

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 19, 2012
Student Senate Room, LSU Student Union



Attendance

Faculty Senate Executive Committee members present:

1. Kevin L. Cope (President, English)
2. Ken McMillin (Vice-President, Animal Science)
3. Joan King (Member-at-large, Food Science)
4. George Stanley (Secretary, Chemistry)
5. Bill Daly (Past-President, Chemistry)
6. Kenneth Fasching-Varner (New Member-at-large)
7. Larry Rouse (Member-at-Large, Oceanography)

Parliamentarian: Louay Mohammed

Senators present:

1	✓	Sibel Ales (Oceanography/C&E)	24	✓	Kristopher Fletcher (Foreign Lang/HSS)	47	✓	John Nyman (Renew Nat Res/Ag)
2	✓	Linda Allen (Chemistry/Sci)	25	✓	Joseph Francis (Compar BioMed/Vet)	48	✓	Evelyn Orman (Music/Music & DA)
3	✓	Gabriel Beavers (Music/M&FA)	26	✓	Juhan Frank (Physics/Sci)	49	✓	Rebecca Owens (Curricul & Instruct/Ed)
4	P	Melissa Beck (Psychology/HSS)	27	✓	Craig Freeman (Mass Comm/MassCom)	50	✓	Rosemary Peters (French/HSS)
5	✓	Dana Bickmore (Ed Theory Pol Pract/Ed)	28	✓	Stephen Gaunt (Pathobiological Sci/Vet)	51	✓	Suresh Rai (Elect & Comp/Eng)
6	✓	Graham Bodie (Comm Studies/HSS)	29	✓	Wes Harrison (Ag Econ/Ag)	52	P	Margaret Reams (Environ Studies/C&E)
7		William Boelhower (English/HSS)	30		Richard Holben (Drama/Music & DA)	53	✓	Lawrence Rouse (Oceanography/C&E)
8		Dorin Boldor (Biol Eng/Ag-Eng)	31	✓	Dorothy Jacobsen (Kinesiology/Ed)	54	✓	Gary Sanger (Finance/BA)
9	A	Stephanie Braunstein (LSU Libraries/Lib)	32	A	Jennifer Jolly (Ed Theory Pol Pract/Ed)	55		Bhaba Sarker (Const Manage & Ind/Eng)
10	✓	Robb Brumbfield (Bio/Sci)	33		Rajgopal Kannan (Comp Sci/Sci)	56	✓	George Stanley (Chemistry/Sci)
11	✓	Alvin Burns (Marketing/BA)	34	✓	Joan King (Food Sci/Ag)	57	✓	Suzanne Stauffer (Lib & Info Sci/SLIS)
12	✓	Russell Carson (Kinesiology/Ed)	35	✓	Jeff Kuehny (Horticulture/Ag)	58	✓	William Stickle (Biological Sci/Sci)
13	✓	Paolo Chirumbolo (Foreign Lang/HSS)	36		Michael Leitner (Geog & Anthro/HSS)	59	✓	Padmanabhan Sundar (Math/Sci)
14		Aaron Clopton (Kinesiology/Ed)	37	✓	Vince LiCata (Biological Sci/Sci)	60		Gail Sutherland (Phil & Relig/HSS)
15	✓	Kevin Cope (English/HSS)	38		David Lindenfeld (History/HSS)	61	A	Carol Taylor (Chem/Sci)
16	✓	Larry Crumbley (Accounting/BA)	39	✓	Michelle Livermore (Social Work/SW)	62	✓	Dianne Taylor (ELRC/Ed)
17	✓	William Daly (Chemistry/Sci)	40	✓	Mandi Lopez (Vet Clinical Sci/Vet)	63		Jeffrey Taylor (Geology/Sci)
18	✓	Jeffrey Davis (Entomology/Ag)	41	✓	Kevin McCarter (Exp Stat/Ag)	64		Phillip Tebbutt (Interior Design/A&D)
19	✓	Neila Donovan (Comm Sci Disord/HSS)	42	A	Patrick McGee (English/HSS)	65		Wanjun Wang (Mech Eng/Eng)
20	✓	Kerry Dooley (ChemE/Eng)	43	✓	Ken McMillin (Animal Sci/Ag)	66	✓	Christopher Weber (Polysci/HSS)
21	✓	Bruce Eilts (Vet Clinical Sci/Vet)	44		Reem Meshal (Phil & Relig/HSS)	67		Hsiao-Chun Wu (Elect & Comp/Eng)
22	✓	Kenneth Fasching-Varner (Ed T Pol Pract/Ed)	45	✓	Louay Mohammed (C & Environ/Eng)	68	✓	David Young (Physics/Sci)
23		Guillermo Ferreyra (Math/Sci)	46	✓	Jeff Nunn (Geology/Sci)			

