

Faculty Senate Minutes January 2007

President Beare called the meeting to order 3:32 p.m. in the Library's Conference Room on the 3rd floor of the Resource Center building on Tuesday, January 9, 2007. The meeting was moved to the Library conference room due to a last minute scheduling conflict in the Chancellor's conference room.

Those present included:

Allied Health – Larry Broussard, Scott Rubin;
Dentistry – Tom Lallier, Johnny Porter;
Graduate School – Angela Amedee;
Library – Jennifer Lloyd;
Medicine – Greg Bagby, Dan Kapusta, Robert Richards;
Nursing – Pat Beare, Ann Byerly, Judy Gentry (substituting for Christine Langer), Susan Rick, Mikki Kite (substituting for Sally Ruel);
Public Health – Chih-Yang Hu, Sarah Moody-Thomas, Ed Peters, Neal Simonsen; and
Ex-Officio – Mike Levitzky.

Those absent included:

Allied Health – Kevin Lord, Sarintha Stricklin, Jo Thompson;
Dentistry – Carrie Mason, Dennis Paul, Alan Ripps;
Graduate Studies – Andy Catling;
Medicine – Robin English, Paula Gregory, Pamela Lucchesi, Lolie Yu; and
Public Health – Julia Volaufova.

Chancellor Hollier stepped into the meeting as a last minute guest. He stated that the university is financially stable and that although the preliminary budget for next year has a \$13 million deficit, it will be worked out. There has been a commitment for a \$300 million block grant to acquire land in New Orleans and Baton Rouge for the building of new hospitals.

There are search committees in process to fill these key positions: Nursing Dean, Chairs of several departments, Cancer Center Director; the Chancellor then added that a search committee would be formed to find a new School of Medicine Dean in the 1st quarter of this year.

As for facilities, the Chancellor stated that completion is a long process. The Dental School will be open fall of 2007. The 1st floors of the downtown buildings continue to be delayed by FEMA. Additionally, there were issues with Public Health moving back to the UNO building on Canal St. It was felt that the repairs were sub-standard and so Public Health will remain out by the lake for the time being. The Old Public Health hospital near Audubon Park needs over \$20 million in renovations so it is not a suitable home for the school. There is a possibility that the School of Public Health could move into 1542 Tulane when it is ready. That building presents its own problems because of all the old technology in it, like asbestos. There are also issues with the fire marshal. The newer section of the building may open before the original 1930's section. Another building project that is being looked at is the tearing down of the Foundation building on Tulane Ave; a new building may be built which would cover that site and the adjacent parking lot.

Any anxiety for the future of the university concerns the issues with the city. It is difficult to recruit into New Orleans with the current problems with housing, schools, and crime. That said, two "top notch" surgeons were recently recruited to the university, one retinal and one vascular.

Johnny Porter asked “What can we do to help?” Hollier response was to take a long term view. In some ways we are in the best shape we have been in for years.

Greg Bagby asked about the state legislature looking at Charity recently. Hollier said that they were looking at all educational institutions. Bagby then asked about the 1st floors stating that it is embarrassing to bring prospective faculty in through the parking garage. Hollier responded that the Resource Center building may have its 1st floor open first, but only as a pass through.

Porter then asked about the itemized lists of lab losses, “Will the labs ever see that money?” Hollier stated that the FEMA timeframe is unknowable.

Bagby then inquired about animal care. Hollier responded that a vivarium will be open in the CSRB by March or early April. He added that more expert and specific planning needs to be done for future buildings. City infrastructure needs to be investigated.

Pat Beare asked about the issue of student security clearances; Ann Byerly added that students are spending a great deal of money to get the clearances and that the Senate sent Vice-Chancellor Moerschbaecher a letter about this matter. Hollier said that we are waiting for the systems office to respond.

As there were no more questions, Pat Beare thanked Dr. Hollier for attending our meeting and he departed.

Agenda Item 1: Approval of Minutes

The December minutes were approved unanimously.

