

Faculty Senate Minutes
August 2006

President Beare called the meeting to order 3:36 p.m. in the Chancellor's Conference Room on the 8th floor of the Resource Center building on Tuesday, August 8, 2006.

Those present included:

Allied Health – Larry Broussard;
Dentistry – Tom Lallier, Alan Ripps;
Graduate School – Angela Amedee, Andy Catling;
Library – Jennifer Lloyd;
Medicine – Greg Bagby, Robin English, Paula Gregory, Robert Richards,
Nursing – Pat Beare, Ann Byerly, Judy Gentry (substituting for Christine Langer), Susan Rick, Sally Ruel;
Public Health – Neal Simonsen; and
Ex-Officio – Mike Levitzky.

Those absent included:

Allied Health – Kevin Lord, Scott Rubin, Sarintha Stricklin, JoThompson;
Dentistry – Carrie Mason; Johnny Porter
Medicine – Dan Kapusta, Pamela Lucchesi, Lolie Yu; and
Public Health – Ed Peters

Guests for this meeting included Chancellor Larry Hollier, Vice Chancellor Joseph Moerschbaecher, Dean Jimmy Cairo, and Ted Weyand.

Agenda item 1a: University Update – Chancellor Larry Hollier

Hollier first addressed the university's financial status. LSUHSC did sustain a loss because of the closure of the hospitals which is why the Board of Supervisors called the Force Majeure. Even with the furloughs, the university would have run out of money in February. If there was no promise of more funding, then the administration would have had to declare the financial difficulties to the various school accrediting agencies. This would have probably forced the closure of the various schools. By December more funding was promised by the legislature. In January a \$50 million block grant came through. The state is insisting on vigorous oversight and auditing of this grant. (\$13.5 million was taken from LSUHSC and given to Tulane eventually.) In the new budget, previous cuts have been restored. Moneys have been allocated for raises to improve retention. While there is still a \$15 million shortfall, the university is in solid financial shape.

Hollier then moved on to the status of the various buildings on campus. He stated that everyone on campus is aware of the major problems with many of our buildings. Dental School will not be open until summer 2007. 1542 Tulane Ave. was a problem before the storm, but it will be open again next summer also. The 1542 offices are temporarily located in the Lyons building, displacing the faculty practice. There are no offices for faculty practice at this time. The MEB auditorium will be finished by the time the students start. It will probably be finished the night before the first class. It will still be months before the first floors of our buildings are open.

Hollier then relinquished the floor to VC Moerschbaecher to speak about research on campus. Moerschbaecher stated that NIH funding has increased this year, but that our total research dollars are down by \$7 million. This loss is mostly because of the lack of clinical trials. Grant submissions were up over 20%.

Hollier returned to the status of the hospitals. University is being renovated and some floors will be open in November. The trauma room lease at Elmwood expires in December but it will be renewed. The clinic at Lord & Taylor will remain open indefinitely. The Department of Health and Human Services is focusing on mental health. The police are fielding many calls to deal with psychiatric patients. There will be 110 – 120 psychiatric beds open soon. They hope to create a crisis intervention unit at the jail. Six trailers have been ordered from FEMA for ambulatory clinics. Only 2 spaces have been identified by FEMA and the city council, one on the westbank and one on the eastbank. A long-term replacement for university hospital is still being discussed with the VA. There is a \$300 million pledge by the state for the project, but another \$300 million is needed. The project is moving forward, but it is a 5 year plan. The site has been agreed upon, but it is not currently owned by either the state or the federal government.

Hollier stated that the business community is supporting LSUHSC. The university has a significant ripple effect and is a lynchpin for the city. There is a high-rise housing development in the works on Canal Street which will provide more housing for students and faculty; it is a private development.

Moerschbaecher added that financial aid has been more problematic than usual this fall. While it is an issue every year, this year because of staff reductions (30% of pre-storm staffing), it is worse. Hollier stated that issue of lost employees is difficult, especially in facilities.

Pat Beare asked when will Force Majeure end. Hollier said he didn't know and that Force Majeure does not just affect LSUHSC. He addressed the upcoming AAUP visit by stating that the systems office does not want their questions answered piecemeal.

Agenda item 1b: Hurricane Preparedness Plan – Dean Jimmy Cairo

Cairo stated that last year's emergency plan was insufficient, so he was asked to develop a new plan. This plan goes beyond just hurricanes, and the team worked with Baton Rouge to include how to deal with pandemics and environmental exposures. Input was given from faculty, staff, students, the systems office, and disaster experts in Baton Rouge. The plan is specific, but does not include every scenario.

Because of the complaints about communications, this is one of the first areas addressed. University Police have been issued higher powered radios; blackberries and satellite phones have been issued to key personnel. There are 4-5 layers of redundancy. A toll free number for students, employees, and patients will be implemented in the case of an emergency. Many of the university servers are now located in Baton Rouge.

Moerschbaecher added that all the animal facilities are currently on the 2nd floor. All plans must be approved by the USDA. In the case of an evacuation, animals will remain with a special food

that is used when animals are shipped. If necessary, key personnel will return with the National Guard with 3-4 days to retrieve lab animals.

Cairo emphasized that the plan for this year is not the plan for next year when hopefully the levees are better. In the future, the university plans to install auto-water and auto-feeders for the animals. He also stated that they are trying to be as forthcoming as possible.

Hollier added that the stronger language about leave in the policy was at the request of the systems office. That the 3 day rule can be extended another 3 days at the discretion of the chancellor.

Cairo said that every year at the start of hurricane season, CM51 will be re-issued and key personnel will be re-identified.

Beare thanked Chancellor Hollier, VC Moerschbaeher, and Dean Cairo for their time. All three then left the meeting.

Agenda item 1c: LSUHSC Chapter of the AAUP – Ted Weyand

Weyand identified himself as the president-elect of the local chapter of the AAUP. He reiterated that the national office of the AAUP is investigating Force Majeure at all the affected Louisiana Universities. August 17 & 18 are the dates that AAUP representatives will meet with furloughed faculty. It is unclear as to whether or not the Board of Supervisors will meet with them.

Beare stated that the AAUP will be invited back for the September meeting to give an update.

Agenda item 2: Approval of the August 2005 & June 2006 minutes

Minutes were approved unanimously.

Agenda item 3a: Representation from the Assemblies

The Dental School added one representative, Alan Ripps, which leaves them one delegate down. School of Medicine still needs to add one representative.

Agenda item 4a: Increasing the number of School of Public Health Senators

After the publishing of the August 2005 minutes, it was decided that this really should have been agenda item 3b: Other Old Business. This item was referred to the Bylaws committee at that meeting. It was again referred to the Bylaws Committee. There was some discussion about how the number of representatives was originally devised. It was suggested that human resources be contacted to ascertain the number of full-time faculty in each school.

Agenda item 4b: Proposed resolution regarding uniform policy of service recognition

Larry Broussard asked about recognition of long-term employees. This item was referred to the Professional Rights committee.

Agenda item 4c: Committee Appointments

Senators were asked by Beare to sign up for a committee and also to volunteer for open chair positions. Sign up sheets were available after the meeting. (The website was updated with assignments on August 23, 2006.)

Agenda item 4d: Other new business

Beare proposed to invite Chancellor Hollier back for the next meeting, and also to invite John Ball again to discuss facilities.

Beare also stated that she will ask at the next Board of Supervisors Faculty Advisory Council meeting when will Force Majeure end.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:13 p.m.

Submitted by
Jennifer K. Lloyd
Faculty Senate Secretary.