Guests:

Robert Doolos Lawrence Datenoff Ravi Rau Gary Byerly John Protavi Thomas Rogers
 Andrea Houston Jason Tolliver Gil Reeve

Consideration of the Minutes

Moved and accepted conditionally

President's Report

- John Pizer (Foreign Languages) has proposed language for using referees for promotion and tenure from non-research intensive universities including foreign universities when needed in unusual cases where it is difficult to find enough qualified reviewers.
- There have been issues with transfer credits that we are dealing with.
- We have raised several items with the Provost concerning graduate education. Pay for faculty supervising summer research students who have their tuition paid from research grants and tuition on Fellowships.
- Questions have been raised about the amount of fringe benefits on summer salary. Part of the answer is that fringe benefits are calculated on a yearly basis and include unfunded liabilities to the state retirement system. Eric Monday is providing us with more information on this topic.
- We have transferred Prof. Rau's museum report to ORED and they are considering it, especially in light of the search for a new Vice-Chancellor for Research and Economic Development.

- There is a nasty rumor about the purchase of a very expensive software package to help with the SACS accreditation process. It turns out that it only costs \$105,000 for a three year license. It should help considerably with streamlining the accreditation process.
- The design for a new residential facility has been approved. I think the design is quite nice.
- The Board of Supervisors has approved an enhancement of Tiger Stadium to include a Championship Plaza. There was an article in the Advocate about this last week.
- Mike Russo with LSUnited is at work lobbying the legislature.
- The Commissioner of Higher Education is working on a faculty bill of rights to counter some of the events that occurred recently at Southern University. I am working with him on this.
- There is some movement on fixing the retirement system. I am guardedly optimistic.

Q&A Summary:

No discussion.

Presentation by Jason Tolliver, Director Auxiliary Services about the Student Union

- First thing I plan to do is to let you use the computer that is here so you don't have to bring your own computer and projector for Faculty Senate meetings (cheers from Kevin & the audience).
- The union opened in 1964. The 2011 renovation added 50K ft².
- Over 1M visitors each year.
- With the book store moving to a new facility across the street, 26K ft² space will become available for other uses.
- 16K ft² will be used for Career Services/Workforce Development
- New 46K ft² Barnes & Noble Superstore including an Apple Store and larger Starbucks café. Meeting space to accommodate up to 80 along with a children's reading area.
- The other 10K ft² in the Union will be used to generate a SMART classroom, a 24 hr computer lab and study center, an optical shop, full service salon, and a quite lounge area on the third floor where the current computer lab is located.
- We are also planning terrific Tuesday activities to encourage more student use of the union.
- We intend to be far more responsive to student and faculty needs for the union and new bookstore complex. We also want to improve the cultural activities that take place in the union.

Q&A Summary:

Kevin Cope: To date the offering in the union in regards to retail stores has tended to large national chains. Is there any opportunity for smaller startups to try and use the space?

Jason: Many of the smaller mom & pop stores in the past were not making a profit and were subsidized by LSU. Note that LSU has some stringent design standards that can make it expensive to open a store in the union or on campus.

