Southeastern Louisiana University
FACULTY SENATE
Meeting Minutes
2008 May 7
[Approved by the Faculty Senate on August 27]

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Senate President White called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM. Membership Secretary Ply called the roll. Absent were senators Boykin, Campbell, Johnson, Jones, Ladogana, Llopis, McCalman, Muller, Newkirk, Riedel, Rushin, Sirikul, Slawson, Trowbridge, Williams.

II. Approval of the Minutes of April 2

With a technical correction, minutes of the April 2 meeting received approval.

III. Old Business

Items A and D (infra this section) constituted Old Business on the agenda.

A. Computer Speed Problems

President White recognized Senator Bancroft, Chair of the Facilities Safety and Security Committee (FS&S), who called on Senator Neuerburg to explain the problem with traffic volume on the University's computer networks. Senator Neuerburg described how the University's Technology Advisory Committee (TAC) has been discussing the problem and a plan to resolve it. Senator Bancroft requested to postpone the issue until after TAC publishes its plan, which may be as early as next week. On request of FS&S Committee Chair Bancroft, President White postponed the issue Computer Speed Problems.

B. Advising in the Center for Student Excellence

Senator Nelson (seconded by Senator Neuerburg) moved Resolution 07-08-13 on Freshman Academic Advising, which with no discussion was approved on voice vote. See http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/resolution070813.pdf for Resolution 07-08-14.

C. Guns on Campus

President White recognized Senator Bancroft who moved (seconded by Senator Ply) Resolution 07-08-14 Opposing House Bill 199 (Concealed Weapons on Campus). President White noted that Resolution 07-08-14 endorses the University of Louisiana Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) statement also opposing House Bill 199 and pointed out the document at http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/FirearmsonCampus.pdf as well as a statement by Dr Bradley S. O’Hara of the University of Louisiana System Office.

Senator Titard (Seconded by Senator Naquin) moved to eliminate the following "RESOLVED" clause, in Resolution 07-08-14 as originally placed in discussion:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate also encourage its constituents, family, and friends not to support (in future elections) any member of the Legislature who votes in support of the bill.

The Titard-Naquin amendment was approved on voice vote with several nays.

Senator Ply: The FAC statement (see Note 1) was written by Senator Ply, Southeastern's representative to the FAC, at suggestion of Dr O'Hara. Senator Ply said that Dr O'Hara has also sent the FAC statement to legislators representing this area of the state. Senator Ply added that "A crossfire would be confusing, including to police." Senator Yeargain took exception to Dr O'Hara’s statement that University e-mail addresses must not be used to communicate with legislators about this issue.

---

1 Cited in Resolution 07-08-14.
Senator Abernathy requested arguments on the other side—i.e., supporting HB 199. President White: One of those arguments is that the Virginia Tech murders perhaps could have been stopped if someone had had a concealed weapon. Senator Yeargain emphasized, in response to Senator Abernathy, that the university police chiefs oppose HB 199. Senator Ply: The legislator who filed HB 199 is a former sheriff, causing the Sheriff's Association to back off. Governor Bobby Jindal will sign HB 199 if the Legislature passes it to his desk. Senator Bancroft: Campuses have been comparatively safe until recently. Senator Abernathy: My concern is to hear both sides of the argument. Senator Davis urged that the Faculty Senate steer clear of the overall debate on gun control and instead focus strictly on the issue in HB 199 (Concealed Weapons on Campus). Senator Shwalb: Shy away from implication that words like "stupid" characterize the debate. Senator Burns: Who is for this? Senator Neuerburg: I have heard from students. "As a lifelong member of the NRA, I am still against this bill." Senator Ply: The counterarguments in the legislature have been rooted in Second Amendment rights.

Senator Beaubouef: What is the meaning of "vetting" in this context (fourth "WHEREAS" clause in Resolution 07-08-14). Senator Bancroft: Knowledge of personalities. Senator Mitchell: Does HB 199 apply to faculty members as well as to students? President White recognized Provost Crain, who indicated: "The issue gets mixed with arguments about Second Amendment rights. The only people who should have guns are the police." Discussion having depleted, President White called for a vote on Resolution 07-08-14 as amended, and it passed unanimously. For Resolution 07-08-14 as amended, see http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/resolution070814.pdf.

