

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Tuesday February 24, 2015
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 (Secretary, Food Science)
4. Suresh Rai (Member-at-Large, Elect. & Computer Eng.)
5. Mandi Lopez (Member-at-Large, Vet Science.)

Parliamentarian: Louay Mohammed

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

1	P	Aghazadeh, Fereydoun (Mech Eng/Eng)	22	X	Dorian Dorado (Foreign Lan Lit/HSS)	43	Evgueni Nestrov (Chemistry/Sci)
2	X	Fakhri Al-Bagdadi (Comp. Biomed Sci/Vet)	23		Susan Eades (Vet Clinical Sci/Vet)	44	Seth Orgel (Music/Music Dramatic Arts)
3	X	Austin Allen (Landscape Arch./AD)	24	X	Kristin Gansle (Education/HSS)	45	X Jim Ottea (Entomology/Agri)
4	X	Frank Anselmo (French/HSS)	25	P	Jeff Gillespie (Ag Econ/Ag)	46	X Steven Pomarico (Biological Sci/Sci)
5		Reid Bates (SHWRED/HSE)	26	X	Angeletta Gourdine (English/HSS)	47	X Suresh Rai (EE and Comp/Eng)
6	P	Jennifer Baumgartner (Child Family/HSE)	27	P	Gundela Hachmann (Foreign Lang Lit./HHS)	48	A Judith Rhodes (Social Work/HSE)
7		Emily Beasley (Kinesiology/HSE)	28		Jong Ham (Plant Path/Ag)	49	A Jeffrey Roland (Philos Rel Studies/HSS)
8	X	Lillian Bridwell-Bowles (English/HSS)	29		Wes Harrison (AGEC/Ag)	50	X Christopher Rovee (English/HSS)
9		Konstantin Busch (EE & Comp Sci/Eng)	30	X	Stuart Irvine (Philos Relig/HSS)	51	X Judith Schiebout (Geology/Science)
10	P	John Caprio (Bio Sci/Sci)	31		Sherif Ishak (Civil Environ Eng/Eng)	52	Andrew Schwarz (Info Sys Dec Sci/Bus)
11	X	Joseph Clare (Political Sci/HSS)	32	X	Joan King (Food Sci/Ag)	53	A Stephen Shipman (Math/Science)
12	X	Lauren Coates (Enlgish/HSS)	33	X	Mandi Lopez (Vet Clinical Sci/Vet)	54	X Alan Sikes (Theater/Music Dramatic Arts)
13	X	Kevin Cope (English/HSS)	34	X	Ron Malone (Civil Environ Eng/Eng)	55	X Linda Smith Griffin (Libraries/Lib)
14	X	Jon Cogburn (Philosophy Rel Stud./HSS)	35	X	Kenneth Kip Matthews (Physics Astro/Sci)	56	X Judith Sylvester (Mass Com/Mass Com)
15	X	Belinda Davis (Political Sci/HSS)	36		Andrew Maverick (Chemistry/Sci)	57	A Sabrina Taylor (RNR/Ag)
16		William Daly (Chemistry/Sci)	37	X	Alison McFarland (Music/Music and DA)	58	X David Terry (Comm Stud/HSS)
17		Fabio Del Piero (Pathobiol Sci/Vet Med)	38		Jean McGuire (Management/Bus)	59	X Ramachandran Vaidyanathan (EEC/Eng)
18	X	Charles Delzell (Math/Sci)	39	X	Ken McMillin (Animal Sci/Ag)	60	X Arend Van Gemmert (Kinesiology/HHS)
19	X	Margaret Denny (Education/HSE)	40		Jacquelyn Sue Moffit (Acct/Business)	61	Gregory Watson (Architecture/AD)
20	X	John DiTusa (Phys Astron/Sci)	41	X	Louay Mohammed (Civil Environ Eng/Eng)	62	X Yejun Wu (Library Information Sci/LHSE)
21	X	David Donze (Biological Sciences/Sci)	42	P	Carl Motsenbocker (Horticult/Ag)	63	Jun Zou (Interior Design/AD)

Guests:

Ryan Landry	Carrie Grace Henderson	Ernie Ballard	Jacob Phagan
F. King Alexander	Jane Cassidy	Adam Grashoff	Sophie Warny

Consideration of the Minutes from January 22, 2015

Motion by senator, seconded by senator.

