

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Thursday September 4, 2014
Student Senate Room, LSU Student Union



Attendance

Faculty Senate Executive Committee members present:

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| 1. Kevin L. Cope (President, English) | 2. Ken McMillin (Vice-President, Animal Science) |
| 3. Bill Daly (Past President, Chemistry) | 4. Joan King (Secretary, Food Science) |
| 5. Mandi Lopez (Member-at-Large, Vet Science.) | 6. Suresh Rai (Member-at-Large, Elect. & Computer Eng.) |

Parliamentarian: Louay Mohammed

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

Aghazadeh, Fereydoun (Mech Eng/Eng)	19	X	Dorian Dorado (Foreign Lan Lit/HSS)	37	X	Carl Motsenbocker (Horticult/Ag)
Fakhri Al-Bagdadi (Comp. Biomed Sci/Vet)	20		Susan Eades (Vet Clinical Sci/Vet)	38		Seth Orgel (Music/Music Dramatic Arts)
Austin Allen (Landscape Arch./AD)	21	A	Kristin Gansle (Education/HSS)	39		John Pojman (Chemistry/Science)
Reid Bates (SHWRED/HSE)	22	X	Jeff Gillespie (Ag Econ/Ag)	40	X	Steven Pomarico (Biological Sci/Sci)
Jennifer Baumgartner (Child Family/HSE)	23	X	Gundela Hachmann (Foreign Lang Lit./HHS)	41	X	Suresh Rai (EE and Comp/Eng)
Emily Beasley (Kinesiology)	24	X	Jong Ham (Plant Path/Ag)	42	X	Judith Rhodes (Social Work/HSS)
Lillian Bridwell-Bowles (English/HSS)	25	X	Wes Harrison (AGEC/Ag)	43	X	Jeffrey Roland (Philos Rel Studies/HSS)
Konstantin Busch (EE & Comp Sci/Eng)	26	X	Stuart Irvine (Philos Relig/HHS)	44	X	Judith Schiebout (Geology/Science)
John Caprio (Bio Sci/Sci)	27		Sherif Ishak (Civil Environ Eng/Eng)	45	X	Andrew Schwarz (Info Sys Dec Sci/Bus)
Lauren Coates (English/HSE)	28	X	Joan King (Food Sci/Ag)	46	X	Stephen Shipman (Math/Science)
Kevin Cope (English/HSS)	29	X	Mandi Lopez (Vet Clinical Sci/Vet)	47	X	Alan Sikes (Theater/Music Dramatic Arts)
Belinda Davis (Poly Sci/HSS)	30	X	Ron Malone (Civil Environ Eng/Eng)	48	X	Linda Smith Griffin (Libraries/Lib)
William Daly (Chemistry/Sci)	31	X	Kenneth Kip Matthews (Physics Astro/Sci)	49	P	Judith Sylvester (Mass Com/Mass Com)
Fabio Del Piero (Pathobiol Sci)	32		Alison McFarland (Music/Music and DA)	50	X	Ramachandran Vaidyanathan (EE Comp/Eng)
Charles Delzell (Math/Sci)	33		Jean McGuire (Management/Bus)	51	X	Arend Van Gemmert (Kinesiology/HHS)
Margaret Denny (Education/Ed)	34	X	Ken McMillin (Animal Sci/Ag)	52	X	Gregory Watson (Architecture/AD)
John DiTusa (Phys Astron/Sci)	35	X	Jacquelyn Sue Moffit (Acct/Business)	53	X	Yejun Wu (Library Information Sci/Lib)
David Donze (Biological Sciences/Sci)	36	X	Larry Mohammed (Civil and Environ Eng/Eng)	54		Jun Zou (Interior Design/AD)

Guests:

Jane Cassidy	John DeRoche	Walter Radam	Roxanne Berthelot	Dereck Rovaris
Deanna Narveson	Ernie Ballard	F. King Alexander	Provost Bell	Amaris D. Guzman
Gil Reeve				

Consideration of the Minutes from May 7, 2014

Motion by Agazida, seconded by senator Al-Bagdadi.
 Approved unanimously with potential corrections.

