

Southeastern Louisiana University
FACULTY SENATE
Meeting Minutes
2011 February 09



[Approved by the Faculty Senate on 2011 March 02]

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Senate President Joseph Burns called the meeting to order in the Alumni Center at 3:00 PM. Membership Secretary Mary Sue Ply called the roll. Table I lists the absentees.

Table I. Absentees

Senator	Department
Abendroth, Kathleen	<i>Communication Sciences & Disorders</i>
Bernard, David	<i>Fine & Performing Arts</i>
Bowes, David	<i>Management & Business Administration</i>
Effler, Charles	<i>Fine & Performing Arts</i>
Jones, Mike	<i>Marketing & Supply Chain Management</i>
Morris, Amy	<i>Fine & Performing Arts</i>
Rhodes, Elizabeth	<i>Educational Leadership & Technology</i>
Traylor, Ronald	<i>History & Political Science</i>

Further areas on the agenda were Approval of the Minutes, Guest Presentation by State Treasurer John Kennedy, Old Business, New Business, Announcements, and Adjournment.

II. Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the 2011 January 26 meeting received approval.¹

III. Guest Presentation by State Treasurer John Kennedy

As directed by President Burns, Senator David Ramsey introduced honorable John Neely Kennedy, Treasurer of the State of Louisiana (see Appendix A).²

Treasurer Kennedy began by observing that he has had 15 years of involvement in higher education as student and instructor, the next item on his itinerary being an evening class he teaches in the Paul M. Hebert Law Center at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge. He continued by noting the comparatively low level of higher education among Louisiana's populace and said that the State of Louisiana needs the efforts of faculty members. Another need is money. But, he said, the debate is not about the amount of funds available but the priorities in the use of the funds. He opposes across-the-board cuts which penalize success and failure alike and urged decisions to preserve funding for what is needed and to curtail funding for what is not needed. Citing the way governments "toss around" numbers in the billions, Treasurer Kennedy asked the Senators to "contemplate the magnitude" of "one billion of anything." He offered some analogies, including that "if we had a time machine and could go back in time for 1 billion minutes, we would be near the birth of Christ." Louisiana's budget for Fiscal Year 2010-2011 is *circa* \$27.6 billion, a figure which has grown from \$19 billion in 2006 (the first year after Hurricane Katrina) and \$12 billion in 1996. He noted that the increase since 2006 is >45 percent³ and rhetorically asked whether anyone's income had gone up by 45 percent in the last 5 years.

¹ See <http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/012611minutes.pdf> for the minutes of the 2011 January 26 meeting.

² See <http://www.treasury.state.la.us/Home%20Pages/TreasurerKennedy.aspx> for Treasurer Kennedy's bio.

³ (27.6÷19.0) - 1.0.

Treasurer Kennedy then turned to his “Sixteen Points,” dwelling mostly on the first five.⁴ Interspersed were his explicit citations of what he considers excesses, including funding for chimpanzee research in New Iberia and safety-belt training for Rapides Parish Hispanics. His Point 4 and Point 5 both aim at the State of Louisiana’s consulting contracts, which, according to him, number 16 thousand and could be reduced for a realization of \$950 million. Instead of hiring consultants to recommend which consultants to de-fund, Treasurer Kennedy recommended seeking the advice of 50 people drawn from the Tangipahoa Parish telephone directory. “They will tell you what needs to be cut.” Treasurer Kennedy concluded his prepared remarks by saying that “There is no need to cut higher education and healthcare.”

Senator Mary Sue Ply: Do you anticipate that Louisiana’s public higher education will be placed under one board exclusively? If so, how can such a board be constituted so that it does not just do the bidding of one institution regardless of what is good for public higher education overall? Treasurer Kennedy responded that the current situation has too much duplication, citing in particular the existence of six schools of agriculture in a state which needs just three. He said that “appointing good board members is more important than reducing the number of boards.”

Senator Debra Dolliver referred to a study of public hospitals and inquired whether a similar study had been done on public higher education. Treasurer Kennedy responded that Governor Bobby Jindal’s office is working on one.

