

LSU Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
3:00 P.M., Wednesday, October 7, 2009
Cotillion Ballroom, LSU Union
Attendance



Faculty Senate Executive Committee members present:

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| 1. Kevin L. Cope (Senate President, English) | 2. Andrew Christie (Vice-President, Accounting) |
| 3. William Daly (Past-President, Chemistry) | 4. Priscilla D. Allen (Member-at-Large, Social Work) |
| 5. Renee Casbergue (Secretary, Education) | 5. Ken McMillin (Member-at-Large, Animal Science) |

Parliamentarian: Charles N. Delzell (present)

Senators present:

1. Fred Aghazadeh	2. Linda Allen	3. Gabriel Beavers	4. Michael Bowman
5. Charles Delzell	6. Josh Detre	7. Susan Dumais	8. John Fletcher
9. Kristopher Fletcher	10. Joseph Francis	11. Juhan Frank	12. Craig Freeman
13. Wanda Hargroder	14. Wes Harrison	15. Dominique Homberger	16. Paul Hrycaj
17. Lisa Johnson	18. Jennifer Jolly	19. P. Lynn Kennedy	20. Jeremy King
21. Jeff Kuehny	22. Richard Kurtz	23. Joseph Legoria	24. Kevin McCarter
25. Patrick McGee	26. Evelyn Orman	27. Lawrence Rouse	28. Kresimir Rupnik
29. Kelly Ann Rusch	30. Michael Russo	31. Cristina Sabliov	32. Gail Sutherland
33. Dianne Taylor	34. Phillip Tebbutt	35. Muhammad Wahab	36. Justin Walsh
37. Susan Weinstein	38. Paul Wilson	39. Yi-jun Xu	

Proxies for absent Senators:

Charles Delzell for Dottie Vaughn
Dianne Taylor for Jennifer Curry

Li Li for Fereydoun Aghazadeh
Michael Bowman for John Fletcher (until 3:30)
Patrick McGee for John Protevi
Linda Allen for Sue Bartlett
Susan Stauffer for Boryung Ju
Michael Leitner for Heather McKillop

Bruce Olcott for Mandi Lopez
Kevin Cope for Jeffrey Tiger, Andrea Houston, Joey Legoria and Ed Watson
Frederick Sheldon for Mary Catherine Aime
Jeremy King for Kristopher Fletcher (until 3:45)
Joseph Francis for Steve Gaunt and Bruce Eilts
Richard Kurtz for Erwin Poliakoff
Justin Walsh for Kristi Dykema

Senators absent without proxies + (# of absences without proxies):

Brittan Barker (2)	Kathleen Bratton	Michael Krom (2)	Steve Ross
Frederick Sheldon	Gail Sutherland	Richard White	Ed Laws
Edward Song			

Guests Attending Meeting:

Robert Doolos (University Registrar)
Astrid Merget (Executive Vice-Chancellor & Provost)
Lea Goodwin
Jonathan Walker
Lakshman Velupillai
Jane Chandler
Anne Maria Fontenot
Hector Sapata
George Stanley

Consideration of the Minutes from September 2009

Motion to accept minutes (L. Rouse; second, C. Delzell) - Passed unanimously with minor corrections.

President's Report

LSU-BR News:

- Some have experienced problems downloading files from the senate website. Please e-mail Kevin Cope for PDFs.
- Faculty members are being consulted for suggestions for commencement speaker. *Bill Daly will report on sesquicentennial plans.
- Progress on Moodle being made. Note that a few faculty members seem to be misusing login function for class participation.
- Candidates for Vice Chancellor for Student Life and Enrollment Services will interview with FSEC and other faculty. Special attention will be paid to academic standing.
- The Provost has established an enrollment management task force that is now meeting.
- Storage issues for senate documents: extensive store of documentation is being inventoried and organized in advance of digitizing all. We are working on digital storage space.

System News:

- Online travel presence, Getting There, is now available. Some faculty members are now Beta testers. The system will be widely available with appropriate training soon.
- Candidates for honorary degrees (a musician and a chemical engineer) have been vetted by the board.
- Issues with the Optional Retirement Plan are ongoing. We are in negotiation with President Lombardi for a means of quicker resolution. The largest coalition of faculty senates ever in the state is unified over this issue.

State News:

- Senate Education Committee is considering the Nevers bill and a provision that the first two years of coursework at any institution can be transported anywhere in the state. There has been a favorable response to a content/outcomes approach.
- Kevin testified before the Tucker Commission via video online.
- The budget committee is attempting to outline a broad range of effects relative to varying percentages of cuts that may be proposed: (Ex. if 5% cut, this will be the result...)

National News:

- The Factiva database has started carrying news about higher education from the *Reveille* and the *Advocate*.
- The Southeastern Conference of Faculty Leaders is an organization designed to give faculty senate leadership a voice on the national stage. Kevin has been elected president of the group. The first planning meeting will be in Baton Rouge in April.