Approved unanimously with potential corrections.

President's Report

1. On campus the level of compliance of the tobacco free policy has been uneven with issues near the library, science buildings and veterinary school where there are smoking hot spots. An announcement was sent out the other day to everyone about the process for handling the issues including potential fines and there is also a student group to deal with the issues.
2. Another issue concerned retroactive change of grade to W's. The growing number of these is a cause for concern. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee informed the Provost of this issue. We want faculty authority in PS-44 to remain strong. The Provost is looking into the issue in consultation with the registrar to see how large the number of retroactive W's might be,
3. Faculty Senate Executive Committee consulted with the Dean of Students on PS-1 dealing with fundamental operations of the university and equal opportunity, which was also brought up to the Provost due to loopholes dealing with student organization, clubs and societies. There were gaps between university and federal policy. We spoke to both Dean White to get her information and the Provost about issue.
4. PS-22 governing classroom attendance in revised form gives stronger attendance policy to faculty members as a tool to encourage academic success. It had disappeared, was found and was approved officially by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee and will be approved by Academic Affairs.
5. The academic calendar has been drifting backwards partially due to Bayou SuperFest and other events. We are hoping to bring more reason to that issue.

6. The Master Planning working group had a long discussion looking at every aspect of physical plant planning. It was an information gathering meeting. Collegial input was brisk and informative.
7. There are increasing complications with PM-11, which covers outside employment. In its current form it can cover any attempt to raise funds. We are looking for a reasonable solution and have been in contact with the Benefits Committee chair Roger Laine and others.
8. Many colleagues here at in the system have expressed some anxiety for personnel actions changes for people under a certain salary level, less than \$250,000. The Board of Supervisors has given some of their decisions making ability to the campuses. There is a document from a colleague looking at the Board of Supervisors By-Laws about this matter and whether they have the legal authority to abandon their responsibility in this area.
9. In Shreveport on March 5th there will be a statewide televised forum on the future of higher education. It is being organized by Sonja Hester, President of AAUP at Southern University in Shreveport. There will be eight members on that panel, similar to the panel we had here on November 18th.
10. The budget is a concern to everyone. We really do not have any information at this time.
11. There was an extended meeting with faculty governance officials at Southern University. They changed their governance structure overnight similar to the LSU system. We are lending assistance to the Faculty Senate at Southern University on this matter.

Q&A Summary:

None.

President F. King Alexander

They are concerned about the smoking issue and will write up people and issue fines. They are serious about it. The budget is coming out on Friday and this will be the worst case scenario with about a 40% reduction. This is about a \$400 million reduction of the \$910 million higher education budget. On paper they will be real on Friday. They have sympathy from the legislators. It does not look like there will be an early session. Everything is on the table for solutions and mitigations. The state is looking for solutions. We will have to make some very concrete and careful decisions before then. For example do we cut classes in April? We are looking at seeking a full range of authority. They are meeting on an almost daily basis with legislators. They are looking at what they willing to give away. The state gives lots of tax deductions for Duck Dynasty and movies. Don't panic on Friday. He is still looking for a state that has cut more than 42% in one year. Illinois will have a 33% reduction and Wisconsin is seeing similar things with exchange of autonomies for a decrease in budget. We have sympathy in the legislature that we will be able to mitigate a large some of these cuts by Eighty percent of the of the problem is standing here waiting for us. They are setting up a tiger advocacy network.

Announcements and invitations from Cliff Vannoy, President and Chief Executive Officer, the LSU Alumni Association

LSUAlumni.org/tigeradvocates is the website for the LSU Alumni website. You can go on and put your name and address. Faculty should use their private email address to speak as private citizen and not as a state employee. Encourage faculty, future alumni, their parents and anyone who cares about LSU to join in the advocacy program. As legislation goes through if there are solutions that can address the budget cut they will work on that. The system will provide information on who your representatives are. A telephone call, email or personal note to legislators will help. We have to stop issues detrimental to higher education at the committee level. We have 158,000 alums in Louisiana. There are 30,000 students on this campus alone and their parents and the entire faculty here and in the LSU system which are a strong voice. He is told by people who deal with legislation and the legislative process that if a legislator gets 10 to 15 calls on a topic that is a lot. We want to say we are keeping the best and brightest here. Please sign up and join up, and tell family and friends. They will work with the University of Louisiana system and other systems for higher education. Keep informed about the issues and let's find a solution. Let's get it done before the session starts.

