

Faculty Senate Minutes
September 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, September 11, 2007.

Those present included:

Allied Health –Larry Broussard (replacement for Kelly Alig), Erin Dugan, Scott Rubin;
Dentistry – Dennis Paul;
Graduate School – Angela Amedee, Andrew Catling;
Library – Hanna Kwasik;
Medicine –Gregory Bagby, Julio Figueroa;
Nursing –Marjorie Kraus, Christine Langer, Susan Rick;
Public Health – Edward Peters, Chih-Yang Hu, Neal Simonsen, Julia Volaufova, and
Ex Officio – Jennifer Lloyd, Michael Levitzky.

Those absent included:

Allied Health – Kelly Alig (by proxy), Kevin Lord (excused), Jo Thompson;
Dentistry – Thomas Lallier;
Medicine – Robin English (excused), Tonya Jagneaux (excused), Daniel Kapusta, Pamela Lucchesi, Ann Tilton (excused), Lolie Yu;
Nursing – Patricia Beare, Ann Byerly;
Public Health – Sarah Moody-Thomas (excused).

The meeting proceeded according to the agenda.

Agenda item 1. The August minutes were approved.

Agenda item 2. President's report included:

- a) Dr. Bagby reminded everyone that we have a proxy provision and that Senators should make every effort to send a replacement in case they cannot attend the meeting. He also informed the Senate that the LSU Senate in Baton Rouge identifies absentees as "with" and "without proxy" in their minutes.
- b) Dr. Bagby suggested, and the Senate agreed without dissent, to send revised drafts of the minutes to Chancellor Hollier and Vice Chancellor Moerschbaecher before being formally approved at the following months' meeting. A revised draft is one that all Senators have had an opportunity to recommend changes. The discussants about this issue included Drs. Paul, Levitzky and Jennifer Lloyd.
- c) Dr. Bagby reported that he attended the Faculty Assembly meeting in the School of Nursing. In keeping with his goal of increasing lines of communication between the Senate and respective Assemblies, he hoped to attend meetings in Schools of Public Health and Dentistry in the next 2 months. He also attempted to visit websites for different Assemblies and found major differences, with one being restricted. He pointed to the web site of the School of Public Health's Assembly, as well as that of the School of Allied Health, as good examples of informative sites. Dr. Bagby suggested that a Senator from each School serve as a liaison between the Senate and the respective Faculty Assemblies. The Senate agreed without dissent and the following Senators were identified:
Allied Health – Kevin Lord
Dentistry – Dennis Paul
Graduate Studies – Andrew Catling

Library – Hanna Kwasik
Medicine – Greg Bagby
Nursing – TBA
Public Health – Neal Simonsen.

Agenda item 3. Old business

- a) *Faculty furlough* – Dr. Bagby emphasized the importance of faculty involvement in developing policies by which more objective decisions can be made in case of force majeure. In the discussion, Drs. Rubin and Simonsen both mentioned that at the meeting of Board of Supervisors it was announced that the force majeure is expected to end as of January 1, 2008. Dr. Bagby explained his understanding of differences between financial exigency and force majeure. Financial exigency would occur when changes in revenue results in prolonged deficits. Force majeure might be evoked in cases like Hurricane Katrina in which there was a sudden and massive loss of revenue. Dr. Levitzky explained that in the Faculty Handbook, there is a detailed description of steps taken under financial exigency, which after hurricane Katrina were circumvented by declaring force majeure. Other discussants on this issue were Drs. Broussard, Paul, Simonsen, and Bagby.

Action item – The Professional Rights, Responsibilities, and Faculty Welfare Committee will look into this issue and come up with an update/report for the November meeting.

- b) *Student Security Clearance* – it was established that the problem of student security clearance reaches across schools. It affects School of Nursing (initiator), Dentistry, and Allied Health students. Dr. Levitzky informed the Senate that AAMC is looking into this issue hence it is not quite clear to what extent it affects the School of Medicine.

Action item – The Clinical Education Committee will look into this issue. Feedback from Faculty Assemblies will also be sought.

- c) *Ombudsman proposal* – A PowerPoint presentation summarizing the responsibilities of an ombudsman was sent out to all Senators prior to the meeting. The Faculty Assembly of the School of Public Health discussed the issue and voted for supporting the idea of establishing such a position. Dr. Peters mentioned his positive experience from dealing with an ombudsman at Harvard University, where an ombudsman served three schools only.

