Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Thursday April 16, 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. Bill Daly (Past President, Chemistry)
5. Mandi Lopez (Member-at-Large, Vet Science.)
6. Fabio DelPiero (Member-at-Large, Pathbiol Sci)
7. Suresh Rai (Member-at-Large, Elect. & Computer Eng.)

Parliamentarian: Louay Mohammed

Senators present (X = Present; A = Alternate; P = Proxy):
1. Aghazadeh, Fereydoun (Mech Eng/Eng)
2. Fakhri Al-Bagdadi (Comp. Biomed Sci/Vet)
3. Austin Allen (Landscape Arch./AD)
4. Frank Anselmo (French/HSS)
5. Reid Bates (SHWRED/HSE)
6. Jennifer Baumgartner (Child Family/HSE)
7. Emily Beasley (Kinesiology/HSE)
8. Lillian Bridwell-Bowles (English/HSS)
9. Konstantin Busch (EE & Comp Sci/Eng)
11. Joseph Clare (Political Sci/HSS)
12. Lauren Coates (Englight/HSS)
13. Kevin Cope (English/HSS)
14. Jon Cogburn (Philosophy Rel Stud./HSS)
15. Belinda Davis (Political Sci/HSS)
16. William Daly (Chemistry/Soci)
17. Fabio Del Piero (Pathobiol Sci/Vet Med)
18. Charles Delzell (Math/Sci)
19. Margaret Denny (Education/HSE)
21. David Donze (Biological Sciences/Sci)
22. Dorian Dorado (Foreign Lan Lit/HSS)
23. Susan Eades (Vet Clinical Sci/Vet)
24. Kristin Gansle (Education/HSS)
25. Jeff Gillespie (Ag Econ/Ag)
26. Angeletta Gourdine (English/HSS)
27. Gundelach (Foreign Lang Lit./HHS)
28. Jong Ham (Plant Path/Ag)
29. Wes Harrison (AQ/Ag)
30. Stuart Irene (Philos Relig/HSS)
31. Sherif Ishak (Civil Environ Eng/Eng)
32. Mandi Lopez (Vet Clinical Sci/Vet)
33. Manohar Kip Matthews (Physics Astro/Sci)
34. Ron Malone (Civil Environ Eng/Eng)
35. John DiTusa (Phys Astron/Sci)
36. Kenneth Kip Matthews (Physics Astro/Sci)
37. Andrew Maverick (Chemistry/Sci)
38. Alison McFarland (Music/Music and DA)
39. Jean McGuire (Management/Bus)
40. Ken McMillin (Animal Sci/Ag)
41. Jacquelyn Sue Moffat (Acct/Business)
42. Louay Mohammed (Civil Environ Eng/Eng)
43. Carl Motsenbocker (Horticult/Ag)

Guests:

Consideration of the Minutes from March 17, 2015
Motion by senator Ramachandran Vaidyanathan, seconded by senator Fereydoun Aghazadeh.
Approved unanimously with potential corrections.

President’s Report

1. Fereydoun Aghazadeh has been asking about the university’s policy regarding compensation on grants and contracts between semesters especially winter break. We have met with the Provost on this issue and he will look into the issue to provide clarity.
2. The Provost is also looking into organization charts at the college level. The university chart does not provide information about the structure at the college level. The Provost agreed to look into the matter to see that college level charts appear in cyber space.
3. There have been letters sent out by Valick, TIAA-CREF or ING saying something about the LSU investment committee making changes retirement profiles. A.G. Monaco in Human Resources Management has solved the problem. It should only apply to supplemental 403B voluntary supplemental accounts. The committee was a group of advisors he had put together to try to ferret out some of the funds that were changing excessive service charges. This turn out to be a benevolent situation. There is no such thing as the LSU investment committee.
4. There were 53 people at the investment seminar today. There was a suggestion about having a seminar next year on the topic of debt. The Credit Union said they would give such a seminar in the Fall semester.
5. There was concern about the barge cleaning plant on River Road near Brightside Drive. Kevin Cope as continued his discussion with President King Alexander but nothing has come from it. Kevin Cope will send a letter to the Department of Environmental Quality to ask for a town hall on campus about the issue.

