Faculty Senate Minutes
November 14, 2005

President Levitzky called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. in room 322 of the Pennington Conference Center. Those present included: **Allied Health** – Doris Cather, Angela Foley (as a substitute for Larry Broussard), Robert Rowe (via conference call), Sarintha Stricklin; **Dentistry** – Carrie Mason; **Graduate School** – Angela Amedee; **Library** – Jennifer Lloyd; **Medicine** – Greg Bagby, Michael Levitzky, Robert Richards, Tom Wolf (via conference call); **Nursing** – Pat Beare, Ann Byerly (via conference call), Christine Langer (via conference call); and **Public Health** – Catherine Correa (via conference call). **Invited guests** included Chancellor John Rock, Vice-Chancellor Joseph Moerschbaecher, and Vice-Chancellor Ronnie Smith.

As the August minutes are not available, the approval of minutes was tabled until a future meeting.

President Levitzky stated that the purpose for the meeting was both to keep the Senate alive and to foster interaction between the schools and between the faculty and the administration. He then gave a brief summary of Dr. Rock's Town Hall meeting on November 9th. Chancellor Rock announced at that meeting that the Health Sciences Center would definitely be moving back to New Orleans. He also stated that the university retained 96% of its students for a total of 2173.

Some changes have occurred since the Town Hall meeting. VC Moerschbaecher reported that on Saturday morning the state legislature proposed a budget cut for all of higher education; the LSU system would take a $32 million cut and LSUHSC New Orleans would take a $16 million cut. VC Smith stated that this was just the first pass and by Sunday the dollar amounts were reduced, but no firm figures had been announced.

VC Smith further said that any budget cut would be in addition to our $98 million loss for business interruption which we are hoping to be reimbursed for by the federal government. The annual budget amounts to about $450 million.

VC Smith also wanted to make sure that everyone was aware of his bi-weekly building updates which are being posted on the main LSUHSC website (http://www.lsuhsc.edu/). These reports give a comprehensive overview of the status of campus buildings. The priority is being given to research space. FEMA teams arrived in New Orleans on Monday morning and the architect selection process is being expedited. The plan is to re-occupy before the major work is completed on the first floors and whatever might be beneath them. Early in 2006, the upper floors of the MEB, CSRB, and Lions building should be available. Additionally, it looks like the Resource Center and Nursing/Allied Health Buildings may be quick fixes. The basement of 1542 was heavily damaged and this is where the electrical equipment for that building was located. The Dental School buildings present more of a challenge. There was 4-5 feet of water which stood in all buildings. The portable units used by the Human Development Center are so damaged that personal belongings cannot be retrieved. The construction of the new HDC on the downtown campus is proceeding.

VC Smith then addressed the housing issue. The FinnJet ferry has been inhabited for one month. The priority was given to students and house officers. The ship can house 900 people; 500 to 650 have actually taken residence; 60% are student or residents and 40% are faculty or staff. Access control is monitoring usage; if someone isn't using their room then it will be re-assigned. Internet access has been provided since last week; stability is still an issue. The rooms are small and do not have much storage space, but there are common areas that are available for studying, etc. For students and house officers and their families, the boat is being provided free of charge; this includes two meals a day, breakfast and supper. For faculty, the cost is $300 per month based on double occupancy; this includes two meals a day. For staff, the cost is $150 per month based on double occupancy; this includes two meals a day. There is a school bus shuttle every 7-10 minutes to the parking lots. The shuttle from the parking lot to Pennington has had low ridership, so the contract may be renegotiated.

As for the trailers, it has been a slower than originally anticipated. Between 40 and 60 trailers have been connected, but not all have been inspected. Only 20 are either occupied or had their keys issued. Students and house officers with children are the first priority. Faculty and staff with children are the second. The trailers will not have landline, internet or cable. It was too cost prohibitive wire for these services.

Dr. Levitzky then opened up the floor for questions from members of the Faculty Senate.

Greg Bagby, School of Medicine, asked if research is planned to be returned in early 2006, have any arrangements been made for animal care. VC Smith responded that the animal care facilities were heavily damaged, but they are working with researchers and the approval agencies to get the animal facilities back up.

Carrie Mason, School of Dentistry, asked if it was reasonable to plan on being back to the Dental Campus for the fall of 2006. VC Smith's response was "I hope."

Doris Cather, School of Allied Health, asked if the university had any problems with keeping the big name/big money researchers or faculty. VC Moerschbaecher responded that two large researchers had left. Claude Burgoyne in Ophthalmology had planned to move before the hurricane, but Pelayo Correa in Pathology has decided to retire from LSUHSC and move his lab to Vanderbilt. But VC Moerschbaecher also stated that he would rather lose one big faculty member in the twilight of his career then lose several junior faculty members who still have their best work ahead. He stressed that he felt it was important to maintain the junior faculty.