Q&A Summary:

Senator

Will there be talking points or an email example on the website to make the communication process streamlined for people?

Cliff Vannoy

There is currently information about the problem and what we think the budget cuts will be. They will put together information for us to use.

King Alexander

Right now it is our best guess about what will happen. Information has changed several different times. The cut has grown so we stopped meeting with them.

Charles Delzell

Over years voters have approved new constitutional amendments to protect funds but not for colleges. Is it right to attempt to appeal some of those amendments?

King Alexander

There is a lot of talk about this issue. He expects a second session when new governor comes in.

Cliff Vannoy

There was special convention to un-dedicate all funds in the early 70's. It took 43 years to put them all back in place.

King Alexander

We are trying to leverage federal money through Title 4. We have no matches for higher education investment. If we can incentivize states to get on line and match budgets it will help the situation.

Kevin Cope

Do you have a social media consultant pushing this site? Do you have a strategy to get this site out in front?

Cliff Vannoy

We have consultants working on this.

King Alexander

One way to move it up is to click on it which moves it up.

Presentation on the future of the performing arts at LSU by Todd Queen, Dean, College of Music and Dramatic Arts

He is new as Dean as of July 1. He received his undergraduate degree at BYU, his Ph.D. at Eastman School of Music, and he was in Fargo, ND for two years and then was at Colorado State for 16 years as professor and chair. He married a woman from Louisiana and has three children. In eight months he learned that LSU and the Performing Arts has a great sense of history and tradition and are expected to be recognized as leaders in the performing arts. They are respecting history and the past and looking forward into 21st century and adapting to the needs of the 21st Century for arts. They have a world class faculty with performances that would rival New York and beyond. They have a major impact across the US and the globe. They have great performance faculty and teachers. They have passionate alumni. They talk about the Tiger Band and time at LSU and education at LSU and they are willing to help. The first theme is the Power of One. We are more efficient working together. The college is restructured all under one umbrella. They have a new assistant dean for recruitment and a new assistant dean for undergraduate studies. They are reaching out for a film and television program curriculum across five different colleges, to make it more visible. They are working on updating the new curriculum for an arts degree. They are talking about the value of an arts degree. An arts degree gives flexibility and produces a holistic student. They are not an elective and support system for other majors. They put in \$6 billion into the economy. They will start taking conversation nationally and show that there are multiple job opportunities.

Q&A Summary:

Kevin Cope

He is on articulation group and they talk about whether fine arts should be required. They say if a cut back is needed then they can cut fine arts. Are there any plans to deal with that propaganda?

Todd Queen

The issue in the nation is equating a degree to a job. This works in some areas. If you get arts degree will not be professional musician or actor, but alumni have spoke about how music has helped them in other jobs. He gave an example of a navy women.

Senator

The issue is transferable vs non-transferable. Theater and music here are better than other universities. You are upping the program for the 21st century, but music is focused on jazz and classical music, so we do not do musicals with live music. Is there any discussion to increase this?

Todd Queen

We broadly talked about collaboration so students are working interdisciplinary. About music theater as the Flagship institution at the level that we are and reputation we have, in order to have this we need a new theater and money to run a program of that magnitude.

A Allen

What is the timeline for film and television programs?

Todd Queen

They have a group working on the curriculum now so maybe a year and one half.

Angeletta Gourdine

Regarding the music foci is there any plan to get beyond jazz? Is there any movement to developing other music genres beyond classic and jazz?

Todd Queen

Yes we are looking at singer song writer, multiple styles of composition and making the curriculum more flexible. They could have a television focus.

Kevin Cope

In this state there is a mythology that music education just comes. Do you have any thoughts about relations between university education and K-12 education?

Todd Queen

They are looking at the issue and making their program more active in that way. Music is a discipline like any other and it takes a long time to develop those skills.

Old Business

None.