President's Report

- Over the summer the purchasing department in Financial Affairs has made progress in LaCarte procurement cards and GeauxShop. The new director has met with faculty and set up focus groups. There are problems with detracted delivery times and undecipherable catalogs from some providers.
- There is a new taco truck in the parking lot. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee worked with auxiliary services to overcome contracts. We do not know how it was accomplished. A second food truck will be here in a few weeks. He gave special praise to Margo Carol, Director of Auxiliary Services.
- There have been curious developments in the foundation. Three foundations have been at odds with each other. Over the summer, the three heads have left and we hope we might have a more regulated and coordinated environment. He suggested to President Alexander that he try to find a VP of fundraising to this purpose, so the academic side really benefits.
- The activists, who brought tobacco free policy to campus, spoke to the Provost about signs. They have seen people smoking at bus stops.

5. There is a problem with bus traffic in the traffic circle at North Campus Drive and Field House Road. There is a mixed blessing about pedestrians not using cross walks. Jeff Campbell the Director of the Traffic department had a focus group and consultant to work on problem.
6. The plus minus grading plan was discussed yesterday. The formal 2015 implementation day is still on track. Vice Provost Gil Reeve has developed guidelines for implementation. There is confusion about the term optional. The grade plan must be available to students since it is listed in the catalog. The assessing of grades is a faculty prerogative. You can define the grades as you please. We must make the matter clear so no students are confused. The optionally will not extend to the system itself.
7. There have been issues with tech transfer and patenting. It was good to see the Career Services Center opening. There is a concerning artifact towards privatization. Ten companies who donated were oil based and one was parts provided to oil companies. We do not want it to become a recruitment place for low cost oil employees. We will invite Career Services people to speak to the Faculty Senate Executive Committee on this issue.
8. We have had tremendous cooperation with Dan Layzell, VP of Finances. Two issues were raised with him, the difficulty in obtaining data about raises and that about the budget. The VP is cooperative and looking into the technical obstacles.
9. The dental program at the Medical School in New Orleans had student loan calculation issues. The student loans are calculated on the preceding years tuition so it is affecting the new tuition . There is a patch job going on.
10. There is a new Cyber Security Center without much knowledge on the part of faculty. On one hand this is a great development and we expect more lucrative rainmaking centers in the future. On the other hand there are no arrangements for colleagues on the governance of this center. We raised the issue with the Provost, and it will be raised with the President.
11. We were asked by the Provost to look at forensic issues arising on campus. The Law School is moving into campus by next year. The question was raised about their faculty senate and whether it was functional.
12. President Alexander mentioned candidates, although faculty are often opposed to new positions in administration, faculty have had input into the searches.
13. He invited anyone interested to the next Association of Faculty senates meeting. He was anticipating a marquee speaker and presentations by faculty.
14. Shorts Travel system has been breaking down. For travel to the Orient, the system still recommends Malaysian airlines. There are problems with booking multiple travelers. We are working with the Southeastern University Faculty Senate to deal with this issue. Monumental purchasers have been quiet.
15. The Office of Groups Benefits is in serious trouble. This issue affects 20% of the faculty here and more at other universities and also impacts staff.

Q&A Summary:

None.

