

**Faculty Senate Minutes
November 2007**

President Bagby called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m. in the Chancellor's Conference Room on the 8th floor of the Resource Building on Tuesday, November 13, 2007.

Those present included:

Allied Health –Larry Broussard (replacement for Kelly Alig), Erin Dugan, Scott Rubin, Jo Thompson;

Dentistry – Dennis Paul, Thomas Spranley;

Graduate School – Jeffery Hobden (replacement for Angela Amedee), Andrew Catling;

Library – Hanna Kwasik;

Medicine –Robin English, Gregory Bagby, Julio Figueroa, Tonya Jagneaux, Pamela Lucchesi;

Nursing – Ann Byerly, Marjorie Kraus, Christine Langer, Susan Rick;

Public Health - Chih-Yang Hu, Neal Simonsen, Julia Volaufova;

Those absent included:

Allied Health – Kelly Alig (by proxy), Kevin Lord;

Dentistry – Thomas Lallier;

Medicine – Daniel Kapusta, Ann Tilton, Lolie Yu;

Public Health – Sarah-Moody Thomas (excused), Edward Peters;

Ex Officio – Michael Levitzky, Jennifer Lloyd.

The meeting proceeded according to the following agenda.

Agenda item 1. Dr. Bagby welcomed the guests, Mr. Ronnie Smith, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance and Dr. Joseph Moerschbaeher, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs. He also welcomed the new Senator, Dr. Thomas Spranley from the School of Dentistry. He also acknowledged Ann Byerly from the School of Nursing, who will continue to serve as a Senator until a replacement for her is elected.

Agenda Item 2. The October minutes were approved.

Agenda Item 3. Mr. Ronnie Smith presented a detailed report on the status of recovery of the LSUHSC after Hurricane Katrina. He gave detailed explanations about the timeline, budget, and FEMA participation in reimbursement of expenses. He talked about the reopening of the School of Dentistry in New Orleans and about a partial reopening of the 1542 Tulane Avenue building, emphasizing the challenges that this process faces. The anticipated time of opening of part of the 1542 Tulane building is January-February 2008. Mr. Smith provided information on money that is formally approved by FEMA (\$89.8 million) for LSUHSC. Only a part of this amount has been paid to date and the rest is still currently held by the federal government. He also stated that this will not be the only money received by the HSC for permanent repairs and changes necessary for future storm protection. He announced that replacement of the roof on the MEB will start on Monday, November 19, 2007. The estimated timeline for this project is 6 months. Then he talked in great detail about the order in which the repairs are going to be done – the highest priority at present is the Lions Building, then the joint project of CSRB and MEB. He explained the entire process starting from design phase to the final construction phase. Changes to the Lion's Building could start in the spring of 2008 and take 14-16 months to complete.

Mr. Smith answered questions from the Senators: One of the reasons for not reopening the ground floor at MEB/CSRB is lack of manpower, lack of security personnel. The campus police force has about half of its pre-Katrina staffing levels, which impair their ability to secure first floor access to buildings. Opening of the Clinical Education Building at 1542 Tulane will require on-site campus police which will spread existing personnel even more. To help, an automated video surveillance system and card access system is being expanded. Another reason for not being able to access the ground floors is that the reopening of ground floors is tied to construction.

Dr. Lucchesi suggested that permanent changes to the CSRB and MEB should be a priority because these buildings are so important to the research mission of the HSC. Mr. Smith estimated that completion of these 2 buildings will require approximately 3 years (an additional year for planning and approval and 2 years for construction). This proposal is to add to the back of the present CSRB an addition from the 3rd-7th floors to recapture animal care space lost on the 1st floors of the MEB and CSRB (3-6) as well as add a central bank of emergency generators (7 and on the roof) and a hardened command center (7) to operate all facilities should there be another worst-case event. The main reason that the process takes so long is mitigation with FEMA, in which approximately 6-9 months were lost.