New Business

First reading, Resolution 15–02, “Rationalization of the Spring Holiday”, Sponsored by William H. Daly

Read by Kevin Cope

LSU FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 15–02
Rationalization of the Spring Holiday
Sponsored by William H. Daly

Whereas the final week of the Spring semester is now the first week of May to allow a Spring intersession,

Whereas the breaks in the Spring semester are governed currently by the ecclesiastic calendar, which varies according to a lunar calendar,

Whereas the Mardi Gras is accepted as the first two day holiday of the Spring semester,

Whereas, the second Spring Break is set to include the Easter holiday,

Whereas the date for Easter is set by the first Sunday after the Paschal Full moon, (the first full moon following the spring equinox) which can vary from March 25th to April 25th,

Whereas, in selected years, the Spring Break occurs in April, which limits the number of classes that can meet prior to the finals week,

Whereas a break late in the semester is not pedagogically advantageous,

Whereas a survey of fifteen peer institutions confirmed that all of them scheduled their Spring Breaks in March regardless of the Easter holiday,

Whereas, Good Friday is a state holiday, so the Easter holiday would be three days,

Therefore, the time set for the Spring Break should not be governed by the ecclesiastic calendar.

Therefore, the Spring Break should be set prior to March 31 to allow sufficient classes to properly complete the semester after the break.

Motion to advance to discussion by Vaidyanathan and seconded by Gemmert.

Vote: Approved.

Q&A Summary:

Charles Delzell

There may be a small error in Spring break for the current year in the table. Can someone inform him about the Catholic calendar?

Kevin Cope

It is 40 days plus one.

Charles Delzell

If we are keeping Mardi Gras then we could decouple Spring break from it. We can say there should always be at least three weeks of classes at the end of the break.

Kevin Cope

We were not able to ascertain why other schools scheduled as they did. He will speak to Bill Daly about this comment.

Belinda Davis

For those that have school age children it will cause problems with parochial schools closing and child care issues. Faculty members are not paying a baby sitter \$1,000 a week during break

Kevin Cope

We would probably not deal with this problem in such force if our calendar was not controlled by Bayou SuperFest. We tried to do this for Thanksgiving Break and heard the same issues. I am not sure all schools have their break at the same time as LSU.

Belinda Davis

There are almost many students who have children in schools and the schools have tried to schedule their Spring break around the same time as LSU.

First reading, Resolution 15–03, “Improvements for Graduate Students and Graduate Education at LSU”, Sponsored by the LSU Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Read by Ken McMillin

FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 15–03
Improvements for Graduate Students and Graduate Education at LSU
Sponsored by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Whereas the education of graduate students, which provides for the continuity of knowledge by creating new faculty members and which fills the ranks of the professions with educated citizens, is a grand and indeed definitive service of a major research university;

Whereas the percentage of Louisiana citizens holding advanced degrees is low by national standards;

Whereas efforts to promote graduate education in Louisiana have been hampered by inadequate funding and by a lack of support for promotional campaigns;

Whereas approximately one-third of all graduate applications to LSU receive no response from the University;

Whereas the international outreach efforts of a university are also enhanced by a thriving graduate program and by the legions of skilled workers and creative thinkers that such a program sends into the world;

Whereas the Faculty Senate and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, which together hold responsibility for guiding both curriculum and educational policy, have recommended an assortment of changes in the organization and the supervision of graduate education at LSU;

Whereas some aspects of the organization of the Graduate School, including the creation of a graduate faculty and of a mechanism to regulate that graduate faculty, have not been updated since the 1970s;

Whereas one specific recommendation, that for the election of the membership of the Graduate Council (Resolution 10–03), has been repeatedly compromised;

Whereas a plan for the improvement of the Graduate School that was collaboratively developed by faculty and administrative representatives has never been fully or consistently implemented;

Whereas complaints concerning the services of the Graduate School are not uncommon;

Whereas graduate education is, first and foremost, an academic endeavor and responsibility;

Whereas protocols and procedures pertaining to important aspects of graduate education such as the scheduling general examinations and dissertation defenses are obtuse and not easy to find;

Whereas the economic support for our graduate students has diminished to the point that campus activists have created a charity “food pantry” so as to prevent the starvation of Louisiana’s most promising and industrious students;

Whereas the University has not discovered or formulated alternatives for graduate students who are struggling with large increases in the cost of health insurance;

Whereas the Office of Research and Economic Development, where the Graduate School is currently housed, is already overloaded with duties pertinent of its primary mission;

Therefore be it resolved that the LSU A&M Graduate School should be realigned with the Office of Academic Affairs; and

Therefore be it further resolved that the Office of Academic Affairs, along with the LSU System administration, should immediately begin a study, in collaboration with the Faculty Senate, of ways in which to advance graduate education in Louisiana and of ways in which to improve the functioning, the performance, and the student recruitment program of the LSU A&M Graduate School.

