

**Faculty Senate Minutes
December 2007**

President Bagby called the meeting to order at 3:40 p.m. in the Chancellor's Conference Room on the 8th floor of the Resource Building on Tuesday, December 11, 2007.

Those present included:

Allied Health –Larry Broussard (for Scott Rubin), Erin Dugan, Kevin Lord, Jo Thompson;
Dentistry – Dennis Paul, Thomas Spranley;
Graduate School – Jeffery Hobden (for Angela Amedee);
Library – Hanna Kwasik;
Medicine –Gregory Bagby, Julio Figueroa, Angela Johnson (for Tonya Jagneaux), Pamela Lucchesi;
Nursing –Pat Beare, Ann Byerly, Marjorie Kraus, Christine Langer, Susan Rick;
Public Health – Edward Peters, Chih-Yang Hu, Neal Simonsen, Sarah Moody-Thomas, Julia Volaufova; and
Ex Officio – Jennifer Lloyd.

Those absent included:

Allied Health – Kelly Alig, Scott Rubin (by proxy);
Dentistry – Thomas Lallier (excused);
Graduate Studies – Andrew Catling;
Medicine –Tonya Jagneaux (by proxy), Daniel Kapusta, Ann Tilton, Lolie Yu.

The meeting proceeded according to the agenda.

Agenda item 1. Introductions – Dr. Moersbaecher introduced Dr. Lauren Blanchard, the new Assistant Vice Chancellor for Academic and Multicultural Affairs. Dr. Moersbaecher expressed real pleasure with having Dr. Blanchard with the Center. Dr. Blanchard introduced himself and talked briefly about his background. He briefly expressed his near future plan to visit each of the six schools and set a basis for collaboration on diversity issues. Dr. Bagby asked Dr. Blanchard for regular Senate updates in order to foster the input of HSC faculty.

Agenda item 2. The November minutes were approved.

Agenda item 3. President's report included:

- a) As a result of the Senate's meeting with Vice Chancellor Ronnie Smith, he has been very responsive to some of the concerns raised during the meeting.
 1. He documented that the purpose for repairs to the first floor vivarium in the CSRБ was in order to house animals;
 2. He verified that the bid due date would be in time to prevent delays on permanent repairs to the Lion's Bldg;
 3. He verified that permanent repairs to the MEB and CSRБ were placed on the "Top 10 list" with the state Office of Facility Planning and Control. This means that the MEB/CSRБ project will receive weekly attention at interagency meetings (OFPC, FEMA and Governor's Office, etc.)

- b) At the LSUHSC chapter of the AAUP Meeting on December 11, 2007, at noon, Bill Stuart of SUNO spoke on the issue of tenure vs. non-tenure tracks. Whereas the number of faculty in tenure-track positions has increased 25% since 1975, the proportion of faculty in tenure-track positions has decreased from 57% to 32% across all degree-granting institutions. He stated that some reasons for the decrease are – growth of community colleges and regional 4 year colleges, limited funds for higher education, non-tenure positions including part-time appointments give administrators more flexibility. A brief discussion followed about the tenured vs. non-tenure track faculty and promotion at LSUHSC. It was stated that several members of the faculty members at various schools at the HSC do not hold terminal degrees. The administration is aware of this problem. Participants in the discussion included Ed Peters, Dennis Paul, Jennifer Lloyd, Pam Lucchesi, Ann Byerly,

Agenda item 4. Old business

- a) *CM-51*- The draft of the Resolution regarding suggested changes in CM-51 was sent out to all Senators. A motion was made and seconded to accept the resolution as written. After discussion centered on the definition of “essential employees” and the identification of a few grammatical errors the resolution was accepted unanimously.
- b) *Constitution and bylaws changes* – Dr. Simonsen distributed suggested changes in the Bylaws. The recommended changes are mostly minor. A substantial change is needed in order to be able to handle situations when an officer of the Senate leaves in the middle of his/her term and a replacement has to be elected. In the discussion the attendance of senators was mentioned since changes in the Constitution require a two thirds passing vote of the total Senate.

Action item: The Senators are asked to send their comments/suggestions to Dr. Simonsen via e-mail preferably by December 21, the end of next week.

