

**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday May 6, 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 Del Piero (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	X	Aghazadeh, Fereydoun (Mech Eng/Eng )	22	P	Dorian Dorado (Foreign Lan Lit/HSS)	44	X	Evgueni Nestrov (Chemistry/Sci)
2		Fakhri Al-Bagdadi (Comp. Biomed Sci/Vet)	23		Susan Eades (Vet Clinical Sci/Vet)	45		Seth Orgel (Music/Music Dramatic Arts )
3	X	Austin Allen (Landscape Arch./AD)	24	P	Kristin Gansle (Education/HSS)	46		Jim Ottea (Entomology/Agri)
4	X	Frank Anselmo (French/HSS)	25	X	Jeff Gillespie (Ag Econ/Ag)	47	X	Steven Pomarico (Biological Sci/Sci)
5	A	Reid Bates (SHWRED/HSE )	26	X	Angeletta Gourdine (English/HSS)	48	X	Suresh Rai (EE and Comp/Eng)
6	X	Jennifer Baumgartner (Child Family/HSE)	27	X	Gundela Hachmann (Foreign Lang Lit./HHS)	49	X	Judith Rhodes (Social Work/HSE)
7		Emily Beasley (Kinesiology/HSE)	28	X	Jong Ham (Plant Path/Ag)	50		Jeffrey Roland (Philos Rel Studies/HSS)
8	X	Lillian Bridwell-Bowles (English/HSS)	29		Wes Harrison (AGEC/Ag)	51	X	Christopher Rovee (English/HSS)
9		Konstantin Busch (EE & Comp Sci/Eng)	30		Stuart Irvine (Philos Relig/HSS)	52	X	Judith Schiebout ( Geology/Science)
10	X	John Caprio (Bio Sci/Sci)	31	X	Sherif Ishak (Civil Environ Eng/Eng)	53		Andrew Schwarz (Info Sys Dec Sci/Bus)
11		Joseph Clare (Political Sci/HSS)	32	X	Joan King (Food Sci/Ag)	54	X	Stephen Shipman (Math/Science)
12	P	Lauren Coates (Enlgish/HSS )	33	X	Mandi Lopez (Vet Clinical Sci/Vet)	55	X	Alan Sikes (Theater/Music Dramatic Arts)
13	X	Kevin Cope (English/HSS)	34		Ron Malone (Civil Environ Eng/Eng)	56	X	Linda Smith Griffin (Libraries/Lib)
14		Jon Cogburn (Philosophy Rel Stud./HSS)	35		Kanchan Maiti	57	X	Judith Sylvester (Mass Com/Mass Com)
15		Belinda Davis (Political Sci/HSS)	36	X	Kenneth Kip Matthews (Physics Astro/Sci )	58	X	Sabrina Taylor (RNR/Ag)
16	X	William Daly (Chemistry/Sci)	37		Andrew Maverick (Chemistry/Sci)	59	X	David Terry (Comm Stud/HSS)
17	X	Fabio Del Piero (Pathobiol Sci/Vet Med)	38		Alison McFarland (Music/Music and DA)	60	X	Ramachandran Vaidyanathan (EEC/Eng)
18	X	Charles Delzell (Math/Sci)	39		Jean McGuire (Management/Bus)	61	X	Arend Van Gemmert (Kinesiology/HHS)
19	P	Margaret Denny (Education/HSE)	40	X	Ken McMillin (Animal Sci/Ag)	62		Gregory Watson (Architecture/AD)
20	X	John DiTusa (Phys Astron/Sci)	41		Jacquelyn Sue Moffit ( Acct/Business)	63	X	Yejun Wu (Library Information Sci/LHSE)
21		David Donze (Biological Sciences/Sci)	42	X	Louay Mohammed (Civil Environ Eng/Eng)	64	X	Jun Zou (Interior Design/AD )
			43	P	Carl Motsenbocker (Horticult/Ag)			

*Guests:*

Barbara Reonas                      Stephanie Braunstein                      Ernie Ballard                      Melissa Brocato                      Diane Mohler  
 Jane Cassidy

**Consideration of the Minutes from April 16, 2015**

Motion by senator, seconded by Ramachandran Vaidyanathan.  
 Approved unanimously with potential corrections.

