

**Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**Monday, February 6, 2012**

**Members Present:** Julie Bergeron, LaWanda Blakeney, Matyas Buzgo, Emre Celebi, Amy Erickson, Chris Hale, Mary Hawkins, Mary Jarzabek, Kevin Krug, Robert Leitz, Harvey Rubin, Carl Smolinski, Raymond Taylor, and Marjan Trutschl.

**Absent:** Lonnie McCray

The meeting was called to order at 3:01 pm in the Webster Room of the University Center.

The minutes of December 2, 2011, were approved by unanimous vote.

**President Jarzabek** gave the following report:

Once again the LSU System has cut the LSUS budget. In late December, our administrators were informed of a 5% budget cut. During Budget Crisis meetings the week before Christmas, the cut was handled internally by CFO, Mike Ferrell, through salary savings (positions not filled by exiting employees) and money saved from various areas/programs in previous semesters.

However, we got the bad news in January of a significant decrease in enrollment; almost 11%. This completely wiped out the GRAD Act tuition increase and has left LSUS with a deficit, AGAIN, for the 2012 calendar year. Mr. Ferrell is still trying to crunch the numbers – 3,400 on campus students and almost 950 dual enrollment students, but revenues from the Dual Enrollment are NOT set in stone – they can be “prorated.” The bottom line is a \$400-600,000 shortfall. Mr. Farrell he is working on a final report and, therefore, won’t be here today. There is a Budget Crisis meeting slated for this Wednesday afternoon. The stark fact is that there are few ideas in play to cover this deficit. With the salary-to-operating-budget ratio reaching 90%-10% the picture may, indeed, be called bleak. The administration will continue to work on protecting jobs and programs but they can only do so much.

President Jarzabek had the following requests:

- a. We need more faculty involvement in senate meetings.
  - 1) We are a great mind trust and new ideas could be forthcoming from faculty that may not come from other sources.
  - 2) PLEASE – attend these faculty senate meetings. We would like to have to reserve the UC theatre to handle the crowd....we NEED everybody to be informed and involved.
  - 3) The Eva Klein Study is expected soon and needs review.
  - 4) The NCHEMS report should have faculty input as our administrators plan responses to the outside forces that would determine our direction and our fate.
- b. We need to recruit more students – only individual programs can do this effectively.
- c. We all need to be ambassadors for LSUS

- 1) To counteract the growing public opinion that higher education is a “work ready” certificate.
  - 2) To promote our new “scholarship” program aimed at attracting area high school graduates.
- d. We should all be making contacts and requests for donations and financial support of LSUS...No one else will. To this end President Jarzabek recommended:
- 1) A Higher Education Town Hall meeting on Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>. If any faculty can offer assistance in getting this event planned, please notify President Jarzabek.
  - 2) Working with area legislators to see who will attend and hear our concerns before the legislative session starts.

President Jarzabek stated that LSUS is bidding farewell to a respected colleague, Dr. Lonnie McCray. He has accepted a post at SUSLA. To his credit, he is covering his course commitments here at LSUS this semester. This must be quite an imposition on his time, and we thank him for this. His contributions to LSUS have been significant, and we will miss him mightily. President Jarzabek called for the Policy and Personnel Committee to hold an election to replace Dr. McCray on the Senate. President Jarzabek also announced that a vote would need to be taken to replace Dr. McCray as an at-large member of the Executive Committee. This will be conducted via email vote.

President Jarzabek stated that LSUS employees will be expected to have one hour of ethics training each year. This new policy is imposed by the passage of legislation during the last session. There will be workshops and an on-line version for this training. Information will be sent to the faculty soon.

### **Administrators’ Reports:**

**A. Chancellor Vincent Marsala** discussed the Work Group on Organization and Collaboration. The group reviewed background documents and after discussion agreed that the process to identify improvements in the LSU System organization should continue. The Work Group recommended that a procedure be established to make recommendations to the Board of Supervisors that recognizes the value of each unit in the LSU System. These recommendations should reflect a long-range perspective that avoids negative consequences. The Work Group intends to reach out to major stakeholders of LSU System units. Requests to President Lombardi from the group include establishing a timeline for identifying unit key stake holder constituencies, meeting with them, and establishing recommendations. The goal of the Work Group is to identify alternative options for improving the LSU System and a process to implement any recommendations while keeping the Board informed. Chancellor Marsala remarked that he hoped through this process it became clear that “you can’t have a flagship without a fleet.”