Senator Millie Naquin: Do plans exist for expanded use of walk-in clinics? Treasurer Kennedy responded that a Public Affairs Research Council study indicated 850 thousand visits to emergency rooms per year in Louisiana, with at least 10 percent of these being unnecessary as they were more appropriate for non-emergency appointments. He also expressed concern that the federal Affordable Healthcare Act of 2010 will increase patient costs by \$30 million in Louisiana without bringing about a corresponding increase in the number of physicians.

Senator Christine Mitchell: “Do state leaders want to wreck higher education?” Treasurer Kennedy said that there are many good people in government but that some of them need to improve their understanding of concepts such as graduation rates. Part of the problem, he said, is that Louisiana has been funding higher education on the basis of how many people showed up at the starting line instead of how many “crossed the finish line.” He said that similar problems with funding priorities affect elementary and secondary education, such that Louisiana spends \$10 thousand per pupil statewide and that its most poorly performing parish (Orleans) spends \$15 thousand on each pupil *per annum*.

Senator Paul Carruth: Do you know anything about the Governor’s budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2011-2012? Treasurer Kennedy: Not yet. What is known is the Governor’s support for selling state assets to gain revenue. Treasurer Kennedy expressed that this concept simply continues a Louisiana habit of using one-time revenue to cover recurring costs. “A junkie can sell his stereo to buy his next fix.” He described Louisiana’s budgetary difficulties as “not a cyclical deficit but a structural deficit” and said that “The fairy godmother has died.”

Senator Kenneth Mitchell: Who started the behavior of spending nonrecurring revenue on continuing needs? Treasurer Kennedy responded that no one individual is to blame. “Everyone is to blame,” he said, “including voters.” He added that only voters can mandate change. Right now, he said, “Legislators are hiding under their tables.”

Senator Kenneth Mitchell continued: “What is going to happen?” Treasurer Kennedy: “Downsizing. It is inevitable. We are not going to let criminals go because we lack the money to operate the prison while renewing our 16 thousand consulting contracts.”

Senator Erin Watson-Horzelski: What do you think of the funding formula for higher education? Treasurer Kennedy responded that the formula should be based on more input from faculty members at the affected institutions. He said that

⁴ See the “Sixteen Points” at http://www.treasury.state.la.us/Lists/SiteArticlesByCat/DispForm_Single.aspx?List=c023d63e-ac65-439d-af97-da71d8688dff&ID=652. This and Treasurer Kennedy’s “Another 8 Ways to Balance the State Budget Without Destroying Health Care and Higher Education” were distributed at the February 09 meeting: http://www.treasury.state.la.us/Lists/SiteArticlesByCat/DispForm_Single.aspx?List=c023d63e%2Dac65%2D439d%2Daf97%2Dda71d8688dff&ID=665&Source=http%3A%2F%2Fwww%2Etreasury%2Estate%2Ela%2Eus%2FHome%2520Pages%2FNewsRoom%2Easpx. To the “Another 8 Ways . . .” document was attached a Pelican Institute graph, “Louisiana’s Alternative Spending Path,” available at http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/Louisianas_Alternative_Spending_Path.pdf.

the funding formula for higher education had run into questions analogous to those in healthcare when funding decisions do not include input from physicians.

Senator David Burley: Why was the hospital study outsourced? Treasurer Kennedy: The consulting firm for the study—Alvarez & Marsal—does excellent work. But now its recommendations need to be implemented in legislation. No need exists to return to the study phase.

Senator Mary White: Are there not savings which the Governor could accomplish simply by executive order? Treasurer Kennedy responded that each director of a major department in state government makes \geq \$200 thousand a year. "Tell them each to get rid of one consulting contract. Fire any director who doesn't do it and hire someone else. Surely for \$200 thousand you can find someone who can get the job done."