President King Alexander comments

This will be the largest graduating class ever at LSU, the largest African American, Latin American, and Hawaiian Pacific Islander classes. Of the 3,154 Bachelorette degrees award 757 are Pell grant recipients. We have 18 to 21% Pell enrollment. That is something we have been have been working on in Washington D.C. to find out which institutions are enrolling low income first generation students and which are doing a good job graduating them. Anytime you are graduating a larger percentage of first generation, low income students than you are enrolling you are doing something right. That is rare and it is a great success story. Tomorrow is a big day in the legislative house and we need about eight things passed which have gotten out of the committees and now are going to the floor. There are a lot of things that can help us out, that are now going to the senate that could produce a whole series of possible dollars that can float to us. Some may be business tax credits, movie tax credits, cigarette tax increases, which is not as much as we wanted it to be, but it is on the table. He wanted to congratulate everyone on a successful year. He asked us to keep watching the newspapers and to contact our legislators any chance we get. He said these are historic cuts and if they don't get passed and if we can get to January, all gubernatorial candidates said they would call a special session to right the ship. We have gotten into this situation because of a serious of bad choices. When we are giving a movie maker who makes a \$4 million movie a \$1.3 million tax credit for filming in Baton Rouge, we need to re-examine this. We are not against business owners but we have given tax credits to those who don't need it. We have given away \$7 billion in tax credits and in higher education, just to stay whole we are asking for \$1 billion, which is about \$600 million less than the state of Alabama gives higher education. This will end on June 11<sup>th</sup> and the last two weeks are going to be vital. There is a lot of discussion that didn't exist at the beginning of the session. The good news is

everyone wants to save us, higher education, until you start talking about their tax credits. Higher education and health are the two areas they want to protect.

#### President's Report

1. Everyone can look forward to a little more work due to an unexpected surprise by SACSCOC, the accrediting agency that covers our campus. In the complex operation of merging this campus with the AgCenter and the Law School, one matter was overlooked. SACS has moved back the accreditation cycle so that it moves ten years past the earlier date of the Law School and AgCenter, so instead of 2024 we are looking at a 2020 date. Dr. Alexander said that the cost of accreditation time and effort cost about \$1.5 million. We are going to ask them to come back and just take a look at Law and how it's being integrated back into the university. We are not going to do that; we will put up the biggest fight. Texas A&M has to go through it too, so we called them and asked them if they were going to do it and they said they thought they might. They said if we are going to fight than they will fight it. We do not need to go through that again.
2. We are continuing in dealing with the IP policies. PM-16, PM-64, PM-11 etc., but we had an extensive meeting with Nicole Honoree who is the author of the LIFT<sup>2</sup> program so some progress is being made.
3. There is a controversy between the system and the campus. Beginning in the late 1980s there was a move to improve the dignity of commencement which at one time was something of a hullabaloo with strange hats, etc. In the past 25 years progress has been made and we have a commencement commensurate with the expectations of a research university. It was discovered a few days ago that central administration had apparently authorized the athletic department to allow its varsity athletes to wear stoles on top of their academic regalia. Since 1992 the Faculty Senate has been opposed to that sort of thing on the grounds that the primary goal of commencement is to celebrate the academic side of the university. We do not know where this originated or how it happened outside the normal channels of approval, but we are going to continue to look into it. This is on the list of faculty impairments that have taken place in the last semester. This is only a list at the moment it is not some kind of accusation. It is just a notice that Faculty Senate is keeping score of this kind of thing and that we are aware perhaps only out of lack of staff and historical knowledge that a power grab is taking place. We are sending a clear message that historical knowledge is available.
4. We had a successful meeting in Alexandria this past Saturday with over 40 people in attendance. One speaker was the Commissioner of Higher Education and one was the head of the collective bargaining unit for the AAUP. Many inventions came out from that meeting some of which you will see soon. Save Louisiana Higher Education buttons are in production and they will be distributed at a near time event. The Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates with help from Stephanie Braunstein has a new Facebook page which you can find by looking up Louisiana Faculty Senates.
5. There was a near standing crowd at the higher education forum in Hammond under the direction of James Kirylo. The Advocate newspaper is conducting a gigantic investigative report into the impact of funding problems into higher education.
6. The Student Senate has joined with Faculty Senate in a resolution to have a DEQ forum on campus for a forum to discuss the barge near LSU and a letter has been sent to DEQ.

#### ***Q&A Summary:***

None.