6. There has been confusion about policies related to intellectual property. There will be committees dealing with PM-11 which deals with outside income and PS-69 regarding authorship and multi-author publications and grants. He asked for volunteers for the committees.

7. There was a letter circulated around campus about a Board of Supervisors member going on a rampage about a faculty member in the journalism school writing letters hostile to the regime. President King Alexander agreed that it would be good to affirm the value of academic freedom. The academic freedom language is at the top of the list for revision. The administration is not waffling on its commitment to academic freedom.

8. On April 23rd there will be a video covered forum in Hammond at St. Albert’s church on Dakota St featuring with eight panelists including representatives addressing the full spectrum of higher education.

9. There will be a double mega meeting in Alexandria of statewide persons and the AAUP. Joseph Rallo will be speaking and Howard Bunsis who is the head of the collective bargaining unit in Washington DC.

10. Two videos of the March 5 Shreveport forum and the budgeting forum held here on this campus are now on the Faculty Senate website.

Q&A Summary:

None.

Judith Sylvester announcement

Her student is organizing a rally on Wednesday of dead week with backing from the alumni association and is trying to get restaurants to provide food. They will march from PJ's Coffee to march enmass down to the capital. The point is to make some noise about the budget. She will send information on Monday.

Annual report and presentation by the Faculty Athletic Representative, William Demastes

Two major events happened that affect LSU, the launching of the SEC network and those events at the convention. The SEC network profitability is high and captured a national audience. We will know the details in May. The concern is that this is a 24/7 network and so they need 24/7 broadcasting. On of the goals is to produce live television. That means they are mission creep for athletic programs, in that Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays are free time. They are putting pressure on schools for weekday competitions which would affect students and classes. The universities themselves may have to come in and comment on this issue of students missing an inordinate number of classes. The SEC is aware of this and is doing many things to accommodate the individual universities. There have been Thursday night football games. LSU has stated it is not practical here. The SEC said LSU will not be obliged to have a Thursday football game, unless it is around Thanksgiving or on a school break. There will be an increase in student obligations to perform during the week. One thing that has alleviated some of the pressure is faculty athletic representatives are working together to provide off-campus testing sites, for example with the SEC basketball tournament in Nashville, Vanderbilt University provided secure testing sites for exams for students if the faculty member chose to do so. At the NCAA women's tournament in Tampa they did the same for the women’s basketball team. The NCAA convention gave permission for the Big 5 conferences to do the kinds of things that are financially possible for the better endowed institutions. There are 65 schools in that group with limited autonomy. They have included three student athletes per conference in the voting mechanisms; each conference has one vote per school. The student athletes were very vocal and they did have the vote which was just as much as the ACC and more than any of the other conferences individually. Approved by the group of five conferences was a concussion protocol that each institution needed to create and follow and report a protocol for review to the NCAA. Primary concern is giving exclusive rights to a medical professional rather than a coaching staff. They approved a loss of value insurance which allows athletes to obtain loans against future injuries causing loss of income due to injuries in collegiate sports. There is a fear of non senior athletes' injuries which would destroy the amount of money they can make. The other issue is scholarship protection mandating that student athletes cannot lose their scholarship due to poor athletic performance, only for other issues like academic performance or other types of issues. The other one is changing the definition of grant-in-aide to full cost of attendance. This is the issue that involves the $2,000 and giving student athletes money for any expenses. The cost is based on each individual institution’s definition of full cost of attendance for the general student population, which will be the base figure for student athletic scholarships. This may entail between $2,000 and $4,000 for spending money. That will depend on the institution. Those issues are being worked out.

Q&A Summary:

Ron Malone

Being season ticket holder, he sees that attendance at games is substantially down. He asked if anyone looked at the effect the SEC network had on events.

William Demastes

That is not unique to the SEC network, it is a general issue. LSU is trying to make it more attractive to attend the games. At this point that are no easy answers to that.

