to make recommendations to the Faculty Senate.”

• Health Benefits: no long term care benefits. The change from Definity to Cigna occurred due to a large proposed increase from Definity. But there was no faculty input in all this. The Benefits Advisory Committee should be consulted on these types of changes. As a result of this Roger has been invited to attend the system meetings on health and life insurance. Work on a better life insurance option is underway.

• Equity and Raises. Inside some departments there are large equity problems. Raises are recommended by Departments and approved by the Dean. This can be a problem due to bias or political problems. We propose that committees composed of related departments review pay raise recommendations.

Issues: Equity and Raises
• Significant equity discrepancies in intradepartmental salaries need to be addressed for Faculty.
• Raises are recommended by Department Chairs, and approved by Deans. (inadequate oversight)
  – Significant political or personal input from the Chair, outside the relevant considerations of professional stature and performance can be problematic in these decisions. Deans rarely turn over Chair’s recommend.
  – Committees of members of related departments (Basic Sciences, Humanities, for example) could be established to either 1) review the chair’s recommendations or 2) submit parallel recommendations to be considered by Deans to guard for discrepancies.

• Patent Royalties (see slide).
• Legal Benefits. None is available. University of Colorado has a $20K fund available to faculty for legal help.

Issues: Patent Royalties
• In the early 90’s, patent authors received 50% of royalties and payments and LSU 50%. However, Patent and Legal costs were subtracted before any distribution to inventors
• This was supposedly changed in mid-90’s when a new policy was initiated to give 40% to the Authors and 60% to LSU, but not subtract any costs, with immediate distribution.
• This policy was conceived to raise the incentive for patenting.
• Now, LSU is again subtracting legal and patent costs before distribution. This abrogation of the 40/60 split agreement needs revision.

Issues: Legal Benefits
• Legal insurance: No legal insurance is available as a benefit to Faculty.
• Particularly problematic to the committee was LSU’s use of State Funds in some known instances of Legal actions against faculty.
• In this case, faculty do not have access to State Money to use a competing firm for defense, or for bringing issues to the Administration not resolvable by the “grievance route”.
• One committee member found that the Univ. of Colorado has a $20,000 fund available for any individual faculty member.
• The committee recommends that a fund of State Dollars be available to faculty through the Ombudsman or other mediation venue.

Issues: Tuition for Dependents
• LSU has no provision for providing Tuition for Dependents of Faculty
• This is a significant benefit for retention of high quality faculty, who may be mobile in their careers when they have college-aged children.
• Upon preliminary research, we found many Universities provide Dependents’ tuition and some have exchange tuition programs with other similar institutions.
• The committee recommends Senate Action!
• Tuition for Dependents. LSU has no provision for this. This is a significant benefit and many universities have some program and exchange benefits with other universities.

• Parking. We believe that this should be a benefit. Many universities do not charge for parking.

Q&A Summary:
Kevin: Thank you Roger for all your and your committee’s work on this.
Lilly Allen: I also really appreciate your work on this. When I joined I didn’t know that I would have to pay so much for health insurance. I’ve also gotten use to paying for my own dental. Shouldn’t we bring this up to the legislature?
Roger: Let me know what kind of report you want to write.
Dominique: I appreciate tackling the inequities in salaries. I have heard cases about the Chair and Dean completely agree that some people are inadequately paid but can’t do anything about it. It can become very costly to the university to continue inequities. Could we make some progress on this issue by setting up a committee that faculty can go to for salary inequities.
Kevin: We are working on that. The new Committee on Bargaining and Representation for the Faculty might be the perfect committee for handling these types of cases.
Dominique: Concerning legal insurance. The AAUP provides for members a very equitable legal insurance plan. LSU should provide a comparison of LSU benefits with that of other universities to new employees so they are informed as to where our benefits stand.
Roger: I hired an assistant professor once who had a higher salary than some associate professors. I then took some of the associate professor salaries into the Dean and managed to get them equity raises as well.
Susan Weinstein: I am not sure that showing new faculty these benefit comparisons is a good idea. That will just scare them off. I don’t think this is an employer’s responsibility to provide this information.
Kevin: We will make all this material available on the FS website.
Roger: I gave Kevin a copy of the PowerPoint and told him to freely distribute it. Please E-mail me if you have questions or suggestions.