#### Briefing by Diane Mohler concerning the Social Security windfall elimination provision and government pension offset

She decided two years ago to look into her retirement plan and met with a financial consultant here in Baton Rouge. Through that process her consultant said she probably needed to go online to social security and look at the web calculation because she didn't think she would be getting her social security she was planning on. She went online and ran through the calculation and she was taking a severe cut whether it was hers or half of her husband's social security. She met with someone here in HRM who affirmed all of that information. Since that time she researched it and there will be an article in the newsletter that is concise and shares the information on the web of the windfall elimination provision and the government pension offset. There are a lot of people being affected by that. If you haven't looked into that you should, it is really important. Let your representatives know where you stand with that. It certainly is an issue when we look at what is going on with our retirement here and before which is supposed to be what we have here for social security not necessarily our retirement pension.

#### ***Q&A Summary:***

None.

#### Presentation by Vice-President for Finance and Administration Daniel T. Layzell regarding the budget and the financing of Louisiana higher education

The governor's budget impact on higher education was a decrease of \$600 million. We are looking at a general fund reduction \$474 million. The state is looking at a \$1.6 billion deficit going forward. Health Care and Higher Education are the main levers that the state has to address shortfalls. There was a tuition swap or sweep of \$70 million swapped with what we received in a tuition increase. For the systems we said

we would see an increase of about \$36 million, but they said we would raise more than that. They brought a consultant in to do an efficiency review of state government and found \$24 million in savings for higher education. One time money was taken back from Southern and other systems of about \$33 million. The state budget overall has \$920 million for higher education which includes TOPS and non direct higher education expenditures. What actually existed in budget as of 2015 was \$710 million for all of higher education. The governor's budget reduced high education budget by 86%. As a contingency there was \$372 million of additional revenue in tax credits included in the governor's budget. Many tax credits benefit various industries and many of those amount to more than the tax credit due to incentives to stay in Louisiana. The governor was proposing to reallocate \$372 million back to higher education. We are still looking at a 33% reduction of \$236 million. In 2009 to 2015 higher education saw about a 50% reduction in state funded support. We have been advocating for tuition and fee authority, since we cannot expect significant increases in funding due to state budget issues. We are also looking at flexibility in other areas, such as risk management and procurement autonomy. Under discussion downtown right now is legislation to give relief for unfunded liability payments for people in the ORP. The cigarette tax increase, projected to be about \$70 million, has been dedicated to Medicaid funding. Regarding the tobacco settlement, the state is seeking to cash in on future dollars to provide an infusion of quick cash. They are also looking at unclaimed lottery winnings which are not a lot of money. The goal is to stabilize base funding and not see a decrease. The long term solution is to get more control over all of our revenue streams to allow us to manage more directly on campus those resources. Things remain very fluid downtown. There is a real desire among legislative leadership to protect higher education and understand they have been complicit in past decisions.

#### *Q&A Summary:*

Judith Sylvester

Has the legislature looked into what will happen if they go through this tobacco settlement? This has been tied to TOPS but they have to pay it back if sold to bonds and other states that did this are having problems paying it back. We have not used the money for intended purposes as we have not done a tobacco cessation program.

Daniel T. Layzell

The state is just trying to get to January and there is some real desire in the state to do that. The TOPS issue will create pressures in other areas of the state budget.

Senator

Can you share this PowerPoint?

Daniel T. Layzell

Yes, he will get it to Kevin Cope.

Angeletta Gourdine

Unclaimed lottery money is a onetime dream. Is there any way to link higher education to the lottery in a real way to fund education?

Daniel T. Layzell

There is always conversation on how to dedicate money to certain areas. They are looking for a one time hit of money.

Senator

Any thought about privatizing LSU?

Daniel T. Layzell

That is part of discussion about autonomies. The risk management program, procurement and selecting our own auditors is not unique to Louisiana. If we can do this better and save money that will be the argument. When before the joint legislative committee on the budget to get autonomy over insurance, they wanted to know how much we would save and we said \$5 million of what we paid to the state and the legislator said they will take it back from us.

Gundela Hachmann

Are we allowed to cross out the S from LSU? Obviously we are a state university. Only 10% of our operating budget comes from the state, does that justify the use of the word state?

Daniel T. Layzell

It raises questions about what it means to be a public university. This is not unique to Louisiana. We see our mission as a public university serving the citizens of the state.

Fereydoun Aghazadeh

What can we tell people interviewing for jobs?

Daniel T. Layzell

I feel optimistic that we are going to solve this problem. Some of the colleagues are walking on a thinner line. We put information out to show potential implications. We are working very hard to ensure it is not our destiny. We want people to know what it means to higher education in the state and what the potential reality is.

