

LSU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
3:00 P.M., Tuesday, November 3, 2009
Cotillion Ballroom, LSU Union
Attendance



Faculty Senate Executive Committee members present:

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| 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. Renée Casbergue (Secretary, Education) | 5. Ken McMillin (Member-at-Large, Animal Science) |

Parliamentarian: Charles N. Delzell (present)

Senators present:

1. Fred Aghazadeh	2. Mary Catherine Aime	3. Linda Allen	4. Sue Bartlett
5. Gabriel Beavers	6. Jennifer Curry	7. Charles Delzell	8. Susan Dumais
9. Kristi Dykema	10. Bruce Eilts	11. John Fletcher	12. Kristopher Fletcher
13. Juhan Frank	14. Craig Freeman	15. Wanda Hargroder	16. Dominique Homberger
17. Paul Hrycaj	18. P. Lynn Kennedy	19. Richard Kurtz	20. Ed Laws
21. Joseph Legoria	22. Mandi Lopez	23. Kevin McCarter	24. Patrick McGee
25. Evelyn Orman	26. Rebecca Owens	27. John Protevi	28. Steve Ross
29. Lawrence Rouse	30. Kresimir Rupnik	31. Kelly Ann Rusch	32. Cristina Sabliov
33. Frederick Sheldon	34. Edward Song	35. Dianne Taylor	36. Phillip Tebbutt
37. Dottie Vaughn	38. Muhammad Wahab	39. Edwardf Watson	40. Paul Wilson
41. Yi-jun Xu			

Proxies for absent Senators:

John Fletcher for Michael Bowman
 Linda Allen for Erwin Poliakoff
 Lynn Kennedy for Joshua Detre
 Kristi Dykema for Justin Walsh
 Paul Hrycaj for Michael Russo
 Robert Ward for Boryung Ju
 Jennifer Curry for Jennifer Jolly

Kevin Cope for Jeffrey Tiger
 Danny Shipka for Craig Freeman
 Kristopher Fletcher for Sue Weinstein & Jeremy King
 Fahui Wang for Michael Leitner
 Bruce Eilts for Steve Gaunt
 Muhammed Wahab for Fred Aghazadeh

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

Brittan Barker (3)	Kathleen Bratton (2)	Joseph Francis	Michael Krom (3)
Joseph Francis	Wes Harrison	Andrea Houston	Lisa Johnson
Jeff Kuehny	Alison McFarland	Heather McKillop	Gail Sutherland
Edward Song	Richard White		

Guests Attending Meeting:

Robert Doolos (University Registrar)	Astrid Merget (Executive Vice-Chancellor & Provost)	Sehzad Sooklall
Lea Goodwin	Jan Shoemaker	Brian Ainswith
Vikranigeet Singh	Sarah Eddington	Christine Derbins
Emily McCalla	Andrew Rouchstone	Matthew Hilliard
Stacia Haynie	Mallory Trodressa	Derek Cowherd
Walt Holliday	Jordan Blum (Advocate)	

Consideration of the Minutes from October 2009

Motion to accept minutes (A. Christie; second, R. Owens) - Passed unanimously.

President's Report

LSU-BR News:

- New nametags for all senate members.
- Thanks to George Stanley for getting all videos to date posted on the senate website.
- Active senate committees are making progress; reports will be forthcoming.
- Faculty representatives will be included in the search for Vice Chancellor for Student Services and Enrollment Management (five volunteers plus FSEC members). The academic focus of initiatives from this office will be the focus of questions and discussion during one-hour interview slots for each candidate.
- A subcommittee has been formed to continue examination of the issue of proliferation of executive titles among LSU administrators.
- The bargaining and representation committee is planning to hold focus group sessions to poll faculty about a variety of issues, including ORP.
- The instructional effectiveness and review board reports progress in developing the Quality Enhancement Plan for SACS 5 year affirmation.
- An inventory of faculty senate documents (dating from the 1970s) has been completed. Efforts to store documents are being coordinated with the Hill Library and the State Archives.
- Pratul Ajmera is leading a revision of PS 1 - omnibus policy statement that includes interim appointment policies.
- Facilities Services reports that Easy Streets 2 is under way.