Update on PS-36T and NT & State Legislature – Bill Daly
• The Chancellor finally signed off on the new PS-36-T, NT, and PS-109 in March, 2009.
• The previous version of PS-36 was implemented in July 1, 1997. Five years later we decided it was out of date. First drafts of the new PS-36 appeared in 2003 & 04. Carruth McGehee (Math) did a fantastic job leading the major re-writing effort. Passed the FS in 2005.
• But there were some problems with tenured and non-tenured faculty grouped into the same document. Also the use of annual reports as a punitive part of Dismissal for Cause.
• So it was agreed to split PS-36 into Tenured and Non-Tenured parts and the annual report sections were rewritten and presented to the Faculty Senate in 2007. That was followed by a number of minor legal changes imposed by the lawyers.
• HRM, university lawyers, and Academic Affairs were all involved in finalizing the documents through a number of do-loops. It was “finished” in October, 2008.
• The final draft was submitted to the Deans, the Vice-Provosts, the Provost, Carolyn Hargrave in the System Office, the Board of Supervisors, and the Chancellor.
• PS-109 was also modified to take out the annual report “punishment” statement.
• The PS-36NT document is not as defined as PS-36T so departments can develop their own guidelines for instructors.
• We believe it benefits all junior faculty and instructors to adopt the new PS-36T and NT documents as they are much better than the old PS-36.
• These will be living documents as there are already minor changes being suggested.
Q&A Summary:
Chip Delzell: In 2008 we had resolution 08-11 that required the administration to give reasons for denial of tenure or promotion. What happened to that?
Bill: We couldn’t include that due to time problems, but will work on including that for the next revision.
Chip: That doesn’t stop the administration from giving reasons for dismissal. There are several cases where the administration have not given any reasons for dismissal. The most recent case is for Ivor van Heerden. I am very concerned about this. It appears that the administration does not want to follow the resolution we passed.
Bill: We have tried our best to have an open document.
Jim Stoner: Has this been promulgated so that everyone knows that it will be in force for this Fall?
Bill: I don’t know, but we will check on this.
Dominique Homberger: What are the procedures for revising the new PS-36 document? The FS resolution that Chip mentioned should be included and it shouldn’t take 5 yrs for it to get included.
Lilly Allen: Is there a little “cheat-sheet” that summarizes the changes that occurred from what the FS passed?
Bill: Yes, I have that and it will be posted as well.
Joe Legoria: Would faculty hired under the old PS-36 have to switch to the new PS-36T?
Bill: All faculty will go through the new PS-36T even if they came in under the old document. We believe that the new PS-36T is much better and to the advantage of all faculty.
Joe Legoria: I think that faculty should have the option for which version of PS-36 they are evaluated on for tenure.
Bill: I suppose that they could petition this.
John Protevi: From what I understand PS’s are not part of our contracts.
Chip: That is correct. Although if faculty don’t want to follow PS-36 they can still be fired.
Bill: I think those are exceptional cases. PS-36 defines the normal rules of the game.
Senator: I am familiar with another university where a faculty member was fired and not given a reason. He sued and won because the university had a past practice of giving reasons for dismissal.