Charles Delzell

He heard that even under the worst case budget scenario it would not be necessary for LSU to declare exigency.

Daniel T. Layzell

The declaration of exigency is not a black and white scenario. At this level of outcomes it would be very difficult not consider that kind of scenario. We are very different from other schools in the state which are on a more flimsy financial setting.

Senator

How do you see our foundation situation?

Daniel T. Layzell

We are on track for the LSU foundation to have an all time high of funding rising. The Alumni Association has been helpful in getting the word out and increasing awareness. In terms of core operating support it still will be tuition and fees and other state revenue.

Evgueni Nestrov

The athletic department has a luxury life and is doing well. Are there any considerations if the main LSU campus is accepting cuts, will athletics also be cut?

Daniel T. Layzell

They have spoken to athletics about what they might be able to do and they understand as LSU goes, they also go.

Ramachandran Vaidyanathan

Out of \$800 million I assume it is not split out evenly among all systems. What share of this money is LSU's?

Daniel T. Layzell

LSU's total budget is about 10% state funding. About \$350 million comes from tuition and fees.

Election of standing committee members who are chosen by ballot (2015-2016 academic year)

Judith Sylvester

Is there any reason why there are no women candidates?

Kevin Cope

He does not know why.

Voting was done by written ballot.

Grievance Committee members elected: Martin Johnson, Gerald Bower and Tim Slack

Budget and Planning Advisory Committee members elected: Eugene Kennedy, George Cochran, Fabio del Piero, Joseph Mason, Robert Peck

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**Old Business**

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

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 the LSU Faculty Senate recommends that individual faculty members consider contacting their respective Congresspersons 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).

Background information was provided by Kevin Cope.

***Q&A Summary:***

Evgueni Nestrov  
Why do we need this resolution?

Kevin Cope  
We do not necessarily need this at our university. This group was put together to find a forum for discussion on these issues. The executive committee has stayed out of this issue. Now they want to make a slate of issues and to make a statement to the congress that faculty are concerned about the state of intercollegiate athletics.

Angeletta Gourdine  
This is asking for a presidential commission. It is not real clear on how it would behoove us to have the federal government involved at that level.

Kevin Cope  
We are looking at a House of Representatives resolution to the President to look into these problems with intercollegiate athletics. It is a matter of interstate issues. An investigation would have to happen at a federal level. We may eventually be looking at monetary issues for injuries resulting from bad practices. LSU does not earn money directly it is sent to the SEC and sent back in equal pools to all universities.

Angeletta Gourdine  
These concerns that resolution tries to address, such as the issue of insurance and injury protection and salary management are items that the NCAA is involved in. How is this not duplicative of that?

Kevin Cope  
The NCAA always has some panels associated with these topics but has not had any action. Not much has happened. These commissions at the NCAA are advisory and then it becomes a matter of the NCAA staff and Presidents. Everything has to be voted on by the Presidents. One action causing the NCAA a deep situation is universities are heralding with great joy the five athletic conferences to have owns rules. This takes them further away from academe and faculty control.

Charles Delzell  
Bill Demastes agrees with issue on increased academic fraud that there has been no indication of rise which is stated in the bill. He read an email from Bill Demastes that said t is newsworthy because it is so rare. Due to sky rocketing salaries, the NCAA would like to put salary caps, but federal law makes it employer collusion. About concussions, the NCAA is as the forefront of this issue and puts the decision in the hands of the physicians. The five conferences have the freedom to invest greater medical funding than before due to greater buying power.

Kevin Cope  
It may well turn out there is no fraud. Whether we like it or not the public thinks fraud is ripe in athletics. If investigated and athletics and a coach is found clean we would look good. It is true that there is an anti price fixing law for coaches' salaries. Law is not the only influence in play. The NCAA operates within its own rules and if there was public outcry than something would occur. Much of what has happened is with gradual changes due to public pressure. The athletic regime sees the goal is to minimize concussions not to prevent them.

Senator  
He heard people say it is not about federal government being involved. He does not get to vote on NCAA issues, but votes for senators and such, if this affects our jobs than it is important for us to flex our muscle that we are not bound to the athletic enterprise and that in the not to distance future there may be some liabilities that may affect our abilities to do our job.

Kevin Cope

The university level governance may be expanding to regional and nationwide issues.

Vote: Two nays, 4 abstentions and the rest yes. Resolution passes.

