

**Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, February 12, 2020**  
**Harrison Board Room, Foundation Building**



**Attendance**

*Faculty Senate Executive Committee members present:*

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| 1. Mandi Lopez (President, VCS)             | 4. Fabio Del Piero (Secretary, PBS)            |
| 2. Ken McMillin (Past- President, AG)       | 5. Marwa Hassan (Member-at-Large, Engineering) |
| 3. Joan King (Vice-President, Food Science) | 6. Julia Ledet (Member-at-Large, Science)      |

Parliamentarian: Louay Mohammed

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

1	P	Fereydoun Aghazadeh (ENG)	25	X	Doug Gilman (SCI)	49		Megan Papesch (HSS)
2	X	Priscilla “Lilly” Allen (HSE)	26	X	Marwa Hassan (ENG)	50	X	Tracy Quirk (Coast)
3	P	Aly Aly (ENG)	27	X	Katherine Henninger (HSS)	51		Maria Rethelyi (HSS)
4		Kayanush (Kai) Aryana (AG)	28	X	Tara A. Houston (MDA)	52	X	Kirk Ryan (VCS)
5		Michael Banks (BUS)	29	X	Stuart Irvine (HSS)	53	X	Bhaba Sarker (ENG)
6	X	Chris Barrett (HSS)	30		Kelli Scott Kelley (AD)	54	X	Stephen Shipman (SCI)
7	X	Inessa Bazayev (MDA)	31		Yunjung Kim (HSS)	55	X	Chassidy Simmons (HSS)
8	X	Dorin Boldor (ENG)	32	X	Roger Laine (SCI)	56	X	Shane Stadler (SCI)
9	P	Jeffrey Brooks (Law)	33	X	Elecia Lathon (HSE)	57	X	Kristen Stair (AG)
10		Konstantin Busch (ENG)	34		Lauren Lazaro (AG)	58	P	Suzanne Stauffer (LIB)
11	X	Cassandra Chaney (HSE)	35	X	Julia Ledet (SCI)	59	X	Jared Soileau (BUS)
12	X	Chantel D. Chauvin (HSS)	36		Vincent LiCata (SCI)	60	X	Rachel Stevens (HSS)
13	X	Senlin Chen (HSE)	37	X	J. Michael Martinez (HSE)	61	X	Brenton Stewart (HSE)
14	P	Prosanta Chakrabarty (SCI)	38	X	Juan Martinez (PBS)	62	X	Judith Sylvester (MCOM)
15	X	Jin-Woo Choi (ENG)	39	P	James Matthews (SCI)	63	X	Daniel Tirone (HSS)
16	P	Brett Collier (AG)	40	X	John Miles (LIB)	64	X	Matthew Vangjel (MDA)
17	X	Brandi Conrad (HSE)	41	X	Mustajab Mirza (VCS)	65	X	Meredith Veldman (HSS)
18	X	Robert Cook (SCI)	42		Laura Martins (HSS)	66	P	Nan Walker (Coast)
19		Theda Daniels-Race (ENG)	43	X	William Monroe (Law)	67	X	Wei-Hsung Wang (Energy)
20	X	Jeff Davis (AG)	44	P	Carl Motsenbocker (AG)	68	P	Sonja Wiley (BUS)
21		Michael Desmond (AD)	45	X	Ioan I. Negulescu (AG)	69	X	Cathy Williams (AG)
22	X	Levent Dirikolu (CBS)	46		Robert Newman (BUS)			
23	X	Peter Doran (SCI)	47	X	Pius Ngandu (HSS)			
24	X	Edward Gibbons (HSE)	48	X	Rafael Orozco (HSS)			

*Guests:*

Nicole Roth	Erin McKinley	Lori Martin	Kevin Cope	Ernie Ballard
Arend Van Gemmert	Jane Cassidy	Thomas Galligan	Erica Hawthorne	Jim Sabourin
John Perret				

Public Comments on Agenda Items

None.

Consideration of the Minutes from January 16, 2020

Moved by Ioan Negulescu and Juan Martinez  
 Approved unanimously with potential corrections.