Arend Van Gemmert

The insurance sounds really good, but how much is it because if it looks expensive they will not be able to buy it?
William Demastes
I do not know how much it costs. It is kind of a free market thing. That kind of insurance is available to them but they have to foot the bill.

Kevin Cope
Is there any motion to adjust the revenue sharing arrangements in which there is no relationship to the achievements of the school and the amount of money received by the school from television, championships etc.?

William Demastes
This money makes the SEC more competitive in the SEC. The less successful schools receive the same amount as the more successful schools. It is a great leveler. The more successful schools have their own revenue. As far as money coming from bowl games it will probably be equally distributed.

Elections of Faculty Senate Officers for the 2015-2016 academic year

Further nominations were asked from the floor, none were given.

Election for President: Kevin Cope approved unanimously.
Election for Vice President: Ken McMillin approved unanimously.
Election for Secretary: Joan King approved unanimously.
Election for two Member-at-Large positions from Mandi Lopez, Fabio Del Piero and Suresh Rai

Speeches were given by the three candidates. Written ballots were used. Those elected include: Mandi Lopez and Suresh Rai.

Old Business
None.

New Business

First reading, Resolution 15–08, “Concurrence with COIA in the Support of the Establishment of a Presidential Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics”, Introduced at the request of the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics

Background information was provided by Kevin Cope.
Read by Kevin Cope

FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 15–08
Concurrence with COIA in the Support of the Establishment of a Presidential Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics

Introduced at the request of the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics

WHEREAS, the Louisiana State University Faculty has received a request from the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics to concur in the support of proposals for the establishment of a Presidential Commission on Intercollegiate Athletics;

WHEREAS, Louisiana State University is a member of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA); and

WHEREAS, the NCAA’s recent restructuring effort has failed to effectively address critical issues currently confronting intercollegiate athletics: significant lapses of academic integrity, grave threats to the financial stability of athletic programs, the alarming escalation of coaches’ salaries, the escalation of student fees and institutional general fund subsidies to support athletics, excessive athletics time demands that do not allow athletes to devote sufficient time to their academic studies, and ongoing concerns about the health and safety of college athletes, among others; effective reform of intercollegiate athletics is so complex and important to higher education that a blue ribbon commission of faculty, collegiate sports experts and members of Congress should be convened to objectively study these issues and propose solutions.

WHEREAS, the academic integrity and reputation of our higher education institutions and the education, health and welfare of college athletes are too important to allow these questionable practices to continue.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Louisiana State University Faculty Senate that the Senate go on record in support of H.R. 275, a bi-partisan bill being considered by the 114th Congress, that would establish a blue-ribbon Presidential Commission “to identify and examine issues of national concern related to the conduct of intercollegiate athletics and to make recommendations for the resolution of such issues;” and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that individual faculty members consider contacting their respective Congressperson to ask that they co-sponsor the H.R. 275. Current Co-Sponsors of the Bill include: Bobby Rush (D-IL), Joe Barton (R-TX), Charlie Dent (R-PA) and Bobby Scott (D-VA).

Moved to discussion by Ron Malone, seconded by Angeletta Gourdine.
Vote: All yes, but one abstention.

Q&A Summary:

Charles Delzell
Drop the word the before support in the title.

Kevin Cope
This is considered a friendly change.

Gundela Hachmann
In the last paragraph, is it really our confidence to resolve that individual faculty members contact our congressperson? Isn’t it overstepping our bounds to contact our congressperson? We can recommend it maybe.

Kevin Cope
We can resolve to recommend.

Jeff Roland
Therefore be it further resolved line is weak in language.

Charles Delzell
The bill makes a bunch of factual claims. His understanding is that at LSU athletics doesn’t drain resources from LSU and in the resolution it states that there is a drain.

Kevin Cope
The whereas clause is directed to the state of affairs nationally. The situation in Louisiana on this campus, according to a resolution passed by the Board of Supervisors a few years ago athletics must give LSU $7.5 million per year. There is language about giving to LSU, but about $5 million is presented to LSU for benefits they receive. For Louisiana generally, this faculty senate has both happiness and curse for being representative for the other senates around the state. The net loss of athletics around the state in Louisiana is about $37 million. There is a cost at the other schools. When at the peak of the budget crisis, the estimated maximum impact on the LSU campus would be $50 million, so that money would be enough to solve the problem here alone. There is still a statewide loss of $30 million if taking into account the $7 million.