**Second and final reading OR briefing by Student Government representatives, Resolution 15-09, “Maximum Number of Midterm Examinations per Day”,** Introduced at the request of Student Government

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

Statement by Student Government representative Andrew

The inspiration behind this idea was similar to finals week where if a student has three or more finals in 24 hour period, they may make arrangements to have one moved. With the mid-terms on the calendar maybe they could do this with mid-terms as well. He was told people said they do not give mid-terms. If there was a policy how would that affect mid-terms. They want to change it to if there is any time during the semester that a student has three exams at the same time that reach a certain threshold percentage of their grade, that students could work it out with professors so they would not have to take three exams at the same time in a 24 hr period.

Kevin Cope

The motion or resolution is that we establish with student government and the administration a panel or committee to create a system that when a student reaches a certain threshold in other words a certain number of examinations counting for y percentage of a course would no longer be required to take anymore.

*Q&A Summary:*

Senator

So why don't we have a resolution.

Kevin Cope

The student government did not have much content that this one was based on.

John Caprio

I do not see how this can be coordinated across campus. How do you know a professor in some other area is giving an exam?

Andrew Student government rep

That was a question I had, more of a logistic question.

Barbara Reonas

She works in the dean's office as a counselor. For final exams they pull up the schedule and pull up the students schedule and verify for instructors that students have two or three exams at the same time. The issue with mid-terms or maybe they would have to have it in a published syllabi, there would be no way to verify that. The registrar does not allow you to move exam times without permission. We do not have a way to verify that with mid-terms or any exams, so implementation would be impossible

Visitor

Perhaps you could show a syllabus which shows they have exams that day. Faculty do not necessarily have a schedule of exams laid out. The biggest issue is implementation.

Judith Schiebout

We should give them a mid-term grade, but this is hard to implement. This is a wake-up call, in which they know they will have several exams. Perhaps the mid-term grade is based on something other than exams.

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Judith Sylvester

How would you decide which professor would change the day of their exam? She doesn't allow make-ups or not the same exam if they miss it. It impinges on our time and rights to set out schedules.

Mandi Lopez

How frequent does this happen?

Andrew Student government rep

Apparently it is enough that some students have come to their senators asking about this.

Mandi Lopez

Do you have any number or metrics? How many times has it happened to you?

Andrew Student government rep

I have had that happen during finals but I cannot remember if I had the problem with mid-terms.

Mandi Lopez

This information would be very helpful giving the amount of effort it would take.

Zach Faircloth

They do not have numbers on this issue. He was asking Dr. Cassidy to get numbers on that.

Jane Cassidy

We cannot get numbers on that because we do not know the numbers.

Zach Faircloth

It happened to two juniors in his class. It is pretty rare.

Mandi Lopez

How many times has it happened to you? Those numbers would be important.

Zach Faircloth

It has never happened to me in six semesters.

Gundela Hachmann

It may be that you move tests times due to issues like bad weather or students not being ready for the test, so I think faculty need some flexibility and it would be complicated to have that flexibility with this worked in.

Zach Faircloth

We believe faculty should have flexibility so we do not think it should apply to papers, assignments and homework. This is to get students a little more engaged in dealing with this issue, also trying to get faculty to be flexible.

Senator

Rather than making a rule can we just say faculty can be a little more open to dealing with the issue when it comes up since it is so small an issue.

Zach Faircloth

For those students affected this is a big issue for them and it is hyper important to those students. You could lose TOPS in one day. We want students to get more engaged with this issue.

Senator

These numbers are small. Have students tried to speak to the faculty about it?

Zach Faircloth

The students who had the issue were not able to do it through the faculty and they would have to go to the dean at that point to get the dean's approval.

Angeletta Gourdine

I have been here 15 years and have been asked by counselors and deans to move an assignment due to an issue for the students. It seems not necessary to implement a policy and instead to inform the student about how they can handle the issue when it occurs. There are already faculties in the university to address this problem in a way that doesn't impinge on the flexibility of the faculty.

Zach Faircloth

If you start opening policy statements right now there are not many that affect a majority students, but maybe a freshman coming in and not

knowing all those policies, so if they knew what to do they could get help. This would be for those students that are a rare case and can't get it done without a rule.

Alan Sikes

Rather than a resolution through the faculty senate would it be better to have the advising office at their end to have a statement that the student can go see their advisor then have a policy that an advisor would step in to speak to those faculty members involved.

