

**Louisiana State University in Shreveport**  
***Faculty Senate Correspondence***

**Minutes of the Faculty Senate meeting held February 7, 2011, in the Webster Room of the University Center.**

The meeting was called to order at 3:03 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, Larry Garrison, LaWanda Blakeney, Lonnie McCray, Emre Celebi, Robert Miciotto

**Absent:** None

**Approval of the minutes for the December 3, 2010, meeting was unanimous.**

**President's Report:** **Faculty Senate President Jarzabek** announced that she had five points to report on. 1) In a conference call with the Board of Regents on December 21, 2011, the university was informed that by January 14, 2011, we must submit a plan outlining a 10% cut as well as an alternate plan outlining a 20% cut. Three days before the January 14<sup>th</sup> deadline we were told "never mind." President Jarzabek wants everyone to know that there are no budget cut meetings going on behind our backs – things are simply changing on an almost daily basis. 2) President Jarzabek sent an email to **Provost Sisson** stating her concern about the low-completer programs at LSUS. His reply was very supportive. The Board of Regents has not been supportive concerning these programs and we will have to fight to save them. 3) President Jarzabek attended a faculty summit in Alexandria on January 14<sup>th</sup> where faculty senate representatives and staff senate representatives from all the systems were in attendance. Several committees have been formed to address concerns at all the higher education institutions. A list of the committees will be sent out to all faculty asking for volunteers to represent LSUS at these summit meetings. 4) President Jarzabek met with state legislator Jane Smith who serves on the House Ways and Means committee. Smith admitted to not understanding the graduation rate formula. She also supports the unification of Southern and UNO in New Orleans, and the elimination of duplicate programs. She discussed the possibility of more funds coming into Louisiana and said there will be no tax increases. President Jarzabek asked Smith to consider more money for higher education and hospitals. 5) President Jarzabek met with Provost Sisson and Julie Lessiter to discuss the upcoming SACS visit. It was determined that we need to find a way to get better student responses on evaluations to have this information for the SACS team.

## **Administrators' Reports:**

**Julie Lessiter:** announced that the SACS reaffirmation will be in 2015. Areas of less strength have been identified. The General Education committee will be restarted. An annual academic assessment committee will be formed. All faculty should link their CV to their faculty page on the website.

**Provost Paul Sisson: Dr. Sisson** addressed the low completer programs and stated that cutting these programs would not save money. He stated that all of our courses serve multiple purposes and that the university will argue for consolidation of the low completer programs. We will do what we can to protect what we have. We will argue that two to four of the 16 programs on the list should stay as they are. A low completer program is identified as not having eight graduates or more over a three year period. The Board of Regents has requested a report by February 28<sup>th</sup> outlining our plan for these sixteen programs. Louisiana ranks lowest in total funding to higher education. LSUS is the best bargain in the state among four-year colleges, requiring only \$19,000 to produce a graduate. We have the second lowest tuition in the state among the four-year campuses. Dr. Sisson stated that the response rate to the online course evaluations from fall 2010 was about half of what we saw with the paper evaluations. He said we need to look at ways to increase student participation in these evaluations.

**Vice Chancellor Mike Ferrell: Mr. Ferrell** reported that there will probably be no mid-year budget cut. The state is anticipating one hundred million dollars more than originally planned for both this fiscal year and the next fiscal year. Oil prices continue to rise which will bring in this extra money. The governor's budget will be released on March 11, 2011. Mr. Ferrell stated that some areas being discussed for the budget include taking civil service out of higher education, doing away with the retirement system, having new employees pay into social security, and forming a single board for state higher education. He said we need to be aware of these discussions that will impact all of us, particularly those concerning health care coverage and retirement benefits.

**Associate Vice Chancellor for University Development, Glenda Erwin** announced that the Board of Regents hearing on the merger of UNO and SUNO is tomorrow. She said she spoke with legislator Lydia Jackson and learned that the legislature will vote against any tuition increase for students and that the legislature will vote in favor of increased funding of health care issues over those of higher education. Only 20% of the state's residents have a college degree while everyone needs health care. Jackson told Ms. Erwin that legislators will read and respond to personal letters while they largely ignore emails.

**There were no other Administrators' reports.**

**Old Business:**

Dr. Sisson announced that a 4-day academic week for the fall 2011 semester is not being considered. However, we will continue to discuss this possibility in future faculty senate meetings and need to get further feedback from the students. The 4-day academic week for the summer 2011 session is definitely in place. We will keep tabs on summer enrollment to make sure this is what the students want. Concerns were expressed concerning the long class sessions in the summer and Dr. Sisson suggested hybrid courses which have benefits for both the faculty and the students. A hybrid course can have up to 49% of its material presented online. A brief overview of the 4-day academic week will be presented at the March 9, 2011, faculty senate meeting.

**New Business:**

**President Jarzabek** announced that elections for the faculty senate for the 2011-2012 academic year should be finished before the end of April. She stated that there are a couple of faculty senate committees still needing members.

**Observations and Concerns:**

**President Jarzabek** announced that Project Crisis Call has been linked to Change.org online. She stated that we need to purchase a hosting site for Project Crisis Call.

**Meeting was adjourned at 4:19.**