President’s Report

- The Provost’s office has created a website that includes all policy statements and their current stasis. This was requested by the Executive Committee so that faculty can access the current documents and possible upcoming changes.
- The Faculty Senate bylaws clearly state the charges, procedures, and intent of the Adjudication Committee. The committee is necessary to follow up on process and procedure in the case of appeal. Discussion of revision of PS-104 and PS-109, has included

thoughts of a jury committee. This is distinct from the Adjudication committee that is intended to evaluate circumstances that lie in the grey areas between the lines of process and procedure to ensure equitable treatment. Faculty members are encouraged to reach out to the Adjudication Committee members with prepared, documented, and relevant information.

3. LSU First and OGB insurance does not cover pregnancy, care, and delivery for insured dependents. This is due to a loophole in the Affordable Care Act that insurance providers are not required to provide such coverage.
4. The FSEC has asked for faculty representation on the search for the new LSU President.
5. Third party authentication has been a stumbling block for well-travelled, adventurous faculty. They often find themselves cut off due to poor or no Wi-Fi and an arduous set of grumpy Grok mysteries. Subsequently, they return to unanswered emails, graduate student mayhem, and administrative admonishment. The FSEC is seeking solutions.
6. A question about has arisen about the 44% deduction and its distribution from salary paid from grants during the summer salary of 9-month pay periods. There is no apparent contribution to 401K and insurance benefits are pre-paid according to the hand-calculated distributions over the 9-month pay period. There have been inquiries as to how and where the 44% deduction is distributed. The answer has been “LSU establishes a composite rate for fringe benefits that encompasses retirement, health insurance, cost of term pay, workers comp, etc. If LSU were to compute a rate for faculty summer salary, the only elements that would not be included are health and life insurance, faculty pay retirement, and LSU matches on all pay. The unintended consequences of this second rate would be a higher rate of the 9-month contract period and more tedious administration of sponsored agreements due to multiple rates.” The FSEC will be working with the Budget and Planning Committee to follow the trail.
7. The FSEC has pursued the 36% tax on tuition remission and no clear answers have yet emerged. The tax applies only to grants and the amount charged is the year the grant is submitted. The rules of engagement and the process in which the tax is determined are not accessible.
8. The FSEC has made inquiries on the minimum of 48 hours’ notice on parking lot closures prior to a requesters event date. If petitioners cannot make the deadline, the FSEC has requested that they share the space.
9. A Faculty Senate resolution was passed in 2017 to restructure the Faculty Senate General Education Committee into the Integrated Learning Committee. This resolution did not update and approve changes to the bylaws or establish a standing operating procedure for course submission or approval. These steps are all in the works and as Gen Ed courses come up for review by the ILC, the process will be straight forward and positive.
10. The FSEC has made inquiries into an academic parade to celebrate LSU’s achievement.

#### *Q&A Summary:*

Robert Cook: On the tuition tax, the tuition is meant to cover education, and faculty do not receive any stipend. What does the FSEC think about this? A faculty member is responsible for students all summer, yet they do not receive any money for supervising them.

Mandi Lopez: Excellent point. We will recruit you to assist in our plans to move forward and question the practice. Thank you.