System News:

- The LSU Faculty Senate is taking the lead for faculty senates in the LSU system. A subcommittee of this group will be exploring issues such as assignment of junior faculty to governance positions where they are then manipulated by senior faculty.
- Personnel action forms are posted online every six weeks, revealing raises given system wide (even in times when a "no raises" policy is in place).
- Problems with Getting There travel system are ongoing. Kevin is in discussion with Donna Torres who is working behind the scenes on travel related issues. Navigant/Carlson Wagonlit will be losing its travel contract.
- Donna Torres is putting accounting services website tabs to help explain basic functions on this website.

State News:

- Statewide advisory panel for articulation is setting up a system to explain articulation to high school counselors. The process favors LSU since our core program for years 1 and 2 is what is being recommended.
- Kevin has developed talking points for interactions with the Nevers commission: 1) complementary missions should be considered as institutions are grouped for governance purposes; 2) communication among institutions for faculty collaboration and exchange should be stressed as this will lead to productive pooling of expertise.
- The Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates will meet on the LSU campus.

National News:

- The University of Florida faculty senate president will visit LSU to observe our governance system.

Sesquicentennial Celebration update:

Nancy Lyttle, Mallory T.(?), and Jan Shoemaker are chairing the LSU Serves the World initiative. Theme: Reflect, Celebrate, and Commit.

Jan Shoemaker discussed the Chancellor's Service Awards. An awards committee is being created to include faculty and staff representation. The committee will finalize criteria and announce the nomination process.

Milestone events include: Martin Luther King Day of Service, LSU Day, Community Bound Service Pledge, and LSU Homecoming.

Cox Communication Academic Center for Student Athletes

New Executive Director, Kenneth Miles provided an overview of the services offered at the center. He introduced teams of individuals who work together to provide services for student athletes, including Academic Affairs, Student Affairs, Shaquille O'Neal Life skills Program, and Information Technology support. Discussed the Total Team Commitment concept: Vision, Mission, Goals, and Values. Motto: It Starts Now.

Discussion Summary:

Senator....: Are health and wellness tracked for NCAA athletes?

Miles: Yes. They use health services, and we do outreach to athletes. Health services personnel mediate coaches' or trainers' messages (such as gaining or losing weight) to athletes.

Senator...: Do we know what the stats are?

Miles: No. That's NCAA. We can provide safe space for discussion.

Senator...: With regard to Cox...(noted "coincidence" of contract for dorm wiring timed to coincide with endowing buildings):
Students have to pay whether they want it or not.

Miles: First I've heard of it.

Senator...: Any movement toward players' collective bargaining / union?

Miles: Don't see that coming at all.

Didier: Every NCAA institution has a student advisory committee with representation at campus, conference, and NCAA level so student voices are heard.

Senator...: If collective bargaining becomes more widespread, we shouldn't be surprised if students do it (organize).

Protevi: What of NCAA targets for graduation, etc. Any concerns?

Miles: No concerns. (Explains point system.) No issues for LSU as assessed by the NCAA.

Cope: Regarding media training: students have been punished in the past for speaking out. Are there measures to ensure that students aren't censored?

Miles: Our focus is on teaching students to hear questions and answer in context appropriately. We stress skills versus content.

Scheduling for Emergency Interruption and Spring Break

Registrar Robert Doolos provided an overview of the new schedule to make up for emergency interruptions of classes, with varying responses depending on how many class days are disrupted.

Summary of Discussion:

Christie: There is a problem with students showing up for Saturday classes.

Doolos: (Attendance) might be zero. The policies will be reworked if they don't work.

Christie: Are there state guidelines driving this? Might be an empty excuse.

Frank: Last time about half showed up.

Taylor: I'm curious about two-day absence. Monday / Tuesday - why respond for two days if only one class is missed?

Haynie: Valid point. Perhaps the policy should be modified for that. We did want to avoid coercing faculty - allow them to make a choice.

Casbergue: Could the policy be class days versus calendar days missed?

Kurtz: Some courses meet every day.

Doolos: We do mean calendar days. Last time we gave faculty options - some students were inconvenienced for 3 or 4 Saturdays.

Cope: Is there some action needed?

Doolos: Send feedback to me.

Wilson: Consider broadcast announcement and request for feedback from everyone.

Spring Break issue: Attempt to align spring break with local schools' spring break means that there may occasionally be only one or two weeks between the break and final exams. This has already been adjusted for 2011 because there would be only one week between break and finals. Guidance from the faculty is needed regarding long term policy.