George Stanley: I love Inga's Subs and Salads and she has commented that it is too expensive to move onto campus to open a store.

Jason: Yes, I love Inga's as well and yes it is expensive to rent space in the Union. We would like to see more local retailers use the Union but have to balance that with our need to pay for the cost of running and maintaining the union.

Senator: Have the talking Coke machines been quieted?

Jason: Yes! Coca Cola did not inform us of the "talking" aspects of their new soda machines. We've fixed that.

Old Business

Second and Final Reading:

**LSU Faculty Senate Resolution 11-14
Including International Activity in LSU's Annual Report**

Introduced at the request of the Faculty Senate International Education Committee

Read by Li Li

Whereas Diversity is one of the four goals for LSU Flagship 2020 with expanding supportive communities for international students is an integral part of the diversity definition.

Whereas Engagement is one of the four goals for LSU Flagship 2020 with extending the influence of scholarly expertise to benefit our state, region, and the globe is an important part of our engagement goal

Whereas LSU faculty and administration have struggled in recent years to find information and statistics that document campus international related activities

Whereas the lack of documentation hinders any true measure of progress in regarding campus-wide international activities

Whereas including all international related activity into an annual international activity report will document international related activities that involve administration, faculty and students

Whereas including international related activity into an annual report will demonstrate LSU's commitment to international related activities

Whereas including international related activity into LSU's official reporting will enable us to measure and report any progress we made annually

Whereas LSU International Programs should be responsible for data collection and generate such report

Therefore be it resolved that the LSU Faculty Senate recommends including campus' international related activities in International Programs' annual international activity report.

Q&A Summary:

George Stanley: Why not have a separate annual international report instead of bundling it into the Diversity Report?

Li: We want a separate report and not to have it part of the diversity report. You may be looking at an older version of the resolution.

George: Excellent

Kevin: You should change the title.

Li: Yes, we will do that.

Passes unanimously

Second and Final Reading:

Faculty Senate Resolution 11-20 "A Plus and Minus Grading System for LSU"

Introduced at the request of Professor Don Chance

Whereas the appended background paper presents compelling arguments for the introduction of a plus and minus grading system as a means to increase the accuracy of the evaluation of students,

Therefore be it resolved that Louisiana State University shall adopt the plus and minus grading system proposed in the document below.

Background

LSU currently uses the grading system of A, B, C, D, and F, which provide for 4, 3, 2, 1, and 0 points, respectively. This proposal recommends that LSU convert to a system that permits the faculty member to assign + (plus) and minus (-) grades. The proposed system would allow for grades of A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D- and F.

The number of quality points for a given letter grade is obviously an important question. To provide some guidance, a survey was conducted of about 80 schools, which include LSU's peers as specified in the updated Flagship agenda program and essentially all of the most prestigious public and private research schools in the United States.

Alternative Systems

Quite a few systems were identified. Some, such as MIT's five-point system, Brown's no-grade system, Maryland's system of awarding plus/minus grades but not reflecting these variations in the grade point average calculation, and Wisconsin's A, AB, B, BC system are quite unconventional and were disregarded. Of the remaining schools, 69 use some variant of the plus/minus system while thirteen use the traditional system.

The variants of the plus/minus system include

- (1) A = 4.0, A- = 3.7, B+ = 3.3, B = 3.0, etc. (39 schools)
- (2) A = 4.0, A- = 3.67, B+ = 3.33, B = 3.0, etc. (14 schools)
- (3) A = 4.0, A- = 3.75, B+ = 3.25, B = 3.0, etc. (1 school)
- (4) A = 4.0, A- = 3.667, B+ = 3.333, B = 3.0, etc. (3 schools)
- (5) A = 4.0, A- = 3.666, B+ = 3.333, B = 3.0 (1 school)

Some schools give A+. The following such systems were identified:

- (6) A+ = 4.33, A = 4.0, A- = 3.67, etc. (9 schools)
- (7) A+ = 4.3, A = 4.0, A- = 3.7, etc. (2 schools)

Some schools allow the awarding of an A+ or an A with both worth 4.0 points, although B+ is worth more than a B. This system is still treated as a plus/minus system.