#### Welcome, Interim President Thomas C. Galligan Jr.

Interim President Thomas Galligan assured the Faculty Senators that his first and foremost title is “professor,” regardless of other administrative duties. Interim President Galligan started his career at LSU in 1980, ending as full professor with tenure. In 1998, he left LSU to become the Dean at the University of Tennessee College of Law. He then went on to attain the title of President of Colby-Sawyer College in New Hampshire. He remained there for 10 years. During his career outside of Louisiana, he maintained close connections to the state and LSU—talking, presenting, and writing about LA law. As a dean and president, he remained an instructor. In 2016, Interim President Galligan returned to LSU as Dean of the Law School. As Interim President, the main goals will be stability and progress. He outlined that stability signifies that LSU will be strong, solid, responsible, and trustworthy (transparent). He continued with progress-reinvestment in higher education, enrollment success with diverse classes that have high indicators of success, uniform fundraising efforts with over \$800 million raised (with 60% geared for academic core). Interim President Galligan urged that senate that LSU needs to move forward now that the budget cut years are over. There are many programs that have and continue to be nationally impactful. For example, LSU Architecture has been #1 for over a decade, the Theater BA program is ranked #2, Online Master of Science in Construction Management is #12, students in the Law School have won 5 national championships in moot court over the last 2.5 years. He thanked the Faculty Senate and senators on their efforts thus far—active roles on university committees and sharing governance. The turnaround time for accepting the presidency was a quick process. While his interim status is uncertain, 6-9 months unconfirmed, Interim President Galligan is optimistic and excited and transfer that same spirit to the legislature. He will be approaching the legislature on assistance on mandated costs—retirement and health care benefits. The governor’s budget includes \$10 million in mandated costs for all of higher education. He is also looking for an investment in faculty and staff, both in recruiting and retention. Salary increases are not in the governor’s budget, but the LSU leadership will be continuing to push that agenda. Interim President Galligan will also push the increasing issue of deferred maintenance (estimated at \$750 million). Capital outlay projects (the Science building and the Library) are also crucial. 780 students will be off-track to complete their degrees due to dwindling laboratory space. Other items include renewing fee authority and decreased prices. The Board of Supervisors will be reviewing the position of President to determine whether it will be over all LSU campuses or just A&M.

#### *Q&A Summary:*

Doug Gilman: Are you optimistic they can sort this out in 6-9 months?

Interim President Galligan: I'm an optimist. I think the glass is half full when the glass is broken. Anything is possible. If it's longer, then I will continue to ask for support and patience.

Doug Gilman: The structural wrangling could take some time.

Interim President Galligan: It could, yes. It's important to separate position from person.

Fabio Del Piero: Why is salary not a priority for the governor?

Interim President: I don't know. While it's not in the budget yet, the Board of Regents and everyone is advocating and knows that it is important.

Priscilla Allen: When there is speculation over someone leaving, and they do leave, it always seems like a grand surprise. Why is that?

Interim President Galligan: I can't explain it, but I can say this. Nothing is sure until it's done. The media is fabulous and on things. Rumors become magnified.

Priscilla Allen: Does LSU do a good job on these unforeseen things?

Interim President Galligan: In this one, I think they did a great job. My transition has been relatively smooth due to the staff.

Doug Gilman: You were at Tennessee when they had this really open search for President. Could you voice their transparency on this process?

Interim President Galligan: I think that transparency is important and essential. There are points in the process where transparency is crucial, mostly toward the end with finalists coming to campus. Transparency, while desirable, is harder to achieve earlier on in the process. Individuals at other institutions that are interested in the position at LSU, might not want to show their hand yet. There comes a time for transparency. Tennessee's previous search was shrouded in mystery and I think that with the broadcast interviews, they did a great job.

LSU Pregnancy & Parenting Program and National Center for Faculty Development & Diversity Membership Opportunities, Jane Cassidy, Senior Vice Provost, Office of Academic Affairs

Senior Vice Provost Jane Cassidy thanked the senate and requested help in disseminating this information to other faculty, students, and staff. The Pregnancy and Parenting Committee has been in place of 18 months. The impetus of the committee was the lack of lactation rooms at LSU. Federal law requires lactation rooms on campus. The committee has representation from across campus to accomplish several goals in a short period of time. There are 19 lactation spaces, 13 are open to the public, and 6 are available to building occupants. All spaces are equipped with comfortable seating, electrical outlets, and sanitary supplies. Due to this work, LSU is recognized as a breast-feeding workplace champion. The committee also developed a comprehensive and robust website for parents. There are tabs specifically for LSU faculty, staff, and students. There is a printable resource guide. An FAQ is available for students that discover themselves pregnant. The website also includes information on all lactation spaces such as hours of operation, restrictions, and a map. Other resources on the website include childcare, LSU summer camps, and a contact page. There is a survey open until the end of February for feedback. The third item that the committee has completed is a group of pregnancy advocates that have undergone training. They work with individuals on how to navigate a degree while pregnant. Tutoring, babysitting, parental leave, speakers on time management and parenting, and the survey are some examples of next steps for the committee. The National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity membership opportunities are for faculty and graduate students. The idea of membership originated from an LSU faculty member. Many other SEC institutions are members of the consortium. Monies for faculty development were used for the membership fees. Membership includes mentoring, time management, linkage from diverse institutions, a monthly core curriculum of webinars, guest expert webinars, 14-day writing challenges with others around the country, motivator emails, dissertation success curriculum, buddy matching for peer motivation, and other training. Faculty members may pay extra for additional features not included in the regular membership. LSU faculty member Katherine Henninger shared her experiences with the program. LSU is the second to last SEC institution to join. Katherine advocated to Jane Cassidy originally to demonstrate LSU's commitment to invest in faculty success and development. She joined privately to seek assistance and support when applying for a promotion. The resources are available at any time for faculty and graduate students. Faculty and graduate students are encouraged to sign up. Use the lsu.edu ID when signing up.