** Sesquicentennial update:*

Bill Daly reminded senate that LSU Day will be April 24. The public will be invited to campus to see all we do. He requests we look into things we might do and send ideas to Nancy Lyttle: NLYTTLL1@lsu.edu. He provided a list of current college efforts distributed with gaps to be filled ASAP.

A. Merget - Invite us to the deans' meeting.

R. Casbergue - This should emphasize faculty *academic* activity.

L. Rouse - Do we want buildings on the perimeter, or just on the quad?

A. Merget - Both.

B. Daly - There is funding to highlight symposia and speakers - perhaps to bring back well-known alums.

L. Rouse - Is this for all of 2010 - Spring and Fall?

B. Daly - Yes. It begins in January with LSU Around the World and continues throughout the year.

Directed discussion concerning internationalization at LSU (led by Li Li - Chair, Internationalization Committee)

Li Li began by noting that the Faculty Senate has passed six different resolutions regarding the challenges of internationalization at LSU, all of which are available on the Faculty Senate website. The most recent included four suggested actions:

1. include verbiage about internationalization in the flagship agenda
2. invest resources to support research, teaching, and so on related to internationalization issues
3. devote resources toward establishing a deanship for international issues
4. take these actions by the end of 2008

The committee revisited these suggestions and found progress on some. Internationalization is included in the Flagship Agenda; Lakshman Velupillai has been named Associate Vice Chancellor for International Affairs and will continue to address the issue of resources.

The committee seeks feedback on the following:

- Inclusion of internationalization in campus diversity issues (Katrice Albert has already responded positively.)
- Should we pursue federal Title VI funding - intended for the establishment of centers, not projects. (Provost Merget noted that Indiana has 7 centers and teaches 42 languages using federal Title VI funds)
- Can international activities be included in the Quality Enhancement Plan for the next round of SACS reviews as is done at other universities (for example at UNC, Texas A & M)?
- Consideration of tenure and promotion implications for engaging in internationalization initiatives. Boyd professorship requirements do recognize value of international efforts, but this is not explicit in tenure and promotion guidelines.

Lakshman Velupillai reported on progress made thus far:

University standing (of 115 universities with more than 1000 students):

- 67 percentile for # of international students
- 2.3 percentile for # of students studying abroad
- No Title VI centers

At present, internationalization efforts kicked off university-wide. Information gathering requires faculty participation. Best practices across other institutions are being explored.

End product vision:

- Students internationally engaged, informed and experienced
- Faculty members have opportunities for international work
- Flagship Agenda enhanced leading to higher rankings on national reports

Discussion Summary:

J. Chandler: How important can we make internationalization, supporting its pivotal importance in being included in the Flagship Agenda? Faculty must be at the center of this effort.

K. Cope: Foreign language education is historically a deficit at LSU. Is economic impact of foreign language study recognized? What can faculty do to encourage demand for foreign language?

A. Merget: Demand has to come from students.

K. Cope: How can we do outreach to spark interest in languages?

D. Homberger: Reintroduce foreign language requirements for advanced degrees. I applaud attention to supporting foreign language departments, but linguistics (multidisciplinary) is languishing. We need to pursue prominent scholars in languages and they will draw students. International interest starts with learning a foreign language.

- P. Ajmera: The Board of Regents' low completer program counts hurt language departments. I suggest finding ways to count number of students taking languages.
- J. Walsh: I support hiring tenure track language faculty. We are heavy on instructors in international programs.
- G. Stanley: I disagree with language requirements for sciences. The international language is English. The U.S. does not offer enough opportunities for practicing other languages.
- D. Homberger: Europeans look down on us for being monolingual. Foreign language is needed to understand nuances in conversations beyond official presentations.
- K. Cope: Low completer issues are prominent in discussions of the Tucker Commission and other state boards. We need to look at the entire mass of programs statewide (for example, the requirement of Farsi for Asian Studies degrees). Do we have materials / pamphlets to promote foreign language among high school students?
- P. McGee: We're not the only state lacking a foreign language emphasis. It is hard to intensify language activity without more requirements - undergraduate, graduate, and high school. The argument can be made for why we need more languages.
- J. Walsh: I like the idea of stating, "We expect you to be interested in the larger world. We expect you to find jobs and impact the larger world." Plant that idea.
- K. Cope: The notion that students don't care, combined with financial problems, transfer credit problems, etc., tends to impede any progress.
- J. Chandler: Participation is up...slightly above the national average. There is strong demand for summer study abroad programs. These offer important opportunities to learn about other cultures.
- B. Daly: I was influenced by international graduate students when I was a student. Bring in / recruit international post-docs.
- H. Sapata: There is an issue of readiness of students to learn languages. My experience is that kids are not afraid of a few words in foreign language. We are more versed in some languages than we think. Louisiana exports its products around the world. Our students with (fluency in) Japanese, Chinese, etc. will be more employable even here.
- L. Li: Is language study required to be international? I agree that a little bit of language goes a long way. Cultural and respect issues are also important. The Department of Defense has grant programs for universities to develop foreign language programs for high school students, including travel.
- A. Merget: FLAS (Foreign Language Assistance Studies?) supports undergraduate and graduate language learning.
- K. Cope: The Tucker Commission may encourage outsourcing of LSU talent to other institutions in areas like foreign language, geography, etc.
- : Do we know what programs do require foreign language?
- G. Sutherland: Some programs do. Students are interested, especially in travel abroad. We need to promote opportunities for study abroad and make sure students understand that TOPS will apply.
- J. Frank: We need to start as early as possible to get kids interested and motivated. Graduate school is too late.
- W. Hargroder: Part of the brain responsible for learning languages ...we must start early to take advantage of development.
- R. Owens: The idea of a center has been in the works - why has it just been discussed for 20 years without resolution?
- K. Cope: In the 80s, facilities were deplorable. There was a lack of public support outside of metropolitan areas...deepening division among different parts of the state.
- G. Sutherland: It's money and upper administration obstruction.
- A. Merget: There is no initiative from faculty.
- D. Taylor: We shouldn't let lack of early foreign language inhibit our efforts. High schools follow our lead if we set standards.