Along with LSU, the schools that use the traditional system are Auburn, Georgia Tech, Carnegie Mellon, Ohio State, Texas A&M, Arkansas, Oklahoma, Oklahoma State, West Virginia, Arizona, Kansas State, Nebraska, and Oregon.

The schools that use a variant of the plus/minus system are Clemson, Duke, Emory, Indiana, Johns Hopkins, Mississippi State, New York University, Northwestern, Oregon State, Princeton, UCLA, and the Universities of Alaska at Fairbanks, California at Berkeley, Chicago, Colorado at Boulder, Connecticut, Georgia, Hawaii at Manoa, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Miami (Florida), Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nevada at Reno, North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Dakota, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Rochester, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Vanderbilt, Virginia Tech, Washington University at St. Louis, Dartmouth, Georgetown, Harvard, Penn State, Buffalo, Florida, Illinois, Maine, Montana at Missoula, New Hampshire, Texas, Vermont, Yale, Arizona State, Columbia, Michigan State, North Carolina State, Alabama, Iowa, New Mexico, William & Mary, Stanford, Minnesota, Delaware, Florida State, Tulane, Southern California, Boston College, Cornell, Cal Tech, and Notre Dame.

Proposal

It is recommended that LSU adopt the most-widely used system, which would provide for the following grade points:

A	4.0
A-	3.7
B+	3.3
B	3.0
B-	2.7
C+	2.3
C	2.0
C-	1.7
D+	1.3
D	1.0
D-	0.7
F	0.0

Benefits and Costs

Clearly such a change is not without cost to the university. Registrar software would need reprogramming, and it is likely that some forms would need to be re-designed. Some re-indoctrination of faculty and students would be required, although the change is not particularly complex and most everyone should catch on quickly. Another subtle cost, however, is that by having more grade cutoffs, there will be more students who will be close to the next highest grade. With quality points on the line, appeals could potentially be more frequent. On the other hand, as an example, some students who might ordinarily have gotten a B might now get a B+ and will benefit.

Indeed the main advantage would be that it would provide more flexibility to the faculty member, which should be particularly valuable in graduate classes, where there is a tremendous difference in the highest and lowest A's and highest and lowest B's. It also seems likely that some graduate student grades that might have been B's will be B- or C+ or A's might become A- or B+. Because the old system is subsumed within the new system, any faculty member could continue to use the old system.

Read by Don Chance

Comments by Don: 69 of 80 research universities currently have a +/- system. If you don't want to use this system you don't have to, you can continue to use a simple A, B, C, D, F system. Some people (students) have approached this with a negative viewpoint, which I disagree with. I believe that this system will help more than hurt students.

Q&A Summary:

Rebecca Owens: You mentioned some cost to the registrar for the software. Do you have any numbers on this?

Don: No I don't. But the Chancellor said in today's Advocate that the cost would be minimal.

Rebecca: I'm still concerned about the cost and would like to know what the cost would be. We are in tight financial times.

Don: I also heard that this might produce more grade appeals, but I don't think so.

Robert Doolos: There would be significant costs to do this. It impacts many systems that we use on a daily basis. I hope that we would have enough time to carefully analyze this.

Gary Sanger: This is new to me and I feel uncomfortable voting for my colleagues. Ohio State, for example, changed back to a simple A, B, C, D, F system from a +/- system.

Andrea Houston: I would propose that we table this resolution and appoint a task force to study this in more detail. As Robert mentioned, there are many impacts of this change on advising, catalogs, documentation, etc. I also believe that this system if adopted needs to be mandatory so faculty are all on the same scale, so a B from one faculty is the same as a B from another faculty member.

