

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Thursday, May 3, 2012
Student Senate Room, LSU Student Union



Attendance

Faculty Senate Executive Committee members present:

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| 1. Kevin L. Cope (President, English) | 2. Joan King (Member-at-large, Food Science) |
| 3. Bill Daly (Past-President, Chemistry) | 4. George Stanley (Secretary, Chemistry) |
| 5. Larry Rouse (Member-at-Large, Oceanography) | |

Parliamentarian: Louay Mohammed

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

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

Guests:

Will Hires Robert Doolos Gil Reeve

Consideration of the Minutes

Moved and accepted conditionally

President's Report

- I am a participant in the SACS reaccreditation process. The two items of greatest concern are intellectual property (PS-68) and academic freedom. The OAA has been working closely with our group to clarify the IP issues and make them fit better with system policies. The LSU statement on academic freedom is on the vague side and I believe that there should be a clearer policy statement on academic freedom. We are working on a new PS for that. Stephanie Braunstein and Bill Daly are working on writing a better PS on academic freedom.
- Randy Hall from Chemistry is moving to another university and will be stepping down from his Moodle committee work and has served LSU well.
- We are working to strengthen college policy committees.
- We are requesting faculty representation on the search committee for the new system president. I will be meeting with Bill Jenkins when he comes to LSU.
- There are a number of state-wide legislative actions concerning retirement, teaching, and general budget issues that we are tracking.

- The next state-wide faculty government meeting will be on Saturday May 12 at LSU-A.

Q&A Summary:

None

Short Address by Chancellor Michael Martin

We have had a tough year with respect to funding, but an A+ year with our faculty. So thank you faculty! The state budget situation is still in flux and we won't know much till June. We are hopeful that we will NOT have an end of year budget cut for this fiscal year. But next year looks iffy. We are pushing for more flexibility in raising some fees to replace any lost funding or to raise some additional funds for LSU. I hate to push this onto the students, but the quality of education will suffer if we don't raise more funds to keep sections and classes open. The retirement bill is plowing ahead as is the gun bill. I am not in favor of either. I spoke with the Chancellor at Virginia Tech and he agrees that guns on campus are not a good idea. We are living in a time of change (LSU System Office) and I want to encourage everyone to wait and hold your judgment about the future of LSU. I will try to be measured in what I say to make sure that I do not say anything to harm LSU. I was talking to a legislator that other day and reinforced that LSU is still the best school around and doing an excellent job teaching and training our students. If students are willing to invest in LSU, as they are doing, then the state should as well.

Annual Report of the Faculty Athletic Representative (William Demastes)

Beginning in January I took over as Faculty Athletic Rep (FAR). I'm personally impressed by what the athletic department has to go through for the SACS accreditation. So far it looks like the athletic department is in very good shape and doing a good job with this. The NCAA is deciding on how it will restructure its self-study of university athletic programs. LSU is proceeding with an internal review of the athletic department. The Effective Accommodation Report will be given to the Chancellor in June. This report concerns Title 9 requirements and success in implementing them. Mark Emmert is trying to shake up the NCAA and simplify the huge book of athletic rules that we need to follow. The academic progress rates were proposed to increase, but have been pushed back to 2014 to give institutions more time to reach them. LSU apparently is in good shape here and would meet the higher requirements today. A new entrance to Tiger Stadium is being constructed and should be ready next year. The expansion of the south end of Tiger Stadium is also underway and should be ready in 2014. An indoor tennis facility is being planned as are improvements of the indoor track facility.

Q&A Summary:

None

Report of the Task Force on the Plus-Minus Grading (Mandi Lopez, Chair)

The committee membership is listed in the report. We met twice to discuss this grade system change. There were four main questions: what do our peer institutions do; influence on grade distribution; influence on credentialing and certification of programs; and finally the cost of implementing this grading system. Details are listed in the report (which will be posted on the FS website). The majority of comparable universities employ a plus/minus system. There shouldn't be any effect on grade distributions or certification. The estimated cost of implementing the system would be \$15-20K. But a new student information system is being introduced in 2015 and there would be NO extra cost to implement this in that system. The full report will be posted on the Faculty Senate website.

Q&A Summary:

John Nyman: What are the benefits of switching to the new system?

Mandi: The benefit would be to provide better grade and performance criteria for students. The committee also felt that this grading system would not necessarily be mandatory for all faculty/courses. Details on that need to be worked out.

Election of Faculty to Faculty Senate Committees

Louay Mohammed has done a great job in lining up candidates for these committees. One correction for the first committee: Suzanne Stauffer has dropped out of that race, so please cross out her name.

We will tally the votes and report the results later.

Update on the Activities of the Working Group on the Graduate School (Ken McMillin)

Kevin Cope updates due to Ken McMillin being busy.