Action item – the Professional Rights, Responsibilities, and Faculty Welfare Committee will look into this issue. Feedback from Faculty Assemblies will also be sought.

There was no other old business.

Agenda item 4. New business.

- a) *Committee assignment* – The list of Senators and committee assignments of all Senators including chairs were sent out to Senators prior to the meeting. It was noted that the Executive Committee attempted to balanced representation on committees by having Senators from most Schools on each committee.

- b) *Discussion of priorities of Senate in 2007/08 academic year*
- i) *Notion of base and supplemental salary* – First, it was determined that this issue affects faculty members in multiple schools, including Medicine, Allied Health, and Nursing.
Action item - The Clinical Education, Services, and Patient Care Committee will look into this issue and report to the Senate.
 - ii) *Daycare* – Dr. Bagby reported about the location. The designated area for the daycare was partly flooded and/or is at present utilized in a different way. Dr. Levitzky commented that the existence of daycare may play an essential role in faculty recruitment.
Action item – The Executive committee will request information about future development of a Daycare Center from the Chancellor’s office.
 - iii) *Chancellor’s Memorandum CM- 51* – there is general agreement among the Senators that the wording in section “Personnel Policy Guidelines” paragraph “During the emergency...” needs to be revised.
Action item - The Executive Committee will request a clarification from the Chancellor’s Office.
 - iv) *Chancellor’s Memorandum CM-31* –Vice Chancellor Moerschbaecher requested feedback on a revision to CM-31. Senators present agreed without dissent that the Executive Committee will investigate the wording and language of this Memorandum and submit recommendations to Dr. Moerschbaecher.
 - v) *Faculty based strategic plan* – Dr. Bagby stressed his belief that a strategic plan should be developed at each school with strong faculty involvement. Strategic plans should identify impediments to achieving broad-based excellence in the teaching, research and service missions of the HSC. He pointed out that initially, he wanted to focus on broadening scholarly activity by the faculty, but realized that identifying mechanisms to increase scholarly activity must involve discussions of the other missions. He also suggested that scholarly activity might vary widely among the Schools and disciplines within the Schools, but that evidence of scholarly activity is dissemination of findings and creativity to people beyond the institution through publications, presentations and other avenues.
 - vi) *Academic review of faculty* – Dr. Bagby informed the Senate about the activities of the LSU Senate, which is playing an important role in a major revision of Policy Statement 36 on faculty ranks, responsibilities and review that conforms to PM-35. He suggested that such a policy at the LSUHSC might identify means of improving the ability of the faculty to execute the missions of the Center. Time restraints required discussion on this topic to be postponed until the November meeting.
- b) *Other new business* – Dr. Bagby announced that Chancellor Hollier would present and answer questions at the October meeting, and Vice Chancellor Ronnie Smith and Associate Vice Chancellor for Property and Facilities Management will present. Hence the usual agenda items will not be discussed until the November meeting.

Agenda item 5. Reports

- a) *Faculty Senate committees* – no reports.
- b) *Assemblies*
 - a. Allied Health – no report.
 - b. Dentistry – the School moved back to New Orleans and a search committee is established for a new dean.
 - c. Graduate School – no report.
 - d. Library – no report.
 - e. Medicine – the two finalists for the Dean of the School of Medicine have been interviewed, Steve Spann, Head of Family Medicine at Baylor College of Medicine and Steve Nelson, Section Chief of Pulmonary and Critical Care Medicine in the Department of Medicine in our School of Medicine. Dr. Figueroa informed the Senate that Dr. Nelson appeared to have strong faculty support.
 - f. Nursing – they are working on bylaws and need to conduct elections for empty Senate seats.
 - g. Public Health – the revised bylaws passed the vote.
- c) Faculty Advisory Committee Representatives – Dr. Paul reported from the Council of Faculty Advisors meeting, the issues included BoS approval of several buildings on various campuses without any classrooms. He stated that the Council identified financial exigency and force majeure as priorities for them to work on this year. Dr. Bagby emphasized that it is important that the Senate always have a Senator at the Council meeting in cases where neither of our Representatives are able to attend.

There was no more new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:55pm

Submitted by
Julia Volaufova
Faculty Senate Secretary