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

Joan King: Is the parenting website live?

Erica Hawthorne: It is, yes. [lsu.edu/pregnancy-parenting](http://lsu.edu/pregnancy-parenting). It is on the employee hub right now.

Jane Cassidy: Right after this meeting, we will be sending an email with links to everything we've talked about here.

Joan King: Will the babysitters have background checks?

Jane Cassidy: Good question. The risk is probably going to be greater than what we will be able to do. We have been talking to the career services about having a place where the parents are looking for a babysitter.

Erica Hawthorne: Yes. A parent would post a job and a student could respond. We would be a middleman. We are looking into that right now with background checks, etc. We may not be able to provide that.

Jane Cassidy: We started the conversation about having a sick child at home and wanting to come to work—having a place. The tutoring will be easier than the babysitting. There will be more information once we send that email.

#### Strategic Communications Update, Jim Sabourin, Vice President, Strategic Communications

Vice President Jim Sabourin thanked the senate for allowing him to introduce himself and what he has been doing since October. He began with different perceptions and areas of focus for Strategic Communications that he will start to address. There is a lack of consistent themes and messages, but not a lack of volume from the various groups and colleges on campus. Jim Sabourin addressed that Strategic Communications does not have great or sustained contact with individual college/department campus communicators. Additionally, Strategic Communications is perceived as perpetually late regarding news and/or announcements. It has also been perceived that they are not transparent. One of Jim Sabourin's main goals is to communicate news in a timely manner as well as to be as transparent as possible given certain situations. He explained that these negative perceptions are often from a lack of clarity on who Strat Comm is as well as where they are headed. For example, fierce for the future campaign is more of fundraising theme rather than an LSU branding. He can communicate those ideas and where LSU is headed, not answer those questions. Another part of Strat Comm's role is to increase the academics and research of the faculty. However, due to a smaller staff, Strat Comm will make sure that they are matched up to doing the things that add the most value.

