

**Faculty Senate Minutes
February 2009**

President Paul called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. in the Chancellor's Conference Room on Tuesday, February 10, 2009.

Those present included:

Allied Health –Kelly Alig, Erin Dugan, Jo Thompson, Scott Rubin, George Hebert;
Dentistry –Catherine Badell, Dennis Paul;
Graduate School –Angela Amedee;
Library –Hanna Kwasik;
Medicine –Gregory Bagby, Ann Tilton, Erich Richter, Michael Levitzky;
Nursing –Leanne Fowler, Cynthia Langford, Randy Rosamond, Gwendolyn Stewart-Woods;
Public Health –Richard Scribner, Neal Simonsen, Julia Volaufova, Chih-Yang Hu;
Ex Officio – Jennifer Lloyd.

Those absent included:

Dentistry –Diedra Foret (excused), Marco Brindis;
Medicine – Sean Collins, Tonya Jagneaux, Daniel Kapusta, Kevin Reed (excused);
Nursing –Marjorie Kraus (excused);

The meeting proceeded according to the agenda.

Agenda item 1. The January meeting minutes were unanimously approved .

Agenda item 2. President's report

President Paul presented to Senators the Resolution of the Faculty Senate of Southern University sent primarily to Governor Bobby Jindal regarding severe state budget deficit, which may result in budget cut for higher education, which may be between 14 – 30% . In their Resolution, the Senators from Southern University list several valid arguments/reasons against the budget cut and ask the Governor to reconsider the decision. The Association of Senators asks for similar resolutions from the universities and colleges in the state of Louisiana.

Action – President Paul will draft the resolution and will send it to all Senators and to all presidents of faculty assemblies. Presidents of faculty assemblies will send via e-mail a brief, one-bullet statement specific to their school, to President Paul by February 28, 2009.

Agenda Item 3. Old business:

- a) Ombudsman proposal – Senator Bagby, the Chair of the Professional Rights, Responsibilities, and Faculty Welfare Committee, presented a brief history of the topic of having an ombudsman on the LSUHSC campus for the disposal of faculty, students, and staff. In general, there has never been a strong support for this proposal in the Senate. Senator Bagby moved to table the issue of ombudsman at the LSUHSC campus, which was approved by majority of votes except one vote, Senator Volaufova opposed.
- b) Discrepancy between base salary and supplemental salary – Senator Bagby reported the progress the subcommittee of the Professional Rights, Responsibilities, and Faculty Welfare Committee made regarding this issue. The subcommittee concentrates at present on the retirement benefits calculation from base salary with the intention to suggest a change to include the supplemental salary into the calculation of benefits. Another issue is to recommend change in the present system of retirement possibilities and recommend a one-time possibility to change between optional and teachers’ retirement plans. All Senators agree that this issue has very high importance. In the discussion, senators Richter, Scribner, Volaufova, and Bagby participated. One suggestion is to separate the two issues – the calculation of the retirement benefits and the systematic one-time option to change retirement plans. The discrepancy also affects the calculation of the support when grant proposals are submitted to, say, NIH. More detailed report on the progress regarding this issue is expected at some of the next meetings.
- c) Senator Rubin brought up the issue of lack of contact information (phone numbers, e-mail addresses, etc.) to higher administrators at the LSUHSC web site (Chancellor, Vice Chancellors, etc.). A change in content and design of the web site is urgently needed.

Action – Senator Lloyd, the Chair of the Electronic Communication Committee, will prepare the resolution for the March Senate meeting, which will address the issue and will be sent after approval to Chancellor Hollier.

There was no other old business.

Agenda item 4. New business

There was no other new business

Agenda item 6. Reports.

- a) Faculty Senate committees –
 - i. Clinical Education, Services, and Patient Care – no report;
 - ii. Constitution, Bylaws, Resolutions, Nominations, and Elections – no report;

- iii. Electronic communications – Senator Lloyd reminded the Senators about the possibility and importance of displaying committee documents on the Senate web site;
 - iv. Facilities, Safety, and Security – no report;
 - v. Professional Rights, Responsibilities, and Faculty Welfare – see Old business;
 - vi. Research – Senator Richter reported that Dr. Nick Bazan was invited and will attend the March Senate meeting and will report about the activities of the LSUHSC standing Research Committee.
- b) Assemblies:
- i. Allied Health – Senators Hebert and Thompson reported that there is an intention to continue to prepare the yearbook and possibly to coordinate a joint effort between the schools regarding this issue.
 - ii. Dentistry – no report;
 - iii. Graduate School – no report;
 - iv. Library – Senator Kwasik reported that the construction in the library is still going on;
 - v. Medicine – Senator Bagby reported from the Assembly meeting that the main topic is a revision of the policy on promotion and appointment mainly regarding part time clinical faculty;
 - vi. Nursing – the Nursing School has in process the administration evaluation;
 - vii. Public Health – a replacement for Senator Peters has to be elected.
- c) Faculty Advisory Committee representatives – The Faculty Advisory Committee met on January 22 and concentrated on benefits. A faculty member from Economics Department at LSU, who recently moved from Ohio calculated and compared the lifetime benefits at Ohio and LSU and concluded that a new faculty member at LSU loses 1 million dollars compared to a young faculty member at Ohio. Another issue is a faculty representation at Board of Supervisors. There is a student representative but not a faculty representative. The Council of Faculty Advisors unanimously approved a resolution to include a faculty representation to BoS.

There were no additional reports from Senate committees.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:50pm

Submitted by
Julia Volaufova
Faculty Senate Secretary