Chancellor Marsala discussed a draft that he has written to Dr. Lombardi regarding a recommendation from the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS), a consulting group hired by the Board of Regents. Dr. Marsala took issue with NCHEMS recommendations concerning LSUS Role, Scope, and Mission which were inconsistent with recommendations made by the LSU System in 2008. He will disseminate this information to faculty and staff.

Chancellor Marsala briefly discussed the Eva Klein study which he anticipates will outline a number of scenarios regarding improvement of higher education in Louisiana. These may be:

- 1) Improve LSUS in the LSU System
- 2) Improve LSUS in the ULL System
- 3) Improve LSUS with collaborative partners
- 4) Merge universities

Dr. Marsala discussed pros and cons of each situation, but stated that at this point, all is speculation. Eva Klein is to make a visit to our campus to discuss her report. We will be notified when the date is set. Senator Leitz asked Dr. Marsala if it would be beneficial to have Kevin Cope to visit with us and address any issues that we may have. Dr. Cope is Professor of English and President of the Faculty Senate at LSUBR. Dr. Leitz agreed to contact him if that was the wish of the Senate. He will also explore the possibility of a video conference. (NOTE: Dr. Cope will come to campus on Monday, February 20<sup>th</sup>, and speak at 11:00 am in the Assembly Room on the third floor of Noel Library.)

**B. Provost Paul Sisson** announced the approval of the MS in Biological Sciences. He stated that Dr. Gossett had been working on this for 24 years. Dr. Sisson has spent 10 years working on it. He also mentioned that the School of Education has nearly completed a Letter of Intent for an Ed.D. in Leadership and Learning. This will be sent to the Board of Supervisors this month. If the Ed.D. is approved, it will require a SACS upgrade.

Provost Sisson announced that retention was high, but that our Grad Act goals are lofty. We should meet our current year goals, but we need to start work on our goals for next year. The emphasis is on First Time, Full Time Freshman.

Our budget cuts since 2008 have been 30%. We have increased tuition, and now the ratio that describes funding to LSUS has flipped. LSUS used to receive 60% of its funds from the state and 40% from tuition. It is now 40% from state and 60% from tuition. Our state funds will be even lower after July 1. Dr. Sisson stated that it would seem that with less state support, we should have less state control. However, that has not been the case.

Our workforce has been reduced by 119+. Dual enrollment for fall was 881 students. There are approximately 950 dual enrollment students this semester. LSUS has a total enrollment at 4200. LSUS has 128 students coming here with dual enrollment credit. These have an ACT composite of 27, which is more than 4 points higher than the average ACT composite in general at LSUS. Dr. Sisson deferred the discussion of the new scholarship program to Dr. Raines.

**C. Business Administrator** – due to the absence of Mr. Farrell, President Jarzabek covered items he would have discussed in her report.

**D. Student Affairs – Dr. Gloria Raines** discussed the guaranteed scholarships and explained how scholarships have been offered in the past few years. She emphasized that LSUS has had few scholarships to offer in recruiting new freshmen. To illustrate, she gave the numbers of new freshmen who enrolled with an academic scholarship charged to the university general fund for the following years:

31	2006-07
149	2007-08
119	2008-09
86	2009-10
18	2010-11
128	2011-12

The increase in 2007-08 was the result of a student recruitment and retention program designed to add \$200,000 in scholarships each year for four years. The fourth year of the program was not approved because of budget concerns, so only 18 new freshmen enrolled with these scholarships in 2010-11. The increase in 2011-12 was possible because the first group of students graduated, making their awards available for recruitment of new freshmen. Students received amounts from \$1,000 per semester to full tuition and fees based on their ACT scores and high school gpa's.

