

**LSUHSC Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes**  
**Tuesday – February 16, 2016**  
Chancellor’s Conference Room, 8<sup>th</sup> Floor, Resource Bldg.  
3:30 p.m.

President Farrar called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.  
Quorum verified.

Those present included:

**Allied Health** – Laurie Hebert, Kerrie Ramsdell, and Scott Rubin

**Dentistry** – Stephen Brisco, Suzanne Farrar, Kimberly Patterson, and Julie Schiavo

**Graduate Studies** – Suresh Alahari and Diptasri Mandal

**Library** – Rebecca Bealer

**Medicine** – Scott Delacroix, Sanjay Kamboj (also proxy for Shane Guillory), Michael Levitzky, Robin McGoey, Jay Mussell, and Peter Winsauer

**Nursing** – Ellen Beyer, Katherine Carter, James Foley, and Gloria Giarratano

**Public Health** – Chih-Yang Hu, Adrienne Katner, Lynn LaMotte, Suzanne Straif-Bourgeois, and Tung-Sung Tseng

**Ex Officio** – Jennifer Lloyd

Those absent included:

**Allied Health** – George Hebert and Kirk Nelson

**Dentistry** – none

**Graduate Studies** – none

**Library** – none

**Medicine** – Lisa Campeau, Kyle Happel, and Bradley Spieler

**Nursing** – Jean Cefalu

**Public Health** – Adrienne Katner

I. Welcome

1. President Farrar welcomed everyone to the meeting
2. Vice Chancellor Moerschbaecher announced that there was to be a press conference at 5pm regarding restructuring of higher education

II. Approval of January meeting minutes

1. The minutes were unanimously approved pending corrections to typographical errors and clarification of the report from Graduate Studies

III. President’s Report/Meeting with Vice Chancellor Moerschbaecher

1. Reduction in TOPS funding
  - a. At the time of the Executive Council’s meeting with Dr. Moerschbaecher it was announced that TOPS payments were suspended for the rest of the fiscal year
  - b. Since that meeting TOPS funding was not suspended but rather reduced with the schools picking up the gap in funding
2. Board of Regents directive to the four higher ed systems for mid-year cuts
  - a. Reduction of \$42 million in state general funds across all systems
    - i. \$20.8 million to the LSU System, our share is \$4,520,812
  - b. Reduction of \$4 in statutorily dedicated funds across all systems

- i. LSU System share is \$1.8 million, our portion is \$668,333
  - c. We had to submit our detailed plan for the cuts on Friday, February 12<sup>th</sup>
3. A Letter from Commissioner of Higher Education (Dr. Joseph Rallo) to the Commissioner of Administration (Jay Dardenne) regarding the potential impacts of the proposed drastic budget cuts dated February 11, 2016, was distributed to all senators via e-mail on February 12<sup>th</sup>
4. Research and expenditures data from the LSU Systems Office
  - a. Includes funds from NIH, NSF, etc. grants
  - b. LSUHSC-NO and the Ag Center are the only institutions in the system to show increases in 2015
    - i. Our funds were up 3% for total research and development, with a 4% increase in federal funds
  - c. For the entire system, research and development funds declined 4.2% and federal funds declined 8.7%
    - i. Pennington is down 10.9% (R&D) and 16% (Federal)
5. Research summit at UMC held February 16<sup>th</sup>
  - a. Participation was by invitation only, with each campus allowed to invite only 14 people
  - b. Francis Collins, Director of the NIH, requested to meet with medical students and had lunch with them
6. Dr. Joseph Rallo, Commissioner of Higher Education, held a forum at the HDC on February 16<sup>th</sup>
  - a. Senators Laurie Hebert, Scott Rubin, and Rebecca Bealer attended the forum and summarized the topics affecting higher education addressed during the session
  - b. It was felt that the commissioner truly understands and appreciates the challenges all of the higher education institutions have been dealing with over the past years and the dire circumstances that are currently be described with even more drastic budget cuts, and that he also shares the frustration that most feel
7. Dr. Moerschbaeher suggested the Senate invite Chancellor Hollier to our March meeting
8. The Heart Health Fair went well and had many attendees
9. HSC hiring freeze
  - a. At this point any position that can be filled has to entail direct patient treatment
  - b. It is necessary to reapply for approval to hire even if prior approval was granted
  - c. The Chancellor now has to approve any hires
10. Human Resources audit and compensation review
  - a. The audit of HR is complete and Dr. Moerschbaeher has signed off on it
  - b. HR is now looking at compensation across all schools and levels
    - i. They just finished looking at post-docs, where the compensation level was found to be adequate
    - ii. They are now reviewing some staff positions, primarily technicians
    - iii. It is a long process