Treasurer Kennedy thanked the Senate for having him in to speak and, after exchanging courtesies with President Burns, exited for his class in Baton Rouge.⁵

IV. Old Business

There were three issues in Old Business: Reconsideration of University-Wide Annual Evaluation and Tenure-and-Promotion Guidelines in Regard to the GRAD Act, Daycare and/or Aftercare on Campus, and Change to Academic Integrity Policy.

A. Reconsideration of University-Wide Annual Evaluation and Tenure-and-Promotion Guidelines in Regard to the GRAD Act

President Burns recognized Senator Jeffrey Oescher, Chair of the Professional Rights & Responsibilities (PR&R) Committee. Senator Oescher described the issue Reconsideration of University-Wide Annual Evaluation and Tenure-and-Promotion Guidelines in Regard to the GRAD Act⁶ and presented a draft of Resolution 10-11-06 on that issue. The Resolution was moved by Senator Mike Beauvais and seconded by Senator Millie Naquin.

Most of the discussion involved the concept of mentoring.

Senator Mary Sue Ply asked whether the possibility should be explored of offering a "faculty award for excellence in mentoring," by which she meant college-level awards. Senator Oescher responded that the PR&R Committee discussed matters of mentoring but considered it a separate issue except that it would be a matter for consideration by the administration in response to the final **RESOLVED** clause.

Senator Kenneth Mitchell: Why not make mentoring a fourth evaluated category in the annual-evaluation and tenure-and-promotion process?⁷ Senator Oescher: That question was faced the last time the University's tenure-and-promotion guidelines were rewritten; the charge to the PR&R Committee was not to attempt rewriting the tenure-and-promotion guidelines. Senator Gwen Autin: What is considered "mentoring" differs among academic departments. Senator Charlotte Humphries agreed and stated that the Resolution was not intended to micromanage departments. Senator Kenneth Mitchell rejoined by asserting that it is a statute, the GRAD Act, which has elevated mentoring. Senator Alice Gibson said that some faculty members, by virtue of their roles over which they do not exercise control, have more opportunities for mentoring. Senator Kent Neuerburg: But currently no incentive exists to do mentoring in fulfillment of GRAD Act. Senator Mary Sue Ply: The current *Faculty Handbook* seems to put mentoring on the same footing as Teaching/Job Effectiveness, Professional Activity, and Service. Senator David Ramsey agreed but added that the matter is one of confusion

⁵Treasurer Kennedy's presentation and question-and-answer session were also reported by Heidi Rogers Kinchen on 2011 February 10 as "Louisiana Not Spending Resources Well, Says Kennedy," in *Daily Star* (Hammond), p. 1A. Available online at http://www.hammondstar.com/articles/2011/02/10/top_stories/public_meetings/9091.txt.

⁶ Louisiana Granting Resources and Autonomy for Diplomas Act, a law passed by the Louisiana Legislature and signed by the Governor in 2010.

⁷ The evaluated categories are Teaching/Job Effectiveness, Professional Activity, and Service.

in the display of subheadings in the text, that the evaluated categories are still the same three with mentoring considered under Teaching/Job Effectiveness.⁸

Senator Luanne Billingsley: Define mentoring. Senator Kenneth Mitchell provided a few brief examples.

Senator Ed Nelson moved, seconded by Senator Mary Sue Ply, to remove the following **RESOLVED** clause (and consequently to change “further” to “therefore” in the next **RESOLVED** clause as it would become the first **RESOLVED** clause):

BE IT THEREFORE RESOLVED THAT no changes be made to the criteria in the Southeastern Louisiana University “Tenure and Promotion Guidelines.”

Discussion shifted to the proposed Nelson/Ply amendment.

Senator Marianna Kunow: Why not move “mentoring” into Service? President Burns: The *Faculty Handbook* has “mentoring” in Teaching/Job Effectiveness; the issue is not about changing the *Faculty Handbook* but about implementation of the GRAD Act within the *Faculty Handbook* the way it is. Senator Mary White added that she served on a committee which considered changes to the *Faculty Handbook*’s “Tenure and Promotion Guidelines” and that the sense was to put mentoring into Teaching/Job Effectiveness (a weightier category than Service) because to put mentoring into Service would downplay it. Senator Jeff Oescher pointed out that Service is the one evaluated category which can remain at a level below Excellence when the faculty member gains promotion to full professor.

