

Louisiana State University in Shreveport
Faculty Senate Correspondence

Minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting held May 12, 2011, in the Webster Room of the University Center.

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by **Faculty Senate President Mary Jarzabek**.

Present: Mary Jarzabek, Carl Smolinski, Rhonda Failey, Chris Hale, Harvey Rubin, Matyas Buzgo, Larry Garrison, Lonnie McCray, Raymond Taylor, Elahe Mahdavian, LaWanda Blakeney, Emre Celebi, Robert Miciotto

Absent: Julie Bergeron, Marjan Trutschl

Approval of the minutes for the April 5, 2011, will be conducted electronically at a later date.

President's Report: **Faculty Senate President Jarzabek** made the following report:

My presentation to the Faculty Council on April 13, 2011 was a look back over what has been accomplished by the Faculty Senate in our 2010-2011 year.

1. This includes two Constitutional Amendments that handily passed: the first, allowing a second consecutive term for faculty senators, and the second, allowing faculty members to serve on two senate committees.
2. Faculty Senate page on the LSUS website is being updated with these new documents and more.
3. Finished the student survey – mixed results
 - a. Appeal to administrators to allow departmental determination of this issue
 - b. Call of a notice to deans and chairs to decide this within each department.
4. These accomplishments are due to the hard work and insightful diligence of all the members of the Faculty Senate. Any President is and should be beholding to the members of the Senate with whom he or she serves. I thank all of my colleagues here present for your service to LSUS.

As our academic year comes to an end we should now look forward. There are changes brewing that we can embrace or for which we should “brace” ourselves:

1. We will all be meeting new challenges in the months and years to come.
 - a. We have to rebuild programs lost to an unfathomably stupid and uncaring Board of Regents.
 - b. We must say goodbye to old friends (Glenda Erwin) that have been such an important part of this university –
 - i. Also Lamoyne Batten and other faculty retirees.
 - ii. We may have to prepare for ever broader and deeper holes in our ranks due to the continued hiring freeze
 - c. We will look forward to working with new colleagues (e.g. new Vice Chancellor Johnette McCreary) as we reshape ourselves in the face of imposed and embraced changes to our university.
 - d. We will have to deal with the inevitable budget cuts that loom because of the unfulfilled promises of a short-sighted Governor.

2. To put it simply and bluntly: We will have to rely on ourselves to get through the next series of budgetary challenges.
 - a. After three meetings with faculty of other campuses, legislators, and administrators from across the state, the message is clear, "We support higher education, but there is no money to provide to that goal."
 - i. We are the easy cut in a budgetary crisis
 - ii. WE ARE NOT BEING HEARD!!!
 - b. From these meetings I have heard some of the same comments over and over and I present them to you now:
 - i. We need to press for private donations and funding
 - ii. We need to press for more alumni support
 - iii. We must actively seek out new "clients" to raise our enrollment
 1. The executive committee will be developing ad hoc committees
 2. One for community relations and one for recruitment
 3. We will be petitioning for volunteers to these important committees
 - iv. We must work to improve our retention rates
 - v. We must continue to press for recognition from our legislators and our community
 1. We are a growing voice
 2. That voice is starting to resonate
 3. But it must continue

We must shout if they will not listen to us...WE MUST BE HEARD!!!!

Administrators' Reports:

Provost Paul Sisson: Dr. Sisson thanked the senate and President Jarzabek for all their work this academic year. He stated that the GRAD Act report was submitted, showing that we met all the challenges presented to us. We are currently waiting to see if the Board of Regents agrees with this. He said he will talk to the departments across campus to get feedback on the 4-day academic week. He stressed that if we make that change it will not happen quickly and that coordination will be necessary across campus.

Vice Chancellor Mike Ferrell: Mr. Ferrell reported that the refitting of lights in the Business and Education building and the library has begun. The lights are the high efficiency type. He said there will be motion detection lights in the stacks in the library. He reminded us that the money for this is from the federal government. He had no new information to report on the budget.

There were no other Administrators' reports.

Old Business:

President Jarzabek presented a resolution concerning the student teacher evaluations. The three points of the resolution are:

- The SRTE be open for student feedback in the first lecture day after the official deadline for dropping a class (W deadline), and only when students who may withdraw with a W have been excluded from reviewing to a class they dropped.
- The SRTE shall CLOSE for student feedback NO LATER than two regular weeks (14 days, not counting week-day holidays or vacations) before the first Final Exam date, that is no later than one full lecture week before the study week begins.
- The precise time window for the administration of the SRTE be communicated to faculty BEFORE the deadline of syllabi, so that a grading pattern can be adjusted before the syllabi are binding.