Dr. Lucchesi questioned how remodeling the cafeteria, atrium and Chancellor's Conference Room, repainting the walkway and installing plasma LCDs fits in prioritizing the reconstruction. Mr. Smith in his answer stressed that the relatively small nature of these projects allowed for a different architectural firm to participate. For detailed answer see *Addendum*.

Regarding the day-care facility, Mr. Smith said that its priority is low because of other infrastructure needs and that it was not available prior to the storm. Dr. Broussard questioned whether outsourcing or subsidizing an outside facility would be an option. Dr. Moerschbaecher answered that LSUHSC was discussing the possibility with UNO. Dr. Catling suggested that a better solution would be to work with an existing facility on the downtown campus of Tulane. In the discussion, Senators Bagby, Broussard, Lucchesi, Catling, Figueroa, Langer, and Simonsen participated actively.

After Mr. Smith's report and discussion Dr. Bagby thanked the guests; they left at 4:50pm.

Agenda Item 4. President's report.

a) Jordan Kurland, Associate Secretary of AAUP contacted Dr. Bagby – AAUP – is continuing to work with the administration concerning policy surrounding what happened in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. The efforts have moved from documentation about furlough cases to AAUP's desire to modify "existing policy on financial exigency." It is anticipated that in their suggestion of changes in the Faculty Handbook a greater role of the Senate will be emphasized. Correspondence to the Chancellor and the Senate should be received in the next week or two.

b) Kelly Alig followed up on the security issue involving the Rebuild Center at St Joseph. She took a tour of the facility with students and discussed the issue with Don Thompson, Executive Director of the Harry Thompson Center in the facility. He was responsive, indicating his willingness to work with the HSC to prevent trouble. He stated that individuals who receive services are subject to rules and if they break them they will have their privileges suspended.

Agenda Item 5. Old business

1. *CM-51* - On October 31, the Executive Committee of the Senate met with Dr. James Cairo to discuss language in CM-51 (Policy on Weather Related Emergency Procedures for LSUHSC-New Orleans) under the heading "Personnel Policy Guidelines". A main directive of the guidelines was to require personnel to register contact information "via the LSUHSC-NO website once a state of emergency has been declared." Implied in these guidelines is that those who do not register may be charged earned time (annual leave). However, it is our opinion that the language is vague. In particular, after the first 2 workdays, the guidelines states "If the emergency exceeds two workdays, and the employee was not designated as an essential employee, excess time may be charged to the employee's earned time (annual leave)."

After Katrina, the HSC had a difficult time finding employees. A number of employees never provided contact information. The purpose of CM-51 is to provide a written policy for employees to provide contact information during an emergency and if such information is not provided that "potential punitive action" be identified.

Whereas we believe such a policy is appropriate for the function of the HSC during and after an emergency, we also believe that the language describing such a policy should not be vague. Furthermore, the Executive Committee is particularly concerned that the statement quoted above refers to all personnel and that the administrative officials may charge leave beyond 2 days to annual leave. We therefore recommend that the Senate propose changes to this and related sections of CM-51 to the Chancellor. To this end, the Executive Committee has prepared a draft of changes. Dr. Bagby distributed the old version and the draft to all Senators.

Action item 1 - The Senators approved that the Executive Committee continues with this work and finalizes the draft.

Action item 2 - The original CM-51 along with proposed changes when available will be sent to the Faculty Advisory Council for their opinion because of their stated interest in force majeure.

2. *Student Security Clearance* – Dr. Figueroa presented a preliminary report about activities on this topic. The next report is expected at the January meeting. Dr. Figueroa explained the steps the security clearance consists of. It is anticipated that with the VA the security clearance on federal level will be much more complicated than it is now.
3. *Base vs. supplemental salary* - Dr. Figueroa reported that he followed up on this topic and he has a scheduled meeting with Dr. Moersbaecher next week.
4. *Day Care for children of faculty and staff* – discussion on possible Senate Resolution postponed for the December meeting.
5. *Constitution and Bylaw changes* – Dr. Simonsen reported that the committee identified 13 changes that have to be made. The appropriate procedure will be followed to prepare and implement the changes.

