

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Tuesday October 1, 2013
Student Senate Room, LSU Student Union



Attendance

Faculty Senate Executive Committee members present:

- | | |
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| 1. Kevin L. Cope (President, English) | 2. Ken McMillin (Vice-President, Animal Sciences) |
| 3. Joan King (Secretary, Food Science) | 4. Judith Schiebout (Member-at-Large) |
| 5. Suresh Rai (Member-at-Large) | 6. Judith Sylvester (Member-at-Large) |

Parliamentarian: Louay Mohammed

Senators present (X = Present; A = Alternate; P = Proxy):

1 P Aghazadeh, Fereydoun (Mech Eng/Eng)	23 P Dorian Dorado (Foreign Lan Lit/HSS)	45 A Carl Motsenbocker (Horticult/Ag)
2 X Fakhri Al-Bagdadi (Comp. Biomed Sci/Vet)	24 x Susan Eades (Vet Clinical Sci/Vet)	46 X Dan Novak (English/HSS)
3 X Sibel Ales Bargu (Oceanography/C&E)	25 Kenneth Fasching-Varner (Ed T Pol Prac/Ed)	47 Seth Orgel (Music/Music Dramatic Arts)
4 Austin Allen (Landscape Arch./AD)	26 Kristin Gansle (Education/HSS)	48 X Evelyn Orman (Music/Music & DA)
5 X Linda Allen (Chemistry/Sci)	27 X Jeff Gillespie (Ag Econ/Ag)	49 X Irvin Peckham (Eng/HHS)
6 X Reid Bates (SHWRED/HSE)	28 X Linda Smith Griffin (Libraries/Library)	50 Rosemary Peters (French/HSS)
7 X Jennifer Baumgartner (Child Family/HSE)	29 P Gundela Hachmann (Foreign Lang Lit/HHS)	51 X Suresh Rai (Elect & Comp/Eng)
8 X Richard Bengston (BAE/Eng)	30 Jong Ham (Plant Path/Ag)	52 X Margaret Reams (Environ Studies/C&E)
9 David Bertolini (Architect/A&D)	31 A Wes Harrison (AGEC/Ag)	53 X Judith Rhodes (Social Work/HSS)
10 P Graham Bodie (Comm Studies/HSS)	32 X Richard Holben (Drama/Music & DA)	54 Jeffrey Roland (Philos Rel Studies/HSS)
11 William Boelhower (English/HSS)	33 X Stuart Irvine (Philos Relig/HHS)	55 X Rousel, Charles (Economics/Business)
12 X Dorin Boldor (Biol Eng/Ag-Eng)	34 X Sherif Ishak (Civil Environ Eng/Eng)	56 Gary Sanger (Finance/BA)
13 A Lillian Bridwell-Bowles (English/HSS)	35 P Dorothy Jacobsen (Kinesiology/Ed)	57 X Judith Schiebout (Geology/Science)
14 X John Caprio (Bio Sci/Sci)	36 X Joan King (Food Sci/Ag)	58 X Andrew Schwarz (Info Sys Dec Sci/Bus)
15 Russell Carson (Kinesiology/Ed)	37 Gus Kosoulas (Biological Sci/Vet Med)	59 X Stephen Shipman (Math/Science)
16 Lauren Coates (English/HSE)	38 P Robin Kurz (Library Info Sci/HSE)	60 X William Stickle (Biological Sci/Sci)
17 X Kevin Cope (English/HSS)	39 X Vince LiCata (Biological Sci/Sci)	61 X Judith Sylvester (Mass Com/Mass Com)
18 X Belinda Davis (Poly Sci/HSS)	40 A Ron Malone (Envir Eng/Eng)	62 X Ramachandran Vaidyanathan (EE Comp/Eng)
19 William Daly (Chemistry/Sci)	41 X Mandi Lopez (Vet Clinical Sci/Vet)	63 P Muhammed Wahab (Mech Indust Eng/Eng)
20 X Jeffrey Davis (Entomology/Ag)	42 X Kenneth Kip Matthews (Physics Astro/Sci)	64 Christopher Weber (Polysci/HSS)
21 X Charles Delzell (Math/Sci)	43 X Ken McMillin (Animal Sci/Ag)	65 Jun Zou (Interior Design/AD)
22 X John DiTusa (Phys Astron/Sci)	44 P Jacquelyn Sue Moffit (Acct/Business)	