President Jarzabek noted the later in the semester the SRTE is executed, the more likely students are to know their grade in a course. This “grade reality” may cause students to take their frustration out on their professor in a course they are failing. A motion was made and passed to adopt this resolution.

President Jarzabek suggested on the subject of FPR reevaluations that the chairs of the Policy and Personnel and the Instruction and Professional Development committees be included in a meeting with the Deans, Chairs, and the Provost to see if an update to the FPR is warranted. She stated that the senate could send a recommendation to the Provost to request senate representation on this committee. **Dr. Sisson** agreed with this request. A motion was then made and seconded to offer a recommendation to the Provost to include representatives from the Policy and Personnel and the Instruction and Professional Development committees on any meetings addressing the reevaluation of the FPR. The motion passed.

Provost Sisson reported on the low-completer programs. We currently have 38 undergrad degree programs. Beginning Fall 2011 we will have 25. Six education degrees were merged into one (undoing an action taken in 2005). Math and physics will merge; Provost Sisson said they are closely aligned already. The speech degree will be under mass communications. Fine arts will increase the number of concentrations. There will no longer be a biochemistry degree, but that concentration will be found under chemistry. Provost Sisson stressed that we are not losing any content or disciplines and we are not losing any faculty members. He noted that in 1983, 27% of the cost of education was born by students; in 1994 they bore 43% of the cost; in 2011 that figure has jumped to 60%. Provost Sisson stated that “public” education is basically disappearing.

New Business:

President Jarzabek presented the following resolution on the privatization of the Office of Group Benefits:

FACULTY SENATE RESOLUTION 2011–2

“Privatization of Office of Group Benefits Requires Examination and Client Input”
Sponsored by the LSU Shreveport Faculty Senate Executive Committee

Whereas the portfolio of investments, obligations, and insurance instruments that comprise the resources of the Office of Group Benefits constitutes a long-term investment of state and employee resources and expertise;

Whereas decisions concerning the management, use, and governance of such a large and enduring portfolio must be undertaken with great care and deliberation;

Whereas the midst of a statewide financial crisis is the most perilous context in which to make major decisions concerning large resources that are encumbered by long term obligations;

Whereas the only government communication with constituents concerning the privatization proposal has been an email letter sent to only a small portion of those eligible to participate in Office of Group Benefits programs;

Whereas neither the Office of Group Benefits nor the Louisiana Commissioner of Administration have received any purchase proposals from known financial or insurance companies but have instead sought blanket approval for an unknown plan;

Whereas the Office of Group Benefit presently possesses a \$521,000,000.00 surplus that poses a temptation to Louisiana officials eager for a quick budget fix;

Whereas that very large surplus sum was derived from employee contributions and premiums, not from tax or other state revenues;

Whereas Commissioner of Administration Paul Rainwater has steadfastly avoided explaining the destination of that surplus in the event of a full or partial privatization of the Office of Group Benefits;

Whereas neither state nor Office of Group Benefits officials have provided adequate information concerning the details of the proposed "OGB" privatization scheme but have only offered a letter in the form of a "pledge" and an array of evasions and euphemisms about the need to "unlock value";

Whereas the recent sudden and unexplained dismissal of the Office of Group Benefits director in favor of a new director whom Commissioner of Administration Paul Rainwater describes as someone who will "work with us" raises suspicions about the integrity of Office of Group Benefits management;

Whereas no clear means for client comment or input regarding the privatization plan have been provided;

Whereas the Office of Group Benefits is not a business or possession that can be easily sold on the market, but rather a public resource that should be held accountable to citizens;

Therefore be it resolved that the LSU Shreveport Faculty Senate opposes the privatization of all or part of the Office of Group Benefits or its holdings until relevant studies and debates can be completed, until public comment can be solicited, until a full and complete set of proposals can be received, studied, and explained by qualified personnel, and until participants in Office of Group Benefits plans approve any privatization plan.

President Jarzabek recapped that the resolution says "stop" until we have more information. She believes the LSU faculty senate has already sent this resolution to the legislature, but that we should "piggy-back" their action and follow suit. President Jarzabek stressed the need for a new plan in place stating what will be offered before any action for privatization proceeds. A motion was made and seconded to accept the resolution. The motion passed.