Presentation System President and LSU A&M Chancellor F. King Alexander

Thanked all of the volunteers who helped with move in day. He heard the concern about lecturer contracts and agreed to address the one year structure. They are moving on a path for those here 6 years to give the opportunity to sign three year contracts and a better promotional path for those that have been here long term for 12 years and out. English has raised these concerns about one year contracts. They are looking at offering courses to spouses. This is a competitive issue as seen from peers. They are looking at offering up to six credit hours to spouses. They are looking at the numbers and the type of financial commitment that would mean. They are hoping to announce something in the next couple of months. They are in favor of it. We had the best graduation rate and over the summer we had the largest female, Latino, and African American classes. Retention is important for freshman to sophomore year, but we had a dip of 1.5% over two years. They had a deans retreat on this issue. They are looking at how to utilize academic services so we do not lose them. This is the main issue in college score card and governors association. Our graduation is about 30th in 52 land grant universities. We do not want to lose ground. They have identified a student campaign of information in cooperation with student government. There are lots of great services provided for students and we over estimate how much students know about it. His wife asked if there was an opportunity for academic tutor support. We need to keep hitting them with information, so they know where they can get help when they need it. This past summer they worked on raises and we gained 1.5% on peers, so we are gaining back ground we lost in the previous years and decade. We are going to have another enrollment increase and students constitute about 80% of our budget, so students have become much more important. If we worked hard to keep students here that helps our bottom line. Additional funds from the WISE Act, gives us the opportunity to fill additional faculty lines. The WISE Act is a discussion about short term needs versus long term needs. We are at 29% of the adult population with college degrees putting us at the bottom. We will never know how many companies never put us on the list because we are at the bottom of attainment. How we are building our economy is important in the long term. We are embarking on 100 to 125 new faculty positions this year. Dereck Rovaris, Vice Provost for Diversity, will speak with committees utilizing different hiring techniques. This past year at the end on June we had our best fundraising year in a long time. We raised over \$73 million, about twice what we raised in the past. We are looking at the foundations to work more collaboratively so we can build on numbers and potential. We have about \$15,000 per student in our endowments. Chapel Hill is at \$104, 000, Wisconsin is at \$65,000, and Nebraska is only at \$7,000. We will work on building our fundraising capacity especially endowments. It will not be long before lines cross and we depend more on private funds. We hired Linda Bonnin as Vice President of Strategic Communications. We have a general counsel search nearing completion as an effort to bring it in house and so we can be more

proactive in preventing problems to protect the university. We are building our general counsel and will make announcement very soon. Last night he was at a dinner with Senator Vitter and congressional representatives about where the federal government is going in the next few years. It was a celebration for Congressman Salise moving up to the third highest member of the US congress. No one wants the government to shut down again. Much of what happened since the government shutdown will continue and the funding for research will be approved. They will work with K.T. Valsaraj, Vice Chancellor for Research & Economic Development in ORED to tap us into these opportunities. We do not expect any good news and do not expect bad news like last year. We are challenging student government to get students to vote and to get the highest number of voters in history. They play a part in representing the generation that is getting the shaft at the expense of health care. We want them to represent higher education. The WISE Act is \$40 million for higher education and we will be able to use the money for hires. This is a 3% to 4% budget increase. The future state budget outlook is about \$1.3 billion in the hole. We are looking at a difficult year for the state budget; there is a light at the end of the tunnel. We hope the state will maintain the commitment. All of higher education is on board. The budgets look like they did in the past and we need revenue generation. The honors college renovation is full steam ahead. We are not waiting for the next legislative session. We are moving on it right away, through generosity from the legislature. Want to get air conditioning in the Fine Arts facility. We just unveiled and cut the ribbon for the Career Center. Over 500 companies interview our students. There is a financial literacy course for them on how to repay student loans. There was twice as many visitors as last year. It is perfectly set up for students to take advantage of. The ERP is going forward. The rfp is out and we are looking to replace that in two years to stabilize systems for financial and student services. The system went down last year and we lost applications.

Q&A Summary:

Dorian Dorado

There are many instructors in the Foreign Languages department program, but they are only able to offer \$32,000 to come here, while other places offer \$40,000 to \$50,000. Is there any possibility to pay higher salaries to instructors to get good quality instructors?