Legislative update – Bill Daly:
- You can get all this information on-line. Web link:
- The Chancellor does want you to contact your legislators as a citizen, not as a LSU representative.
- Provost Astrid Merget: The key is not to promote yourself to the legislature as an official LSU representative.
- HB-1 is the main appropriations bill. It is very difficult to see what is happening there. As late as this afternoon the higher ed budget section was still blank.
- HB-27 is the bill to permit people with concealed gun permits to carry guns on campus.
- HB-60 is the bill to keep LSU-A as a 4-year institution.
- HB-794 – bill to review post secondary education institutions.
- SB-19 – bill to create the TOPS-TEC award is a 2 year award for students that want to attend technical universities.
- SB-85 – bill to cap TOPS at $1600/semester. This would hurt LSU
- SB-285 – bill to create a comprehensive system to use the same course numbers and allow easy transfer credit. Creates a state-wide articulation and transfer council.
- SB-316 – bill to improve high school graduation rates by creating alternate career pathways (more vo-tech). It also states that this will occur without lowering any standards.
- I have been trying to get a handle on our budget. There is a democratic plan to tap into various accounts to generate $208M for higher ed. The problem is that taking $8 out of the rainy day fund needs to be paid back ASAP. The republican plan is to take $280M out of the rainy day fund and repay it from the economic development plan. The governor just wants to cut the higher ed budget. Sally Clausin wants to postpone the Stelly Tax Rollback. Little legislative traction for this. Sally also said that she would be “happy” with half the proposed higher ed cut. We don’t think she should be proposing this high a cut.
- Please contact your legislators and encourage them to help LSU.
Q&A Summary:
John Protevi: Thank you for your presentation. From what I understand rolling back the Stelly Plan forces the state to be more reliant on sales taxes. So I think you should try to educate your legislators about that fact.
Heather McKillop: Can we use LSU e-mail for contacting our legislators?
Provost: No, please do not use LSU e-mail for this.
John: From what I understand that postal letters are more important than phone calls that carry more impact than e-mails.
Bill: Yes, letters carry the most impact.
Stacy Haynie: Don’t forget to contact other legislators, not just our BR reps.
Bill: Yes, look up those on the education committee and contact them.

Update on the 150th Celebration – Rusty Jabour & Patricia Milford-Hoyt
- I would like to thank the Faculty Senate for all their involvement in the planning of this important event. Bill Daly and Andrew Christie have been very active FS representatives on the committee.
- We can now start reporting on the details of the events for next year. There will be a series of major events to celebrate and demonstrate its role and importance to Louisiana, the country, and the world.
- We are very sensitive to budget issues and are doing our best to raise private dollars for as many events as possible.
- There will be a major exhibit in the Union on the history of LSU starting in mid-Sept, 2009. We will then take this exhibit on the road.
- LSU on the Road, Sept 2009 – Oct 2010
- LSU Serves the World, Jan – Dec 2010 (service and service learning emphasis)
- History of LSU – Official Documentary on LPB, March 21, 2010
- Military Ball, April 2010
- Chancellor’s Day Parade, April 2010
- LSU Day, April 24, 2010 (we want lots of engagement for this)
- LSU Anniversary @ State Capital, April 30, 2010
- Commencement, May 21
- Treasures of LSU – Official Book, Fall
- Fall Fest, Sept 17
- LSU Salutes, Nov 6
- Homecoming, Nov 13 (athletic emphasis, but great opportunity for departmental reunions)
- We encourage reunions and development throughout the year.

Patricia Milford-Hoyt
- LSU Day Activities
  - Largest community outreach event of the year
  - Showcase the benefits of having a flagship, public research university in LA
  - Saturday, April 24 – 10 AM to 4 PM
  - Audiences: Current students, Prospective Students, LSU Alumni, Tiger Fans, families, etc.
  - Success making qualities: entertaining, interactive, and educational events.
  - Most of the activities will focus on the core campus and athletic facilities.
  - AgMagic might happen on this date, ditto with Ocean Commotion.
  - Spring football game might also occur on this date.
  - Alumni track & field event might happen.
  - We welcome ideas from faculty and departments by May 21.
Presentation by Vice-Chancellor Paul Coreil on the role of the Ag Center and of the Extension Service at LSU and Higher Education

