

**LSUHSC-NO Faculty Senate Meeting  
January 11, 2005**

President Jean Jacob called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM in the Chancellor's conference room.

**Members present:** **Allied Health** – Larry Broussard, Robert Rowe, Doris Cather, Sarintha Stricklin; **Dental School** – Cathy Springstead, Carrie Mason, Johnny Porter, Don Layman; **Graduate School** – Kurt Varner, Jay Hunt; **Library** – Jennifer Lloyd; **Medicine** – Michael Levitzky, Jeffrey Green, Thomas Wolf, Greg Bagby, Dan Kapusta; **Nursing** – Ann Byerly, Charlene Coco, Patricia Beare; **Public Health** – Catherine Correa  
**Members absent:** David Pariser, Jim Cade, Brian Barkemeyer, Paula Gregory, Bob Richards, Sally Ruel, Susan Rick, Thomas Houston.

**Guest:** Dr. David Blake, Consultant to Chancellor Rock

As the Senate members gathered for the meeting, Dr. Blake was waiting on the telephone for a conference call with the Senate because he was unable to appear in person. He introduced himself and briefly described his background and relationship to Dr. Rock. They have a long academic history together. Both were in the ObGyn departments at Johns Hopkins and Emory Universities. Dr. Blake became Vice President of Research while at Emory. Dr. Rock brought Dr. Blake to LSUHSC-NO as a consultant to establish and implement a policy for translational research (integration of basic research into clinical applications) and to identify way to strengthen research oriented clinical departments.

To that end seven focus groups were formed to examine the research enterprise at the LSUHSC-NO. The focus groups include: Translational, Interdisciplinary, Clinical Research, Training and Mentoring, Clinical Trials Office, Incentives & Disincentives and Human Bio-specimen. The charge of these focus groups is to examine clinical and basic research in an effort to strengthen and integrate basic and clinical research. The focus groups, along with chairs and Deans, are scheduled to meet January 18<sup>th</sup> to offer a series of recommendations. These recommendations will be reviewed by Drs. Kratz, Sanders, Blake, and Moerschbaecher for specific recommendations that will be presented to Dr. Rock for implementation.

These recommendations will be used to develop a RFA planning grant to establish a Louisiana Regional Translational Research Center to be funded by the NIH. The planning grant (approx. \$120,000) will be awarded in March of 2006. The final proposal will be due 9-10 months later. NIH is planning to fund 20 such translational regional centers. The centers will be funded for 5 years at \$7 million. The LA Regional Research Center will include Shreveport, Pennington Center, and LSUHSC-NO. The LA Center is currently envisioned to provide a statewide IRB for clinical trails as well as to facilitate procedures to improve research, communicate number and types of patients throughout Louisiana available for research, and to introduce potential research sponsors to these patients for future research.

Additionally, Dr. Blake is spearheading an effort to create a Clinical Trials Office at LSUHSC-NO, similar to the one that currently exists in LSUHSC-S. The function of

this office is to coordinate trained personnel that can track the clinical trials patients in local hospitals and clinics as well as maintain local databases to define patient groups.

After the conference call ended, a brief discussion ensued. Concern was raised that the LSUHSC-NO may not be competitive for a regional grant because of the lack of core of clinical research physicians able to meet the mission of such centers even though the patient base is here. Without a University Hospital and with the LSUHSC-NO physicians scattered all over the metropolitan area, it would be a daunting task to integrate, communicate, and coordinate any research that would lead to the establishment of any kind of translational research effort. However, even with the mentioned difficulties, the Senate felt that a strong effort should be made to obtain a regional translational research center.

After the above discussion was completed the Senate returned to its normal agenda.

1. The December minutes were unanimously approved by voice vote

1. Old business: none

3. New business:

- A. Faculty Club Committee report: Ann Byerly reported that the committee met with Vice Chancellor, Joel Chatelain, on the progress of the renovation of the Charity nursing building for the LSUHSC-NO Faculty Club. The 12<sup>th</sup>, 13<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup> floors have gutted and are ready for renovation. Construction is slated to begin this Spring and opening is planned for the Fall. Ann also spoke with Mr. Sonny Neville of Auxiliary Enterprises about his input on the Faculty Club. Although the space is ready for renovation, Mr. Neville mentioned that a contract had yet to be signed with Sodexo. A major corporate partner, who is willing to shoulder the lion's share of the construction costs, is necessary before any construction can begin. The consensus was that the opening of the Faculty Club in the Fall may be a little optimistic. Further discussion brought up the possibility of developing a survey by the committee to determine what the faculty want in a Faculty Club. Vice Chancellor Chatelain will give a tour of the facilities at the Sister Stanislaus Memorial Hall (old Charity nursing building) for all Senators and any interested Assembly members after the next Faculty Senate meeting beginning at about 4:15 PM. The Faculty Club committee will keep the Senate abreast of further Faculty Club developments.

- B. Faculty Advisory Council Report: Pat Beare presented the Tuition Waiver Proposal for faculty and staff to the Senate for review and discussion. Due to lateness of the hour the proposal was deferred to the next meeting.

President Jacob adjourned the meeting at 4:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Don Layman, Secretary