Guests:

Donna Love	Elliot Thompson	Patrick Dennis	Ashley Berthelot
Robert Doolos	Ernie Ballard	Leigh Griffin	Gil Reeve

Consideration of the Minutes from September 3, 2013

Motion by Al Bagdadi, seconded by William Stickle.
 Approved unanimously with potential corrections.

Comments by and discussion with LSU System President F. King Alexander

Ninety percent of the federal government Department of Education has been furloughed. There may be lasting effects. There are also National Institute of Health issues for grant funding. There is no real direct impact on student aid. Pell grants have been extended. We are more worried about the sequester issue moving into January and starting all over again. Our representatives in Washington seem to not be concerned about sequester. They believe that 5% of these funds have been reduced and no one is hurting from them. Many grants have been held hostage and many of the funding agencies have been sitting on their hands waiting to see what will happen. There are prolonged answers to grant applications and many agencies are not enthusiastic about putting out much money due to sequester.

The Department of Education has come out with a new score card that you can access online. It showcases cost of institution to a family to compare to other schools. It is a college score card that shows us in relation to other universities in many areas, such as borrowing rate and student default rate. Our students graduate with some of the least college debt in the country. The student indebtedness has reach over \$1 trillion. This enables us to separate ourselves from the other universities that charge over \$50,000 per year.

On campus I look forward to questions about the consolidation of agriculture. Our AgCenters and research station are in every parish in the state and allow us to help communities and farmers around the state. They give us the opportunity to attach LSU to every senate and house district to every part of the state. Our AgCenter research stations allow us to hit everyone in the state. We do not have anything else that gives us the connection like that. Pennington has started to work with our AgCenters to help with rural health issues and families throughout Louisiana.

Many of you are involved in many searches underway. Out of the 12 deans we have 6 searches going on for deans, 2 chancellor searches, 108 faculty searches, 84 due to retirements and some who left to go to other institutions and 24 of which are continuations from last year.

Enrollment total is up about 300 students. We are at an 8 year high in undergraduates. Graduate students are up 18 students. To remain flat is good. We are at an all time high in African Americans students. We are up about 6% in African American students. We have the second largest Hispanic class. We are at a twelve year high for Asians students. New freshman were basically about even and down for out of state students. Out of state students have become hot commodities due to tuition. We went to Dallas and Atlanta to recruit out of state students. There is much competition. Many students are getting turned away from Georgia and we are competing heavily for these students. We find the most competition from states with dwindling high school graduation rates like Arkansas.

GPAs of the freshmen class went up from 3.47 to 3.49 and there was an increase in ACT scores of 30s and above.

We are three months into fundraising. We have raised \$30 million annually in the past. In the first three months of this year we raised \$33.2 million. Only \$4.5 is athletics, so most of the money is going to student scholarships and academics and to build our endowment. About a third of all fundraising will happen in November and December.

Every state is different for legislatures. He is glad that there is only a three months legislature session rather than a one year session in California. There seems to be sympathy for higher education. There is a high degree of sensitivity that higher education has taken a far more disproportionate share. We do not have federal courts that jump in when our prisons get over crowded and we do not have the Department of Justice saying we need to spend more on prisoners. We are trying to work with the federal governments to get similar provisions to prevent the state from backing out of higher education. This is a problem around the country, with Colorado to be first not to fund higher education in the future.