Tom Wolf, School of Medicine, asked if there would be enough training opportunities for students and residents in New Orleans. VC Moerschbaecher replied that the university was looking at all of the hospitals in the greater New Orleans area as potential teaching sites. Some sites are in the exploratory phase and others are close to formalizing. Specifically, it was mentioned that West Jefferson Hospital is interested in partnering with LSUHSC for the first time and that the LSUHSC role at Touro Infirmary will be expanding.

During the answer to the above question, Chancellor Rock arrived.

Bob Richards, School of Medicine, asked if clinic space was available. VC Smith responded that Dean Hollier was handling that. Mike Levitzky said that he knew of clinics in Kenner, Slidell, Baton Rouge, and the St. Thomas clinic in New Orleans. Richards then asked how many clinical faculty have left. VC Smith replied that looking at raw numbers from September to October the number of faculty paychecks only decreased by 13 or 14. VC Moerschbaecher responded that he only knew of less than 10 personally. And Chancellor Rock said to his knowledge there were only 10 or 15. Richards also asked about supplemental pay cuts. Chancellor Rock responded that yes they are being cut, because the services that are being paid for are not being provided. He added that the university has to have continuation funds. VC Moerschbaecher reminded everyone that the School of Medicine has a $40 million deficit from lost faculty practice and lost contracts.

Mike Levitzky, School of Medicine, asked about leave without pay (LWOP) for faculty. VC Moerschbaecher replied that as the financial situation becomes clear, then some faculty will be put on LWOP, either because there are no funds or because there is no work for them to do. But clearance for this must come from the Board of Supervisors before any action can be taken. Levitzky wanted to clarify the difference between LWOP and termination. VC Moerschbaecher stated that LWOP was just that a time period of 60 to 90 days when a faculty member would not be paid. Benefits would continue. VC Smith clarified that the faculty member would have to pay for his own and the university's portion of the premium. This was the university's policy for staff and will probably be the policy for faculty. VC Moerschbaecher said that termination is just that a permanent separation from the university.

Bob Rowe, School of Allied Health, asked if the Board of Supervisors approves LWOP, how much notice would a faculty member get. VC Moerschbaecher responded that the Board of Supervisors makes those guidelines. They would decide how much notice. He also stated that this is a unique problem to the School of Medicine because of its shortfall. The other schools are in better financial shape. VC Smith said that he didn't necessarily agree that the other schools were in better shape. Even though other schools have lost less revenue, that money may be a significant percentage of their budget. Bob Rowe said that he thought the next Board of Supervisors meeting was November 18th, but Pat Beare, School of Nursing and the Faculty Senate's Representative to the LSU System, responded that there is no November meeting. The next meeting will be December 8th and 9th according to the LSU System web page (http://www.lsusystem.lsu.edu/meetingschedules.html).

Greg Bagby then asked about the retention of faculty with potential pay cuts. Chancellor Rock said that they are working hard on this issue. There are national faculty shortages; there are recruiters from other institutions trying to grab our faculty. He is preaching this to the legislature.

Carrie Mason then asked if graduation was on schedule. VC Moerschbaecher responded that graduation would be at the Maravich Center on December 8th. The general consensus of the senate was that it would be very meaningful to the students if a large number of the faculty attended the graduation.

Mike Levitzky asked if promotion and tenure was on hold for the School of Medicine. VC Moerschbaecher stated that each dean is making his or her own decision about the tenure and promotion process. Dean Hollier has decided to put a hold on that process in the School of Medicine. This action suspends the tenure clock for one year. The School of Dentistry is moving forward and other schools may do the same.

Chancellor Rock asked if the town hall meeting was a success. Mike Levitzky responded that yes, he thought it was. He added that rumors are rampant right now and that good communication was important. Bob Richards asked if the next town hall meeting could be held earlier to be easier for faculty who are commuting. Chancellor Rock said sure.

Angela Amedee, School of Graduate Studies, asked if there would be any kind of reimbursement for equipment or supplies lost in the storm. VC Smith said that the university has to look to insurance first. But the state only has $500 million of total insurance for both property loss and business interruption. After this insurance is depleted, then we can apply to FEMA. But first you have to prove that the supplies were not consumed before the storm. The university is exploring all other sources of funds. VC Moerschbaecher said that the first step was to talk to your department head. Greg Bagby was concerned about what proof would be necessary. Should researchers be itemizing what they are throwing away from their refrigerators? VC Smith said that it really isn't clear what insurance companies will be asking for. VC Moerschbaecher said try to keep good records.

Mike Levitzky asked about teaching and where would we be in January. Bob Rowe seconded this question. Chancellor Rock stated that he thought he made this clear at the town hall meeting. We would be returning to New Orleans at the end of the spring semester unless there is a miracle with some of our buildings.

Doris Cather asked what the faculty senate can do to assist the administration efforts. Chancellor Rock replied to do what we're doing, representing the faculty, passing along information, offering leadership. Cather suggested that President Levitzky could publicly represent the faculty senate at the next town hall meeting. VC Smith said that he is impressed with the faculty as a whole because our students would not be staying if it weren't for the faculty.

President Levitzky thanked our guests for taking the time to attend the faculty senate meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:03 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer K. Lloyd, Secretary