

Louisiana State University in Shreveport
Faculty Senate Correspondence

Minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting held December 3, 2010, in the Webster Room of the University Center.

The meeting was called to order at 3:02 p.m. by **Faculty Senate President Mary Jarzabek**.

Present: Mary Jarzabek, Carl Smolinski, Rhonda Failey, Raymond Taylor, Harvey Rubin, Chris Hale, Julie Bergeron, Elahe Mahdavian, Marjan Trutschl, Matyas Buzgo

Absent: Larry Garrison, LaWanda Blakeney, Lonnie McCray, Emre Celebi, Robert Miciotto

Approval of the minutes for the November 15, 2010, meeting was unanimous.

President's Report: **Faculty Senate President Jarzabek** thanked Dr. Kevin Cope for meeting with the faculty on Tuesday. She stated there were two main points from this meeting. First, there are other things to keep in mind in addition to the budget issues, such as changes in benefits and retirement. The second point was that solidarity is beneficial in higher education. When the University of Louisiana was attempting to change the tenure rules, the resolution from all the other state faculty senates caused ULM to back down. All faculty senates should maintain an exchange of information and cohesiveness. President Jarzabek reported that Project Crisis call is moving forward. The students have taken this initiative over and the ad hoc committee will probably become advisory. The Shreveport Journalism Foundation has helped with getting the message out from this endeavor. President Jarzabek also reported that emails are now being sent out to faculty regarding the voluntary furloughs for the spring semester. A survey will be open online soon to find out whether it is worth the administration's time to pursue this avenue. This survey will be available for all tenured faculty to participate in.

Administrators' Reports:

Vice Chancellor Mike Ferrell: **Mr. Ferrell** stated that we should know in the next 10 to 15 days what the mid-year budget cuts will be. He said that Dr. Lombardi has talked about a tuition increase for students beginning in the fall 2011 semester. The summer semester will not be affected by any tuition increases. The plan has to be approved by the legislature. The legislature will convene on April 22nd and run through June 23rd.

Associate Vice Chancellor for University Development, Glenda Erwin reported that she is working with lobbyists through the LSUS Foundation. Jennifer Cook will send out a campus-

wide email with the website address for the Shreveport-Bossier Imperative for Higher Education which lists their meeting times. We need to garner community support and convey information about the current budget issues. It was suggested that bumper stickers might be a good way to help with this, and that the Foundation might be able to purchase those.

There were no other Administrators' reports.

Old Business:

Planning Committee for Budget Reductions: Vice-President Carl Smolinski reported that the proposed furloughs would not be a permanent salary reduction. The furloughs would be a one-time emergency solution. **Mike Ferrell** stated that we do not want the campus to be penalized as a result of this proposed action and we do not want to see our future budget lowered because of it. Vice-President Smolinski suggested that the phrase "use of furloughs for all university employees for spring 2011 semester only" be added in point #2 of the resolution presented by this committee at the November senate meeting. A general discussion followed concerning possible dates for the furloughs. The Resolution Supporting the Use of Furloughs to Absorb the Mid-Year Budget Cuts was then approved as amended. Regarding the faculty survey which is about to open online to poll tenured faculty, **President Jarzabek** stressed that "this survey cannot answer all furlough implementation questions right now."

Instruction and Professional Development Committee: Sibylle Mabry was present to answer any questions about the course evaluations. A motion was made to accept the online teacher evaluation instrument as presented by the Instruction and Professional Development committee for use beginning next spring. Motion passed with one opposition vote. **President Jarzabek stressed that the only reason the on-site course evaluations were so late this semester was that it took such a long time for final approval. In the future these evaluations should be online after the drop date and well before final exams.**

Faculty Senate Committee Appointment: Vice-President Smolinski presented a list of new committee appointments based on the reorganization of the university. One more appointee is needed from Education for the Courses and Curricula committee. A motion was made to accept the appointees. Motion passed. Vice-President Smolinski will present a list of all committee members after finalization.

New Business:

President Jarzabek stated that she will keep the senate updated concerning the responses to the furlough survey and asked that if anyone has any recommendations for the text of the emails to the faculty about this issue to please let her know.

Observations and Concerns:

SGA non-response to the athletic fee resolution: **President Jarzabek** stated that she spoke to the SGA president about making an SGA resolution to let the Board of Supervisors and legislators of this state know that acceptance of a \$54.00 athletic fee to save the LSUS athletics programs should not be counted against us as far as the GRAD Act is concerned. The SGA has taken no action.

A 4-day academic week for fall 2011 and continuation of the 4-day academic week for the summer: **President Jarzabek** reported that these concerns would be tabled to the next senate meeting since Provost Sisson could not be at the meeting today.

President Jarzabek announced that the course evaluations are currently underway, with more than 2,500 responses to date. **Dr. Sisson** sent notification that as of yesterday the fall 2010 to spring 2011 retention rate was 88%. **Senator Trutschl** asked if it would be possible to start posting the minutes on the faculty senate webpage. **President Jarzabek** said she is looking into this. She also stated that pictures and biographies of each senator would be a good idea, as well as posting the updated constitution. **President Jarzabek** wished everyone a great break.

Meeting was adjourned at 4:03.