There have been many discussions about TOPS. Where should funding go, to the institution or the student? There are correlations between the Georgia Hope scholarship and TOPS. When you put financial aid on the table, including the American opportunity tax credit it makes higher education affordable. They can get \$2000 to \$2500 back. It costs the federal government \$20 billion with Pell grants only costing \$32 billion. Nearly 90% of students come to LSU on TOPS. The average student is paying \$920 in tuition. We are among the most affordable.

Last week our operational budgets were passed by Board of Supervisors. There was not a lot of new things in the budget anyway and that is for all campuses. We have had good responses from the governor and legislators for the raises. Hopefully that means they want to see it happen annually.

The transition advisory team report projects are underway, including more recruiting and the student success initiative. This is the number one issue for the national governors association and the federal government. We have fallen below other countries for affordable access and completion rates.

Our research foundation has a committee together to get the tech transfer operation going again. We want to make it more user friendly for faculty and get product ideas out to the markets more quickly. We are hoping to get recommendations in early December. I learned this at an early age, in middle school where he met Dr. Cade. He spent a lot of time at Dr. Cades office and he did well when he invented and patented Gatorade.

The big data initiative received a \$4 million grant to obtain big data. Other schools have lots of research opportunities to use big data.

We are trying to get a lot of autonomy through procurement. We are working on that in October and November. This has been a two year process to allow us to make our own deals with companies.

For unity of voice, all lobbyists will be together with a consistent federal agenda and state agenda. They are forming a common agenda at federal and state levels. The more we coordinate the agenda the more we know what all campus are doing, the better we will do with earmarks.

Bob Kuhn is working carefully to update the financial system because the cobalt system is so outdated, to make it more modern and so we do not have to worry about crashes.

Campus safety is here if you have questions about safety. We want a safe environment for you to work in. He thanked our security persons for what they do.

Q&A Summary:

Richard Bengston

Any chance to get legacy scholarships back for those out of state to get in state tuition?

President Alexander

They hammered me on this in Dallas and Georgia. We need to look at the numbers carefully, I am not opposed to get it back. It is better to get a 75th percentile and let them pay instate tuition. The competition is very much intensified. We have specific institutions that we recruit at and they told us about what other schools offer. The answer is yes I want to look at that.

Linda Smith Griffin

Could you give an update on the ombudsman position.

Provost

It is still on hold and under active consideration and whether it will be full or half time.

Richard Holben

There is some concern about the corporate model that we are starting to follow. The student to professor ratio is very important. Deans had heard from you that it was all about numbers and only those units that could significantly increase enrollment could increase significant faculty lines. We were making significant headway in the top tier group, but if it's only that issue then tell us. We have increased students without new faculty.

President Alexander

Numbers have grown with class sizes of 23.1 to 1. There are consequences for that. The salary increase was important because we know everyone is doing more with less. We are concerned about this. The numbers discussion to me is more important about outcomes of what we are doing. The way we can make headway is to show and define how well we are doing. We have people going into Teach for America, musicians, religious leaders, etc. The dialog is moving towards how many we can educate. For the students that we do get, are we giving them every opportunity to finish what they start. They do not have a chance if they drop out. The life long earnings average of a college dropout is the same as a high school student who never entered college. We want to factor all of the progress that we are making. With larger ratios it makes it harder to graduate them. Engineering and business are growing, whereas law is on a massive decline nationwide. We need to discuss where to put faculty when student demand changes. We are looking more broadly not just about numbers, but how we get students from point a to b. We cannot just say it is the students fault. Student services is important. We have never succeeded at this level with the numbers we are graduating. We do know everyone is working hard.

Vince LiCata

There have been reports about the honors college students losing their priority scheduling.

Robert Doolos

We did a review of priorities, 1/3 were in the highest priority, including honors, athletes, graduate students and those with disabilities. There were complaints from other students. They had a group look at this. The honors students still have priority. The senior degree candidates are given the first shot at scheduling. There tends to be attrition of honors students at the higher levels. Freshman and sophomores should not be competing with the degree candidates.

President

We can kill that rumor.