Zach Faircloth

We would be receptive to that idea. The goal is to never have another student take three exams in one day.

Arend van Gemmert

Is it during the mid-term exam period that three students had the problem? I never have a mid-term.

Zach Faircloth

Probably 30% of students have a mid-term exam in his academic experience.

Arend van Gemmert

That is a different thing; my two exams are involved in mid-term grades.

John Caprio

Would this be too complex?

Fereydoun Aghazadeh

Have you had students have this issue?

Barbara Reonas

If you are asking faculty to completely redo an examination completely, this is quite a bit of effort on their part. This is probably why your colleagues have been against this idea. If there is going to be the tolerance or willingness to create new exams, but also understanding by faculty we can do this. There is nothing we can do to advocate for the students. We have contacted faculty but they can verify if the student brings them syllabi. They would have to track down faculty and they have limited resources so it is at the students' discretion.

Gundela Hachmann

With the final exam regulation, it concurs to her almost every semester that a student gets to the deadline and is not aware of the process and comes near the end of the semester to beg for a different exam time. These kinds of issues could spread into the entire semester. Ethically they say I have a right not to take three exams a day, I am a freshman and I didn't know I have this right. The issue is already rather tedious to deal with that at the end of the semester.

Senator

Could we have faculty and student representatives work on this issue in a committee to go and see if there is any way for us to make this work, so students are not literally risking their educational future at mid-terms.

Kevin Cope

This is a change to the resolution with a slight change of emphasis to have a committee formed.

Senator

How many students have come to you in the past 12 semesters?

Barbara Reonas

For mid-terms only may two to three in 12 years for mid-terms. For finals it is more of an issue. Whether that is because they know we can really do nothing is not known.

Ramachandran Vaidyanathan

If it is just one person I don't think we should shrug it off. If it is not happening too often then I will not be bothered by it.

Marco

Is this a calendar day or a 24 hour period?

Zach Faircloth

He took the 24 hours from the policy on finals. A calendar day would be more fair.

Senator

We are required to submit our syllabi before the semester. Maybe the students can look at the syllabi and not chose classes that would have this issue.

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Mandi Lopez

This will apply to only one week?

Zach Faircloth

It will start with one week, but no students should have to take three exams in a single day.

Angeletta Gourdine

Is this mainly an issue with engineering?

Barbara Reonas

No it could be any other students across the board.

Arend van Gemmert

Yes, there have been other students. He was asked by a student for a regular exam.

Angeletta Gourdine

The potential exists at any given moment when a faculty member has an exam a student can come to the faculty member and say they have more than one exam on the same day so students could go ask the faculty members to work with them.

Zach Faircloth

This is one week. I don't think a student should be taking three exams in any one day.

Kevin Cope

We could vote on the resolution as revised for a committee or we can vote for further postponement and Zach can go back and find a more amenable one.

Zach Faircloth

He would like a committee.

Kevin Cope

The resolution is to form a feasibility committee comprised of faculty senate members, student government members and administration to consider whether the proposal as articulated by student government to put a cap on any kind of mid-term assessment whatever that may be is in fact feasible.

Lillian Bridwell-Bowles

We should add faculty advisors to this list.

Kevin Cope

Yes we will add them.

Senator

Would that happen during only mid-terms or other times?

Kevin Cope

The feasibility committee could pinpoint that issue.

Vote; majority yes, 2 nays.

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**Second and final 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

Read by Kevin Cope

**FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 15-10**  
**Comprehensive Approaches to Higher Education Funding**

Introduced at the request of the Association of Louisiana faculty Senates and the of University of Louisiana Lafayette and  
Southeastern Louisiana University Faculty Senates

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.

**Q&A Summary:**

Judith Sylvester

I thought we changed it to the recession started in 2008 not ended in 2008.

Kevin Cope

Friendly amendment.

Vote: Passes unanimously.

**New Business**

**First reading, Resolution 15-11, “Reaffirming the Importance of Mid-Semester Grades and Abolishing the Designated Mid-Semester Examination Period”,** Sponsored by Senator Charles Delzell

Read by Charles Delzell

**LSU Faculty Senate Resolution 15–11**

**Reaffirming the Importance of Mid-Semester Grades and Abolishing the Designated Mid-Semester Examination Period**  
Sponsored by Charles Delzell

Whereas the catalog declares:

The “Academic Calendar” shows the mid-semester examination period. Faculty must report mid-semester grades in all undergraduate courses. These grade sheets are available through my LSU.