Summary of Discussion:

Wilson: How is the "week" defined? Does it always include Friday?

Doolos: The week begins on Sunday.

- Delzell: I thought this had to do with coordinating with schools. The recommendation was arrived at to coincide with the EBR calendar. We're off base in our discussion here.
- Doolos: Yes, but they don't set theirs far in advance.
- Senator...: Always go with Chinese New Year - we'd hit the middle more often. (Laughter)
- Casbergue: Is there an optimal minimum number of weeks between breaks and exams?
- Christie: We need to avoid a chopped up semester.
- McGee: Hardship for families - faculty with children. If coordination isn't possible, make adjustments.
- Daly: Allow three weeks. Go with After Easter unless that would leave less than three weeks.
- Owens: What is best for students? What is the more logical point for a break if we view it as good regenerative time?
- Cope: This policy affirms our desire to align with school systems. After it passed, I received a wave of e-mail with the opposite view.
- Christie: Los Angeles has dozens of school systems. They can't coordinate with all of them.
- Protevi: We should be concerned with LSU and a calendar that makes sense for students.
- Ross: It is hard on families to coordinate. How is this different from Thanksgiving?
- Senator...: Can we choose to have spring break at Easter except when less than X number of weeks?
- Protevi: Now how to best please faculty, but what's best for LSU.
- Wilson: If EBR waits until the last minute, let our calendar influence theirs.
- Cope: EBR School System is not kind in this regard.
- Rouse: Why just EBR? The Assumptions that all children go there is erroneous.
- McGee: Is there evidence that students are regenerated by spring break? If we're going to entertain what's best for students, is ending earlier instead better?
- Linda Allen: Remember that Mardi Gras provides a mini break before spring break. My students are also parents who are disadvantaged. Multiple school districts are generally similar.
- Protevi: We can't coordinate with EBR evidently. That's not the issue we're considering.
- Cope: BR school system is not cooperative. Their semester is longer than LSU's.
- Doolos: We need to balance views. Can we follow Bill's suggestion - follow the current rule and deviate if there aren't three weeks?
- Lilly Allen: Can't we adjust if we know the calendar in advance?
- Christie: Everything in my class is comprehensive. Can't be chopped up. Continuity is destroyed.
- Rusch: Question is psychological mindset of student. If only one week, they have checked out. Three weeks lets students get back into school.
- Wilson: I can support Bill's proposal. With at least two weeks then can readjust.
- Laws: Irony - break to regenerate / rejuvenate - but it is disruptive.
- Ross: We're unlikely to reach consensus on minimum number of weeks. I can live with two.
- Daly: I move at least three weeks following spring break.
- Christie: Second.
- Rouse: Clarifying implications for specific years - move to week of Good Friday vs. week after Easter.
- Kennedy: Clarifies week for 2011...
- Doolow: 2011 is already set.
- Cope: Bill will formulate a motion and we will discuss and vote next time.
- Delzell: If motion fails means there will be a 2 week minimum as per Doolos's chart.
- McGee: In past spring break was coordinated with the week of Good Friday.
- Doolos: Regardless there are 42 MWF classes.
- Ajmera: That is not always true. This fall semester, if the class is on Wednesday afternoons, there are only 41 classes.
- Doolos: Yes, that is true. Also, there are 41 classes if the class falls on a MWF morning during the spring semester.

Uses of the ACT Writing Component (notes from here forward compiled by Pratul Ajmera and Ken McMillin)

Summary of Discussion

- Stacia Haynie: Proposal from Admissions to not require ACT writing component. This was passed by ASH Committee at its last meeting. LSU does not consider the Writing scores in its general admission requirements though Honors College does. LSU uses composite score and math scores but not writing component.
- Andrews: He was chair of ASH when this was done. They were not sure what to do with it but included it as it was "free".
- Stacia Haynie: Honors college utilizes Writing component – requires essays for their admission. There is no correlation with writing scores and other measures. English does not require writing scores. 257 students have been admitted but have not taken

writing part of ACT. It will be difficult to request them to retake the ACT with writing included. Need to resolve this as soon as possible.

Kevin Cope: ASH has received the current proposal and has “jurisdiction” this.

Kurtz: Will it cost us anything if we stop requiring this (Writing component)?

Andrews: University got it free if we signed up upfront. So we required it.