James Honeycutt

With the consolidation between the AgCenter and the College of Agriculture, what is status of consolidation with the Law School and Pennington?

President

There is nothing in the books right now. We are building bridges with Pennington and look forward to seeing where that ends up. This was just an opportunity that came up at that presented itself at the right time. All of the agriculture faculty and rural legislators came with the same idea that we would be much stronger together.

Charles Delzell

In math we have instructors at the lower end of the salary scale, so they supplement their salary by grading tests in the testing system. They get letters saying they have reached their PM-3 limit. This PM says you cannot make more than 30% beyond your basic salary. He has contacted HRM about issue through his rep to find out why there is a limit. He gets some answers like rearranging the math department. If LSU needs services and willing to work why to we keep a barrier? Let the departments negotiate with the faculty to decide how much compensation they can get.

President

This is also an issue in other universities.

Provost

We can check with HRM about the rules.

President Alexander

There are old rules about painting rooms in California and could only use two colors.

William Stickle

Wasn't PM-3 put in place due to faculty spending more time in private businesses?

Delzell

PM-11 covers that.

President Alexander

His greatest concern is that for profit institutions that would love to hire faculty for a weekend seminar to piggyback on LSU.

That does exist and it does concern us. Accreditation has lost some control. California has the same accreditation as the industrial park in Long Beach.

AG Monaco

It is Policy memorandum that is system wide that holds to 30% but it is closer to 160% due to summer teaching. We have same relationship rule that every other campus has as well. Since 1990 it has been 30% and for those on nine months it is 160%.

President's Report

1. The faculty senate monthly newsletter will be out soon. Many of the items in the presidents report will appear in the newsletter.
2. The plus minus grading committee has finished it work and implementation report which is only a recommendation. The report has been remanded to the office of the Provost.
3. On the FSEC we have outreached to auxiliary services and that is of the general opinion that some services have limitations. The new director Margo is industrious and asked the faculty senate executive committee to form a dinning and bookstore committee. We need one more on the dinning committee and need members for the bookstore committee.
4. The search for the new dean of the library committee had only a few faculty members, but in discussion with academic affairs we have more faculty on the committee and we have also asked for a library committee.
5. The budget Planning and Advisory committee continues to meet and has embarked on a new mission to provide information about the budget with help from Bob Kuhn,
6. There have been questions about leave without pay and maternity leave. AG will meet with FSEC on October 9 about these issues. AG looked up loyalty oaths.
7. There have been some complaints about game day barriers during the week.
8. At the system level, there has been enthusiasm about raises, but there has been wide spread concern about irregularity. We have entered into a dialog with the Provost to straighten out irregularities. The university wide group is discussing why other campuses are not getting raises.
9. At the state level there was the most successful state wide meeting with the three presidents. This set a new standard for faculty upper administrative meeting. Ken McMillin was material in expressing the use of faculty competence..
10. The statewide articulation and transfer counsel is still continuing meetings. There are certain dark and heavy forces at work to redefine general education in a more general way. Kevin Cope is on the counsel.
11. The BOR has made a good move in that it has formed a new committee with input from academic colleagues, professors, about the funding formula.
12. There is a new proposed higher education revenue district that is an attempt to find some form and order to pooling districts and shares paid and issues about property taxes in the state.

Q&A Summary:

None.

The United Way: Presentation by Susan Bell and Brandon Smith

Brandon Smith

Brandon serves at the community affairs in office of academic affairs. We have done a great job of giving back but are ready to recommit. We have had 4 years of decline. Coach Johnny Jones and Susan Bell are co-chairs. We need to tell everyone that part of being an LSU tiger is to give back. Even a gift of \$20 would be good. I am the driver from the administrative standpoint. We want to see LSU contribute in a valuable area to the community.

