

LSUHSC Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes
Friday – August 8th, 2014
Chancellor’s Conference Room, 8th floor, Resource Center.

President Winsauer called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM. This was a special session of the Senate with the Chancellor.

Those present included:

Allied Health – Kirk Nelson

Dentistry – Julie Schiavo and Kitrina Cordell

Graduate Studies – Suresh Alahari

Library – Rebecca Bealer

Medicine –Michael Levitzky, Peter Winsauer, Jay Mussell, Sanjay Kamboj and Kyle Happel

Nursing –Todd Tartavouille and Jean Cefalu

Public Health –Chih-yang Hu, Susanne Straif- Bourgeois, and Lynn LaMotte

Ex Officio – Jennifer Lloyd

- I. To start off, the Chancellor asked the Senate if anybody had questions. President Winsauer asked why the Chancellor was not considering pay raises for our campus while LSU A&M would be receiving raises this year. The Chancellor mentioned that LSU A&M had raised their tuition and that a tuition increase for them raises around 15 million dollars in revenue due to the large student body. He said tuition increases on our campus do not raise near this amount; therefore, he was taking a much more conservative approach than the A&M campus. He did say, however, that if there were no mid-year budget cuts, he would look into giving raises in the month of December.
- II. The Chancellor also mentioned that he was concerned about the unfunded mandates that our campus is expected to pay each year, and he specifically mentioned the employer contribution to the retirement fund. Although the contribution will remain about the same this year (~5.2%), the state is not helping any of the campus’ deal with this mandate by providing additional funding. Nevertheless, the Chancellor indicated that he would continue to supplement the same monies to the retirement funds (ORP and TRSL) as long as he can.
- III. Winsauer asked for an update about the proposed branch campus in Lafayette. The Chancellor told the Senate that he went and met with Lafayette city officials along with State Treasurer John Kennedy, and all agreed that it would be a good idea to have a campus there. Given that a severe physician shortage is expected to occur by the year 2020, and that this shortage is likely to affect rural areas more than urban areas, this may be an ideal site to have a three-year medical school that is geared toward producing more primary care physicians. If we add one pre-clinical year in Lafayette, the students can stay there their entire time. This one-year plan can be accomplished by having classes in the summer and not sending the students for more specialized clinical rotations because they are interested in primary care. According to the Chancellor, starting such a branch campus would cost about 4.5 million dollars per year in new funding, and this will be raised by the city of Lafayette or the State. He also stated that he would rather see us take the lead on this than anyone else.
- IV. Winsauer then asked about the status of our public-private partnerships. The Chancellor stated that he felt that they were going well, although they were not without their difficulties. He then indicated that DHH is unable to make its final payment, and therefore, we would be ‘loaning’ this particular partner 30 million dollars from our reserves until it could make the payment. The Chancellor then went on to say that he felt this was an anomaly and that he was not worried going forward. Our Lady of the Lake (LOL) hospital, for example, has a large volume of patients and cases, which is good for teaching both the LSUHSC residents and medical students. The

Chancellor stated that a recent patient survey at OLOL indicated that patient satisfaction with this hospital had gone up since our residents and doctors started taking care of the patients there, because they appreciated the additional attention. Thus, the Chancellor felt that the medical staff at OLOL was only beginning to see the benefits of having us in their hospital and that with additional time things should improve for us there.

- V. The Chancellor then spent some time talking about the problems with the public/private partnership in Shreveport (LSUHSC-S). They turned their hospital over to the LSUHSC-S Foundation, which is a not-for-profit organization that is not eligible for a federally-based match because it is not a hospital. Governor Jindal has asked President King directly to fix these problems in Shreveport; so, the hospital in Shreveport will likely be turned over the Willis-Knighton Health System on an interim basis.
- VI. When asked by President Winsauer about the new hospital and the rumor that LCMC would like to unify the services provided by LSUHSC and Tulane (“L&T”), the chancellor stated that this would be very difficult and that he did not know if this was possible. He also stated that he did not know the extent to which Tulane would be sharing the new hospital with us, and he said the formula could change if Tulane closes their hospital. However, the Chancellor clearly stated he is secure in our role, but we have to wait and see how this all plays out.
- VII. Senator Happel asked whether the Interim LSU Hospital (ILH) would be turned back over to the State after the new hospital opened or remain part of LSUHSC-NO. The Chancellor responded that FEMA paid for the replacement of Charity hospital and paid for the interim hospital; therefore, we cannot use it as a hospital. If we do, then we would have to pay 60 million dollars back to FEMA. He then said the best use for this building may be to repurpose it for faculty offices and outpatient services.
- VIII. President Winsauer asked the Chancellor if he wanted to talk a little bit about the current meetings he is having to develop a strategic plan for the HSC-NO and the purpose of developing a ‘Vision’ for the future. The Chancellor mentioned that J. Pegues, Vice Chancellor for Administration, is directing this effort and that we are currently trying to establish and define our core values and purpose. The Chancellor felt that our main purposes encompassed training the health care work force, doing excellent research, and taking care of patients.
- IX. Senator Cordell then asked about the situation with student loans. Apparently, the loans obtained by many Dental students were inadequate and have left them with too little money to pay all of their bills. This situation has occurred because this year’s student loan is traditionally based on last year’s tuition. So, if tuition is increased (as it has been), the loan does not leave the students with an appropriate amount of money in which to pay their other living expenses. Dr. Cordell asked if there was some way to alleviate this problem for the students. The Chancellor responded that it is a problem, and that there is no easy solution due to all of the parties involved, including the Department of Education. Vice-Chancellor Moerschbaeher said it is not only an LSUHSC problem, it is a national problem.
- X. Finally, Senator Mussell asked whether we will have a Lafayette branch campus by 2017, or not, and the Chancellor said we will have it if Lafayette or the State can come up with the funds.

Submitted by: Suresh Alahari
Faculty Senate Secretary
August 15, 2014