Charles Delzell
He was questioning HR275 which we are endorsing, not the resolution. There are other issues mentioned in that resolution. In paragraph 4 there is an increased incidence of academic fraud among student athletes. I am not sure that is increasing or at a steady state.

Kevin Cope
The resolution itself simply calls for support for creating a presidential commission.

Jeff Roland
Strike another definite article in last therefore. Delete ‘the’.

Kevin Cope
Okay, we will make stylistic changes.

First reading. Resolution 15-09, “Maximum Number of Midterm Examinations per Day”, Introduced at the request of Student Government

Background information provided by Kevin Cope.
Read by Kevin Cope

FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 15–09
The Maximum Number of Midterm Examinations per Day
Introduced at the request of Student Government
Whereas LSU Student Government has passed a resolution requesting that LSU establish a policy regarding the maximum number of midterm examinations that a student may be required to take in a single day;

Whereas

Therefore be it resolved that

Moved to discussion by Gundela Hachmann, seconded by many.

Vote: approved by all.

Q&A Summary:

Gundela Hachmann
It is a challenge since they are not scheduled as finals are. It makes it hard to monitor the number of examinations that each student would be taking. Students would have to report them.

Charles Delzell
Looking at the student senate’s bill, in paragraph four it says the mid semester exam period is designated in the calendar just as the final exam period. The final exam period has a rule that the final must be given during finals week, but mid-terms do not have that rule. The dean of the college may have to receive these requests and then decide which faculty members have to give a make-up. It is a little more difficult. It happens all during the semester with other tests.

Angeletta Gourdine
Is this recommendation for consideration for change coming at a time when the Board of Supervisors or Academic Affairs is elevating mid-term exams to status of final exams. For example final exams are done after a week in which we are not allowed to give other assignments. Is there some change being considered that this would be part of?

Kevin Cope
I believe the administration was taken by surprise. I am not aware of any such move. The drift of the Board of Supervisors is to hand more power back to the campuses. It is true that there is some degree of structure in that people are required to turn in mid-term grades. Some have misconstrued this to mean that certain types of exercises are required, but that has always been an ambiguous point.

Jeff Roland
There is a discontinuity between final and mid-term exam issues. Students are not required to take more than two exams per day. Finals are 2 hour exams and midterms are only 1 hour per day. How are we going to treat papers in this, if you have two papers due on the same day as a mid term would papers count as a mid-term? It culminates on that day.

John DiTusa
For large classes with multiple sections it is hard to put it all together. Final exams are not rescheduled even handedly. Make up exams always seems to fall on the large classes. He would not want to see it pushed into mid-term exams making it more difficult.

Judith Sylvester
Many mid-terms are run through the testing center and that may be an issue. There would have to be conversations with them about how they schedule mid-term exams and what they see happening.

Angeletta Gourdine
I would like to hear from the student government representative about the thinking, logic and desire.

Student Government rep
Although all midterms are not given during midterm week, at any point you can have three exams in one day. Our mindset was if there is a policy during finals we thought there could be a policy for mid-terms and exams during the other time of year. A lot of the time the exams are scheduled on the same day and we are trying to have less stress on students.

Kevin Cope
We have a divergence of opinion. Most opinions spoken from the floor were negative and there were positive comments from student government.

Charles Delzell
What do other universities around the country do?

Student government rep
I do not know what happens at other universities.
Arend Van Gemmert
This is dangerous for students because faculty will make harder exams, so if he is required to give a mid-term he will.

Kevin Cope
We could ask the student government to send a delegation to find out more research or we can stop at this point.

Fred Aghazadeh
It boils down to what the students say as we do not have a mid-term exam. It seems during the semester we should not have three exams in one day.