Motion to advance into discussion approved.

Q&A Summary:

John Caprio

There is one statement about one third of applications not receiving a response.

Ken McMillin

One third of the applicants never received a final response about whether they were accepted or denied.

Kevin Cope

He asked people who attended the graduate faculty meeting to respond.

Ken McMillin

The Graduate School corresponds with students about applications and acceptance or rejection.

Mandi Lopez

They do not get distributed to the departments.

Ken McMillin

Some problems are due to departments not getting back to the person, some are due to inaccurate record keeping by the graduate school, and part of it is bureaucracy.

Ramachandran Vaidyanathan

Departments make recommendations to graduate school for admission and the graduate school makes the final decision, therefore departments cannot notify the student.

Charles Delzell

Regarding the issue about alignment has it been aligned before and now it's not aligned?

Kevin Cope

It has in the past been aligned with Academic Affairs and then moved a couple times.

John DiTusa

What do you intend to make better by moving it to Academic Affairs?

Kevin Cope

The general consensus is that the present situation is not working at all and least the Office of Academic Affairs exists, is staffed and is in the academic line of command. This clarifies that it is an academic unit and not just one related to economic development. Mike Martin made the athletic director a Vice Chancellor and this makes athletics academic. This is a nudge to make it more of an academic school and make a robust academic program. We have almost no program to convince people of Louisiana that graduate education is a good thing.

John DiTusa

It seems to be a bureaucratic change. Like everything else it suffers from being underfunded.

Kevin Cope

We do not think it will bring dramatic change, but under the current setup there is no change at all. It will make the graduate school more responsive to the faculty senate itself as we regularly work with Academic Affairs. It is at least an institution that is at least nominally associated with academics.

John DiTusa

We may lose flexibility in units. Academic Affairs is not well known for their flexibility.

Kevin Cope

He is the first to agree with that. In Academic Affairs, 7/8ths of the work is being done by Jane Cassidy due to changes occurring in the unit. Gil Reeve is part time in the systems office. There is a search right now for a new Vice Provost with a job description to interact with Faculty Senate and an arrays of faculty committees.

Alan Sikes

Would it be fair to say that given what seems like sort comings in operations of the graduate school that transfer may have the effect of having a greater call to accountability of performance. Will there be mechanisms in Academic Affairs that will allow greater accountability?

Kevin Cope

The Office of Academic Affairs is oriented towards standards and practices. The works of the SAC accreditation was housed there and assessment and measurement is handled by them. They have a tradition of measurement of standards and assessment. There is within the Office and Academic Affairs a stronger tradition of the sort that would make graduate school more accountable.

Austin Allen

What about finances will the move help with that?

Kevin Cope

The graduate school is one of the most economical bureaus of the university which is a sad state of affairs and this will not have an enormous economic impact.

Stuart Irvine

Can we get a list of how other universities graduate schools are housed?

Judith Sylvester

At the bottom of the page there is a statement that election of the council was compromised. What does that mean?

Kevin Cope

We have tried informal coffees, complaint, resolutions, consultations, and these proposals have never been advanced thus far. The primary duty is to guard the academic purview of the university. One would think that the Graduate School would be the highest level of responsiveness to faculty input.

Judith Sylvester

Have they not been elected at all or just not in the way we wanted?

Kevin Cope

We had a compromise arrangement and that did not go far. We are in the third method and it is not working properly either. Compromise is the word. Some are being appointed by deans and some not at all and there is no schedule as to when this would all happen. Only 5% to 10% of input has come to fruition.

Senator

Who is compromising the effects?

Kevin Cope

Because the graduate school has never had a focus there has not been much motivation and they are only looking at survival.

Kenneth Matthews

The first whereas states that graduation education is part of the research enterprise. Is there any downside to separating graduate education from the research side of the university?

Kevin Cope

Is research and economic development a natural pairing, or academics and economic development or research and academics? Are any of these a correct pairing? We did not feel that side of it would be impaired. We do believe that they can all go together.