The committee has met and will continue meeting over the summer to resolve the various issues that it is studying (election to the Graduate Council and Graduate Faculty status and reappointment).

Bill Daly: We believe that once you are appointed to the graduate faculty there should NOT be an annual check box for graduate faculty status on annual reports. Graduate Faculty status should be assumed and only be revoked under unusual circumstances.

Old Business

Second and Final Reading: Resolution 12-6 Scheduling of Classes Mon – Thursday

Postponed till September.

Second and Final Reading:

LSU Faculty Senate Resolution 12–7
Assuring Proper Decorum within Academic Buildings

Sponsored by Graham Bodie

Whereas LSU is a place of higher education with numerous academic buildings erected for the sole purpose of advancing knowledge; and

Whereas students and faculty face myriad potential distractions that can potentially thwart learning and productivity; and

Whereas extraneous noise within academic buildings during class times distracts both students and faculty from advancing knowledge; therefore be it

RESOLVED that the LSU Faculty Senate recommends the administration craft policies that seek to limit excessive noise in the hallways of academic buildings; and therefore be it

RESOLVED that those crafting such policies consider, at minimum, the following:

- The use of cellular phones in the hallways and other public use spaces within academic buildings
- The holding of group meetings for any purpose in the hallways and other public use spaces within academic buildings
- Excessive noise while classes are in session stemming from students and faculty waiting for a class to start; and therefore be it

RESOLVED that the LSU Faculty Senate recommends the erection of signage in the hallways of academic buildings reminding patrons of the policies once they are instituted.

Graham Bodie Prestatement: I've gotten a lot of flak over this resolution over the last month. I do not want to engage a new police force to enforce this but rather to emphasize the importance of keeping our hallways more quiet and academically polite and not to pick specifically on cell phone usage.

Q&A Summary:

Stephanie: Now that you have changed the thrust of the resolution shouldn't you change the title?

Graham: Yes. But I don't have the new title handy.

Kris Fletcher: Do you have any details on how to handle this aside from putting signs up telling folks to keep quiet.

Vince LiCata: Kris, you seem to think there is a vague part of this resolution and a more specific part. I gather that you prefer to keep this more specific?

Kris: Yes.

Senator: I personally don't like putting up more signs. But I agree with the general theme of your resolution to respect the academic environment. Is there something else we can do to educate students on this concept?

Graham: My point is to try to reestablish a culture of respect for students.

Kevin Cope: We met with the student government a while back about the student code of conduct to be more specific and accurately reflect being part of an academic environment. But to change the student code of conduct requires a

committee of 27, which probably won't accomplish anything. So we are trying to get this done with a smaller and more effective subcommittee. That is moving slowly.

Bill Daly: How about a title like: Assuring Proper Decorum in Academic Buildings

Graham: Sounds good.

Passes as a friendly amendment [updated title shown above on resolution]

Larry Crumbly: Does this mean that I can't use a cell phone in an academic building?

Graham: Only in public hallways and spaces.

Larry & other Senator: Doesn't this violate freedom of speech?

Graham: Too much or loud speech in libraries is not allowed for example.

Larry: I still think it is illegal.

Larry Rouse: This mainly pertains to times when classes are in session. Maybe you want to add this to your resolution.

Kevin McCarter: I also don't like the idea of adding more signs to our buildings and hallways.

Senator: This really concerns being polite and attempting to set rules for enforcing politeness. I like the idea but not legislating it.

Resolution fails by a hand vote. 22 against, 12 for, 4 abstentions.

New Business

First Reading, Read by Vince LiCata

Faculty Senate Resolution 12-8

Reaffirmation of the LSU Campus as a Firearms Free Zone

Sponsored by Senators Vince LiCata and Kerry Dooley

Whereas the Teaching, Research, and Public Service missions of the flagship institution of the state of Louisiana are incompatible with any perceived need for private citizens (faculty, staff, or students) to carry concealed or unconcealed firearms; and

Whereas the Louisiana State Legislature is currently considering a potential constitutional amendment that would revise firearms possession restrictions in Louisiana; and

Whereas LSU Policy Statement 102 maintains LSU's commitment to a violence free workplace, and an "atmosphere completely free of threats and assaults"; and

Whereas LSU Policy Statement 96 maintains that the LSU campus is currently a firearms free zone,

Therefore, be it resolved that, independent of the outcome of the current legislative debate, the LSU Faculty Senate reaffirms its commitment to maintaining the LSU campus as a firearms free zone.

Q&A Summary:

Bill Daly: I move we suspend the rules and waive the second reading to vote on this today.

Seconded and approved.

Senator: If we pass this will it have any effect on the state law if it is passed?

Kevin & Vince: Maybe.

Kevin: The Staff Senate has also passed this resolution.

Question is called and passed.

Resolution passes unanimously.

Adjournment at 4:20 PM (woo woo)