Agenda Item 6. New business

There was no new business.

Agenda Item 7. Reports

1. *Senate Committees* - All existing committee reports were discussed under Old business. There was no report from the Faculty Advisory Committee Representatives since there was no meeting since the previous Senate meeting.
2. *Assemblies* –
 - a. *Allied Health* – no report.
 - b. *Dentistry* – Dr. Bagby visited the assembly meeting at the School of Dentistry. He shared his positive impressions with the Senate from that meeting.
 - c. *Graduate School* – no report.
 - d. *Library* – the library collection of the School of Dentistry is back.
 - e. *Medicine* – Dr. English reported that they are working on the analysis of the faculty survey they administered to all faculties. The final report is anticipated at the January Senate meeting. The final results will be posted on the web site.
 - f. *Nursing* – the Faculty Assembly passed their revised Bylaws. In October the entire faculty did the administrative evaluation. The Evaluation Committee, Diana Douglas, works on the analysis.
 - g. *Public Health* – work continues toward the move to the new offices at the beginning of the next semester.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25pm

Submitted by
Julia Volaufova
Faculty Senate Secretary

Addendum

(From e-mail sent to the Executive Committee on 11/15/2007 by Mr. Ronnie Smith, Vice Chancellor for Administration and Finance)

The cafeteria, Chancellor's conference room renovation, etc., were not approved pre-K. All were initiated after Katrina. None impacted the work of larger projects (such as CSRB, MEB, etc.) The design was done by different architects and the financing is separate from the FEMA funding sought for the larger projects where damage can be tied to the storm event.

That clearly was not the case with the cafeteria or the chancellor's large conference room. The cafeteria project was initiated to not only provide an enhanced dining experience but to also provide a 24/7 place for students and others to use for study or relaxation. It serves in much the same way as a union might serve on a larger campus. The chancellor's large conference room is used widely by a variety of university groups (the faculty senate, student groups, etc.) as well as support groups (such as the Foundation, the Cancer and Gene Therapy Consortium's) and large group working on the recovery of the public hospital system as well as the health sciences center academic campus (including FEMA, Facility Planning and the architectural/engineering design teams for both campuses).

These projects are in many ways no different from any number of other projects which are not FEMA funded or directly tied to storm damage but which have been initiated to enhance and improve the campus atmosphere for faculty, students and staff to improve our ability to attract and retain the critical human resources needed for us to succeed. These range all the way from sidewalk improvements on campus, to paving student parking lots and enhancing the lighting of those surface parking lots and lighting around campus to make the campus more safe and secure. We have installed an extensive and integrated system of access control mechanisms at entry doors, stairwells, elevators, student housing rooms which records each entry and exit and the card which generated each entry and exit. There are digital video cameras and recording devices which are motion and sound activated across the campus monitoring access to building doors, parking lots, loading docks, walkways, stairwells, etc., to enhance the safety and security of our entire university community. We enhanced the atrium between the MEB and Allied Health/Nursing Buildings. We have installed or are installing state of the art data networks in all buildings on both the downtown and dental school campuses. The ceilings of the hallways and the lighting on the 3rd floor of the MEB were replaced. All ceilings and most of the lighting in both the Clinic and Administrative Buildings on the Dental School campus were replaced. Ducts have been cleaned at the Dental School, MEB, 1542 and more is planned. Flooring is being replaced in the Allied Health/Nursing Buildings. All classrooms in the MEB were completely renovated (new ceilings, new lighting, new marker boards, new carpeting, new chairs, repainting, wireless access, etc.). The large lecture rooms in the MEB were wired to the individual desktop (220) with power and data, state of the art projectors, new screens, new carpeting, new desks and

chairs, new sound). The morgue coolers have been replaced after nearly 30 years. The library was recarpeted for the 1st time in nearly 20 years. All elevators are being modernized (new electronics to improve safety and new interiors with improved lighting).

More has been done to improve or modernize this university in the past 2 years than in any period in the history of the center. Much more is underway and much more planned.