Susan Bell

We have set a new goal and will put up the signs at the edges of campus. You will get a broadcast email about donating. Go visit the portal to donate. In the past you could only give X amount of dollars to the United Way or you can chose a specific organizations. In the future you will be able to chose amounts for specific organizations. It touches us every day in communities all around Louisiana. It gives to the Salvation Army. It touches family members who have cancer. It reaches the ALS program. Think about how it touches you, your friends and other people. There will also be paper forms available.

Q&A Summary:

None.

Key issuance policy: Discussion with Tony Lombardo, Executive Director, Facility Services, Chief Rabalais and AG Monaco

Ten months ago the VC for finance encouraged everyone to improve safety on campus. We looked at issuance of keys and inconsistencies in doing this which is driving the need for the change. There is a push for background checks and separation processes that are becoming more robust and we must have a more consistent process when persons are separating from the universities.

AG Monaco

Some people who were separated due to issues like threats of violence left without laving their keys. Sometimes we had given out master keys to those who did not have a need for those keys.

Chief

In last decade we have had to look at different methods to deal with safety like active shooters. There was no process in place before this procedure. In the issue of separating persons from the university some people had master keys who should not have them. There was a tragic event at the Sciences Building. Before this process we had no idea who had keys. We do not deny anyone keys thus far. We just want to know who had the keys. This is no different than after the Boston bombing. We have the Victory walk at football. They had to look at their processes to look at safety for all those folks and it is the same in the key case.

AG Monaco

The distribution of master keys is a big issue. If we lose a grand master key it will cost lots of money to re-key the campus.

Tony Lombardo

It would cost \$10s of thousand of dollars. It was \$40,000 just to rekey mechanical and roof access for Life Sciences.

Q&A Summary:

None.

Dorin Bolder

You cannot stop someone from harming themselves by taking the key away. If someone wants to hurt other people they will plan ahead. These issues happen during normal business hours. It will only cost \$3 million to get electronic keys.

AG Monaco

We have to do everything we can to prevent these things from happening. I don't think we want a key policy to limit people from legitimate access. I totally disagree with your point. We have to be tighter with keys. One in 36 applicants for jobs have been convicted of a violent crime. We are doing backgrounds checks. We can improve the security in the distribution of the keys.

Vince LiCata

Did you get a copy of recent questions from senators? All of us are 100% to want to improve campus security. We have been hearing negative comments about this key policy and I understand you have started a task force. Maybe we can delay the policy until they work this out. There are already problems with keys.

Tony Lombardo

We have pulled together a group of 6 people from colleges. Ultimately the policy in place is the same as every research one university across the country. We want to streamline the process but need to control the keys so we know where they are.

Senator

We need an electronic key system so all you need to do is reprogram the system if people leave.

Tony Lombardo

We have migrated to that system in a number of buildings. It is quite expensive. The first door, one of them is \$50,000 for the brains of the system, then it is \$3000 to \$5000 for each door. That is also regulated by the fire marshal due to locked down of buildings. You cannot add a new one to the system without a fire license. We are working with the state on those issues.

AG Monaco

We are working on this but need Faculty Senate to help us make this a priority.

Senator

You know who is in the bldg, so it is good for fire issues also.

AG Monaco

It is extremely important especially in residence halls so you know who goes in and out.

Lombardo

The system is in place.

AG Monaco

The deans have recommended people for the committee. Can we add people fro Faculty Senate? Senator LiCata was suggested by Kevin Cope,

Richard Holben

Is there a way in an interim step that we can make sure that undergraduates get keys because it affects the QEP to allow undergraduates and graduate students to get keys in those cases?

Lombardo

We are working on that.

Senator

If I am mugged and lose my keys, will the faculty or dept be responsible for the costs of re-keying the building?

Tony Lombardo

I think there was some misunderstanding on personal responsibility. The department has to take some responsibility for the issue.

We can change it to there being one entry point in the building instead of all doors being accessible. We can do other security with a camera, if one key gets lost we only to replace one key in that instance.

AG Monaco

For personal expense no.

Senator

I don't want them to replace keys due to a crime.