#### Communicable Diseases Update, John Perret, Medical Director, LSU SHC

John Perret listed some of the communicable diseases that the Student Health Center treats. Two weeks ago, the Student Health Center saw their first case of mumps of the school year. There was an outbreak of mumps in 2017 that ran its course over a couple of months. There are 9 or 10 confirmed cases from the Student Health Center. The other cases were confirmed at Lady of the Lake Center. Two of those cases are LSU students and there is only one case that is not an LSU student. Mumps is virus that causes swelling of the salivary glands. The MMR vaccine is approximately 88% efficient if you receive the 2-shot series. The Student Health Center recommends a third MMR for a high-risk group. Those individuals are identified as those who come in direct contact of secretions from an already infected person. It will be given free at the Student Health Center. This includes health care providers that deal directly with patients. The outbreak is expected to run its course. It takes approximately 26 days for the virus to run its course. Coronavirus looks like it is on course to be a pandemic. The Student Health Center asks students signing into their system if they have traveled outside of the US in the past 21 days. If the answer is yes, there is a secondary screening. Any answers of yes to the questions, the individual will be isolated and health care providers will check and monitor the patients. There have been 2 cases this year. Both ended up with negative screenings. They are also asking if individuals have been in contact with anyone with the Coronavirus. The Student Health Center follows the CDC health screenings. Individuals must have symptoms for the specimens to be sent to the CDC to be tested for Coronavirus. This may change. TB is less of a concern for the Student Health Center. Any indications of TB is taken care of quickly. All students from countries with "high TB burden" get screened for TB. It is a skin and blood test. Meningitis is an infection of the lining of the brain in the spinal fluid. It can be viral or bacterial. Generally, there is a significant difference. The one that is concerning is bacterial in terms of communicability. The meningococcal bacterial disease is the one that individuals get vaccinated for. Students must be vaccinated. There has not been a breakout of meningococcal on the LSU campus that Dr. Perret is aware of. Meningitis is often assumed as the meningococcal disease. Viral meningitis is what is seen most often. While it can be treated, some are fatal. Outbreaks are often seen in the August, September, and October. The Student Health Center sees many cases of the flu—something that can be more worrisome than Coronavirus. There are 5-10 cases every day. The students are isolated and recommended to not return to class for approximately 5 days. Some organizations recommend 24-hours once students are fever-free, however they may still transmit the flu. To be safe, the Student Health Center recommends 5 days. The Student Health Center also sees many minor viruses—colds, runny noses, diarrhea. Getting rid of school excuses would be beneficial because of this issue. We should take the student's word when they say they are sick. Traffic and waiting room congestion would be improved at the Student Health Center.

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

Fabio Del Piero: Have you seen some complications with mumps such as encephalitis?

John Perret: We see some complications. We have seen orchitis. We have not seen encephalitis or meningitis. You could still go those complications though they are fairly rare. We have not seen it with this outbreak or in 2017.

Stephen Shipman: Is the mumps virus the same virus as 2 years ago?

John Perret: That's a good question. I'm not sure. It very well may be. Mumps outbreaks on university campuses pop here and there. I don't know if it's the same virus or not.

Jeff Davis: Are these are re-infections? Are these cases part of the 12%? Have the students undergone the series of 2 vaccinations?

John Perret: Yes. The students have had the 2 MMRs.

Mandi Lopez: How many cases of Coronavirus have been reported in Louisiana?

John Perret: None as of yet. There are 12 or 13 cases in the United States so far.

Fabio Del Piero: The climate in Louisiana is quite different than the northern US. Would it be a good idea to postpone the flu vaccines toward November or even December? Vaccinations in October might be a little early considering our geographic location. After 3 months, the vaccine is not as effective.

John Perret: That's a great question. There is that debate at the Student Health Center. Some health care professionals advocate for later and I think we should take it in October. The person that is right, depends on whether the flu is early. You just don't know. You're right. Once you get past 3 months, the vaccine begins to wane a bit. The CDC recommends October. Sometimes we wonder if economics plays a part in how early organizations put out the vaccine. If you get it out first, you get more of that money. I hope that that is not the case.

Fabio Del Piero: Would you recommend 2 flu shots during the year for those exposed to personnel?

John Perret: I've never seen that recommendation made by the CDC. When children get the shot, they get a booster later on.

Lily Allen: I would hope that we would take the student's word if they told us they were sick.

Stephen Shipman: I have had a student bring me an excuse when I didn't ask for it.

Robert Cook: I think that it is in the policy statement that they have to have documentation. Faculty can make that judgement call, however, if we follow the policy, all students are treated equally.

Edward Gibbons: When it comes to graduate students, we can make that judgement. However, I teach those large freshman classes, and they will try to get away with it.

John Perret: Yes. We've seen on Facebook where someone posted "here is where you can get your excuses."

Judith Sylvester: When you get someone that comes in with the flu, are you asking them if they are vaping? The symptoms are very similar, and it could be more serious if they are vaping. Also, how likely is it whether you could increase the likelihood of infecting others if you are sick and vaping.

John Perret: If you're vaping and you're sharing the vaping, you could spread the disease. If you get the flu or Coronavirus, and you're vaping, you are more likely to have a worse case than someone that doesn't.