Ron Malone

Over the years he considered the graduate school as a highlight, they do a lot of good things for us for example the exchange programs and others, but he realizes there has been deterioration. Over years they have done a great service for the university. Any resolution passed should recognize that.

Kevin Cope

He would regard that as a friendly amendment. No one is trying to pan the graduate school. The message is not sent politically that graduate education is important.

Ron Malone

We do have to acknowledge their successes. The College of Engineering is greatly concerned that they are going to discontinue the editing service for dissertations.

First reading, Resolution 15–04, “The Murders of Unnamed Black Men by Law Enforcement”, Introduced at the request of Elaine Maccio and multiple co-sponsors

Delayed until meeting.

FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 15–04
Addressing Institutional Racism in Law Enforcement

Introduced at the request of Danielle Alsandor, Chris Barrett, Sarah Becker, Dana Berkowitz, Wesley Church, Kenneth Fasching-Varner, Stephen Finley, Deborah Goldgaber, Angeletta KM Gourdine, Katherine Henninger, Joyce Jackson, Catherine Jacquet, Touria Khannous, Catherine Lemieux, Michelle Livermore, Elaine M. Maccio, Michelle Massé, Bryan McCann, Sulagna Mishra, Roland Mitchell, Laura Mullen, Solimar Otero, Tim Page, Loretta Pecchioni, William Saas, and Mi Youn Yang

WHEREAS, there has been a spate of highly publicized deaths of African American males being pursued by, or in the custody of, White law enforcement officers across the United States^{1,2,3,4}, and

WHEREAS, communities of color are disproportionately represented in the criminal justice system⁵, and

WHEREAS, students, staff, and faculty of color experience similar racial injustice on their own campuses⁶, and

WHEREAS, members of the campus community are called on to “advance justice, equality, compassion,” and “engage as a citizen,”⁷ and

WHEREAS, the university values diversity as exemplified in its commitment to “equal opportunity...without regard to race, creed, color, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, religion, sex, national origin, age, mental or physical disability, or veteran’s status⁸,” then

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Faculty Senate at Louisiana State University stands together with other universities that are addressing the systemic racism within the criminal justice system in the United States of America^{9,10,11,12,13}.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT we call upon the campus community to participate in

- “immediate and sustained meaningful support to those closest to these struggles”¹²
- “non-violent social and political action to provoke systemic change that promotes justice, safeguards human rights, and ensures fair and equitable treatment and respect for human dignity for all people
- critical dialogue about the systemic forces of race and racism that shape ourselves and construct our relationships with others
- investigation and analysis of how these dynamics affect the communities within which we live and work”¹³
- “development of collective community approaches to begin healing both the acute pain and suffering caused by these events and the historical trauma relived in their wake every day”¹²
- strategizing around solutions to dismantle racist institutions and practices.
- supporting those who are most affected by oppression and injustices inherent in our systems
- advocacy for policies that support alternatives to policing including community based approaches to safety and conflict resolution
- improving relations between law enforcement agencies and the communities they serve
- encouraging individuals and agencies in positions of power to serve their constituents with fairness and sensitivity

References

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- 5 Warde, B. (2013). Black male disproportionality in the criminal justice systems of the USA, Canada, and England: A comparative analysis of incarceration. *Journal of African American Studies*, 17(4), 461-479. doi:10.1007/s12111-012-9235-0
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- 13 Yoshioka, M. R., Kang, H.-K., Newdom, F., & O'Neill, P. (n.d.). *Our anti-racism commitment: Understanding Ferguson, Missouri*. Retrieved from <http://www.smith.edu/ssw/docs/fergusonstatement.pdf>

Q&A Summary:

None.