- Morril Act of 1862 created land-grant universities.
- Hatch Act of 1887 created the Experiment Station.
- Smith-Lever Act of 1914 created Extension Services
- There is a cooperative extension service office in every parish. Local governments pay for these offices (utilities, landscaping, etc).
- Land & Sea Grant responsibilities. The state government provides about 60% of the extension service budget. Feds (28%) and local (11%) provide the rest of the funding.
- Sea Grant works with coastal communities in the areas of coastal sustainability, restoration, and marine fisheries management.
- We want to provide science or research-based solutions to problems faced by farmers and fishermen.
- 17 parishes have joint offices with Southern University. 40% of 4-H members are minorities. 30% of 4-H members live in towns and cities of 10,000 and above.
- Changes: less farms (> 1.5% of the population); more integration and consolidation; urban/suburban expansion; lingering & serious hurricane problems; higher ed cuts.
- Main focus programs: Ag and Natural Resources; 4-H and Youth Development; Family and Consumer Sciences; Community and Economic Development.
- Last year we had 1.6M web visits.
- Let me stop here and answer any questions you might have.

Q&A Summary:
None

Update by Robert Doolos about Scheduling Spring Break

- If we have Spring Break the week after Easter to sync with it with the public school system we have a serious problem in 2011 where finals would just be one week after.
- There are several other years where there are only 2 weeks between spring break and final exams. Is this OK? Or do changes have to be made.

Kevin Cope: We won’t discuss this now but look over the schedule and come up with something this Fall.
George Stanley: I got a notice from Catholic High that they are moving Easter Break, presumably to match it with a new schedule from the public schools. I don’t think the true intent of the Faculty Senate resolution was to try and sync our Spring Break with the K-12 Easter Break, whenever possible.
Robert Doolos: We will check on that.

Civil War Resolution – Prof. David Madden

FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 09–04

“Supporting Major Improvements of the United States Civil War Center, Restoring it to its Former Prominence on the LSU Campus, in Baton Rouge, the State, and the Nation”

Proposed by Professor David Madden, Founding Director of the United States Civil War Center; Sponsored by Senator James R. Stoner

Whereas the United States Civil War Center, unique in the nation then and still, was started at LSU in 1989, with the total support of Chancellor Jim Wharton, its formal creation approved unanimously in 1992 by the Board of Supervisors and the Board of Regents, given its name and its mission in a unanimously approved resolution by Congress of the United States, as introduced by Senator Breaux, and in 1997, at Founding Director David Madden’s request, legislation was introduced by Senator Breaux that would create the Civil War Sesquicentennial Commission (2011-2015) in
Washington, legislation that languished for a decade, but that Senator Landrieu re-introduced in April of 2008; and

Whereas the unique Mission of the United States Civil War Center was to study the War and Reconstruction from the perspective of every conceivable academic discipline, profession, and occupation, also from the perspective of African Americans and other ethnic groups, and civilians, with emphasis upon women and children, including the mission of leading the planning and facilitation of the Civil War Sesquicentennial (2011–15); and

Whereas The USCWC quickly became the gateway to all Civil War interests, winning many awards for its website, one of the first at LSU, with millions of hits from such places as Israel, NASA, and the U.S. military, as the only Civil War organization that set out to link to every other Civil War organization, to a total of over 4,000 links, with a national park ranger in residence to begin the Civil War soldier’s and the Civil War cemeteries databases, reviewing by major historians of all books on the Civil War published each year (about 400), with one copy going to LSU Libraries, the editorship providing graduate assistantships to five graduate students in three departments, creating the only collection of books about the war written for children and a collection of Civil War fiction in LSU’s Special Collections Library, bringing many lectures and performances and two major conferences to LSU, including a three-day conference, uniquely involving 30 different disciplines from among LSU’s own faculty, an historic achievement in interdisciplinary studies, facilitating the creation and publication of 30 books for New York and university presses, offering a prize for the best Civil War novel each year, honoring Michael Shaara, author of the Pulitzer Prize winning novel, Killer Angels, made into the movie Gettysburg, creating a national board comprised of such leaders as Jeff Shaara, Ken Burns, Ted Turner, Pulitzer Prize winning biologist Edward O. Smith, Nobel prize winner in physics Glenn Seaborg, National Poet Laureate Rita Dove, and major historians, such as Shelby Foote and Gabor Boritt, director of The Gettysburg Civil War Institute, USWC’s sister institution in the congressional resolution, achieving all that on less than $30,000 a year of mostly donated funds (three hundred and forty thousand dollars having been paid on a million dollar pledge), being included annually, for those and many other reasons, on LSU’s list of 10 requests to our legislative delegation for financial support; and