Provost Stuart Bell

There are issues across ranks, full professors are behind, associates are closer, and assistants are closer, but still a bit behind. Lecturers are also below the market. It is going to take several years. He chatted with Dean Haynie on how to address the issue and also with Dean Foster before that. This year they took care of salaries with all ranks. We need to address that. We need the best instructors. The other challenge we are not just talking about making a new offer, we are talking about salary structure and those still here. We cannot just lift one; we need to lift the whole salary structure. We are dealing with not giving salary increases every year. Last year we made a 1.5% increase, next year we have a 1% increase goal over peers.

President F. King Alexander

He suspects the gap is better; we went from 13.7 down to 13.3 down for full professors. Lecturers who have been here awhile will get a three year contract if they have been here 6 years minimum.

Provost Stuart Bell

The PS-36NT change will help provide stability. A group of 20 to 25 lecturers have met with HRM and the Provost's office to deal with the issue. It is not dollars in your pocket, its value. We need to message to our instructors that they are important to us. The first thing they mentioned is collegiality. Don't treat them less the tenure track faculty. We have to be careful about how we communicate and how we assign classes. The three year contract is job security. The promotion path if they have been here for awhile, at least 12 years, they will have senior lecturer promotion level with remuneration. As colleagues there is a part of this on our plate as to how we interact with them. Sometimes they are teaching 4 and 4 and their lights are on late at night answering student questions.

Election of Member-at-Large of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee from newly elected senators

Kevin Cope explained the duties of the executive committee and how the members-at-large are elected and who was eligible. He also covered how often we meet and our interaction with Academic Affairs.

Those running were Fabio DelPiero and Louay Mohammed. Each candidate made a speech.

By a tight margin the winner was Fabio DelPiero by a written ballot.

Graduate Council issue by Ken McMillin

Board of Supervisors rules said the faculty has control over matters of curricula. Currently the Graduate Council is selected by the Dean of the Graduate School. There have been questions about adequate representation and exactly what the Graduate Council does. There was a shift to move graduate faculty status down to the department level in the 1970's. The Board of Regents said there were still deficient programs so there was a continuing cycle review of graduate faculty credentials. They handled rotating credential analysis through the graduate school. In 1984 there was a resolution passed to represent colleges that did have graduate programs. In 2001 there was a request that they develop policies and procedures for graduate faculty. In 2010 a couple of faculty senators decided that appointment was incompatible with principles of shared governance so we wanted to have elections. We called on the graduate school in 2011 to hold

elections if they did not FSEC would begin the process. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee now is going to create activity and now is time. There will be four graduate council representatives that will expire terms in 2014 and we will elect replacements. Formal and informal discussions with the graduate school do not appear to have been fruitful. The Graduate Council should be representative of the faculty and we should have election process.

Q&A Summary:

Stuart Irvine

Is Gary Byerly still head of the graduate school? You had no response, right?

Ken McMillin

Kevin Cope had meetings with Dr. Byerly and we keep getting reassurances that we will develop a procedure and this is where we are at.

Stuart Irvine

He is amenable?

Ken McMillin

I would not agree with that statement.

Senator

How would we get this process started?

Ken McMillin

It was proposed that larger colleges would have two graduate faculty and those smaller would have one, that would increase from 14 to 19 members. It was attend that they can't conduct business that those are too many, but not all can attend every meeting. What we proposed is that we start electing on this cycle of replacements through 2018 since this is a 5 year appointment.

John Caprio

What is the impetus for change?

Ken McMillin

We do not know what they are doing. The elected members would respond to faculty.

John Caprio

He did not see problems as a member of the committee. Is it because there is no information about what is being done? Is there a total deficit of information?

Ken McMillin

Look at deficit in number of graduate faculty meetings we have been having in the last four years. Technically we should have one every semester.

Kevin Cope

We will work on a plan and will post on it on the Faculty Senate website for comment.

Old Business

None.

