

Louisiana State University in Shreveport
Faculty Senate Correspondence

Minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting held March 9, 2011, in the Webster Room of the University Center.

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 p.m. by **Faculty Senate President Mary Jarzabek**.

Present: Mary Jarzabek, Carl Smolinski, Rhonda Failey, Chris Hale, Julie Bergeron, Elahe Mahdavian, Marjan Trutschl, Matyas Buzgo, Larry Garrison, LaWanda Blakeney, Lonnie McCray, Emre Celebi, Robert Miciotto

Absent: Raymond Taylor, Harvey Rubin

Approval of the minutes for the February 7, 2011, meeting as corrected.

President's Report: **Faculty Senate President Jarzabek** reported that the Board of Supervisors met last Friday and no new budget cuts have been announced. She mentioned an email she had received concerning massive budget cuts at UNLV. This institution suffered a \$49 million cut and the loss of 835 faculty and staff. Financial conditions are critical across the country. President Jarzabek said that a full list of signatures collected through Project Crisis Call will go to Baton Rouge in April. She said we need to recapture the original student fervor for this endeavor. The march on the Capitol building in Baton Rouge is on April 23. The Foundation will defray part of the cost for the trip to Baton Rouge. The SGA is working on a vote concerning the \$54 athletic fee (will tuition include/exclude this fee?), as well as a recommendation that some of the faculty parking be turned back over to the students. President Jarzabek extended her thanks to Dr. Banks for his work on the Policy and Personnel committee. She reminded the senate members that the entire executive committee is about to rotate off the senate and encouraged those present to step up and assume these leadership positions. She thanked Vice President Smolinski for his efforts to fill the faculty senate committee vacancies. President Jarzabek invited all senators and faculty to join her on Saturday, April 16, for the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senate Representatives summit meeting in Alexandria. Staff members will be attending this meeting also.

Administrators' Reports:

Provost Paul Sisson: **Dr. Sisson** discussed the LSUS response to the low completion programs and thanked everyone who worked on this. The three eliminated programs will roll into others or become concentrations. He reported that if we were able to receive an additional

\$1,000 per student we would be okay financially. We have the lowest state funding per FTE student of all four-year Louisiana campuses. Dr. Sisson's report follows:

LSU Shreveport proposes the following plan of program termination, consolidation, and continuation, in response to the Board of Regents review of 16 low-completer programs at LSUS. Our plan entails the termination of 3 programs, the consolidation of 11, and the continuation of 2. We have considered the 16 low-completer programs within the context of all of our other Bachelors programs and constructed a comprehensive plan that maintains our ability to provide the highest level of service to our constituents.

It is necessary to understand that **every new degree program LSUS has instituted over the last two decades, at least, has been crafted out of existing faculty, existing or updated classes, and existing facilities.** No additional funding has been needed or requested to create any new degree programs, and therefore no savings will be realized as a result of program elimination. Money cannot be created from nothing, as the faculty and staff at LSUS know all too well. LSUS has never been blessed with an excess of funding, and has never had the luxury of being able to offer extraneous classes or degree programs. On the contrary, **LSUS has perennially received the least state funding per FTE student** of all four-year Louisiana campuses, and has always had to carefully manage its offerings with an eye toward the utmost efficiency – as an example, state funding per FTE in 09-10 was \$3,439, versus a Louisiana average of \$4,467 (Source: GRAD Act documents). Almost all classes serve multiple degree programs, and the handful that are truly program-specific are kept to a bare minimum and offered only on a limited and as-needed basis, often as an unpaid overload by a faculty member.

With its limited resources, LSUS has always carefully monitored its degree offerings and ensured that they are tightly aligned with the needs of the region it primarily serves, the 400,000 people of northwest Louisiana. LSU Shreveport is the *only* public comprehensive four-year university situated to serve this mostly metro population, and the vast majority of our students are place-bound and non-traditional. This region has historically been underserved in terms of the funding allocated to higher education and, subsequently, the number of educational opportunities offered to its people. At this time of program elimination, it is imperative to note the following. As of January 2011,

- The two parishes of Ouachita and Lincoln, with a combined population of 194,788, is served by three comprehensive universities with a combined total of 185 Bachelors, 69 Masters, and 16 Doctoral programs
- The two parishes of Bossier and Caddo, with a combined population of 365,115, are served by one comprehensive university with 38 Bachelors, 11 Masters, 1 Specialist, and no Doctoral programs. If the proposed plan for termination, consolidation, and continuation is approved, the number of LSUS Bachelors programs will be reduced to 26.

LSUS is very proud of its history of efficiency and of the careful use of state resources. As further evidence, the ratio of state funding per graduate produced has historically been lower at LSUS than any other four-year campus. In 2009-2010, this ratio was \$19,790 for LSUS, versus a state average of \$25,121 and a state maximum of \$31,980. In this time of severe budgetary crisis, LSUS has maintained its high level of service to the people of its region despite a 45% cut in state funding and, since July 1 2008, a 19% reduction in its total staffing. We feel strongly that our proposed plan for termination, consolidation, and continuation is consistent with this history of high quality and value, and we encourage its approval.

LSU Shreveport

Of the 16 low completer programs identified by the Board of Regents, LSU Shreveport proposes to appeal for continuation on behalf of 2 academic programs, terminate 3 academic programs and consolidate 11 academic programs.