Tony Lombardo

That was only \$40,000 for mechanical and roof access. We are no stranger to budget cut issues. We have cut \$6 million directly out of the budget.

AG Monaco

There is a lot that can go into this. We have done threat assessment. When a decision is made to rekey they do not have the power to say you pay. The concept that the department or individual will have to pay is not the intent of this policy. We are concerned about how many keys are out there.

Bolder

On first page it says departments. will be financially responsible.

AG Monaco

That is up to the Provost. We are not going to say do not hire a new faculty we need a new lock on the door.

William Stickle

Sub master keys were not handed out willy nilly. There was a physics student that got into the life science building with a master. Were the keys copied?

Tony Lombardo

We just would cut the key when someone asked.

AG Monaco

Legacy is an issue. They opened his draw when he started and there was a master key.

Tony Lombardo

It depended on the department and some have done such a good job managing the program. In some case there were 5 gallon buckets of keys with 20% master keys.

Joan King

Could you claim stolen keys on insurance?

AG Monaco

The issue mainly is that the person who stole the key does not know what the key is for. The problem with people leaving the university is that they do not leave their keys.

Tony Lombardo

The employee knows where to go get another key if someone leaves.

Chief

Back to the assault or lost keys report, we could work as a group if there is a police report we can talk through this and we cannot jump to a conclusion about this. We could discuss this issue. The key is access control. For electronics it is about who when in and left and the time.

Senator

Is there a move to electronic locks on campus?

Tony Lombardo

It is slow migration on new construction.

AG Monaco

These discussions are important to us. On campus when they prioritize the budget this body helps us in bringing these issues up.

Vince LiCata

This discussion helps in writing policies that reflect reality. You can interpret them in a harsh way.

Ishak Sherif

You mentioned the initial system in place it costs \$50,000 for start up cost and then \$5,000. Hotel rooms seem cheaper.

Tony Lombardo

Those are two different systems. Most of the dollar value in secondary doors is for labor and installation.

AG Monaco

We are not sure right now if we go campus wide if need expertise.

William Stickle

If the committee could come up with costs for each building., when we have salary savings when someone leaves they may be able to use that money for those systems.

Tony Lombardo

Engineering is doing this now with that type of money.

Mandi Lopez

What is the process for re-keying doors?

Tony Lombardo

The key type we use is a certain type so the core has to be changed. If the master disappears the cost goes up. \$50 to \$70 per door plus labor

Senator

I got charged \$500. Why can't we just electronic key the main doors and use regular keys indoors?

Tony Lombardo

This is how we are doing it in the engineering building.

Sherif Ishak

There is also electronic access to hallways.

Tony Lombardo

This is the approach for submasters rather than masters to control specific areas.

AG Monaco

Eventually we want to get to all electronic so you do not have a key or a card.

Senator

These procedures that we have, are these the final version or a draft?

Tony Lombardo

We have addressed that and need to update the policy in that regard. Send in a form and the key is cut and they can go in and sign for it.

Senator

What is the timeline for getting a key?

Tony Lombardo

At the start of fall semester it took longer time but would like to do so in two weeks.

AG Monaco

We are trying to balance the timing. In January we wanted to do finger printing for new employees, but now we went back to the background check.. We are still looking into these things. We knew there would e a problem at the beginning of the Fall semester.

Mandi Lopez

Have there been efforts to get all of the keys back?

Tony Lombardo

We are working on that.

Jeff Gillepse

Does the issue also hold for graduate students who are not employed?

Tony Lombardo

Employment has relation to it, but if the department requests it they can get a key.

Dorothy Jacobsen

Are you rekeying Huey P Long?

Tony Lombardo

We are working on this and we have lost 65 employees.

LSU Expert Database (Communications in the Office of Research

They are in beta testing of the expert database. They need help to check the system experts@lsu.edu. You can go in to add information as asked for. Include a colloquial term with your research topic. They are only opening up to small groups at a time. Researchnewsatslu.edu This will take place of college and department listing on websites instead of a directory.