Bill Daly: We have plenty of time on this since the soonest it could go into the catalog it would be at least a year and a half before it could be implemented. I think we need to appoint a task force to study this further.

Bill Stickle: The biology undergraduate advisor has severe concerns about this

Vince Licatta: I initially was in favor of this, but I've been having second thoughts.

Kerry Dooley: Chemical Engineering has concerns that this will add considerable work to faculty in regards to grading.

George Stanley: I'm all in favor of this. Sounds like a number of senators are afraid of change.

Senator: My department has only graduate students and we are completely in favor of this as it gives us more latitude in grading.

Diane: I move that we table the motion for further study.

Kevin: I think it is best if we establish a task force to study this further.

Kerry Dooley: I still think a +/- system will burden faculty and we are losing faculty.

Motion to table and establish a task force for further study passes with one or two objections.

Second and final reading:

Faculty Senate Resolution 11-21

Excluding Existing Gift Accounts Including LSU Foundation Accounts, Expired Fixed Price Accounts, Rebate Accounts, and Tech Transfer Accounts from Being Charged Tuition Remission Recovery and Fringe Benefits for Graduate Assistant Tuition.

Proposed by Senator John Andrew Nyman

Whereas a tuition exemption has been provided by LSU to all full-time graduate assistants since fall of 2005 and a health insurance program, since the fall of 2007,

Whereas the majority of funding for the graduate assistant tuition remission has come from the Facilities and Administrative cost recover (F&A) administered by the Office of Research and Economic Development (ORED),

Whereas the over 25% of the currently available F&A is used to pay tuition exemption and health insurance for Graduate Assistants and costs are expected to increase as tuition increases,

Whereas the University has decided to implement a new policy such that beginning with proposals submitted after 1 January, 2012, a tuition remission rate of 31% and a fringe benefit rate of 3% will be included in grant application budgets for all graduate students to be funded by the grant,

Whereas the University has decided to implement a new policy such that effective 1 July 2012, tuition remission recover and fringe benefits rates for graduate assistant will also apply to existing gift accounts including LSU Foundation accounts, expired fixed price accounts, rebate accounts and tech transfer accounts,

Whereas existing gift accounts including LSU Foundation accounts, expired fixed price accounts, rebate accounts and tech transfer accounts lack any avenue for securing additional funds from the sponsor,

Whereas a 34% increase in costs for existing graduate assistants likely will have the effect of eliminating funding for a third of all existing graduate assistants,

Whereas graduate assistants are unlikely to complete their degrees without funding,

Whereas an increase in the number of graduate students failing to complete their degree programs will adversely affect metrics used to rank universities,

Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Senate supports the new policy such that beginning with proposals submitted after 1 January, 2012, a tuition remission rate of 31% and a fringe benefit rate of 3% will be included in grant application budgets for all graduate students to be funded by the grant,

Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Senate opposes the new policy such that effective 1 July 2012, tuition remission recover and fringe benefits rates for graduate assistants will also apply to existing gift accounts including LSU Foundation accounts, expired fixed price accounts, rebate accounts and tech transfer accounts,

Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Senate recommends that University cease adding funds existing gift accounts including LSU Foundation accounts, expired fixed price accounts, rebate accounts and tech transfer accounts, but continue to use those funds to support graduate assistants whose tuition remission and insurance are provided by F&A.

Read by John Nyman

Q&A Summary:

Jeff Nunn: We have an existing account where money comes in each year. Would this be affected?

John: We may have to put in language to address this. But I'm really talking about existing accounts with "old" money that would be affected by the new policy. New money that comes in should be under the new rules.

Senator: I'm on the Council of Research and we were told that existing accounts would not be affected by the new rules.

John: I heard the same thing, but when the official notice came out it included these old accounts.

Kerry: So do you want to include accounts where new money comes into?

John: New money needs to be separate from old money.

Senator: What happens for a three year grant that started under the old rule, but some annual money comes in under the new rules?

John: I don't know. That is an issue that we aren't addressing with this resolution.