Whereas following its removal from Arts and Sciences to the library most of the kinds of activities that produced its reputation ceased long ago, although the excellent book review and the database (though rather static) remain, among other features, to serve as a foundation for a restored, revitalized Center, causing the decline of the Center’s services to the nation and its reputation as an LSU institution, so that utter consternation and contempt is its present status at LSU and throughout the nation. And

Whereas a revitalized United States Civil War Center would restore its national reputation, and would be a perfect exemplification of the Flagship Agenda, especially of the interdisciplinary initiative; and

Whereas support among the faculty in multiple disciplines exists for the restoration of the USCWC, including faculty members and alumni, Faculty Senate President Kevin Cope, Dean of the Graduate school, Bill Worger, Bob Mann, Manship Chair, Mass. Com., former chair, CWC board; Former Chancellor Jim Wharton, former Chair, CWC board; Charles Barre, Alumni-Donor, former member of CWC Board; Gary Joiner, historian LSU-Shreveport, former member CWC board; Jack Hamilton, Dean School of Mass. Com.; Dick White, LSU, Lincoln Commission member; Susan Weinstein, English education; Carolyn Ware, Folklore, English; Larry Crumbley, Business School; Bill Grimes, Music School; Jim Stoner, Chair of Political Science Department, Member of Senate Library Committee; T. O. Perry, supporter of LSU and the Center; Virginia Grenier, International Students Hospitality, office in the Civil War Center building; Angeletta Gourdine, Director of African and African American Studies; among others;

Therefore be it resolved that the LSU Faculty Senate recommends major improvements of the United States Civil War Center, including assignment to a college with an active interest in the Center, with the goal of restoring it to its former prominence, serving LSU, Baton Rouge, the state, and the nation.

[Secretary Stanley had to leave at this point with the video camera, so only the results will be reported]

Resolution Passed.
FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 09–05

“Limitations on the Choice of Classroom Clickers (‘Student Response Systems’)”

Referred to the LSU Faculty Senate by the LSU Student Government Association

Whereas the Faculty Senate has previously endorsed the use of the TurningPoint brand student response system (colloquially known as “clickers”) for use in classrooms and other instructional settings at Louisiana State University;

Whereas that endorsement has been understood by students at Louisiana State University to constitute a provisional selection of this system, barring the discovery of technical difficulties with this equipment;

Whereas 5,000 or more students currently use TurningPoint “clickers” in classroom contexts;

Whereas requiring students to purchase multiple clickers with similar functions from multiple vendors creates an extra expense that yields minimal pedagogical or educational value;

Whereas the Student Government Association has expressed satisfaction with the TurningPoint system;

Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Senate reaffirms its support of the TurningPoint student response system as the sole “clicker” for use in LSU classrooms; and

Therefore be it further resolved that the Faculty Senate encourages colleges or departments to employ TurningPoint system whenever possible, cognizant of the possibility that using alternate clickers may impose an additional financial burden on students.

Resolution Passed.

First Reading:

LSU FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 09–08

“Recognition of Exceptional Service to the University by Robert V. Nauman”

Sponsored by Linda R. Allen, George Stanley and William H. Daly

Whereas Professor Robert V. Nauman served the University for over 40 years as a Professor of Chemistry, excelling in both teaching and research and

Whereas Professor Nauman in 1964 successfully wrote one of the first Centers of Excellence Grants funded by the National Science Foundation to augment the research budgets for Chemistry, Geology, Mathematics and Physics over a five year period. This grant award catalyzed a paradigm shift that truly began the development of LSU as a nationally recognized research university.