First reading, Resolution 15–05, “Overcoming AAUP Censure: A New Strategy for a New LSU”, Sponsored by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Read by Kevin Cope

FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 15–05

**Overcoming AAUP Censure: A New
Strategy for a New LSU**

Sponsored by the LSU Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Whereas LSU President King Alexander has questioned whether raw rankings or other “metrics” are the proper measure of a quality institution;

Whereas the esteem in which a university is held by competent and honored members of the learned vocations that it supports and represents is one such measure;

Whereas the American Association of University Professors (“AAUP”) has held a continuous position of high esteem among American scientists, intellectuals, cultural advocates, and educational leaders since its founding one-hundred years ago;

Whereas AAUP specifications for working conditions, for academic freedom, for institutional governance, and for the general conduct of the academic profession are recognized as the “gold standard” by academic leaders, university professionals, accreditation agencies, labor organizations, and courts of law;

Whereas LSU A&M has suffered reputation damage and nationwide opprobrium owing to its presence, since 2012, on the AAUP list of censured institutions;

Whereas not a single member of LSU’s list of official peer or aspirational institutions nor any AAU (Association of American Universities) institutions are on the AAUP censure list;

Whereas LSU A&M occupies an awkward leadership position in a state higher education system that has received five institutional censures since 2008, nearly ten percent of all AAUP censures in the last fifty years, a record vastly out of proportion to the size of the Louisiana higher education enterprise;

Whereas continued presence on the AAUP censure list impairs the ability of LSU A&M to recruit and retain the best and most innovative faculty;

Whereas LSU A&M has already invested a significant effort in the attempt to end the censure, including sending of a top-level delegation to the Washington AAUP office;

Whereas LSU System President King Alexander issued a letter on January 27th, 2015 informing the AAUP that “LSU does not plan to pursue any further action regarding removal of censure” despite repeated and strong expressions of concern about the censure by LSU A&M faculty leadership to the LSU A&M Provost;

Whereas President Alexander’s letter to the AAUP was written and sent without faculty consultation or faculty leadership notification, although that letter alludes to collaboration with faculty members and with the Faculty Senate leadership concerning the revision of those hiring and promotion procedures that attracted adverse AAUP concern;

Whereas President Alexander’s letter to the AAUP omits the fact that LSU A&M faculty leadership never regarded nor gave the impression that recent, nominal improvements in employment conditions so as to enhance academic freedom for contingent faculty would be adequate to restore LSU A&M into compliance with AAUP standards;

Whereas the continued presence of Murray State University on the AAUP censure list during President Alexander’s tenure as President of that institution suggests a need for President Alexander to collaborate with the AAUP and with faculty;

Whereas the emergence of a new LSU through the consolidation of the A&M campus and its administration with several system campuses provides an opportunity for the new LSU to set an example of leadership in all matters of academic policy and practice;

Whereas the AAUP showed good will by granting a special dispensation to LSU A&M, a dispensation whereby AAUP Committee A, which deals with academic freedom issues, could have released LSU A&M from censure without waiting for the national AAUP meeting if LSU A&M could show adequate progress in promoting the academic freedom of long-term contingent faculty;

Whereas the AAUP has invited LSU A&M to resume negotiations;

Therefore be it resolved that the LSU A&M Faculty Senate calls on President Alexander to collaborate with the LSU Faculty Senate on the development of a realistic plan for removing LSU A&M and its allied campuses from the AAUP censure list;

And therefore be it further resolved that the LSU Faculty Senate will establish, in cooperation with President Alexander, an ad hoc University committee that will include one or more designees from the LSU President’s office, the purpose of that committee being collaboration with the national AAUP office regarding the removal of LSU from the AAUP censure list and of bringing LSU into compliance with AAUP standards regarding academic freedom and employment practices.

Moved by Lillian Bridwell-Bowles, seconded by Jon Cogburn and voted into discussion.

Q&A Summary:

None.

First reading, Resolution 15–06, “Support for Inviting DEQ to Hold a Public hearing on the LSU Campus about Location of a Barge Cleaning Facility Close to the South Side of LSU”, Sponsored by Judith Schiebout, Sophy Warny, and Rebecca Saunders

Read by Sophy Warny

FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 15–06

Support for Inviting DEQ to Hold a Public Hearing on the LSU Campus about Location of a Barge Cleaning Facility Close to the South Side of LSU

*Sponsored by Judith Schiebout, Sophie Bart,
Rebecca Saunders, Sarah A. Becker, Brooks B. Ellwood, Barbara L. Dutrow,
Louis J. Thibodeaux, Alecia P. Long, Bradley and Martha Schaefer,
Robb Brumfield, Philip Bart, Kent Mathewson, Michelle Massé, Chris Barret*

WHEREAS Tubal-Cain Marine Services is proposing to construct a barge cleaning facility in close proximity to Farr Park, near several residential communities and the LSU campus. Tubal-Cain has applied for a permit from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality.^{1,2}

WHEREAS this proposed facility will operate a flare that will be emitting into the environment a number of volatile organic compounds and air pollutants,^{1,2} which, although described as “minor”, could impact the air quality of our campus and local communities where most students, faculty, and staff live.