Kevin Cope
Are you suggesting it should be a cap on any species of exams?

Angeletta Gourdine
Related to that, it that is has to do with the percentage of the grade dependent on the exam. It is not just any exam. It could be a mid-term exam worth 35% which is the same as the final exam being 35%. They could have something that stipulates the percentage of the grade.

Gundela Hachmann
Rather than a systematic structural regulation that applies to all classes, it should be left up to the students to show that exams are accumulating at the same time. The mid-term and final exams are carried out differently.

John Caprio
I have never given a mid-term, I give three exams a semester. The issue is too complex. How do we know the other faculty are giving an exam? I would like to know if any university in the United States does this.

Kevin Cope
He will ask for a student government delegation to come to the senate to discuss this issue.

Charles Delzell
Would this be a time to consider a question to abolish the designation of mid-term week on the calendar?

Kevin Cope
This is an internal matter so you can propose a resolution.

Arend Van Gemmert
Do you want to abolish the mid-term grades reporting?

Charles Delzell
No, he did not want to abolish that. He moved to abolish the designation of mid-term week on the academic calendar. Seconded by senator.

Moved and seconded into discussion.

Resolution 15-11. Abolish the Designation of Mid-Term Week on the Academic Calendar.

Jeff Roland
What was the rational for having it on the calendar in the first place?

John Caprio
It was here when I came here.

Judith Sylvester
We have some team taught courses so there has to be an exam to cover the first part before they go to the next part. If we change Spring break and not have a mid-term week will that complicate things?

Gundela Hachmann
Students should have multiple assignments to be evaluated. Having a mid-term week indicates that there are only two main times to evaluate the students.

Kevin Cope
Charles Delzell could incorporate that suggestion into a written version of the resolution.

Angeletta Gourdine
It is more simple and pragmatic. There are mandatory intervals that faculty are required to tell students how they are doing. It has to do with progress and marking that progress in an official way.
Judith Sylvester
Is it also tied to when they can drop the course?

Ron Malone
I see no functional reason to have that designation of the week. If you just have two exams, there is not enough time to correct the grade for the students.

Sabrina Taylor
I post grades all along on Moodle, so they know what their grades are and they can see how they are doing.

Charles Delzell
The mid-term grade is useful outside of class for an administrator to decide if a student can take a higher level course.

Mandi Lopez
The two designations on the calendar are the mid-semester examination period and final exam period, which are separate from mid semester grades. Mid semester grades due will remain.

First reading, Resolution 15-10, “Comprehensive Approaches to Higher Education Funding”, Introduced at the request of the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates; the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Faculty Senate; and the Southeastern Louisiana University Faculty Senate

Background was given by Kevin Cope.
Read by Kevin Cope

FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 15–10
Comprehensive Approaches to Higher Education Funding

WHEREAS the Louisiana State budget presented by the Governor’s office has a potential cut of over five-hundred million dollars, resulting in a potential gap in funding of over six-hundred million dollars to higher education if there is no intervention by the Legislature, and over two-hundred million even if all the funding proposed by the Governor are enacted;

WHEREAS cuts of this magnitude (up to sixty percent of state funding) would be devastating to the public universities and colleges of the state;

WHEREAS these cuts, which will affect all Louisiana universities, could lead to massive lay-offs of personnel, closing of programs, cancelling of classes, and even, in some cases, closure of universities;

WHEREAS higher education has already taken, during the last eight years, painful cuts in state funding of over seven-hundred million dollars (forty-three percent), resulting in declines as sharp as fifty-five percent for some university systems—a statewide decline which has severely hampered the ability of all universities and colleges to provide needed services and which has already resulted in layoffs and furloughs; increased class size; reduced offerings; elimination of programs; delay of maintenance; and minimal, irregularly applied faculty pay raises;

WHEREAS regional campuses, including those serving metropolitan areas and including those serving as feeders for graduate programs, have sustained disproportionately large budget cuts (for example, Southeastern Louisiana University, which serves the New Orleans north shore population, has suffered the largest cuts of any university both in total dollars [$47,762,780] and percentage [60%]); and