- c) *Financial exigency and force majeure* – Dr. Bagby informed the Senate about the letter received by Dr. Moersbaecher and Dr. Bagby with 10 recommendations of changes in the Faculty Handbook. The suggested changes emphasize stronger involvement of the faculty in administrative decisions. Dr. Bagby reported from his conversation with Dr. Moerschbaecher who expressed strong willingness to accept the suggested changes with appropriate revision. In the discussion the following there was general agreement that a definition of force majeure in order to determine if a process should be developed to cover emergency financial losses resulting from a disaster like major damage caused by a hurricane was needed. There was also general agreement that a Resolution addressing this issue be submitted to the President of the LSU System through the Faculty Advisory Committee. In addition, there was general agreement that the AAUP be informed that recommendations to changes in the Faculty Handbook are appropriate, but that these changes might not apply if force majeure is declared.

Action item: Send AAUP letter to Senators for comment. Development of a Resolution was sent to the Professional Rights, Responsibilities, and Faculty Welfare Committee.

- d) *Day care* – Discussion indicated that there was general agreement that a short term solution to day care for HSC staff and students be sought by working with the Tulane Medical Center Day Care. Dr. Lucchesi said that Andy Catling talked to the director of Tulane’s day care and they are open to suggestions. In addition, the Senate agreed to have a survey of day care needs of faculty, staff, and students developed.

Action item: Dr. Ed Peters volunteered to develop and prepare a scannable form for presentation at the February meeting.

There was no other old business.

Agenda item 5. New business.

- a) Dr. Pam Lucchesi informed the Senate that she is stepping down as president –elect since she has accepted a position of a Director of Cardiovascular Research at the Children’s Hospital of the University of Ohio. She will be leaving in May 2008. She will continue to serve as a Senator.

Action item: By the January meeting candidates for president-elect will be identified.

- b) Tom Lallier submitted his resignation as Chair of the Professional Rights, Responsibilities, and Faculty Welfare Committee. Members of the Committee present at the Senate meeting did not want to chair the committee so that a new chair would have to be selected by the Executive Committee. Dr. Bagby requested those interested to contact him.

There was no other new business.

Agenda item 6. Reports

- a) *Faculty Senate committees* – no reports.
b) *Assemblies*
- a. Allied Health – no report.
 - b. Dentistry – a Faculty Assembly meeting is scheduled for the next day, which is expected to be important since a search for new dean will start and the faculty involvement will be discussed.
 - c. Graduate School – no report.
 - d. Library – no report.
 - e. Medicine – no report
 - f. Nursing – no report.
 - g. Public Health – Dr. Bagby visited the Faculty Assembly, and the issue of nonexistent rules on the Center level that would address academic dishonesty and plagiarism came up. Dr. Bagby sent the protocol in place from School of Medicine to Dr Tortu in the School of Public Health. Dr. Bagby also talked about his personal negative experience, which supports the idea of the need for coordination across Schools, and general guidelines on a Center level are needed.

Action item: The Clinical Education and Patient Care Committee is supposed to handle the issue.

- c) Faculty Advisory Committee Representatives – Dr. Paul reported from the Council of Faculty Advisors meeting with Dr. Lombardi.
 - a. The most important topic was faculty governance which varies across the campuses. Dr. Lombardi said that he would request input from Chancellors on the different campuses of LSU about governance if a letter requesting this came from the Council President.
 - b. The next topic was the AAUP censure. In Dr. Lombardi's opinion the System followed the rules of financial exigency at censured campuses.
 - c. The next topic was tuition waiver for faculty dependents. Dr. Lombardi raised several issues involved with this; the question of financial coverage, whether each campus can adopt separate rules, whether to offer tuition waiver for faculty dependents or all employees, etc.
 - d. The Committee also dealt with the issue of administrators serving as Senators at some campuses. As Dr. Peters pointed out, the idea of Faculty Assemblies and Senates is to have dual governance and hence it is inappropriate to have administrators to represent faculty. The actual way to deal with this issue varies across campuses and schools.

- d) Ann Byerly informed the Senators about the possibilities for graduate students for community services and Albert Schweitzer Fellowship and an informational seminar, which will be held on January 10, at noon in MEB Seminar Room 10 (3109).

There was no more new business.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm

Submitted by
Julia Volaufova
Faculty Senate Secretary