WHEREAS LSU urges undergraduate students to live on campus. It competes for new faculty in part on the basis of its handsome campus.

WHEREAS this facility does not appear to have been widely advertised. Recent newspaper articles mention citizen concerns about of not being informed and that BREC was only recently notified.^{1,2}

WHEREAS this facility will be built along the new levee bike trail that many Baton Rouge residents enjoy.

WHEREAS eagles are nesting on the adjacent Farr property.²

WHEREAS there is a possibility of growth of this facility. A Tubal-Cain spokesman indicates that he hopes that the facility will be as successful as one in Port Arthur that employs around 2001. Currently predicted full-time employees are from 30 to 50.1

WHEREAS some material removed from the barges may be taken by truck to be sold,¹ which will increase truck traffic on roads near LSU.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate propose to LSU administrators that DEQ be invited and urged to hold a public hearing on the LSU campus before approval. This will allow students and faculty, including a variety of relevant experts, to be informed and to take part.

References

1 Times Picayune, Amy World, <http://theadvocate.com/news/11568182-123/planned-barge-cleaning-operation-near-farr-park>

2 The Advocate, Diana Samuels, http://www.nola.com/business/baton-rouge/index.ssf/2015/02/barge_cleaning_facility_propos.html

Moved by many and voted into discussion.

Q&A Summary:

Lillian Bridwell-Bowles

She is in River Bend and they will have a public meeting. If looking at ppm in the atmosphere, the company is right underneath it and that is why they thought they did not need a public hearing. Baton Rouge has one of the highest air quality problems in the US. It may be more of a problem than we think it is.

Judith Schiebout

She would not want LSU students poisoned. We would like to have a meeting so we can know what it is about. One article says they will be flaring it out. She wants to have the meeting on the campus where students can participate.

Arend Van Gemmert

He is also concerned about trucks that will be going there.

Sophy Warny

That is a good idea.

Judith Schiebout

They talk about diesel and gasoline and the issue is about how many trucks.

Sophy Warny

With the budget the Chancellor and Provost haven't had time for this issue.

Allen Sikes

What is the timetable for this in general?

Sophy Warny

No one is replying from DEQ.

Lillian Bridwell-Bowles

The home owners requested a meeting and got one.

Judith Sylvester

Have you spoken to anyone in athletic department about this issue?

Sophy Warny

It is close to the Skip Bertman complex and she emailed Eddie Nunez about this issue.

Charles Delzell

Has the hearing been schedule in the future?

Lillian Bridwell-Bowles

They have not announced a date.

Sophy Warny

It is not on the LSU campus, they are trying to keep in low scale.

Judith Schiebout.

They said they were trying to build it in April and get their permit and get it working soon.

Kevin Cope

It is possible to suspend the rules and vote today.

Sophy Warny

If we can vote today it would be better.

Senator

Do they need a zoning variance for transportation in the city parish? Is it environmental?

Lillian Bridwell-Bowles

It is the Department of Environmental Quality.

Suresh Rai

They have removed trucks from River Road.

Sophy Warny

The DEQ has to be requested to have a meeting.

Stuart Irvine

Trucks would need the city government involved.

Ron Malone

There would be a problem with the southern wind. This goes against the efforts to clean up the LSU campus. The trucks coming near would not be that close to LSU due to the bend in River Road and trucks may go through Brightside. That is a serious environmental threat.

Senator

Moved to vote today. Seconded. Vote: approved.

Kevin Cope

As point of order we had friendly amendment to invite the Department of Transportation.

Lillian Bridwell-Bowles

There will be a traffic problem but it may complicate problems to invite them now. She urged that we do not complicate it now.

Arend Van Gemmert

He retracted the amendment.

Senator

Do we want to include the Athletic department on this issue?

Kevin Cope

If resolution passes then he will notify higher administration and he will inform them that athletics may also be interested in issue.

Vote on Resolution: Passed unanimously.

Senators moved to adjourn, many seconded.

Adjourned at 4:48 pm