Whereas Professor Nauman was a strong proponent of shared faculty governance and an active participant in governance activities in addition to his teaching and research contributions to the Department of Chemistry and College of Chemistry and Physics throughout his career and

Whereas as Chair of the Faculty Council’s Policy Committee in 1973 he successfully campaigned to create the Faculty Senate (effective in 1974) and was a founding member and

Whereas he wrote the Faculty Senate By-laws for the Senate which assured that the senate provides a forum for faculty members from each college to deliberate issues and through the committees of the Senate promulgate academic standards and oversee curriculum development and

Whereas Professor Nauman served as the president of the transitional Senate and elected second Faculty Senate President in 1975 and continued to serve the body for many years as a Senator.

Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Senate notes with sadness his death on April 25, 2009 and wishes to extend their condolences, along with their extreme gratitude for his exceptional contributions to faculty governance and research programs at Louisiana State University, to his family.

[Due to the desire to present a framed version of this resolution to Prof. Nauman’s family at a Basic Sciences Banquet this week, the rules were waived and the resolution was voted on after its first reading.]

Resolution Passed.
First Reading of FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 09–06

“Inactive Course Policy”

Sponsored by Senator Andrea Houston

Whereas the Faculty Senate has reviewed the draft inactive course policy presented by Andrea Houston and the Courses and Curriculum Committee; and

Whereas the Faculty Senate, in its stewardship of the educational mission of the University, encourages congruency between University publications concerning the curriculum and the curriculum that is available to students;

Therefore Be It Resolved that the Faculty Senate endorses the draft inactive course policy as presented and discussed at the May 6th, 2009 Senate meeting.

First Reading of FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 09–07

“Conditions and Procedures for Furlough Plans”

Introduced by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee at the Request of the Office of Academic Affairs

Whereas it is in the mutual interest of the faculty and the administration to find solutions to budgetary problems that threaten to impair both the national standing and the basic functions of Louisiana State University; and

Whereas the legislative and executive branches of the Louisiana state government have asked the LSU community to propose an array of alternative plans for dealing with the current revenue shortfall while inflicting minimal damage on the state’s Flagship University; and

Whereas the LSU faculty deprecates the failure of state government to provide, over the years, a stable economic foundation for higher education, even while applauding the desire for input from university faculty;

Therefore be it resolved that the LSU Faculty Senate, while it questions the need for furloughs, layoffs, or any other form of wage diminution and while it fundamentally opposes the violation of good-faith employment understandings with higher-education faculty, encourages the LSU administration to explore with state government officials the possibility of an elective furlough plan that meets the following conditions:

i. That an impartial, outside expert is retained to confirm that the furlough is necessary and is the best economic option for LSU;

ii. That, for faculty, employee permanent salaries of record will not change;

iii. That the University provide at least three elective ways of taking the furlough (for example, [i] payroll deductions to go to the University via the LSU Foundation or [ii] one-time donations via check or other payment instrument via the LSU Foundation or [iii] multiple smaller payments or deductions);

iv. That the elective furlough would take the form of a flat percentage of income, e.g., circa four percent or less;

v. That employees earning less than $30,000.00 per annum would be exempt from the furlough;

vi. That the Board of Supervisors negotiate in earnest with faculty representatives so as to change financial exigency procedures and its furlough procedures so as to (a) separate the two emergency procedures and (b) minimize the chance of future furloughs, layoffs, or other concessions.

vii. That the character of the furlough reflect the job description of the furloughed employee (e.g., if a furloughed faculty member is engaged in teaching as well as research, the furlough will apply to teaching time as well as to research assignments);

viii. That an elective furlough will be requested from faculty members only if a furlough is also required of all other state employees.

[Meeting adjourned sometime before midnight, or so rumor has it.]