C. Sabliov: How do I offer study abroad programs in engineering? How do I recruit more students to make it feasible? Interest tails off with financial reality. Can we do programs across universities?

L. Velupillai: International studies fairs can help.

J. Chandler: There are three other efforts with support of the current administration - Every college has an international liaison; there is a direct link to international studies on the web home page; a coordinator has been hired to help raise money for efforts to help faculty. One problem - the legislature says students can substitute speech instead of foreign language.

H. Sapata: We are at a turning point with current the administration that has been more supportive. Other institutions go to their legislatures to influence requirements.

L. Allen: Two units of foreign language (in high school) are already required for LSU admission.

K. Cope: Li, what steps will be most productive?

L. Li: I appreciate the opportunity to address the senate and the lively discussion. I don't know the history of the last 20 years, but the last 2-3 years have led to progress. I encourage the provost or help grant coordinator to pull together faculty to participate in grant preparation for a Title VI center.

K. Cope: I'd like to charge your committee with creating an action plan.

Discussion of qualifications for and the use of executive titles

Kevin Cope: Administrative roles in universities have gotten more complex as new individuals come in who lack understanding of academic roles. Should the senate take a position on this? Are there concerns? The floor is open to discussion.

-----: Can we get data about the prevalence of this?

A. Merget: Here, or in peer universities?

R. Owens: Are these titles that would lead one to believe that people need academic background? What of more practice oriented individuals? Is our position relative only to those who should have academic backgrounds?

A. Merget: There are two classes of administrators - purely corporate and academic. We need to be sensitive to the two cultures. Anyone who is a vice provost, dean, should have academic background.

K. Cope: There is a high degree of uncertainty and lack of knowledge.

D. Homberger: This is a good question with many ramifications. We do need to know what *is*. We need a survey, including salaries.

K. Cope: I will have my assistants gather information.

A. Merget: It is available from Bob Kuhn.

C. Delzell: (Refers to expansion of university vs. students): Problem may be explosion of top administration without expansion of student body. We have doubled the (number of) administrators in ten years. Were they here doing the work without titles?

K. Cope: We need to consider changing roles and activities - like outsourcing, legal and financial folks.

A. Merget: Information technology....

K. McMillin: Is there an expansion of titles to people doing the same jobs - inflation of titles?

D. Homberger: Recent analysis of growth of investment of endowments - also out of proportion to increase in student body. We should discuss trends relative to the student body in services vs. costs.

K. Cope: could you and chip send outline of desired statistics?

C. Delzell: This was done two years ago with a request sent to Donna Torres. It was quashed by the previous provost. It will be submitted again.

P. Wilson: Do we mean positions with professional status, or others who won't be in departments? Where the position *is* matters.

K. Cope: How do we get that information?

P. Wilson: We need to look at roles within colleges. Associate Dean? Assistant Dean?

A. Merget: It depends on the custom in the field.

P. Ajmera: If a person comes through with professorial rank, he or she can't be tenured without a vote.

-----: Not all campuses are under PS-36.

R. Casbergue: What is the distinction of customs between assistant vs. associate deans?

A. Merget: Associate is usually academic; assistant is not.

Old Business - There is no old business pending at this time.

New Business - PS 111 committee needs to follow up on issue of feedback regarding evaluation of deans.

Motion to Adjourn - C. Delzell; second L. Rouse.

Meeting Adjourned.