Mandi Lopez: When it comes to the excuses and them needing to come in to see you, what are the chances that you find something else?

John Perret: We don't probe for something else in that visit.

Julia Ledet: A few years ago, did we have a no excuse policy? Students have given me papers that said that they are not allowed to have an excuse. However, it looks like an excuse to me.

John Perret: We are guilty of that. We excuse the student anyway.

Priscilla Allen: If we stop the exams, everyone will be healthy.

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### Old Business

None.

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### New Business

**First Reading, Resolution 20-01, "Class Cancellations for Athletic Events"**  
*Sponsored by Kevin Cope and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee*

Read by Kevin Cope

**Whereas** members of the LSU Board of Supervisors (Board) are appointed by the Governor of Louisiana so that all citizens of Louisiana, whether students, faculty members, workers, farmers, professionals, investors, or political leaders, are considered in the decisions regarding higher education at the University;

**Whereas** that mandate to the Board members expresses the hope and expectation that these leaders will exercise sound judgment in the guidance and management of Louisiana's highest-ranked university;

**Whereas** the Board took a sudden, disruptive action by canceling classes on the two opening days of the Spring 2020 semester in order to facilitate attendance at a spectator sport event, the national football championship, and to allow for football-related festivities;

**Whereas** the Board did not find it appropriate to follow its own Bylaws to refer this matter to the Academic and Research Committee for their recommendations and did not prepare a written resolution to facilitate such recommendations although this was achievable since it was known two weeks before the meeting that LSU would play the night of January 13 and that January 13 was the first class day of the spring semester as published in the Academic Calendar more than a year before;

**Whereas** the cancellation of classes for sporting events by the A&M campus sends a message to students, faculty, Louisiana citizens and the nation that intercollegiate sports can and should preempt the academic activities defining LSU's core mission, and a confusing message to other LSU campuses, which expect the flagship campus to set standards, as well as to campuses in other Louisiana higher education systems, which have trouble maintaining their own commitment to academic improvement when the premiere campus undermines the statewide educational project;

**Whereas** LSU's football opponent, Clemson University, which enjoys a #70 academic ranking from US News and World Report, did not cancel classes for the days surrounding the championship football game, while LSU, which has a #153 ranking with the same rating service, halted instruction;

**Whereas** the LSU vision-and-mission statement presents the core duties of LSU as "offering a broad array of undergraduate degree programs and extensive graduate research opportunities designed to attract and educate highly qualified undergraduate and graduate students" and as "contribut[ing] to a world-class knowledge base that is transferable to educational, professional, cultural, and economic enterprises" that seem unlikely to be advanced by canceling of classes for a sporting event;

**Whereas** football-induced class cancellations also raise questions about LSU's commitment to the third component of its vision and mission statement, "using its extensive resources to solve economic, environmental, and social challenges," a worthy goal that is devastatingly inconsistent with the replacing of classes with an athletic event;

**Whereas** the Board of Regents Master Plan focuses on the productivity of Louisiana institutions by the awarding of degrees and certificates, on creating an educated, employable, and forward-looking population, on "new and novel approaches to the way education is delivered," on "performance," and on the role of "research universities and special purpose institutions in advancing knowledge and new ideas,"<sup>2</sup> which are diminished when teaching opportunities are obstructed;

**Whereas** neither of the aforementioned campus- or statewide mission, planning, and vision statements contain a single word about intercollegiate athletic programs, but abound with references to and images of academic personnel in instructional settings;

**Whereas** the cancellation of classes with only a few days of notice disrupts teaching schedules and lesson plans and academic calendars that are often developed months or years in advance and can unsettle or even waste time-consuming instructional setup efforts such as are common in laboratories or clinical courses;

**Whereas** the necessity of make-up classes on Saturdays when students may have work or personal conflicts, or the probable compression of course material resulting from class cancellations undermines the education and reduces the career-readiness of Louisiana students;

**Whereas** the claim that cancelling classes was required for the "safety" of students by a Board of Supervisors member suggests that LSU academic leadership has not succeeded the Vision 2020 strategic plan goal of creation of an educated citizenry committed to constructive activities especially since the President's Office has adequately made past decisions on university closures;