For the first time in the university's history, LSUS is offering guaranteed scholarships to all students who meet the criteria for the awards that require a minimum ACT score of 24 and a minimum gpa of 3.0. Other universities have offered guaranteed scholarships for many years, so LSUS should be more competitive in recruiting highly qualified students. To date, we have offered guaranteed scholarships to 83 students, and 38 have accepted the offer. The university also has some private scholarships funded by private donors.

**E. LSUS Foundation – No report**

**F. Other** - President Jarzabek introduced **Amanda Hayes of Campus Federal**. Ms. Hayes has expressed an interest in becoming more involved with LSUS and will attend future Faculty Senate meetings. She made a brief presentation on debt consolidation loans offered by Campus Federal.

**Old Business:**

- A.** Constitutional changes – President Jarzabek asked if the Senators would like to hold the vote for these changes for the Spring Faculty Meeting. All present voted in favor of this.
- B.** FPR Review
  - i. Survey response reminder – Feb. 20<sup>th</sup> is the date that the survey is due. Senator Erikson stated that only 10 surveys had been returned. She reminded all that a paper copy could be sent to her anonymously through campus mail. President Jarzabek strongly urged Senators to help get the word out about the survey.
  - ii. Concerns about SRTE validity - President Jarzabek reminded the Senate that Dr. Sibylle Mabry had already addressed the group about validity. If less than 5 students responded, the SRTE was not used as part of the FPR evaluation. Senator Trutschl stated that the validity discussed by Dr. Mabry did not address disgruntled students. President Jarzabek suggested that Dr. Trutschl include that on the FPR survey response since SRTE results are currently part of the FPR.

## New Business:

- C. Review cost for CLEP/Challenge Exam - Senator Trutschl stated that he felt like the \$10 fee was extremely low, especially when the exam involved computer programming or a lab. Dr. Sisson stated that the fee has been \$10 for as long as he could remember; he suggested that Dr. Trutschl research what is being done at other universities. Dr. Trutschl agreed to do this and report on this at the next meeting. He felt like the low fee encourages a student who may not be serious to take the test anyway because there is not much to lose. Dr. Trutschl mentioned that if we raise the fee considerably, we could consider applying a portion of it to tuition if the student does not pass the test.
  - D. Focus on LSUS image - Senator Trutschl discussed the importance of image. He is in favor of a clean-up day for campus asking for faculty and student volunteers. He discussed marketing and suggested we replace the current name plates that lack titles (i.e., Dr.). He also suggested a day to show LSUS pride, such as an LSUS Shirt Day. President Jarzabek stated that all of us need to be ambassadors for LSUS. Dr. Raines stated that the absence of marketing by the university is due to a lack of funds. No action was taken.
  - E. Request for access to information for promotion/tenure/sabbatical regarding deadline dates, etc. – This item was tabled until the next meeting.
  - F. Distance Learning:
    - i. Restructuring of Distance Learning Committee – **Allen Garcie, Director of the Center for Online Learning and Faculty Development** stated that the Distance Learning Committee has not disbanded, but is being restructured. This is due to the fact that Dr. Sibylle Mabry had to step down as chair due to other commitments. Mr. Garcie stated that the committee will need faculty input and will serve as an advisory committee with established procedures for decision-making. President Jarzabek suggested that Mr. Garcie call a meeting soon to show good faith in keeping the faculty involved. Mr. Garcie agreed that he wants to be proactive and to have online courses at LSUS succeed. He sees the committee as important for the evaluation of online courses and the development of new online courses.
    - ii. Technology fees for online courses- President Jarzabek inquired about the technology fee (\$50) that is charged to students for online courses. Shelby Keith, Chair of Information Technology Services, stated that this is an online fee, not a technology fee. President Jarzabek questioned why an additional stipend was not given to the instructors of the online courses. Provost Sisson stated that the original intention was that an additional stipend was to be paid to instructors if the course was an overload.
2. Observations and Concerns – there were no more items brought up for discussion. The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted,  
Julie Bergeron, Ph. D.  
Faculty Senate Secretary