Haynie: Initially, Honors College concern was that they would not have access to it. But, Honors College will continue to have access to writing component. Students get charged for it.

Ed: Why is Honors College using it if there is no correlation?

Haynie: To get writing sample.

Doolos: It is done in a controlled environment so it is students’ work. That is why Honors College uses it.

The motion was approved without any dissent.

Haynie: Not a bean counter but this means \$1 million in revenue (for 257 students).

Old Business

Kevin: Proposed a request for deferment of Resolution 09-07 on Furlough Plan. The Multi-Year budget report will be out in 2-3 weeks. Wait till then. Defer it for another month.

Kevin proposed to divide the proposal into two parts 1) on whether furlough should ever be applied and 2) outline of trigger and the form of furlough if it is applied. Will Senator Raul(?) will allow postponing for another month.

Delzell: Is the latest version of the Resolution distributed is same as the previous one or does it incorporate changes discussed in the last Senate meeting?

Kevin: Includes proposed changes.

Anderw: ?

Protevi: Prefers to use “social justice” rather than “social welfare” in response to the latter term being used by in Kevin’s remark.

Kevin: 50-50% use.

_____? Proposed a delay for another month. Protevi seconded it. Passed by voice vote.

New Business

Kevin: New Business. Read Resolution 09-10.

Faculty Senate Resolution 09–10

“University Admissions Standards and the Restructuring of Louisiana Higher Education”

Whereas Faculty Senates throughout Louisiana are charged with stewardship of the educational missions, curricula, and students service offerings of their institutions;

Whereas the LSU Faculty Senate traditionally takes a leadership position among Faculty Senates and is often asked for guidance by faculty governance bodies at other universities;

Whereas continuing instabilities in Louisiana’s economy have placed sometimes unreasonable pressures on campus, university system, and state officials to intensify the recruitment of students;

Whereas the establishment of the Louisiana Postsecondary Education Review Commission, colloquially known as the “Tucker Commission,” suggests that major adjustments in the structure of Louisiana higher education will be forthcoming and that with those adjustments will also come new expectations concerning the missions of Louisiana universities and the characteristics of their student clientele;

Whereas all faculty governance units in the LSU System have demonstrated a high degree of responsibility and wisdom in the management of admissions requirements;

Whereas the Admissions, Standards, and Honors Committee (“ASH”) of the LSU Faculty Senate has established a record of prudent guidance in the area of enrollment management as well as in the selection of students and the definition of the LSU educational mission;

Whereas the ASH Committee is also preparing a slate of recommendations for future adjustments to admissions requirements;

Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Senate reaffirms its commitment to and responsibility for the maintenance and supervision of admissions requirements at LSU; that it likewise affirms the value and necessity of high admissions standards at the “Flagship” LSU campus; and that it encourages faculty senates of other Louisiana colleges and universities in their efforts to supervise admissions requirements for their campuses.

Summary of Discussion:

Kevin: There may be a move towards lowering LSU's admission standards independent of ASH and faculty as a result of Tucker Commission. The resolution addresses such a move. ASH Committee is preparing a historical chronology of LSU's admission requirements and the exceptions granted and will be available by December meeting. Tucker Commission is looking into which institutions will be combined together. "Nevers" Bill already specifies articulation – admission to any Louisiana institution after completing 2-year course in a Community College.

Andrews: A resolution probably 06-10 that was passed unanimously by senate for admission without lowering standards but has been sitting in the System Office.

Lawrence: Two requirements in the 5th and 7th Whereas may not be obvious. The proposed correlation may be judgmental.

Kevin: ASH probably may be able to show the correlation.

Andrews: This is a difficult task econometrically.

Ed: There is no correlation between performance in graduate school and GRE scores.

Kevin: Not to set a numerical value but to put qualitative reference.

Ken Mcmillin: How to measure student success?

Andrews: GPA are lower in Business school and basic sciences compared to Education though the admission standards are higher.

Daly: Look at 6-year graduation scores. It went up from 40% to 60% after increasing the admission standards. Retention rate increases. Requiring 17.5 units in high school is better than requiring 3.0 GPA since the latter causes grade inflation in high school.

Kevin: If we do not manage it, it will be done for us.

Andrews: if admission standards go up, the left tail in the distribution is cut-off.

Lawrence: Delete the 7th Whereas

Motion to Adjourn - C. Delzell; multiple seconds.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:27 P.M.