

Faculty Senate Minutes May 2006

President Levitzky called the meeting to order at 3:31 p.m. in the chancellor's conference room on the 8th floor of the resource center building on Tuesday, May 9th.

Those present included:

Allied Health – Larry Broussard, Sarintha Stricklin, JoThompson;
Dentistry – Tom Lallier;
Graduate School – Andy Catling;
Library – Jennifer Lloyd;
Medicine – Greg Bagby, Michael Levitzky, Pamela Lucchesi, Robert Richards, Lolie Yu;
Nursing – Pat Beare, Ann Byerly, Christine Langer, Barbara Kellem (substituting for Sally Ruel); and
Public Health – Ed Peters, Neal Simonsen .

Those absent included:

Allied Health – Kevin Lord;
Dentistry – Carrie Mason, Johnny Porter;
Graduate School – Angela Amedee; and
Medicine – Robin English, Paula Gregory, Dan Kapusta;

The minutes from the April meeting were approved unanimously (and have been posted on the Faculty Senate website).

The next item on the agenda was a revisiting of issue of leadership of the senate. Senators were reminded that we lost our President-Elect at the end of March. And though President Levitzky had been persuaded to remain for the 2006-2007 FY, he was asked to serve as the interim head of Physiology. As a department head, he is no longer eligible to serve on the senate. Pat Beare was nominated by Ann Byerly to be the new president of the senate with a second by Jo Thompson. Since Beare offered to run as president-elect in the June election at the April meeting, she was unanimously voted in as president of the faculty senate. Greg Bagby was asked to run in the June election for the president-elect position. Pat Beare further clarified that she would remain as the BOS representative. Secretary Lloyd pointed out that we normally have both a BOS representative and a BOS representative alternate. This election will also be held in June and Pamela Lucchesi offered to run for this position. Pat Beare will take over as president with the June meeting.

The suggestion of a bylaws change regarding non-attendance of meetings was proposed. Greg Bagby discussed this issue by pointing out that there was no mechanism in the bylaws to deal with inactive members. The School of Medicine Faculty Assembly does have such a bylaws statement, but it is not enforced. Levitzky stated that the Faculty Senate could decide that someone was out and would then refer to the Faculty Assembly for a replacement. Bob Richards suggested simply reporting the individual to their Faculty Assembly on a case by case basis. Levitzky asked if the bylaws specify finding a substitute. Lloyd responded that she thought they

did. So it was agreed that absent senators should send a substitute. Thomas Lallier asked if the Faculty Senate had the authority to remove a senator when that person was elected by their Faculty Assembly. It was agreed that Faculty Assembly presidents should work toward filling all their open slots. Ann Byerly suggested that the goal to work towards was a more active senate rather than trying to punish inactive senators. It was agreed that no change would be made to the bylaws at this time.

Bob Richards mentioned that he met with Chancellor Hollier and they discussed the possibility of disseminating the Faculty Assembly minutes to all of the SoM Faculty. Beare asked if we could send the Faculty Senate minutes to each Faculty Assembly president. Lloyd countered that she didn't know who the Faculty Assembly presidents were. Since the minutes are eventually posted to the website, it was decided that an email would be sent to the senators when the minutes page was updated. This information could then be passed along by the senators to their assemblies.

Christine Langer inquired about temporary classroom space in the fall. She was concerned that there would not be enough space to teach all the various schools courses. Levitzky responded that the large classrooms in the MEB are supposed to be ready by July. This would alleviate most of the crunch.

Ed Peters brought up an HRM issue. His supplemental life insurance policy was terminated by the university with no notice. This is another example of poor communication. It was suggested that HRM be invited to speak to this issue. Lucchesi mentioned that matters of insurance and benefits are essential for the retention of staff, especially those paid bi-weekly.

Ann Byerly brought up the point that the university research committee has no School of Nursing representatives. Bagby agreed that while the makeup of the committee was good it needed both School of Nursing and School of Allied Health Profession representatives. A resolution was unanimously passed to send a letter to Chancellor Hollier requesting that two additional members be appointed to this committee representing the missing schools. (This letter was sent by Mike Levitzky on June 1, 2006.)

The Allied Health Faculty Assembly will meet later in May; they have decided to reduce and restructure their committees; and plan on replacing their missing senator. (Which they have done, Scott Rubin was added to the Senate roster May 22nd.)

The Dental Faculty Assembly reported that a letter has been sent to the Board of Supervisors regarding the creation of an Oral Biology department.

Graduate Studies had no report.

The Library had no report, but was asked when we expected to re-open. As the carpet was not yet finished and the return of our materials had not begun, a date could not be estimated.

The Medicine Faculty Assembly reported that they have been informed of a 66 million dollar shortfall. The MEB continues to have some environmental issues (black stuff from the A/C

vents, although it was thought that this may have been occurring before Katrina). 150 house officers will begin their residency July 1. University Hospital could have some floors open by the end of 2006. The school hopes to hire 60 faculty.

The School of Nursing has had both a Faculty Organization and a Faculty Assembly; it is hoped that these two groups can be merged in the coming year. The mold has been eliminated on the 1st floor of the Nursing/Allied Health building. The 3rd, 4th, and 5th floors are OK, but the A/C is not working properly.

The Public Health Assembly has been meeting monthly and is working to fill positions. The school hopes to move back to their Canal St building in July.

New Business:

Bob Richards wanted to discuss how to involve the faculty in Force Majeure decisions, adding that the lack of faculty input continues to be an issue. Andy Catling was confused by the phrase "furlough." Bagby said that furlough really meant termination. It was decided that the Faculty Senate should follow up on the letter which President Levitzky sent to Chancellor Hollier on April 12th.

It was decided that the following should be invited to attend faculty senate meetings in the near future: Dean Jimmy Cairo to discuss the university's new emergency plan and Chancellor Hollier to discuss faculty furloughs.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:18 p.m.

Jennifer K. Lloyd
Secretary, Faculty Senate