New Business

First Reading Faculty Senate Resolution 14-09, "Affirmation of Academic Freedom and Shared Governance at the University of Illinois and Throughout the American Public Higher Education System", Sponsored by John Protevi, Vince LiCata, A.R.P. Ravi Rau, Michelle Masse, James Catano, Kathleen Bratton and Jeffrey Roland

Read by Vince LiCata

Faculty Senate Resolution 14-09

Affirmation of Academic Freedom and Shared Governance at the University of Illinois and throughout the American Public Higher Education System

Sponsored by John Protevi; Vincent LiCata; A. R. P. "Ravi" Rau; Michelle Massé; James Catano; Kathleen Bratton; and Jeffrey Roland

Whereas academic freedom and the protection of First Amendment rights to free speech, and a commitment to fairness and transparency in all academic procedures and practices, especially those concerning faculty hires, form the foundations of the American public higher educational system;

Whereas the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC) made a written offer on October 3, 2013 to Professor Steven Salaita for an appointment, with tenure, as Associate Professor [1];

Whereas Professor Salaita accepted the offer, and relying upon the common practice that the Board of Trustees approval was pro forma, a practice that thousands of university faculty have relied upon, including many here at LSU, resigned from his tenured position in the English Department at Virginia Tech University;

Whereas Chancellor Phyllis Wise of UIUC, on August 1, 2014, summarily and without faculty consultation, informed Professor Salaita that she would not forward his contract to the Board of Trustees, thereby undermining every preceding review by faculty and administrators;

Whereas news reports from several reputable news sources assert that the administrative decision of Chancellor Wise to block Professor Salaita's employment at UIUC was a response to complaints about his postings to twitter.com;

Whereas Chancellor Wise [2] and the University of Illinois Board of Trustees [3] issued statements on August 22, 2014 introducing a vague and dangerous "civility" standard as a test of faculty behavior;

Whereas the "civility" standard is contrary to academic freedom in its content and contrary to shared governance in the process of its formulation, as those statements were produced without faculty consultation;

Whereas the AAUP's 1940 "Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure" explicitly states that when faculty "speak or write as citizens, they should be free from institutional censorship" [4];

Whereas the national AAUP office [5], the Illinois state chapter of the AAUP [6], the Campus Faculty Association of UIUC [7], the Executive Council of the Modern Language Association [8], and 60 prominent professors at UIUC [9], as well as hundreds of other academics, have publicly called upon Chancellor Wise to reinstate the offer to Professor Salaita;

Whereas the administrative revocation of Professor Salaita's contract and subsequent statements by Chancellor Wise and the UI Board constitute a significant assault on both the principle of academic freedom and the principle of shared governance, and thereby produces a chilling effect on the ability of faculty members everywhere to speak openly on matters of public concern without fear of their jobs;

Therefore be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of Louisiana State University joins with our colleagues at UIUC as well as with the above-mentioned organizations and individuals to call upon Chancellor Wise and the Board of Trustees to honor the contract of Professor Salaita or to otherwise reach an equitable agreement with him;

Be it further resolved that the Faculty Senate reaffirms LSU's longstanding and cherished commitment to academic freedom articulated in the LSU Faculty Handbook [10].

References:

[1]: <http://www.news-gazette.com/sites/all/files/pdf/2014/08/13/14-529.Documents.pdf>

[2]: <http://illinois.edu/blog/view/1109/115906>

[3]: <https://cfaillinois.files.wordpress.com/2014/08/civility-massmail.pdf>

[4]: <http://www.aaup.org/report/1940-statement-principles-academic-freedom-and-tenure>

[5]: <http://www.aaup.org/media-release/statement-case-stein-salaita>

[6]: <http://academeblog.org/2014/08/06/illinois-aaup-committee-a-statement-on-stein-salaita-and-uiuc/>

[7]: <http://cfaillinois.org/2014/08/07/cfa-statement-on-stein-salaita-and-u-of-illinois/>

[8]: http://www.mla.org/ec_univ_illinois

[9]: <http://www.news-gazette.com/opinion/guest-commentary/2014-08-26/ui-precluded-any-honest-debate.html>

[10]: <http://www.lsu.edu/senate/handbook/acad.html>

Motion to move to discussion Lillian Bridwell Bowles, seconded.