Whereas midterm grades are important not only for students to know their standing in a course, but also for academic counselors and other academic support staff who wish to provide timely intervention for students who are struggling (in order to improve retention), and

Whereas the academic calendar’s designated “mid-semester examination period” is voluntary, and it appears that few instructors use it,

Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Senate reaffirms the importance of mid-semester grades (also called “mid-term grades” in summer session A) for courses numbered 4999 and below and recommends that the Office of the Registrar inform departments and colleges of instructors’ reporting of mid-semester grades in the same way that it does for final grades.

Therefore be it further resolved that the Faculty Senate recommends that the designated “mid-semester examination period” (also called the “mid-term examination period” in summer session A) be abolished from future academic calendars, and the mention of this period be removed from the catalog.

Charles Delzell

He heard from Robert Doolos through Melissa Brocato that it would be easy for the registrar to send an email to faculty to remind them to put in mid-term grades. Holly Anderson gets lots of calls from faculty about whether they have to give mid-terms grades if they haven’t given any tests. She asks if they have given any other assignments.

Moved into discussion.

**Q&A Summary:**

Judith Sylvester

Someone needs to look into this core. They have team taught courses so that the mid-term is somewhat like a final for them. There may also be more issues with three exams on the same day. It could get kind of confusing. You need to talk to the testing people for volume of testing during that week. She teaches her courses in two parts, so it works out for her and she gives one mid-term and a final the rest is all written.

Charles Delzell

This would not affect your classes and how you do things.

Judith Sylvester

She thinks it will cause more confusion that it would help.

Charles Delzell

Jane Cassidy said in a note that they support any decision of maintaining or abolishing a mid-term week, but still for requiring grades.

Angeletta Gourdine

There will still be a registrar designated time where mid-semester grades would still be required. This just removes the designated period in which we give these exams.

Evgueni Nestrov

If the time we have to submit mandatory mid-term grades is still in effect. Then why do we have to eliminate this mid-term week if it is still voluntary for faculty to give mid-terms.

Charles Delzell

There are two sets of words, mid-term exam week and mid-term grades due. He wants to abolish the first statement.

Evgueni Nestrov

What is the need to abolish it? It is a reminder to students that they are in the middle of the semester.

Charles Delzell

There is no harm.

Senator

I don't give a mid-term, he publishes when his exams are. Students come to him asking when their mid-term will be because the schedule says mid-term examination period. Simply put verbiage in your syllabus. Having it in the academic calendar makes it seem like it is a university wide event.

Fereydoun Aghazadeh

What is the current policy about mid-term grading reporting or not?

Charles Delzell

He asked Barbara Reonas if she gets a report that says mid-term grades are not submitted?

Barbara Reonas

She does not get a report.

Angeletta Gourdine

She has received a note about mid-term grades. It was sent to individual faculty.

Louay Mohammed

We do not get it from engineering.

Diane Mohler

There is a push to post mid-term grades due to problems student issues. She gets a report for students needing help due to mid-term grades. They are important due to retention efforts. They make phone calls to students to talk to them about what help they need for intervention needs.

Barbara Reonas

In files to geaux she will receive a report of Ds and Fs after you submit your grades. They will reach out to those students. Other than the academic AIT report or care report form you may submit for students at risk, there is no way to know if a student is at risk. The mid-term grades are awfully important to them in terms of retention efforts. They prefer to intervene while the students are here on campus.

Judith Sylvester

Doesn't the athletic department also request mid-term grades?

Senator

The resolution affirms the reporting of mid-term grades it is just to remove the designation of mid-term week.

Charles Delzell

He looked at math courses and found 87% had turned in mid-term grades. He never got a message from the registrar that someone had not turned in mid-term grades. He would rather he received an email about mid-term grades being due.

Judith Sylvester

Maybe we just need to call it mid-term week not exam week.

Mandi Lopez

Just a friendly amendment. On third whereas, after is voluntary and it appears that few instructors use it. We can not qualify it. It could say is voluntary.

Charles Delzell

He asked colleagues about it and they could not verify it.