#### IV. New Business

1. There was no new business

#### V. Old Business

##### 1. UMC Shuttle

- a. The ad hoc committee has a meeting set up for the 22<sup>nd</sup> with representatives from UMC, Tulane, and LSUHSC
- b. The first step is to install the app; Tulane shuttles already have one
- c. The committee aims to tie changes with the shuttle to safety as there have been increasing issues around UMC, Tulane, and 1542

##### 2. Optional Retirement Plan lawsuit

- a. The suit concerns the state not contributing 6.25% to the plan
  - i. Levels are currently around 4% and the state received an exemption from contributing to Social Security provided it matched those same levels
  - ii. The suit seeks to recoup the difference in state contributions
  - iii. Additionally, the Teachers Retirement system (TRSL) manages the ORP and although they take a fee to administer the fund they have also been redirecting ORP funds to pay off the TRSL unfunded mandate
  - iv. The Legislature has until 2019 to increase the contribution to 6.25%
- b. Although a judge had ruled the suit has merit and could proceed, the LSU System has presented briefs refuting that decision
- c. The lawsuit has been brought forward by Kevin Cope, president of LSU-BR's Faculty Senate, and Senator Winsauer will ask him about any other developments

#### VI. Report from the Board of Supervisors Meeting

1. A large portion of the meeting was monopolized by discussion of placing a statue honoring Pete Maravich
2. Commissioner of Administration Jay Dardenne cautioned all attendees to prepare for big cuts
3. Another topic was the audit of Pennington
  - a. Auditors blamed a lot of the revenue issues on the basic sciences faculty and that they are not "productive"
  - b. It was also mentioned, however, that institutions are running as efficiently as possible and more staff cuts would jeopardize functions

#### VII. Reports from Assemblies

##### 1. Allied Health

- a. They are waiting to hear feedback from their dean after the legislative special session has ended with regards to what might need to be done to address the budget issues

##### 2. Dentistry

- a. Work has begun on the new FEMA-funded building which is exacerbating parking and traffic issues on the campus
  - i. This has necessitated changes in the parking areas: there are fewer spots available, and just one way in and two ways out of the faculty/staff/student parking lot

- ii. Patients are also cancelling appointments because they cannot find a place to park
- b. Give Kids A Smile Day is February 26<sup>th</sup> and they are anticipating hosting 120 children who will receive oral hygiene and other dental instruction during the event
- c. Senator Schiavo was elected as Vice President of the local chapter of the Omicron Kappa Upsilon (OKU) dental honor society

### 3. Graduate Studies

- a. Students were invited to have lunch with Dr. Collins, Director of the National Institutes of Health, during the Louisiana Research Summit held that day; the students were also invited to stay for the remainder of the summit

### 4. Medicine

- a. During their assembly's meeting they received updates on the status of clinical department head and dean openings
- b. They are also having good dialogue with representatives from UMC concerning patient safety and treatment
- c. Their annual assembly awards are coming up soon

### 5. Nursing

- a. On March 6<sup>th</sup> they will hold a Pulmonary Hypertension Run
- b. April 2<sup>nd</sup> is Family and Friends Day
- c. The Sigma Theta Tau Research Day is scheduled for April 8<sup>th</sup>

### 6. Public Health

- a. Their dean discussed budget issues
- b. They are also looking at the possibility of an MD/MPH program as well as trying to increase students for the master's degree

### 7. Library

- a. The extended hours are still permanent and students are availing themselves of the Library during these new times

## VIII. Adjournment

1. A motion to adjourn passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at 4:07 p.m.

Submitted by: Rebecca Bealer  
Faculty Senate Secretary