

Faculty Senate Minutes February 2007

President Beare called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m. in the Chancellor's conference room on the 8th floor of the Resource Center building on Tuesday, February 13, 2007.

Those present included:

Allied Health – Larry Broussard;
Dentistry – Dennis Paul, Johnny Porter, Alan Ripps;
Graduate School – Angela Amedee, Andy Catling;
Library – Jennifer Lloyd;
Medicine – Greg Bagby, Robin English, Pamela Lucchesi;
Nursing – Pat Beare, Ann Byerly, Christine Langer;
Public Health – Ed Peters, Neal Simonsen, Julia Volafova; and
Ex-Officio – Mike Levitzky.

Those absent included:

Allied Health – Kevin Lord, Scott Rubin, Sarintha Stricklin, Jo Thompson;
Dentistry – Tom Lallier, Carrie Mason;
Medicine – Paula Gregory, Dan Kapusta, Robert Richards, Lolie Yu;
Nursing – Susan Rick, Sally Ruel; and
Public Health – Chih-Yang Hu, Sarah Moody-Thomas.

Chancellor Larry Hollier was once again a last minute guest to the Faculty Senate meeting. He stated that he has asked the systems office about repealing Force Majeure, but was denied. LSUHSC has brought back all tenured faculty who were furloughed and did not retire. One person has turned down all offers, but will not be removed from the furloughed list until December 2007. Hollier reiterated that Force Majeure determination was made by the legal office with the Board of Supervisors. Still Hollier does not believe that Force Majeure will have any other affects on this campus.

Hollier further stated that there is still uncertainty regarding the hospital to replace University Hospital. In December 2006, the Louisiana Recovery Authority (LRA) earmarked \$600 million to the VA and \$650 million to LSUHSC of which \$300 million was for a new hospital. The health committee of the LRA asked for a business plan. While LSUHSC asked for a 350 bed hospital based on teaching needs, consultants hired by the Health Care Services Division stated that a 425 bed facility was needed. This discrepancy has caused problems. \$74 million has been set aside for land acquisition and architectural planning. The rest of the money is on hold until a good business plan can be formulated. There have been further complications in that there have been rumors that the VA now wants a much larger complex than originally agreed upon (as large as 50 acres).

Greg Bagby asked what would happen if the VA pulls out of the planned hospital complex. Hollier responded that he didn't think that would happen because the pre-Katrina infrastructure costs would be substantially reduced by sharing a complex. Still, if the VA did pull out, the plan would be restructured because LSUHSC needs a teaching hospital.

Larry Broussard asked if LSUHSC was actively purchasing land. Hollier said that the state buys the land and that it is a 12-18 month process.

Hollier then addressed the recent AAUP report. Hollier said that he knew that the AAUP representatives did speak to the faculty regarding Force Majeure. The LSU legal office wanted the questions in advance which the AAUP was unwilling to do. Eventually, administration met with the representatives in Baton

Rouge. The preliminary report was supposed to be confidential but has been leaked to various websites. This report contains factual errors as well as some misquotes from the meeting in Baton Rouge. The LSU systems office will respond. It is unknown what the long-term ramifications will be.

Chancellor Hollier then continued to describe the various search committees which have been formed. The School of Medicine Dean's search committee will be posted later today. Pam Lucchesi is the representative of the faculty senate on that committee. There are also representatives from the Foundation, the Health Care Network, and Children's Hospital (the CEO, Steve Worley). The committee to find a new Chair of the Surgery department is being put together. Dr. O'Leary is moving to Florida in July. There are also committees in various stages for School of Nursing Dean, Director of the Cancer Center, Chair of Pharmacology, Chair of Physiology, and the Anatomy Chair search will be reactivated in March or April.

Pam Lucchesi offered that the Experimental Biology meeting was coming up; perhaps LSUHSC could have a presence at this meeting. Hollier agreed that this was a great idea, but asked what he could do. Mike Levitzky stated that the problems in recruitment were not with LSUHSC, but with the city of New Orleans. Hollier granted that crime is a huge barrier to staffing. Ann Byerly added that at a recent career day, only regional hospitals attended. Lucchesi asked if perhaps Leslie Capo's office could put something together to be used at meetings.

Hollier continued by addressing the facilities issues facing the campus. LSUHSC is still experience delays related to FEMA requirements. The approval process is quite lengthy. Administration is pushing to be allowed to open the 1st floors of some buildings in the next few months. The Dental School is still going to take awhile, but the school will continue to have a practice presence in Baton Rouge. As for 1542 Tulane, who knows when it will be available? The university is preparing to lease about 80,000 square feet of office space in the vicinity. As for the School of Public Health, the UNO Canal Street building has been deemed unsuitable for habitation. UNO will probably sell the building. Some of the leased space will be to move the SPH closer; they will need to leave the Lakefront leased space at the end of February. Some of the potential plans are to try to work with private developers (which would allow for fast track building) and then lease from them. Sites being looked at include the empty Foundation building (to be torn down and replaced with an 11 story structure) and the old hotel on the corner of Claiborne and Canal.

Christine Langer asked about the parking garage elevators. Hollier responded that he keeps being told that they will be fixed "soon." Pam Lucchesi reiterated the desire to have the 1st floor of the CSRB opened. Hollier finished by saying that the Cancer Center Building plans have been revised to include animal care.