Old Business

None.

New Business

First Reading of Resolution 13-12 “Consideration of Other Procurement and Service Changes”, sponsored by Ken McMillin on behalf of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Read by Ken McMillin

FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 13–12
“Consideration of Other Procurement and Service Changes”
Sponsored by Ken McMillin on behalf of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Whereas the continuing tight budgetary constraints of the university require constant and vigilant cost comparisons and savings analyses in all areas; and

Whereas a Spend Analysis is in the process of being conducted by the Office of Procurement Services; and

Whereas in FY 2012 \$13.5 million of the total \$251.9 million spend base was on travel, with approximately \$2.5 million spent on travel agents and \$5.5 million spent on commercial airlines; and

Whereas university travelers are required to use the contracted travel agency for the State of Louisiana; and

Whereas faculty and staff members report numerous varied difficulties with service provided by the contracted travel agency; and

Whereas Office of Accounting and Financial Services FASOP AS-02 states that the purpose of the University Travel Regulations are to establish a procedure to assist travelers in making travel arrangements and in the reimbursement of travel expenses, but does not given the name or contact information for the contracted state travel agency, and
Whereas contrary to FASOP AS-02 that states the use of the on-line bookings through the contracted travel agency can drastically reduce the costs paid per transaction; and
Whereas it is difficult to obtain permission for exceptions to the contracted travel agency fares to realize cost or schedule advantages to the university traveler; and
Whereas the upgrades to the contracted travel agency booking system announced by Accounting and Financial Services in January, 2013, have not resulted in marked improvements in the reservation services; and
Whereas the objective of the Office of Procurement Services is to procure goods and services to sustain, foster, and support the administrative, educational and research missions of the University; and

Whereas the LaGrad Act II authorized approved changes in the procurement practices of the university and many of those changes are not being effected;

Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Senate urges that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee meet with the Interim Vice Chancellor and CFO of Finance and Administrative Services, Executive Director of Procurement Services and Property Management, Accounting Services Associate Vice Chancellor, and Facility Services Executive Director to determine an action plan for improving travel and other services impacting faculty and staff members in performing their expected activities and responsibilities for the university.

Motion to advanced to discussion moved and approved.

Q&A Summary:

Richard Holben

Is any part of this addressing the rather outdated daily per diem amounts for some areas of the country?

Ken McMillin

That was a sticky point that Donna Torrez fought really hard for us.

Kevin Cope

The picture I worse than Ken's answer. There has been a scaled back on the per diem. It has been reduced by one dollar. The privilege of using ones own car has been rescinded with need for special permission.

Ken McMillin

We did get a detailed analysis from the procurement people. It astounded me that we spend \$5.5 million in airlines.

Vince LiCata

When I book travel on the travel agency it shows me that I am paying the agents \$5. Is there some hidden cost?

Ken McMillin

That is an issue we can cover.

Kevin Cope

There are ways to slip in costs such as in calling.

Ken McMillin

If you want a special ticket to fly into a small area they request more money. If we had gotten tickets a week ago, in the 5 days of trying to get approval now it is \$1005 for two persons.

Mandi Lopez

What was the initial reason for only using one place for travel.

Ken McMillin

Downtown.

Kevin Cope

The services fees would be shared with the state to make up operating expenses.

Ken McMillin

We have always had to use a travel agency for travel services.

Mandi Lopez

Is this unique to LSU?

Ken McMillin

Some colleagues of his at other universities are able to search on their own. It is almost a level that they do not trust us.

Mandi Lopez

I don't find that it has any affect on travel.

Ken McMillin

The explanation is that there is a cost savings. If we took a poll in at least one trip that is not the case.

Larry Crumbley

Who owns Shorts Travel?

Ken McMillin

The headquarters is in Iowa. Some of you remember Carlson Wagon Light travel who had most of the state. But their system could not keep up.

Stickle moved to adjourn and it was seconded by all.

Adjourned at 5:06 PM