**First reading, Resolution 15-12, “A Resolution to Oppose House Bill 707, the Louisiana Marriage and Conscience Act”**, Introduced at the request of former Senator Stephanie Braunstein

Read by Stephanie Braunstein

**LSU FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION15-12  
TO OPPOSE HOUSE BILL707, THE LOUISIANA MARRIAGE AND CONSCIENCE ACT**  
Sponsored by Stephanie Braunstein, LSU Libraries

Whereas Louisiana State University has demonstrated its commitment to diversity in several ways, including the 1999 creation of an Office of Diversity, headed by a Vice Provost of Campus Diversity; and

Whereas that Office has, on its official website, a Diversity Statement that includes the following two pertinent paragraphs: LSU recognizes that achieving national prominence depends on the human spirit, participation, and dedicated work of the entire University community. Flagship: 2020 will be realized by bringing together diverse ideas, perspectives, skills, and talents of the nation's pre-eminent scholars, brightest students, and leading higher education professionals. Through its Commitment to Community; LSU strives to create an inclusive, respectful, intellectually challenging climate that embraces individual difference in race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, age, spirituality, socio-economic status, disability, family status, experiences, opinions, and ideas; and

Whereas Louisiana State University’s Faculty Senate supports the University’s goals of “bringing together diverse ideas, perspectives, skills, and talents of the nation's pre-eminent scholars, brightest students, and leading higher education professionals”; and

Whereas Louisiana State University’s Faculty Senate also supports the University’s goals of “. . . creat[ing] an inclusive, respectful, intellectually challenging climate that embraces individual difference in race, ethnicity, national origin, gender, sexual orientation, gender identity/expression, age, spirituality, socio-economic status, disability, family status, experiences, opinions, and ideas”; and

Whereas the recent legislation proposed by Representative Mike Johnson (R-Bossier City), HB 707, is commonly perceived to be legislation that would open the door to discrimination against the LGBT community in Louisiana; and

Whereas in order for Louisiana State University to recruit and retain a diverse faculty, the laws of the state must not be seen as discriminatory to any group;

Therefore, be it resolved that the Louisiana State University Faculty Senate opposes House Bill 707 and any other proposed legislation that would negatively impact the goals of building and maintaining a diverse faculty on its campus.

Moved to discussion.

Charles Delzell

His motion is that this resolution is out of order. He provided a document stating the authority of the Faculty Senate, rules and related information regarding HB 707.

Kevin Cope

He would rule the resolution in order due to the recruitment and retention of faculty as under the Faculty Senate jurisdiction. He rules the resolution in order.

Charles Delzell

He asked for a vote of the resolution being out of order.

Vote: on resolution being out of order: Three say yes.

Vote: on resolution being in order: Two thirds majority yes.

Moved in discussion with one nay vote.

*Q&A Summary:*

Alan Sikes

Item number 5 on second page regarding efforts to recruit a diverse faculty on opposing statements. Regarding the final clause about link to LSU, universities are being encouraged explicitly or implicitly to follow a business model. We should see what companies nationwide are doing and many companies are saying this will impact their ability to recruit the best and brightest to come to Louisiana. In this state it was IBM. We need to take into consideration the business model in relation to this resolution. His partner of 16 years is a faculty member here at LSU. When they first went into academia they had jobs in different universities and he waited to come here. He heard anecdotally that LSU does not do spousal hires and he does not know if that is policy or not. His partner of 16 years could be considered legal spouses if spousal hire had been on the table.

Senator

He was on a search committee and three of the top ten candidates were not inclined to consider the job due to the policy of Louisiana.

Charles Delzell

Can any of these candidates point to the HB 707 that influenced them?

Stephanie Braunstein

In next to last whereas clause, she wanted to emphasize it again that it would open the door to discrimination to the LGBT community. Even though you can take this resolution apart in regards to taxation, it was about what could not be done if in violation of civil rights. It is the perception in our culture now that these laws are discriminatory. Unless someone does lots of amendments to these bills I don't think your arguments are really going to matter. As long as this would affect industry in recruitment and retention and will do so and she has heard of stories to corroborate this then that is an insufficient argument against this resolution.

Lillian Bridwell-Bowles

She says our governor and legislature is make us a national laughing stock and made it hard to hire intelligent, open-minded people. That discrimination against that community affects me as a faculty member and affects those she has been trying to recruit.

Stephanie Braunstein

Dr. Rovaris has stated he is clearly in support of this resolution.

Joan King

I move to suspend the rules to vote now on the resolution. Seconded by Angeletta Gourdine.

Vote: to suspend rules and vote now. Passed with one nay and one abstention.

Vote for resolution: Majority yes, two abstentions, one nay.

Senators moved to adjourn, many seconded.

Adjourned at 5:40 pm