General discussion & agreement: If the grant was submitted before Jan 1 it is exempt. Any money in an account before Jan 1 should also be exempt.

Friendly amendment to include language from the general discussion above about excluding money prior to Jan 1 from this "taxation".

Friendly Amendment and overall Resolution both Pass unanimously (resolution above is the final amended resolution)

Second and Final reading:

Faculty Senate Resolution 11–22
Civil Disobedience on Campus: Rights and Responses
Sponsored by John Protevi

Whereas the theory and practice of nonviolent civil disobedience is one of the great moral achievements of the past 200 years,

Whereas in particular the use of nonviolent civil disobedience was an essential part of the movements for women's suffrage and for African-American civil rights that changed American society forever,

Whereas our charge as educators includes the nurturing of proper means of expression of the consciences of our students,

Whereas the "negotiated management" paradigm for dealing with nonviolent civil disobedience[1] was widely and successfully used in the 1980s and 1990s and offers both police and nonviolent civil disobedience participants the opportunity to negotiate the conditions of arrests, and is thereby congruent with university values of reasoned discourse,

Whereas the "strategic incapacitation" paradigm in wide current use eschews the practice of negotiation, and is thereby incompatible with the values of universities,

Whereas the "strategic incapacitation" paradigm licenses the use of batons, pepper spray, sound cannons, rubber bullets, and other "less lethal" weapons, without negotiation,

Whereas some of these weapons have been recently used in shocking and unjustified displays of violence by university police at the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of California, Davis,

Therefore, the Faculty Senate of Louisiana State University calls upon the Chancellor of the University to forbid the use of "strategic incapacitation" tactics on University grounds when dealing with nonviolent civil disobedience, to mandate the immediate adoption of, and training in, the "negotiated management" paradigm by University police when dealing with nonviolent civil disobedience, and to commit the University to policies that protect the rights of students, faculty, and staff to engage in the historically significant and morally justified practice of nonviolent civil disobedience on University grounds.

[1] Patrick F Gillham, *Securitizing America: Strategic Incapacitation and the Policing of Protest Since the 11 September 2001 Terrorist Attacks*. *Sociology Compass* 5/7 (2011): 636–652, 10.1111/j.1751-9020.2011.00394.x (<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1751-9020.2011.00394.x/full>).

Read by John Protevi

Q&A Summary:

Kerry Dooley: What if some group is occupying my building and all the offices. Is that a non-violent act?

John: Well, that would depend on the situation.

Kerry: I consider that a semi-violent act and that police can use reasonable force to remove these people who are illegally occupying state property. If the police bruise a few protesters I don't have a problem with that. So I want to know what I'm voting on here.

John: I want the Chancellor to work with the police to try and negotiate with the protesters instead of resorting to violence.

Kerry: Do you really think that our Chancellor would resort to violence?

John: Well the Chancellors of the UC schools did.

Graham Brody: Our Chancellor praised the crowd during the flag burning incident last year. This was hardly a peaceful crowd.

Bill Stickle: I think this is just another barrier to enforcing our laws.

John: I think we need some controls to prevent an overly violent response from our Chancellor and Police.

Larry Rouse: Do we know what the LSU police protocols for incidents like this are? Perhaps there are controls already in place?

Rebecca Owens: I agree that we should do more research and investigation on this before voting on a resolution.

Kevin: We can go ahead to vote on the resolution, we can defer the resolution till next time and see if John gets more information, or we can table the resolution and appoint a “task” force to research this further.

John: I think this resolution will either confirm that good procedures are in place or that the university should consider this more carefully.

Rebecca: I move that we defer this resolution and have John find more information.

Seconded and passed to defer with one or two objections.

