

Faculty Senate Minutes April 2006

President Levitzky called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. in room L1026 of the Pennington Conference Center on Thursday, April 6, 2006.

Those present included (a designation of CC notes that attendance was via conference call):

Allied Health – Larry Broussard (CC), Kevin Lord (CC),
Dentistry – Tom Lallier, Johnny Porter (CC);
Graduate School – Angela Amedee (CC);
Library – Jennifer Lloyd;
Medicine – Greg Bagby, Michael Levitzky, Robert Richards;
Nursing – Pat Beare (CC), Ann Byerly (CC); and
Public Health – Ed Peters (CC), Neal Simonsen (CC).

Those absent included:

Allied Health – Sarintha Stricklin;
Dentistry – Carrie Mason, Cathy Springstead;
Graduate School – Andy Catling;
Medicine – Paula Gregory, Dan Kapusta;
Nursing – Christine Langer, Sally Ruel

The first item on the agenda was the approval of the previous month's minutes. The February minutes were approved unanimously.

The leadership of the faculty senate was then discussed. As Larry Broussard was conference calling in from the airport, I read his email proposal which stated:

After contacting all senators nominated for president-elect and discussing the situation with current officers the nominating committee recommends that the LSUHSC Faculty Senate approve the following resolution:

"Due to the extraordinary circumstances resulting from Hurricane Katrina and the recent resignation of the President-elect the time served by the current officers will not count as the 1 year term of office specified in the constitution."

Johnny Porter emphasized the necessity of the president-elect period to learn the job as faculty senate president. The motion that the faculty senate president and secretary would continue for another year was passed unanimously. The nominating committee was charged with finding candidates for both president elect and BOS representative alternate for a June election.

The matter of the dwindling number of senators was brought up, as was our lack of regular meetings while in Baton Rouge. Greg Bagby stated that not only do we need a full complement of senators, but also ones who attend meeting and are active in the

organization. It was noted that Allied Health had 2 open positions (1 since filled on 4/11/06), Dentistry had 2 open, Medicine had 3, and Nursing had 1. Meetings will move back to the regular Tuesday time slot as soon as possible.

Agenda item three was a revisiting of the letter from the Senate to Chancellor Hollier. This letter called for greater faculty involvement in the rebuilding of the Health Sciences Center. It had first been proposed in the February meeting and had been sent out for an email vote on March 7th. While most senators had favorable response, it was decided to hold off sending it until we could discuss it further. The question of stronger wording was discussed, but could not be agreed upon. It was unanimously decided to send the letter as written. (The letter was signed and mailed on 4/12/06.)

The issue of supporting a faculty representative on the Board of Supervisors was the next item. Pat Beare said that the BOS meetings have been very interesting lately. Bernard Boudreaux will step down. Students are advocating for a student replacement, but they already have a voting representative. Faculty representation has been suggested for the last 2 years and it was under consideration; Boudreaux's vacancy is an opportunity to push this goal forward. The Faculty Senate voted unanimously to support this effort. Johnny Porter wanted to extend the thanks of the whole Faculty Senate to Pat Beare for her efforts on the Faculty Advisory Committee to the Board of Supervisors.

The declarations of financial exigency at both UNO and the Ag Center were discussed and the financial exigency process were discussed. The UNO declaration will affect LSUHSC in that some of our programs count on UNO for pre-requisites and support courses.

Ann Byerly addressed the web announcement about "stored and abandoned cars." She stated that the announcement was poorly worded and that administration was speaking down to faculty in its communications. There were not that many cars and direct communications would have been better. Greg Bagby added that "they gave the cars more time than the faculty."

The PTO proposal was forwarded at the request of Bob Richards. Pat Beare stated that the directive came from the Board of Supervisors originally. Benefits are costing the state too much money. It was decided that the PTO needs to be presented to the faculty at large. Human resources should be contacted to discuss this item.

Paula Gregory had emailed about the NIH visit stating that she thought it had been conducted in a very clandestine manner. Several faculty senate members said that they knew about it in advance. All basic science department heads were informed.

The final agenda item of the meeting was reports from the various faculty assemblies:
Allied Health – No report
Dentistry – At the General Faculty Meeting it was proposed that a new department of Oral Biology be created within the School of Dentistry. While there has been no faculty input, this proposal has received no opposition from the basic science department heads

in the School of Medicine. The proposal would have to go before the Board of Supervisors for approval.

Graduate Studies – No report

Library – The Library hopes to re-open in early June.

Medicine – The last faculty assembly meeting included furloughed faculty who related their horror stories.

Nursing – They have not had a meeting.

Public Health – SPH is still using the Advanced Technology Center at UNO causeway.

Repairs to the Canal Street location are ongoing.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Jennifer K. Lloyd
Secretary