Senator John Yeargain averred that mentoring should not be a *sine qua non* in any member’s promotion because, he said, “You don’t control mentoring.” Senator Mary White added that “Mentoring should be credited for those who can do it. It should not be required of those who are not in a position to do it.”

Senator Peter Shrock: Can an academic department make mentoring a separate (fourth) evaluated category. Senator Jeff Oescher responded:

No need existed to add a separate category as there was nothing to stop any department from amending its current tenure-and-promotion criteria to include mentoring either under Teaching/Job Effectiveness or under Service. My understanding is that the University provides the general framework for tenure-and-promotion decisions and that the departments specify the criteria within this framework. Resolution 10-11-06 specifically requests that any actions related to the objectives of the GRAD Act be considered in annual evaluations of the faculty.

Discussion on the Nelson/Ply amendment having depleted, President Burns put the amendment to a voice vote, the result of which seemed inconclusive. Recording Secretary David Ramsey called for a division of the house. On a show-of-hands vote, the Nelson/Ply amendment passed with 27 ayes (a majority of members present and voting), 13 nays, and several abstentions. The originally first **RESOLVED** clause was removed from Resolution 10-11-06.

There being no expressed desire further to discuss Resolution 10-11-06 as amended, President Burns put the amended Resolution to voice vote. **Resolution 10-11-06 (Reconsideration of University-Wide Annual Evaluation and Tenure-and-Promotion Guidelines in Regard to the GRAD Act), as amended, passed in the form displayed at <http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/resolution101106.pdf>.**

⁸ See http://www2.selu.edu/documents/policies/empl/p3_tenure_promotion_guide.pdf (*Faculty Handbook*, Part III, “Tenure and Promotion Guidelines”), pp. 4-6. The first sentence under the subheading “Mentoring”: “While [*sic*, Whereas] not all faculty members are expected to be mentors, the mentoring of students is an essential component of the teaching mission of the University.” Thus despite the display of the subheading “Mentoring” as equivalent to Teaching/Job Effectiveness, Professional Activity, and Service, the *Faculty Handbook* expresses “Mentoring” as a consideration within the evaluated category Teaching/Job Effectiveness.

B. Daycare and/or Aftercare on Campus

President Burns recognized Senator Ed Nelson, Chair of the Academic Committee, who moved, seconded by Senator Christopher Genre, Resolution 10-11-07 (Daycare and/or Aftercare on Campus). Recording Secretary David Ramsey recommended some changes which were accepted as technical by Senators Nelson and Genre. **Resolution 10-11-07 (Daycare and/or Aftercare on Campus) passed on voice vote in the form displayed at <http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/resolution101107.pdf>.**

C. Change to Academic Integrity Policy

President Burns recognized Senator Camille Yates of the Facilities, Safety, and Security (FS&S) Committee. Senator Yates expressed that **the FS&S Committee is still deliberating the issue Change to Academic Integrity Policy, which thus continues in Old Business.**

V. New Business

New Business contained no issue.

VI. Announcements

There were four **Announcements**: Summer School Concerns, Programs Subject to Further Academic Review Timeline, Academic Representative Contact on the TRSL Board, and Southeastern in 600 Words.

A. Summer School Concerns

President Burns announced that the Executive Council had received a number of inquiries about the 2011 summer session but judged the factors too undefined at present to constitute an issue for New Business. He then recognized Dr Josie Walker, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs.

Dr Walker announced that, so far as the factors are currently known, summer school pay for 2011 will be on the same basis as last year and that any change to the calculation shall necessitate approval by the Board of Supervisors of the University of Louisiana System.

President Burns asked Dr Walker whether, during this summer, professors can be paid at a *pro-rata* reduced rate if the class does not attract 100 percent of the minimum enrollment for full pay. She said that the procedures from last summer would remain in effect.