Approved unanimously

Ken McMillin

What is the time sensitivity?

John Provati

There will be a meeting of the board soon.

Fred Agazidai

Care you share the background with us?

John Provati

There is a lot of background. The resolution is based on public record of the chancellor's actions and statements by the Board of Trustees. There were questions about motives of the chancellor and board moves. There has been freedom of information requested for 440 pages. There were details of donors putting pressure on the chancellor to deny the contract.

Fabio DelPiero

What were the statements?

John Provati

They were picked up by a blog by Cornell University Professor William Jacobson and picked up by another blog and the comments were in emails. What constitutes the unit of analysis in a twitter feed? Picking out one tweet would be like diving into a book and picking out a sentence. Twitter is a new medium and we do not know what constitutes an issue. Some tweets express disgust with war in Gaza and its execution. It depends on how you interpret those. Chancellor Wise and the board denied that the tweets have anything to do with their decision because otherwise they bring up first amendment rights. The issue they said was incivility of tweets. This is dangerous to academic freedom because they are judging our use of words as private citizens. If he did something in class that provoked certain students to complain that is part of an administrator's domain. It is dangerous to have administrators judge political speech by professors and that is why we have academic freedom. Almost no other class of professionals has that. We are trying to maintain that. This is a direct threat to that. We do not want administrators looking at twitter feeds.

Jeffery Roland

The hire had gone through all of the normal channels until it normally would advance to the board for approval.

John Provati

It went through the chancellors office who had someone who signed off and recommended the hire.

Jeffery Roland

At that stage the chancellor made her own decision to nullify the entire process.

Vince LiCata

The professor already had course on the books and students registered.

John Provati

If this is not challenged the entire process of senior level movements, will grind to a halt cause no one will move without board approval. Some of us moved at the senior level and came here under the well founded assumption that approval would be Performa, but that was stopped. This is a principle matter of academic freedom and faculty governance.

Vince LiCata

Go to inside highered.com where they are covering this.

Jeffery Roland

Look at Corey Robin's blog, as he went through all of the documents and summarized it.

John Provato

One surrounding issue is with public disinvestment in public universities, administrators more beholden to private investors and what they want. He is against donors exercising veto power over faculty.

First Reading Faculty Senate Resolution 14-10, "Halting the Erosion of Health Plans Administered by the Office of Group Benefits", Introduced at the request of Southeastern Louisiana University Faculty Senate President James Kirylo and at the request of the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senate

Kevin Cope

Benefits schemes are parallel for academic professionals, one limited to the LSU system, LSU First, a quasi independent plan which is now open to Louisiana legislators. The other system is a set of 4 or 5 plans, HMOs, PPOs, etc. Those are offered to most other universities and

other faculties who elected it and a vast majority of staff because it is somewhat cheaper. In late 2011 the current state regime discovered the OGB had accumulated \$680 million due to good health of members. There is a law that requires the state to pay medical premiums to OGB. When the state ran into the ground financially they lowered OGB premiums to lower the amount paid by the state. Therefore money was paid from the reserve. The state confiscated OGB savings so it was a tax on members. This made it a way to purchase OGB due to not having to cover the cash reserve. The cash reserve is now \$250 million and expected to go down to \$25 million. It is somewhat insolvent, so now it is necessary to raise premiums one way or another. Christy Nichol said the premiums are not going to be increased. They can put in extra charges, including higher deductibles and requirements for genetic medication. This results in a reduction of benefits to faculty around the state. Fluctuations in OGB have effects, premiums for LSU First cannot exceed those charged by OGB and that is why we had a slight increase. Number two we face a problem of faculty transferring into LSU First and a rush may create some actuary problems.