Second and final reading:

LSU Faculty Senate Resolution 11–24
Including International Scholarly Activities in PS-36 Promotion and Tenure Documents
Introduced at the Request of Lawrence Datnoff, Bruce Sharkey, and Hector Zapata
of the Faculty Senate International Education Committee

Read by Lawrence Datnoff

Whereas the LSU Flagship 2020 recognizes the importance of internationalizing the University;

Whereas international activities have been listed as important performance indicators in the areas of Discovery, Diversity and Engagement within the Flagship 2020;

Whereas it is widely recognized that successful university internationalization must be faculty driven;

Whereas an internationalization taskforce appointed by the LSU Provost conducted a faculty wide survey in 2010 and found 10% of the Professors listed promotion and tenure considerations as an deterrent to international activities;

Whereas the internationalization taskforce also found a lack of information and a lack of resources to be a deterrent to faculty members who wish to engage in international activities;

Whereas the prestigious Boyd Professorship is awarded to outstanding members of the faculty who have attained national or “international” distinction for outstanding teaching, research or other creative achievement;

Whereas the current Promotion and Tenure (PS-36) document makes mention of the word international only once under scholarship;

Whereas there is a need to clarify and provide substantive criteria for internationalization in PS-36 so that faculty members understand its importance and that international accomplishments and activities are given a standing in PS-36;

Whereas many LSU peer institutions such as the University of Florida have incorporated internationalization into their P&T policies with a nation-wide trend of doing the same;

Whereas LSU has an unprecedented opportunity to become the global flagship institution in the Gulf south region since the State of Louisiana has a commercial global presence and a rich cultural history;

Therefore be it resolved that the LSU Faculty Senate recommends that PS-36 should be revised to reflect the encouragement, support and reward of international related scholarly activities in the areas of discovery, creative works, learning, diversity and engagement.

Read by Lawrence Datnoff

Q&A Summary:

Larry Rouse: There should be some sort of statement that international activities will not be viewed negatively.

Senator: Many faculty publish in international journals, so shouldn't this just go into the faculty vita?

Lawrence: We want to see something in PS-36 that states clearly that international activities are worthwhile and should be rewarded. We want to be a global university.

Guest: I fully support this, but are we proposing to revise PS-36 or just to add an amendment. I also don't want to see faculty that don't do any international activities to be “punished”.

Bill: We want to add some international activity language to PS-36. We also don't view lack of international activity to be a detriment.

Resolution passes with one objection.

New Business

First Reading:

Faculty Senate Resolution 12-1 Graduate Faculty Status: Confidence in Colleagues and their Credentials

Introduced at the request of A. R. P. Rau

Whereas participation in graduate education is integral to being a tenure-track or tenured faculty member at a Flagship University, and

Whereas policy for many years as stated in the LSU General Catalog (2010-11, p.335) is that new full professors are accorded a 7-yr Full Member status in the Graduate School and all full professors extended to permanent status after another 7-yr review, and

Whereas the Graduate Dean and academic deans seem now to be drafting a policy that requires annual certification of continuing Graduate Faculty status for all tenured faculty by the chair of the unit, and

Whereas this amounts in effect to an annual review for tenured faculty of just the most significant component of their duties and thus incompatible with "indefinite tenure" as usually understood, and

Whereas this new policy has not been presented at any Graduate Faculty meeting or to the Faculty Senate, and is being promulgated by deans without deliberation by faculty groups, and

Whereas the search for a new, permanent Graduate Dean has only just concluded while one is under way for Executive Vice-Chancellor and Provost, and

Whereas a drastic change in tenure policy at LSU is likely to have major impact on the health of this institution, especially in the caliber of students and faculty we attract, and

Whereas such changes, therefore, require careful thought, deliberation and discussion involving also the faculty under shared governance,

Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Senate rejects this modified policy being proposed and calls for its withdrawal, and

Be it further resolved that no changes in current practice occur till the new Graduate Dean and Executive Vice-Chancellor and Provost have examined all the implications while consulting with the Graduate Council and have presented any proposed changes to the Graduate Faculty for its vote.

Read by Ravi Rau

Accepted into debate.