Senator Smolinski announced that all vacant seats on the senate committees have now been filled and need senate approval. A motion was made, seconded, and passed to accept the new committee members. The list of members follows:

Faculty Senate Committees, 2011 - 2012

The following is a list of the membership of the Faculty Senate Committees. Members' terms expire at the end of the spring semester in the year following the member's name.

Admissions and Standards

Business: Harvey Rubin (2014)
Education: Deborah Williams (2012)
Human Sciences: Jean Hollenshead (2014)
Liberal Arts: Alexander Mikaberidze (2014)
Library: Williams Peters (2014)
Sciences: Wanda Huhn (2012)
At large: Carl Smolinski (2013)
At large: Elizabeth Zippi (2013)
Mickey Diez, nonvoting
Student representatives appointed each year by SGA

Courses and Curricula

Business: Felice Williams (2013)
Business: Mary Lois White (2014)
Education: Candace Bagley (2013)
Education: Linda Easley (2013)
Human Sciences: Rhonda Failey (2013)
Human Sciences: Katherine Wickstrom (2012)
Liberal Arts: LaWanda Blakeney (2013)
Liberal Arts: Blake Dunnavent (2013)
Library: Kay Stebbins (2014)
Sciences: Urska Cvek (2013)
Sciences: Rick Mabry (2014)
Mickey Diez, nonvoting

Faculty Research and Development

Business: Binshan Lin (2014)
Education: Julie Bergeron (2012)
Human Sciences: Rebecca Nolan (2014)
Liberal Arts: Megan Conway (2013)
Library: Julienne Wood (2014)
Sciences: Beverly Burden (2013)

Instruction and Professional Development

Business: Sibylle Mabry (2013)
Education: Deborah Williams (2013)

Human Sciences: Jesse DeMello (2012)
Liberal Arts: Ed Polson (2013)
Library: Laura McLemore (2014)
Sciences: Amy Erickson (2013)
Allen Garcie, nonvoting

Library

Business: Mike Brendler (2012)
Education: Cathy Singletary (2012)
Human Sciences: Meredith Nelson (2014)
Liberal Arts: Alexander Mikaberidze (2014)
Library: Alan Gabehart (indefinite term)
Sciences: Emre Celebi (2013)

Policy and Personnel (members must be tenured and elected by respective schools, at large members elected by FS Executive Committee)

Business: Chengho Hsieh (2013)
Education: Pat Doerr (2014)
Human Sciences: Mary Lusk (2012)
Liberal Arts: LeMoyne Batten (2012)
Library: Martha Lawler (2014)
Sciences: Tibor Szarvas (2013)
At large: Tom DuBose (2014)
At large: Yong Dai (2013)

Student Affairs

Business: John Vassar (2013)
Education: Debra Fowler (2014)
Human Sciences: Jim Evans, (2012)
Liberal Arts: Robert Alford (2013)
Library: James Evans (2014)
Sciences: Rogers Martin (2013)
Student representatives appointed each year by SGA

Board of Student Conduct

Business: Amy Wren (2013)
Education: Yong Hwang (2016)
Human Sciences: Jeff Lawley (2012)
Liberal Arts: Gary Joiner (2016)
Rachael Green (2015)
Sciences: Judith Covington (2012)
Student representatives appointed each year by SGA

Senator Smolinski stated that faculty senate elections resulted in the following new representation: 1 seat – library, 4 seats – science, 4 seats – liberal arts, 3 seats – business, 2 seats –

human sciences, and 1 seat – education. He further noted that in the case of a contested faculty senate seat, the matter is turned over to the Policy and Personnel committee. A seat for the department of science has been contested and will be referred to the Policy and Personnel committee.

The following senators were nominated for senate officer positions for the following year: President – Mary Jarzabek, Vice-President – Harvey Rubin, Parliamentarian – Carl Smolinski, Secretary – Julie Bergeron. A motion was made and seconded to accept these nominees as our new officers. The motion passed. The two at-large senator seats are appointed by the executive committee. The new senators at-large are Lonnie McCray and Marjan Trutschl.

Observations and Concerns:

Senator Taylor noted that any effort to raise money privately must go through the Chancellor's office, asking the company for a donation. **Provost Sisson** verified that notification and coordination are necessary and that the Chancellor does need to know. **Mr. Ferrell** agreed that everyone needs to be on the same page with this issue.

President Jarzabek stated that the communications department is attempting to develop more online courses and some questions have arisen, such as "Can we have instructors from other areas?" "Can we have adjuncts from other states/countries?" "Does online teaching equal online office hours?" She suggested that we continue this discussion when the senate resumes meeting in the fall.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:09.