

Faculty Senate Minutes February 2006

President Levitzky called the meeting to order at 12:03 p.m. in room L1026 of the Pennington Conference Center. Those present included: **Allied Health** – Larry Broussard, Robin Morehouse (as a substitute for Doris Cather), Robert Rowe, Sarintha Stricklin (via conference call); **Dentistry** – Tom Lallier, Johnny Porter, Cathy Springstead; **Graduate School** – Angela Amedee (via conference call), Andy Catling (via conference call); **Library** – Jennifer Lloyd; **Medicine** – Greg Bagby, Michael Levitzky, Robert Richards; **Nursing** – Ann Byerly (via conference call), Christine Langer (via conference call); and **Public Health** – Ed Peters (via conference call); **Invited Guests** – Gloria Giarratano, LSUHSC New Orleans Chapter President of the AAUP.

The November minutes had been previously been accepted via email.

The primary topics of the February meeting were discussions regarding two earlier meetings which took place in mid-January. Meeting #1 was with Mike Levitzky, Bob Richards, Peter Winsauer, Joseph Moerschbaecher, and Chancellor Larry Hollier. Meeting #2 was organized by the AAUP (American Association of University Professors) and ALFS (Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates) with Bob Richards and Gloria Giarratano from LSUHSC New Orleans, about a half dozen faculty representing the AAUP and ALFS, along with three members of the system board, President Bill Jenkins, VP Carolyn Hargrave, and Counsel Raymond Lamonica.

Mike Levitzky stated that at their meeting with Chancellor Hollier both the university financial situation and the School of Medicine furloughs were discussed. The combined effects of lost revenues and damage to physical facilities meant that the SoM couldn't make payroll without layoffs. The Force Majeure (FM) furlough policy came from the LSU Systems Office. They also devised the criteria on which the furloughs were based. Both the criteria and the official letter were approved by the systems office.

Additionally, the number of furloughed faculty was discussed. Approximately, 250 faculty members were furloughed. 1372 classified staff were furloughed. Only about 16 to 18 were appealed to VC Moerschbaecher; some of these were further appealed to the Systems Board. Gloria Giarratano contributed that the system lawyer state that there were 8 appeals sitting on President Jenkins' desk.

The issue of due process was raised with Chancellor Hollier. How does the appeal process work when the Dean is also the Chancellor? It was stated that the initial process removes Dean Hollier from the loop. The path is an appeal to an Associate Dean of the SoM, then to the Chancellor and then to President Jenkins. Further it was discussed why FM was needed and why was financial exigency declared. The response was that FM was easier because with financial exigency the procedures in the Faculty Handbook would have to be followed. One reason that LSUHSC was the first university to declare

FM is that LSUHSC New Orleans is largely self-supporting. Other institutions in the LSU system were concerned that their budgets would go to supporting LSUHSC NO.

As for the meeting organized by the AAUP and ALFS, it came about because some of the furloughed faculty contacted the National AAUP and also the AAUP chapter at LSU-BR to ask for assistance. The minutes from this meeting will be available after approval by the Systems office attendees. The question of why FM was implemented only at LSUHSC NO was addressed. Lamonica stated that it almost included UNO. But we were in the exceptional situation of having lost almost all of our revenue. Finances were so dire that action needed to be taken immediately. When asked about the financial exigency portion of the Faculty Handbook, he was dismissive. It was then added that SUNO is also under FM. It is not clear why FM was declared there and not at UNO. Jenkins added that FEMA will offer financial assistance for buildings, but no salaries. It was clear from this meeting that Hargrave is anti-tenure for clinical faculty. Lamonica said that he didn't know when faculty appeals would be heard because the documents were not in order. But that due process was proceeding. It was agreed that Lamonica's tone became more conciliatory when the letter from the AAUP was discussed.

The question of whether or not administration was taking the same percentage of cut as other departments was raised. This would be difficult to judge as all of the physical plant cuts technically come out of the administration budget.

Andy Catling mentioned the lack of communication from university administration and asked why should funded junior faculty return. Everyone agreed that the lack of communication is a primary problem.

The question about the permanent vs. temporary nature of the furloughs was asked. If the furloughs were reversible, why were faculty not allowed access to their email and made to return keys and university ID cards and asked to remove personal property. Some faculty were even under escort when cleaning out their offices.

Bob Rowe announced that he would be leaving LSUHSC NO at the end of March to pursue a job with the American Physical Therapy Association. This leaves a void in the leadership of the Faculty Senate as Rowe was the incoming president. This is in addition to the continuing problem of a shortage of senators.

The issue of President Jenkins' retirement was addressed. It was announced that the School of Dentistry assembly sent a letter of support for Jenkins. Dental senators seemed surprised by that announcement. Discussion was heard about whether or not a letter in support of President Jenkins would be drafted by the LSUHSC NO faculty senate. There was no consensus.

The decision was made that Levitzky would draft a letter to the LSUHSC NO administration expressing the faculty senate's concern over the lack of faculty input and the lack of communication. This letter will hopefully be approved via email before our next meeting.

Greg Bagby announced that the CSRB was open and that the computer network is now in place. By March 1st, the 2nd floor animal care facility will open and that would be 25% of the pre-Katrina facilities.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:47 p.m.