President Beare thanked Chancellor Hollier for his time. The meeting then returned to the originally planned agenda.

Agenda Item 1: Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the January meeting were unanimously approved.

Agenda Item 2a: Old Business – Student Security Clearances

There has been no further action on this item.

Agenda Item 2b: Old Business – Patient Access to the Allied Health/Nursing Building

Chancellor Hollier responded briefly to this issue during his comments; Pat Beare added that she had spoken to Antonio Casas, parking director, and he will speak to the Board of Supervisors in March. Scott Rubin had sent word that the patients are now being buzzed in by University Police.

Agenda Item 2c: Old Business – Plan to recognize University Police

The certificate has been approved. The actual event now needs to be planned; this has been referred back to the Facilities, Safety, and Security Committee.

Agenda Item 2d: Old Business – AAUP and Force Majeure

This was addressed during Chancellor Hollier's speech. The confidential draft report is widely available if anyone wishes to review it.

Agenda Item 2e: Old Business – Meeting of the Executive Board with Chancellor

- i. Budget – Chancellor Hollier thought that there was already a specific budget in place for the Senate. He said to check with Dr. Moerschbaecher to be certain. The majority of the budget is for travel to Board of Supervisors Faculty Advisory Committee Meetings. We can send 2 people, but only 1 has been going.
- ii. Force Majeure & the AAUP – Most of the information that we learned was already mentioned by Hollier in his remarks.
- iii. Honoring University Police – While the Chancellor thought this was a great idea, he wanted to remind us that we cannot use university funds for this project.
- iv. Representation on Academic Administrative Search Committees – Hollier stated that while we can ask for representation, he is not willing to guarantee it. We are always welcome to submit a list of senators for him to choose from.
- v. Ombudsman Proposal – Pat Beare presented the idea of an ombudsman for LSUHSC based on a similar position at LSU-BR. The position would encompass three vital functions: problem assistance, organization self-analysis, and education for when a faculty member does not want to pursue an issue with personnel. The ombudsman would report directly to the chancellor. Hollier asked if this meant that the deans would be cut out. Beare replied that the ombudsman would be outside of the schools, so yes. But the ombudsman would look for solutions to problems that might involve a dean. Hollier said that he would like to see a job description as it is used at LSU-BR. He would be open to the idea with more information. An analysis of the issues, examination of current processes, and a draft proposal are needed.
- vi. Other – At the conclusion of our meeting, the executive board asked Hollier what we could do to help. Chancellor Hollier responded that the major issues are the damage/destruction to equipment as well as facilities. Some departments have still not turned in their documentation of loss. New equipment cannot be purchased without these loss statements. Also, there still seems to be a lot of equipment that is missing. Asset Management (inventory department) is trying to make sure that its records are accurate. Please help them in this endeavor.

Agenda Item 2f: Old Business – other

No other old business.

Agenda Item 3a: New Business – Future Leaders in Research

Pat Beare proposed creating a mentoring program for research as a project for the Senate. Greg Bagby as Research Committee Chair stated that although there are successful researchers on campus who could act as mentors, he wasn't sure this type of project was appropriate for the Senate. The Research Committee will investigate how this idea might go along with existing programs on campus.

Agenda Item 3b: New Business – Other

No other new business.

Agenda Item 4a: Reports – Faculty Senate Committees

Clinical Education, Service, and Patient Care – no report; the chair of this committee has not attended a meeting since the August meeting. Perhaps a new chair needs to be named.

Constitution, Bylaws, Resolutions, Nominations, and Elections – Nominations will be sought in the next couple of months. Members of this committee are ineligible so if senators would like to run for office, asked to be removed from the committee now. Also, the Bylaws will be reviewed for inconsistencies in wording.

Electronic Communications – no report.

Facilities, Safety, and Security – Planning the ceremony for University Police recognition.

Professional Rights, Responsibilities, and Faculty Welfare – No report.

Research – An announcement has been made that the vivarium on the 1st floor of the CSRB will reopen.

Agenda Item 4b: Reports – Assemblies

Allied Health – No report

Dentistry – The Dental School buildings are supposed to be cleaned by March. And Classes will be taught there in August.

Graduate Studies – No report

Library – No report

Medicine – Maria Cole from Human Resource Management spoke to the assembly about an issue with TIAA-CREF. There is a discrepancy in the dates that contributions are appearing, but this does not affect the accounts financially, as the contributions are backdated.

Nursing – Nursing is once again debating whether or not to have departments within the school.

Public Health – PH is looking for new space, as they need to vacate their current offices by the end of February.

Agenda Item 4c: Reports – Other

Board of Supervisors Faculty Advisory Committee – Pat wanted to be certain that everyone knows that the BOS meeting in March is in New Orleans, on the 8th & 9th. These meetings are open to the public, so attend if you can. At the last meeting all furlough actions were reviewed. There was an internal audit of Administration & Finance and of Academic Affairs for the time period of October 11 – December 1, 2005. Both areas were reviewed favorably. Definity health care is in good financial standing. A number of named professorships passed. And the overall budge is down \$15 million.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:02 p.m.

Submitted by
Jennifer K. Lloyd
Faculty Senate Secretary