**Whereas** the first obligation of the leadership of academic institutions is for truth, a duty not accomplished when allocating only 1,100 tickets for a student body of 30,000 while also announcing that class cancellation allows for student participation in an event for which "street" ticket prices for the remaining 70,000 tickets reached thousands of dollars, an event far beyond the economic reach of many of our economically stressed or disadvantaged students;

**Whereas** the LSU administration has remained distressingly silent in the nationwide debate about intercollegiate athletics and especially "big-time" college football, a debate that, in focusing on lifelong injuries, exploitation of athletes, non-transparent athletic department budgets, non-academic uses of donor benefactions, and racial and gender inequities, raises questions about the enabling of intercollegiate athletics by suspending classes;

**Whereas** the values embedded in Title IX that call for gender equity were not evident since no cancellation of classes has ever occurred for LSU women's sport teams that participated in national championships and so the disparities between men and women or between minority and majority populations continue to be evident;

**Whereas** highly qualified LSU faculty members hold prominent positions as the Faculty Athletic Representative, on the LSU Athletics Council, and in national groups such as COIA (the Coalition on Intercollegiate Athletics) that are concerned with the role of athletics in higher education and so are highly qualified to offer advice on matters such as class cancellations;

**Whereas** LSU and its leadership make extraordinary, expensive efforts to recruit inventive and thoughtful faculty yet have ignored the counsel of the LSU Council of Faculty Advisors and LSU Faculty Senate Executive Committee, which prioritized classroom instruction over class cancellations for extracurricular activities on behalf of the faculty they represent;

**Whereas** the most valuable asset of any higher education institution is the authority of the faculty to develop educational policy, which has been delegated by and ignominiously disregarded by the Board in cancelling classes against the advice of duly elected and representative faculty leadership;

**Whereas** many major research-driven firms and high-tech businesses that considered relocating to Louisiana have chosen other locations owing to the inadequate support for and cavalier attitudes toward education, attitudes that are now evidenced in class cancellations in support of entertainment;<sup>3</sup>

**Whereas** the public is surely confused by repeated requests for higher levels of funding for LSU and for higher education when that petitioning university shuts its doors owing to sporting matches;

**Whereas** confusion might pertain to the implicit comparison between a sporting event and the other, more usual reasons for university closures such as natural disasters or loss of major leaders or sacrosanct holidays, a disconcerting contrast that leaves faculty and students wondering whether the experience of victims is trivialized by being placed equal to a sport success;

**Therefore**, be it resolved that the LSU Faculty Senate Faculty adjures the LSU Leadership and Board of Supervisors in collaboration with faculty leadership to develop a reasonable policy for the cancellation of classes for foreseeable and unforeseen circumstances so as to minimize disruption, serve the interests of all students, communicate the correct message concerning the value of education to the public, and preserve the dedication of the University to its principal tasks as outlined in its vision and mission statement among many other governing or guiding documents;

**Therefore**, be it further resolved that the LSU Leadership and Board take immediate action to reaffirm their commitment to LSU as “a leading research-extensive university, challenging undergraduate and graduate students to achieve the highest levels of intellectual and personal development” per the mission-and-vision statement;

**Therefore**, be it further resolved that the LSU Faculty Senate asks the LSU Leadership and Board to create a committee whose membership includes several experienced faculty leaders that will be charged with studying and issuing a policy concerning the role, scope, mission, and purpose of intercollegiate athletics at LSU.

**And therefore**, be it further resolved that the LSU Faculty Senate asks the Board of Supervisors to begin continuing dialogue with the faculty and its leadership on educational issues at LSU, such as occurred during previous presidencies of some of the current members of the Board.

Motion to pass into discussion: Priscilla Allen and Cassandra Chaney.

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

Robert Cook: I have two questions. One, we weren't given days. We were sent an email Friday afternoon before the start of the Spring semester. Two, we were told that all employees should show up on Monday and then told we needed to do makeup classes on Saturdays with no compensation. This is an issue between classified and unclassified employees. I also take issue that we weren't given days. We were given less than half of a business day.