WHEREAS Louisiana has had the second sharpest decline in state funding for higher education in the nation since the recession ended in 2008 (forty-three percent) and the highest dollar amount per student reduction (over five-thousand dollars) of any state;

WHEREAS Louisiana, like most states with large higher education systems, depends on a blend of institutions of various types and on a variety of higher education delivery systems to educate its citizens;

WHEREAS the administrative and jurisdictional distinctions among campuses and systems seldom keeps pace with the more dynamic interaction of educational influences in the lives of Louisiana citizens (interaction that might allow, for example, a
person helped by Pennington-derived discoveries to attend McNeese State University so as to prepare for advanced study at the AgCenter en route to a career teaching at Southern University);

WHEREAS Louisiana is ranked among the bottom tier of states in respect of the percentage of its population with bachelor’s degrees and the lack of an educated workforce, a situation that hurts Louisiana’s potential economic growth;

WHEREAS because the Constitution of Louisiana protects most of the budget from cuts, higher education and health care are left to take the brunt of cuts every year;

WHEREAS shifting the funding from the state onto the students through higher tuition and fees (a 61% increase in tuition alone since 2009) has created hardships, especially for those students not on TOPS and scholarships;

WHEREAS every time tuition goes up the funding for TOPS also goes up and comes out of the Higher Education budget, thus reducing the effect of the increase of the tuition to the universities;

WHEREAS business and industry in Louisiana receives over two billion dollars a year in tax credits, exemptions, refunds, and subsidies, including over a billion dollars per year in new tax cuts and subsidies since 2008;

WHEREAS Louisiana State University benefits from the success of other campuses, most notably from the refreshing stream of qualified applicants for LSU graduate education that flows from all of Louisiana’s higher education institutions;

THEREFORE BE IT NOW RESOLVED that the LSU A&M Faculty Senate asks the Louisiana Legislature to find budget solutions that will allow for the full funding of the entirety of Louisiana higher education and that will develop permanent solutions to the problems induced by protecting the dedicated funding of state agencies other than higher education and healthcare; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the LSU A&M Faculty Senate urges LSU System president King Alexander to work with legislators to achieve funding solutions that support LSU by supporting the entire Louisiana higher educational project and by supporting the full complement of Louisiana higher education institutions, a project that also serves the long-term interests of LSU.

Moved to discussion.

Q&A Summary:

Fereydoun Aghazadeh
In the third whereas are you talking about Southern?

Kevin Cope
There are some colleges that work on a contingent basis.

Fereydoun Aghazadeh
We need to re-word it so we are talking about all universities.

Kevin Cope
That is a friendly amendment

Fereydoun Aghazadeh
In the first whereas, that may be $2 million.

Kevin Cope
That may be a topographical error.

Steven Pomarico
I do not understand what is being proposed. Isn’t the legislature already working on this issue and isn’t King Alexander already working with the legislature?

Kevin Cope
The first therefore is, the second is more important. The feeling is competition between universities that some will be alright and some will not be alright. This comes from the discourse that we have too many colleges. James in the University of Louisiana system is asking university systems around the state is to say that we are in this together, so some do not fall apart. Some engaged in political debate think some legislators who would like to see HBUCs just disappear.
Steven Pomarico
That does make sense. He does not think the resolution explains it well.

Kevin Cope
He will add an explanation.

Jeff Roland
There is a lot of work being done in the last two clauses, with the words entire and entirety. Is there something called the entire university project?

Kevin Cope
One person who spoke on anonymity said there is a tax index in Louisiana used by reputable people to asserting what the per capita projects are compared to the United States. On that index we are in position number three behind Alaska and Colorado. Our effort in improving the people is lacking. We are measuring the amount of effort to improve the people and we are way down on that scale.

David Donze
In the first therefore, strengthen the wording a little more, with something like protecting the dedicated permanent funding solutions.

Jeff Roland
In the 6th whereas, did it not start in 2008 rather than end in 2008?

Kevin Cope
Yes you are correct.

Senators moved to adjourn, many seconded.
Adjourned at 4:36 pm