Q&A Summary:

George Stanley: I agree with this resolution. But why do we have graduate faculty status in the first place?

Ravi: Many universities do not make any distinction of graduate faculty status like we do. Furthermore, it doesn't make any sense to do an annual review of graduate faculty status.

New Senator: I think the wording in the fourth whereas linking graduate faculty status with tenure is not correct.

Ravi: Not directly, but losing graduate faculty status could be seen by some Deans as a trigger for trying to revoke tenure.

George Stanley: If I lose graduate faculty status I can't teach graduate classes and I can't supervise graduate students. That means I can't do research or get research grants. That can lead to loss of tenure.

Senator: My program only teaches graduate students so if I lose graduate faculty status I can't teach. So I'll be fired.

Vince Licatta: I propose a friendly amendment to moderate some of your language in the resolution.

Ravi: I'm OK with putting in more moderate language. But I believe that the administration needs to be more considerate of faculty.

Friendly amendment passes unanimously (revised resolution language shown above for voting at next meeting).

First Reading:

Faculty Senate Resolution 12-2 Distinguishing Faculty Evaluation Criteria from LA GRAD Act Standards

Introduced at the request of the Umbrella Policies Committee of the Association of Louisiana

Faculty Senates and of the Louisiana Statewide Colleagues' Collaborative

Whereas the Louisiana Granting Resources and Autonomy for Diplomas Act, commonly known as the LA GRAD Act (as amended in LA GRAD Act 2), creates an assortment of incentives for higher education institutions to increase the production of baccalaureate and advanced degrees as well as of certificates;

Whereas the LA GRAD Act and its amendments measure productivity only numerically, without guidance regarding standards and without invocation of those checks and balances enforced by accreditation agencies;

Whereas Act 356 of the 2009 Louisiana legislature encourages higher education institutions to accept transfer credit with or without exit or entrance examinations;

Whereas the Board of Regents has routinely terminated programs on the basis of low completion rates, thereby creating an incentive to ease requirements for completion of curricula;

Whereas untenured faculty, who comprise a large segment of the teaching staff of Louisiana universities and who teach a large share of those general education courses that serve as gateways to senior college admission, lack the job security and influence to resist calls for increased retention and “productivity”;

Whereas the administration of Southeastern Louisiana University, a large institution that competes for students with LSU, has announced its intention to “realign” criteria for promotion and pay increases with expectations created by the LA GRAD Act and its amendments;

Whereas the Faculty Senate of Southeastern Louisiana State University has declined to support the aforementioned “realignment” of criteria and has urged the administration to rethink its plans;

Whereas faculty leaders at Southeastern Louisiana University have joined with the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates and the Louisiana Statewide Colleagues’ Collaborative in asking for support from faculty senates statewide in their effort to resist the “realignment” of evaluation criteria;

Whereas the goal of increasing the production of educated, clear-thinking and informed citizens and professionals is better advanced by the maintenance of high standards than by the creating of incentives to promote what University of Louisiana System President Randy Moffett has called “moving students through the system”;

Therefore be it resolved that the LSU Faculty Senate affirms its opposition to any attempt to predicate evaluation, promotion, or any other form of career advancement of the faculty on achievement of, contribution to, or support of LA GRAD Act goals;

And therefore be it further resolved that the LSU Faculty Senate urges Louisiana universities to evaluate faculty on the basis of their teaching, service, or research (as is appropriate to institutional mission) rather than on their response to the LA GRAD Act or any other legislation or political pressure.

Read by Kevin Cope; We’ve been asked by other state-wide institutions to present this resolution to our faculty senate to provide support.

Accepted into debate.

Q&A Summary:

Bill Stickle: I think this is one of the most important and proactive resolutions I’ve seen.

Kevin: Thanks!

George Stanley: I move that we suspend the rules and vote on this today.

Seconded.

Vote to suspend the rules regarding bypassing a second reading and having a full quorum both pass.

Resolution passes unanimously.

Adjournment at 5:30 PM