Kevin Cope: Certainly, I would regard that as a friendly amendment and since this is only the first discussion, it's really only a friendly addition. If you would kindly email me at [encope@lsu.edu](mailto:encope@lsu.edu). After a discussion with my colleagues here, we will gladly include that. Some things fell out, but I will include that, and it is certainly a material point.

Peter Doran: I think that's a great suggestion. I just timed you and it took 9 and a half minutes to read. I know that you've already cut it down some, but it seems like it could be condensed a bit more. The point is that the priorities aren't there, and it can be stated more concisely.

Kevin Cope: Sure. We had an interesting discussion about this with the Executive Committee. Two interesting phenomena came out. One was deletion by way of abbreviation, someone came forward to propose an addition. This is a uniquely egregious situation that we are in. We also debated whether the supervisors who are champions of literacy in Louisiana but not practitioners of it, would read all the way through the resolution. However, we have received some feedback. By sheer happenstance, I ran into Stephanie Regal who works for a former member of the Board of Supervisors, and you can read the report on the resolution in today's faculty business report online. The other, is that my colleagues seem to feel that this was the opportunity to list out the problems that are there so that nobody in the Board of Supervisors can look for a loophole. If you have a specific suggestion for deletion or subtraction, feel free to send it to me. I answer all emails within 24 hours.

### **First Reading, Resolution 20-02, “Commendation of William W. Demastes for Outstanding LSU Faculty Athletics Representative Service”**

*Sponsored by the Faculty Senate Executive Committee*

Read by Mandi Lopez

**Whereas** William W. Demastes, San Diego II Alumni Professor in English, served for eight years as the LSU Faculty Athletic representative (FAR) and chair of the Athletics Council at the recommendation of the Faculty Senate to the Chancellor and President;

**Whereas** during his service he also chaired the Athletics Hall of Fame Committee, the Staff Handling Assorted Student Athlete Matters Committee and the Effective Accommodation Committee;

**Whereas** as FAR he represented the athletics department on the University Review and Assessment Council (URAC);

**Whereas** as FAR he attended SEC, NCAA, D1 FAR group and other related meetings and had to know the rules governing compliance and how to apply the regulations;

**Whereas** as FAR he participated in the self-reporting of, and investigation of potential violations of NCAA and SEC rules;

**Whereas** as FAR he advised the University President and Director of Athletics on matters relating to the intersection of athletics and academics;

**Whereas** as FAR he monitored the academic credentials of student athletes and their progress to graduation, and acted as an independent supportive adviser to student athletes;

**Whereas** as FAR he oversaw the Academic Support Program for student athletes, worked with the Student Athlete Advisory Council, and provided oversight of eligibility of student athletes for practice, competition and financial aid;

**Whereas** as FAR he provided updates on graduation rates, oversight of student athletes and other concerns to the Faculty Senate and Student Government;

**Whereas** he has tirelessly represented and addressed LSU faculty and student athletes concerns locally and nationally;

**Therefore**, be it resolved that the LSU A&M Faculty Senate both thanks and commends Alumni Professor William W. Demastes for his unselfish dedication to promoting academic success and well-being of student athletes at LSU.

Motion to pass into discussion: Priscilla Allen and Robert Cook.

***Q&A Summary:***

Judith Sylvester: I want to move that we suspend the rules and move it forward to a vote.

Motion to suspend the rules and move straight to a vote: Judith Sylvester and Cathy Williams.

Vote of Resolution: Passes unanimously.

**New Faculty Athletic Representative, Lori Martin, Professor of Sociology**

Joan King introduced the new faculty athletic representative, Lori Martin, a professor of sociology and African American studies. She has interest in race and ethnicity, wealth inequality, sociology of sport, and asset poverty. Lori Martin commended the Faculty Senate for the resolution about William Demastes. She is dedicated to academic integrity, monitoring the overall wellbeing of LSU student athletes, and making sure that we are complying to the NCAA and SEC rules and regulations. Feel free to reach out to her about specific questions and concerns.

***Q&A Summary:***

None.

All moved to adjourn at 4:59pm.