Read by Kevin Cope

Faculty Senate Resolution 14–10

Halting the Erosion of Health Plans Administered by the Office of Group Benefits (OGB)

Introduced at the request of Southeastern Louisiana University Faculty Senate President James Kirylo and at the request of the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates

WHEREAS the executive branch of Louisiana government is revising those state health insurance plans that are administered by the Office of Group Benefits (“OGB”) so as to shift more costs to employees, whether by increasing out-of-pocket costs, imposing higher deductibles, assessing prescription fees, or multiplying service exclusions;

WHEREAS estimates indicate that these proposed changes will increase out-of-pocket costs to employees and retirees by approximately forty-seven percent, an unexpected and disproportionate increase that is unjust to and that imposes an extreme hardship on present and former public servants;

WHEREAS the proposed policy changes will result in state workers and retirees paying more and getting less, in startling contrast to and inversion of the “do more with less” motto of the current state administration;

WHEREAS the proposed changes will inflict economic damage on state workers throughout Louisiana, especially those in unclassified or similar positions who have few advocates and who lack other means to defend themselves, and will counteract those small raises or cost-of-living adjustments that employees or retirees have received in recent years;

WHERE AS no satisfactory explanation has been given for the astounding erosion of the OGB reserve fund from six-hundred eighty million dollars to approximately two-hundred twenty-five million dollars in only two years;

WHEREAS the reduction of viable choices among benefit plans will further diminish the ability of Louisiana’s colleges and universities to recruit and retain faculty and to remain competitive with other states in either higher education or in the industries with which higher education collaborates;

WHEREAS the sudden decay of the OGB medical insurance offerings is likely to trigger a rush to transfer to the LSU First plan, a rush that threatens to unsettle the LSU plan and to create costly administrative burdens;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the LSU Faculty Senate joins with its colleagues in the Southeastern Louisiana University Faculty Senate in opposing the proposed changes to the OGB-administered health plans, at least until proper studies and audits have been completed, and in warning that the proposed changes will be extraordinarily harmful for state workers and retirees; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the LSU Faculty Senate joins with the Southeastern Louisiana University Senate in cautioning that so dramatic a change in the affordability of health plans for the many thousands of voters and taxpayers who comprise the staff of Louisiana higher education institutions will harm the both the people and the economy of our state.

Motion to advance to discussion by Jeffery Roland, seconded by several.

Q&A Summary:

Lauren Coats

In fifth whereas is that suggesting it is being used for other than healthcare?

Kevin Cope

Money can be shifted over to other state needs. The state is no longer making its obligations to OGB.

Jeffery Roland

Isn't this the office that was privatized a couple of years ago?

Kevin Cope

The governor appointed Mr. Teag who was told to let the money go down and he said no. He was asked to leave a few days before retirement.

Jeffery Roland

There were all these plans to sell it.

Kevin Cope

It didn't quite work do to legislative pushback; a half way measure was taken that Blue Cross Blue Shield would work with the state. BCBS is working with companies and plans with which it is in competition which is a conflict of interest.

Senator

This is a misappropriation of funds issue.

Kevin Cope

It was re-appropriated into the general budget to be used wherever it is needed.

Wes Harrison

The total premium was pushed down or just the state portion?

Kevin Cope

The total premium.

Ken McMillin

There was a false sense of security over the last year, if we maintained the normal premium level it would not be so drastic.

Kevin Cope

The state says premiums are low but we are getting service exclusions.

Lillian Bridwell Bowles

A staff person in Allen Hall came to her to tell her she could not afford her blood pressure medicine and wanted to now where to seek help. She told her HRM which is no help at all. We need to see what we can do to help and support this resolution.

Kevin Cope

There will be a legislative hearing soon on the matter.

All moved to adjourn.

Adjourned at 4:44 pm