

**LSUHSC Faculty Senate Minutes  
March 2007**

President Beare called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. in the Chancellor's conference room on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of the Resource Center building on Tuesday, March 13, 2007.

Those present included:

**Allied Health** – Larry Broussard, Jo Thompson  
**Dentistry** –;  
**Graduate School** – Andy Catling;  
**Library** – Kathy Kerdolff for Jennifer Lloyd;  
**Medicine** – Greg Bagby;  
**Nursing** – Pat Beare, Ann Byerly, Christine Langer, Susan Rick, Mikki Kite for Sally Ruel;  
**Public Health** – Chih-Yang Hu, Neal Simonsen, Julia Volaufova; and  
**Ex-Officio** – Mike Levitzky.

Those absent included:

**Allied Health** – Kevin Lord, Scott Rubin, Sarintha Stricklin  
**Dentistry** – Tom Lallier, Carrie Mason, Dennis Paul, Johnny Porter, Alan Ripps;  
**Graduate School** – Angela Amedee;  
**Medicine** – Robin English, Paula Gregory, Dan Kapusta, Pamela Lucchesi, Robert Richards, Lolie Yu;  
**Public Health** – Ed Peters, Sarah Moody-Thomas.

*Agenda Item 1: Approval of Minutes*

The minutes from the February meeting were unanimously approved.

*Agenda Item 2a: Old Business – Student Security Clearances*

Pat Beare informed the Senate that a meeting has not been arranged with Dr. Moerschbaecher to discuss the issue.

*Agenda Item 2b: Old Business – Patient Access to the Allied Health/Nursing Building*

Elevator access to Allied Health has been restored. Pat Beare also noted that a second elevator for AH/Nursing is supposed to be working “soon” according to Antonio Casas.

*Agenda Item 2c: Old Business – Plan to recognize University Police*

Scott will handle creation and printing of the certificates; he requested a volunteer to take over the remaining organization and execution of the event under Facilities, Safety, and Security Committee auspices. Jo Thompson and Pat Beare agreed to work on this. The remaining tasks include locating and reserving a suitable venue (probably the Cafeteria) for a specific date and sending out the invitations. University funds cannot be used for the event, but a donation of \$200 has been received to cover expenses.

*Agenda Item 2d: Old Business – Faculty Senate Budget*

Greg Bagby noted that the budget issue had been discussed with Moerschbaecher. While there was no hard-and fast definition of what officially sanctioned expenditures are, travel expenses definitely qualify and others should be relatively minor components in our budget compared to that. Rather than try to create a formal student worker position per se, , the more practical course would be to utilize current administrative staff within departments and other units of respective Senate members needing such assistance for the business of the Senate.

*Agenda Item 2e: Ombudsman proposal – Professional Rights Committee*

Findings related to the potential actions and duties of an ombudsperson were discussed, including examples distributed to the Senate via e-mail prior to the meeting. An ombudsman is theoretically an independent and neutral party who can render advice as to rights and/or options available to a party, but will not intervene specifically for one party – e.g., they will not negotiate a claim for you, but will advise you of available options and relevant contacts. Inquiries are typically kept strictly confidential, which encourages use of the ombudsman without fear of potential consequences of making an inquiry public but also means that records kept are held to a minimum. An “organization ombudsman” model expands the ombudsman’s role to include attendance at relevant meetings and formulating advice on potential alterations and improvements in organizational mechanics (communications, etc.)

Potential cost-effectiveness of establishing an LSUHSC ombudsman was discussed. The Baton Rouge campus has a full-time ombudsman. Hiring a full-time ombudsman for the LSUHSC with the requisite stature to command respect from all parties and maintain independent operation, however, could be fiscally prohibitive. A workable option might be to find a retired former faculty and/or administrator with solid standing among faculty, administration, and staff, perhaps willing to serve on a part-time basis. An alternative raised by Larry Broussard and Greg Bagby would be sharing duties and costs with another institution, such as UNO.

At Ann Byerly’s suggestion, it was decided to contact the Baton Rouge ombudsman’s office and elicit whatever help they could provide on clarifying the mechanics of establishing an ombudsman’s office and how that might apply to the HSC’s situation.

*Agenda Item 2f: Old Business – other*

No other old business.

*Agenda Item 3a: Other New Business*

No other new business.

*Agenda Item 4a: Reports – Faculty Senate Committees*

**Clinical Education, Service, and Patient Care**

**Constitution, Bylaws, Resolutions, Nominations, and Elections**

**Electronic Communications**

**Facilities, Safety, and Security**

**Professional Rights, Responsibilities, and Faculty Welfare**

**Research**

Nothing not previously covered to report.

*Agenda Item 4b: Reports – Assemblies*

**Allied Health** – Currently developing database of potential outside speakers for interdisciplinary topics. This may be a good resource for supplementing course lecture sequences.

**Dentistry** – Nothing new to report.

**Graduate Studies** – Nothing new to report

**Library** – Nothing new to report

**Medicine** – Larry Hollier addressed the previous meeting of the School’s faculty assembly. He spoke about longer-term plans but also acknowledged the immediate-term problems still facing the faculty. Acknowledgement that the 1542 building will not be available for the foreseeable future was particularly disappointing for some. Frustration continues over the lack of a teaching hospital, adequate office space, secretarial and clerical support, etc. Various departments have been left to make their own arrangements ad hoc and on the fly. The end result is poor integration and dispersal of personnel and facilities between

New Orleans, Baton Rouge, Lafayette, and the Northshore, often with inefficient rotation from place to place over the course of the week.

**Nursing** – Inability to raise a quorum at the last faculty meeting reflects the fact that faculty are being stretched thinner and thinner with little increase in resources. Applicant numbers for the nursing program remain high in contrast to the paucity of faculty available to teach them, in concert with a move toward deemphasis of doctoral preparation for education.

**Public Health** – Nothing new beyond the continuing search for a location proximal to the rest of the HSC to replace the current temporary facilities near UNO.

*Agenda Item 4c: Reports – Other*

**Board of Supervisors Faculty Advisory Committee** – {Actually discussed prior to item 4 vi.} Pat Beare related that Larry Hollier addressed the Board at length. He emphasized the difficulty in maintaining and retaining Medical School faculty, citing lack of offices, continued unavailability of the 1542 building, the slow pace of rebuilding efforts in the city itself, and attendant morale problems. He outlined potential serious negative consequences to New Orleans should Medical School activities focus on and/or move to Baton Rouge rather than the metro area, including shortfalls in medical services, spending activity and resultant economic stimulus, and tax revenues.

The doctoral program in Biostatistics for the School of Public Health received Board approval.

A resolution was passed requesting LSU System President Jenkins to develop job descriptions and salaries for six positions to be created in the LSU System hierarchy. These include four new positions: Vice President for Health Affairs and Education, Assistant Vice President for Information and Technology, Assistant Vice President for Quality Management and Research, and Attorney – Health Care Specialty. Two positions are to be modifications of existing ones: Assistant Vice President for Health Care and Medical Education Finance and System Compliance Coordinator. This will create some entities that include both the Shreveport as well as the New Orleans Health Sciences Center in their purview. Other notes: Definity Health Care continues its usual robust health, and an initiative to provide financial aid for students who can't qualify for TOPS was funded.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Submitted by  
Neal Simonsen  
acting substitute for  
Faculty Senate Secretary