Senator Ed Nelson asked Dr Walker when academic departments will receive blank schedules indicating particular courses and sections for the summer session. Dr Walker responded that those will have to come out "in the next few weeks."⁹

B. Programs Subject to Further Academic Review Timeline

President Burns cited a document, distributed in the meeting, titled "Programs Subject to Further Academic Review"¹⁰ and a related timeline.¹¹ The document "Programs Subject to Further Academic Review" has a column for programs identified by the Louisiana Board of Regents (BOR) and a column for programs identified by Southeastern. Senator Millie Naquin inquired whether all programs indicated in "Programs Subject to Further Academic Review" were subject to being eliminated or just those cited by BOR. President Burns clarified that any program listed among the "Programs Subject to Further Academic Review" is subject to elimination,

⁹ Priority registration for the summer session starts on March 21 (http://www.selu.edu/admin/rec_reg/calendar/index.html).

¹⁰ http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/programs_at_risk_chart.pdf.

¹¹ http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/program_timeline.pdf.

regardless of the column in which the program appears. He emphasized, however, that mention of a program as being “subject to further academic review” does not mean that it shall be terminated but only that the program is (as the document indicates) subject to review.

C. Academic Representative Contact on TRSL Board

President Burns announced that former Delgado Community College faculty senate President Robert “Bob” Lawyer is the new representative from higher education on the Teachers’ Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL) Board. Professor Lawyer welcomes communication with him at rlawyer@cox.net. He has taught in Delgado’s Department of Psychology & Sociology since 1980.¹²

D. Southeastern in 600 Words

President Burns urged the Senators (and through them their constituents) to participate in Southeastern in 600 Words, an opportunity coordinated by Southeastern’s Office of Public Information.¹³

VII. Adjournment

President Burns at 4:40 PM declared the meeting adjourned, **the next regular meeting being scheduled for 2011 March 02 at 3:00 PM.**



Respectfully submitted by

David Ramsey

David Ramsey
Recording Secretary

¹² See <http://delgadonews.tumblr.com/post/684170825/delgado-professor-bob-lawyer-elected-to-trsl-board-of> .

¹³ [Http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/Southeastern_in_600_Words.pdf](http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/Southeastern_in_600_Words.pdf) describes the program Southeastern in 600 Words.

APPENDIX A

SIXTEEN POINTS [: INTRODUCTION OF THE TREASURER, STATE OF LOUISIANA]

HAMMOND, 2011 FEBRUARY 09

The Executive Council wanted to hear our speaker's "Sixteen Points? But how does one approach a figure so lofty as the State Treasurer, who administers over \$10 billion, even if he comes from Madisonville?

Our speaker is a Vanderbilt graduate and a Republican. So perhaps someone who is both might be able to speak to him in Vanderbilt language, Republican dialect. Further, our speaker received his Juris Doctor from Virginia before continuing as a Rhodes Scholar to Oxford; my mother was named Virginia, and I even spent an afternoon in Oxford, not only England but also Mississippi.

Our common Irish roots were helpful. My Irish Ramseys dealt with the challenges by becoming Catholic teetotalers or converting to the Church of Christ. Our speaker's folk became Methodist, he and his family being active in North Cross United Methodist Church.

Our speaker is technologically savvy. Five minutes after sending the invitation, I received his response that he was interested. It was in Facebook.

The speaker's appointments secretary is named Jasmine. The invitation almost failed to connect when I received a note to "Call Jasmine." I thought it was a joke. *Jasmine* is the name of my cat.

"Sixteen Points"—an intriguing topic! At the end of World War One, President Woodrow Wilson offered his Fourteen Points, to which French Prime Minister Georges Clemenceau reacted [approximately]: "Fourteen Points? Even the good Lord gave Moses only Ten." We are in a budgetary war, and our speaker beats Wilson by 2 and Moses by 6.

Senate rules provide that only Senators ask questions. If you have a question but are not a Senator, please get a Senator to ask it.

Our speaker is Honorable State Treasurer John Neely Kennedy.

*By Senator David Ramsey
Recording Secretary
Faculty Senate
Southeastern Louisiana University*