Appeals for Continuation:

- BS Mathematics
- BS Physics

Program Consolidation:

- BS Computer Information Systems and BS Computer Science will be consolidated into BS Computer Science.
- BA French and BA Spanish will be consolidated into BA Foreign Language.
- BS Chemistry and BS Biochemical Science will be consolidated into BS Chemistry (note that Biochemical Science is not on the low-completer list, but we are proposing to consolidate it with Chemistry).
- BA English Education, Grade 6-12, BA Social Studies, Grade 6-12, BA Mathematics Education, grade 6-12, BA Biology Education, Grade 6-12, BA Chemistry Education, Grade 6-12 and BA Physics Education, Grade 6-12 will consolidated into BS Secondary Education and Teaching.

Request for Termination:

- BA Speech, Speech Communication
- BA Health & Physical Education, Grade K-12
- BA Geography

Vice Chancellor Mike Ferrell: Mr. Ferrell reported that there will be no further budget cuts this year. Governor Jindal's budget will be released on Friday, March 11. He stated that corporate income tax is down but all others taxes are up. He noted that the Haynesville Shale operation is tax-exempt for five years. Oil valuation has increased and will bring in an extra \$200 million. President Jarzabek reminded everyone that we cannot back down now and must keep the heat on the legislature. Mr. Ferrell stated that the light renovation project will take about 60 days to complete. Ballasts and bulbs are being changed to more energy efficient models, but everything will look the same outwardly. This is being paid for with federal stimulus money.

There were no other Administrators' reports.

Old Business:

The staff senate is looking at the possibility of a four-day work week, as the faculty senate continues to consider the possibility of a four-day academic week. Northwestern and ULM have a 4 ½ day work week in place already. President Jarzabek presented a handout listing the pros and cons of a four-day academic week. This was also emailed to all faculty members for their comments. If we switched to a four-day week we would need to standardize the schedule, consider the common hours, and possibly designate a research day. She stated that we also need student input. We need to consider the message that a four-day week might send to the public. President Jarzabek said we would need good marketing/PR if we make this move. Student desire to move to this schedule will have the biggest impact. We are spending \$15,000 a week on energy bills. She reminded everyone to turn off all lights when we leave a room and to shut down all computers at the end of the day. She encouraged everyone to please discuss the four-day academic week with their colleagues and ask for their feedback. A survey for faculty and student feedback will be available in the near future.

New Business:

Vice President Smolinski passed out a list of current faculty senate committee members. We still have positions to fill with less faculty to choose from than in the past. He proposed an amendment to the constitution which will allow a faculty member to serve on no more than two committees at a time, with no member serving as chair of more than one committee. Faculty can currently serve on only one committee at a time. President Jarzabek

read the procedure for amending the constitution. A motion to consider this amendment passed.

Parliamentarian Garrison proposed an amendment to the constitution to revise the term limits for senators. Currently, no member of the faculty senate is eligible for election to consecutive terms of service. This proposed amendment would allow senators to be elected to consecutive terms of service. Members who are re-elected would be limited to no more than two consecutive terms (six years) of continuous service. A motion to consider this amendment passed. The two proposed amendments will be emailed to all faculty members and a special meeting of the faculty council will be called so that all faculty may ask questions and engage in a discussion. A vote will be called at the regular faculty council meeting on April 13th.

President Jarzabek passed out the resolution in support of LOUIS, the Louisiana Library Network (see below). She stated that this issue was brought up at the ALFS (association of Louisiana faculty senate members) meeting a month ago. LOUIS rates are reduced because every university in the state uses this database. If we have to support this service on our own the costs will be astronomical. A summary of LOUIS costs was provided to all senators.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF LOUIS, THE LOUISIANA LIBRARY NETWORK

WHEREAS, LOUIS, the Louisiana Library Network, provides essential information resources and services that contribute to the success of our university and college students and faculty through a consortium of 47 member libraries;

WHEREAS, These essential resources and services include the LSUS Library automation system and catalog of the library collections, electronic research databases and full-text journals, remote access to library resources 24/7 through authentication of users, interlibrary loan and reciprocal borrowing among all member libraries, and the Louisiana Digital Library, as well as centralized servers and an expert support staff;

WHEREAS, Access to online resources provided by LOUIS is necessary for the support of existing and future online education programs;

WHEREAS, LOUIS is essential to the functions of each Louisiana public post-secondary education institution because without it, students would no longer be able to conduct research in order to write the papers required for their courses and faculty would no longer have access to the resources they need to continue to produce quality research in their fields;

WHEREAS, LOUIS purchased over \$19 million of resources for member libraries in 2010 for only \$3.1 million, representing a huge savings to each campus and to the state;

WHEREAS, in the past, the Board of Regents provided 70% of the funding, with member institutions contributing 30%, a feasible amount for all:

WHEREAS, LOUIS funding is uncertain for 2011, and LSUS and other institutions do not have the funds to cover the Board of Regent's share, especially in the face of current dramatic budget cuts, making library resources and services across the state in peril as of July, 2011;

WHEREAS, Governor Bobby Jindal has repeatedly extolled institutions of higher education in Louisiana to do "more with less;" and

WHEREAS, LOUIS, the Louisiana Library Network, has been saving the state money by doing more with less since 1992, when it was established as a cost saving measure;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of Louisiana State University Shreveport urges the Board of Regents to restore full funding for LOUIS as an essential resource for students and faculty.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of Louisiana State University Shreveport strongly recommends that the Louisiana State Legislature create a permanent line item in House Bill 1 to fully fund LOUIS at the 2008 level.

Observations and Concerns:

Vice President Smolinski reminded everyone that Louis Sims will be speaking on campus this Friday.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:48.