Agenda Item 2a: Old Business – AAUP furlough letter

Bob Richards said that he was forwarded a copy of the letter that Dr. Moerschbaecher sent to the AAUP (which was then forwarded to all Senators). The letter only covers the School of Medicine and does not cover those faculty who have voluntarily left. There has been no response from the AAUP yet.

Agenda Item 2b: Old Business – Student Security Clearances

Pat Beare stated that she received a reply from Dr. Moerschbaecher and as Dr. Hollier stated the issue is with the systems office now. Hopefully it won't be bogged down in bureaucracy for too long.

Agenda Item 2c: Old Business – Patient Access to Allied Health/Nursing building

Pat Beare said that she spoke with Antonio Casas, Manager of Parking Services, about this issue. He stated that it would be 2 weeks until the elevators were fixed and inspected. Scott Rubin added that Dean Cairo called and told him the same thing. The question was asked if the elevators are fixed will the 1st floor of the garage reopen for patient parking. It was suggested that the number of patients per week be sent to the parking office and the SAHP Dean's office so that they will continue to be aware of the issue.

Agenda Item 2d: Old Business – Faculty Senate budget

Greg Bagby said that he worked up a budget proposal for Dr. Moerschbaecher. It included travel to the Board of Supervisors meetings, a salary for a student worker, a service project (about \$500), and a small supply budget for coffee and snacks. There was some discussion as to the logistics of some of the items; without a physical space, where would supplies be kept, etc. But Sarah Moody-Thomas stated that she felt that asking for more sets a good precedent.

Agenda Item 2e: Old Business – University Police recognition

Scott Rubin from the Facilities committee said that they are still waiting on the names from Ron Gardner.

Agenda Item 2f: Old Business – Regular meetings with the Chancellor

Pat Beare stated that there is a meeting scheduled for the Executive Board to meet with the Chancellor on February 6th.

Agenda Item 2g: Old Business – Other

None

Agenda Item 3a: New Business – Bylaws edit

Larry Broussard proposed that the Bylaws section on a Quorum (line 284 section 3) be edited to read a “simple majority” rather than “simple majority” with a numerical designation. As we have added senators this line is often neglected. The change will make it easier for the future. The change was approved unanimously. Broussard said that he would make the necessary changes and then send them to Jennifer Lloyd who would add them to the Faculty Senate Web site.

Agenda Item 3b: New Business – Other

The idea of shared server access for the Senate was discussed. Problems included who would be responsible for security and hosting this server. Perhaps files that need to be shared could just be put on the faculty senate website.

Bagby asked the Senate what issues should be brought up to the Chancellor in executive committee meeting. The following were some of the ideas proposed: a recurring budget for the senate, representation on administration-level search committees, improving communication with faculty, plans for a recurring service project (like the university police recognition project).

Agenda Item 4a: Reports – Faculty Senate Committees

Clinical education, service & patient care – no report

Constitution, bylaws, resolutions, nominations & elections – see agenda item 3a

Electronic communications – Jennifer Lloyd said that she and Bagby had discussed redesigning sections of the faculty senate website, adding more information about committees and their activities.

Facilities, safety & security – see agenda items 2c and 2e

Professional rights, responsibilities & faculty welfare – Ann Byerly said that the committee should be meeting soon on faculty’s right to refuse to teach a specific course.

Research – no report, but did mention a university plan to restructure core labs; the proteomics and genomics labs are open and significant upgrades (new instrumentation) should be completed by July.

Agenda Item 4b: Reports – Assemblies

Allied Health – School is holding a monthly faculty forum.

Dentistry – Should be teaching in the New Orleans facility by August; but some offices to be re-occupied by March. Mold abatement will be conducted over the next 2 months. No animal care facilities will be available in the near future.

Graduate Studies – no report

Library – no report

Medicine – Should have an assembly meeting soon.

Nursing – A report was given that nursing is now the largest school (number of students), but it has the smallest budget. The claim that it has the largest number of students was disputed.

Public Health – The newest public health senator was introduced, Sarah Moody-Thomas. Also, as was mentioned by the chancellor they have not moved back to Canal St.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Submitted by
Jennifer K. Lloyd
Faculty Senate Secretary