

Faculty Senate Minutes June 2006

President Beare called the meeting to order 3:33 p.m. in the Chancellor's Conference Room on the 8th floor of the Resource Center building on Tuesday, June 13, 2006.

Those present included:

Allied Health – Larry Broussard, Kevin Lord, Scott Rubin, Sarintha Stricklin, JoThompson;
Dentistry – Tom Lallier, Johnny Porter;
Graduate School – Angela Amedee, Andy Catling;
Library – Jennifer Lloyd;
Medicine – Greg Bagby, Robin English, Dan Kapusta, Pamela Lucchesi, Robert Richards, Lolie Yu;
Nursing – Pat Beare, Ann Byerly, Christine Langer;
Public Health – Donald Mercante (substituting for Neal Simonsen); and
Ex-Officio – Mike Levitzky.

Those absent included:

Dentistry – Carrie Mason;
Medicine – Paula Gregory, Robert Richards, Lolie Yu;
Nursing – Sally Ruel; and
Public Health – Ed Peters

The first item of business was a presentation from Associate Vice Chancellor for Property and Facilities John Ball. Ball began by stating the problems with personnel in Facilities. There were over 300 staff in facilities pre-Katrina and now there are only 80. Only 1/3 of the custodial staff is back although all have been welcomed back from furlough. Plumbers are particularly in short supply. There are only 3 plumbers for the entire campus. He suggests calling in any problems but only emergencies are being handled at the moment. Outside contractors are not available to assist the staff plumbers. The campus is averaging 1 overflowing toilet per hour; this coupled with the city's ongoing water problem means some very overworked plumbers.

Mike Levitzky asked if the water pressure is so low due to city problems, doesn't that present a problem with fire safety. And are there regulations regarding fire safety in student areas? Ball replied that a fire watch is patrolling all floors where water pressure is insufficient; so far the problems have only lasted a couple of hours. He was unaware of any regulations dealing with student areas.

Levitzky also asked about the problems with the locksmith. Ball stated that there is only 1 locksmith and he is 200-300 keys behind. So many keys were lost in floods or doors need to be re-keyed that it is difficult to keep up with the volume.

Ball did emphasize that facilities is accepting all work requests; it just might be a while before they can get to them. He further stated that requests can be denied if there are no workers to fulfill that request or if they just can't honor it (moving furniture was cited as an example). But if the request is denied then the requestor will be informed by telephone.

Ball stated that there are two types of work being performed, temporary and permanent. These types are defined by FEMA. Temporary work is all the work that LSUHSC has done so far. After June 30th FEMA will no longer reimburse at 100% instead it will be 90%. So there is a huge push to finish major items before that date. Permanent work “restores to the day before the storm.” Facilities would be allowed to make code upgrades and alter some materials because the original is no longer available, as long as the pricing is similar. An agreement with FEMA on all work has to be negotiated for permanent work to begin.

To comply with FEMA, all critical buildings will have to comply with a 500 year flood plain; non-critical buildings (like parking structures) will have to comply with a 100 year flood plain. During the mitigation process all essential services, materials, etc must be moved off of the first floor. Specifically, the Cohn Learning Center can move back to the first floor of the Eye Center building, but animal care facilities are still being negotiated with FEMA. Ball said that he doesn't feel that they are moving slowly, but are moving deliberately.

Andy Catling asked if this means that all the electrical systems have to be moved. Ball replied that yes we are under obligation to move it up to the 2nd floor. In some buildings this may require a small addition to the building.

As for the Dental campus, the progress has been much slower because there is more to be done. The basement included the morgue, hazardous materials, animals, electrical and asbestos. Because there was a catastrophic failure of a storm wall, it was all stirred together. Facilities has completed 3 months of cleanup. Every step has been approved by FEMA and environmental standards. \$5-6 million has already been spent. Lighting and air conditioning is available most days, but Entergy still does not have stabilized service in that area. The goal is to have research occurring in that space by fall. The addition of floors to the administration building is being considered. The plan is to bring the building back as “world class.”

There is a moratorium on non-Katrina building. Human Development Center building is slowly proceeding, but there has been an escalation of costs. The architects are redesigning the building to elevate the first floor above the 500 year flood plain. This is also true of the Cancer Center building. Four feet will be added to the bottom of each building.

As for Public Health, the UNO building is being remediated, but LSUHSC doesn't own it, so they are getting reports from UNO about its progress.

Ann Byerly asked about the retaining wall around LSUHSC which was applied for and then denied in 2005. Ball replied that he was unaware of this, but thought it wasn't a good plan. How can you put flood walls in front of doors. Very preliminary testing was done in Houston and the outcome was not good. He then explained the difference between wetproofing – change materials so that water doesn't affect them and dryproofing – preventing water from entering a space.

Catling then asked if LSUHSC had improved its generator situation. Ball responded that the question isn't that simple. We can't just increase the capacity of our generators. We also have to

look at the fuel source (diesel, natural gas). Some of the generators at 1542 never failed. Freezers not only need generators but a continuous water source. Facilities is considering adding wells on both campuses to meet that need.

Ball then began to explain some of the problems with the basement at 1542 Tulane Ave. Asbestos has been found. Two weeks of work time were lost when a contractor was injured because of a stray power line shocked him. The power was turned off, but they are surmising that this was a stray line feeding in from Charity. All work stopped while it was being investigated. They are tearing out all the stuff that was just abandoned down there. They have 2500 square feet of systems that have to be moved to the 2nd floor. They may add an addition in the parking lot to accommodate everything.

The environmental duct work in the MEB is ongoing. All of the testing will be redone.

Ball stated that there has been a leadership change in the positions below him. And that he felt like this wasn't a bad thing. Ten to twelve of these individuals were within a year of retirement. Facilities did have to increase wages for critical areas to be competitive, but there are civil service limits.

President Beare thanked Ball for his time.

The minutes to the May meeting were approved unanimously with minor corrections. The election of new officers proceeded and the following slate of candidates were elected unanimously: Greg Bagby – president-elect, Jennifer Lloyd – secretary, and Pam Lucchesi – BOS alternate representative. Pat Beare continues as both President and BOS representative.

Byerly brought up the matter of an AAUP site visit related to force majeure. Beare stated that Gloria Giarratano (local chapter of AAUP president) would like to speak at the August meeting. Beare stated that she would ask for more information and distribute it to the senate.

The July meeting was cancelled.

Beare gave her BOS update as follows:

President Jenkins is in office until April 2007. This is a change. There is now a staff advisory committee. LSUHSC does have one and Flora McCoy is the president. Should we invite the staff advisory committee to our meetings? Or invite a representative?

It was reported that UNO lost 87 faculty because of its financial exigency. Some colleges were demoted to schools, including Urban Planning.

Definity health plan is fully funded so there will be no rate increase.

Personnel actions occur at each meeting. These are part of the public record. Copies will be given to the library for addition to the collection.

New Business:

For the August meeting, the Chancellor should be invited to address the senate. We could ask him to attend briefly each month.

Reports from Assemblies:

Library was the only one to give a report and that was to announce that the Library had re-opened the day before.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57 p.m.