D. Faculty Sick Leave

President White yielded the floor to Senator Shwalb, Chair of the Professional Rights and Responsibilities (PR&R) Committee, who moved (seconded by Senator Carruth) Resolution 07-08-15 opposing House Bill 179, on changes in Faculty Sick Leave. Senator Genre: Can the issue (Faculty Sick Leave) be simplified? Senator Ply: Accrual of sick leave would stop for new hires and decline for incumbents under HB 179. Senator Genre inquired about effects on ORP (Optional Retirement Plan). Senator Ply: HB 179 affects only higher education members of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL). Various K-12 teacher unions are lobbying against the bill because they suspect that they are next. HB 179 has no benefit to faculty members. Senator Yeargain: Denying accumulation of sick leave causes more employees to declare sickness [if they cannot let it accumulate and later sell it, they make sure they use it rather than lose it—an example of the law of unintended consequences]. Senator Bancroft: Would guns on campus help your spouse get that benefit? Senator Dranguet: HB 179 Hurts longstanding incumbents. With discussion depleted, President White called Resolution 07-08-15 to a vote, and it was approved unanimously. Resolution 07-08-15 appears at http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/resolution070815.pdf.

V. New Business—ORP revisited

President White cited that some members who switched to ORP (Optional Retirement Plan, as in IV.D supra) feel that they were not, in advance of the decision, properly informed of ORP's downside. Action on the matter today requires suspension of the rules, to place the issue on the agenda for vote today as an emergency. Senator Ply moved (seconded by Senator Bancroft) to place the Faculty Senate into a Committee of the Whole for purpose of discussing the issue ORP Revisited, and it was done.

In the Committee of the Whole, Senator Bornier started the discussion by observing that some faculty members made the irrevocable decision many years ago. Senator Burns urged sending the issue to a standing committee for consideration by that committee, to report in the fall; likewise Senator Neuerburg urged sending the issue to the Faculty Senate's Executive Council, but such referrals seemed not to have traction in the Committee of the Whole. Senator Ramsey pointed out that the members' decisions to switch to ORP were irrevocable but that many of them made those decisions on the basis
of the TRSL vesting period of 10 years, which in 2002 was shortened to 5 years; thus the members made irrevocable decisions but the rule-makers considered their decisions revocable, also augmenting the TRSL multiplier from 2.0 percent to 2.5 percent for all new hires irrespective of service time.\(^2\) He also raised the possibility that new hires may be told of a windfall raise effectuated by Louisiana's non-participation in Social Security while the new hires may not be told about the penalty for non-participation if otherwise qualified for Social Security. Senator Guillot and Senator Hines agreed and commented on the downstream effects on surviving-spouse benefits. Senator White posited that Social Security is not an ORP issue, whereupon Senator Ply inserted that it is still a retirement issue. Senator Neuerburg, Senator Nelson, and Senator White assayed that new hires need to be told comprehensively about retirement statutes and regulations. Senator Guillot: "Before I made my irrevocable decision, I got 300 pieces of paper; HRO\(^3\) tries so hard to be fair that the critical information gets overwhelmed." Senator Bornier: "People need to be aware." Senator Bancroft questioned the utility of retirement calculators\(^4\) because they attempt to impose a uniformitarian assumption on a future situation. During the discussion, in the Committee of the Whole, Senator White had confected Resolution 07-08-16 on the issue ORP Revisited. She read and moved her Resolution 07-08-16, which was seconded in the Committee of the Whole by Senator Ply. There being no further discussion, Senator White requested approval of Resolution 07-08-16 by the Committee of the Whole, and it was done. President White then dissolved the Committee of the Whole.

In the reconvened Faculty Senate (not acting as a Committee of the Whole), President White recognized Senator Ply, who moved (seconded by Senator Naquin) to suspend the rules on scheduling of agenda items and to move Resolution 07-08-16 to the floor for a vote today by the Faculty Senate, which motion to suspend the rules passed unanimously, thus surpassing constitutional threshold for consideration under suspension of the rules; Senator Ply likewise formally moved (second by Senator Naquin) Resolution 07-08-16. The assembled senators having already discussed Resolution 07-08-16 while in the Committee of the Whole, the subsequent vote on Resolution 07-08-16 was forthwith as well as positive. The Senate-approved Resolution 07-08-16 appears at http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/resolution070816.pdf.

VI. Announcements

Items A through F infra were on the agenda as announcements. Item G was added at the meeting.

A. Election results

Senator Titard, Chair of the Nominations and Elections Committee, announced election results for faculty seats on three committees (Faculty Grievance Committee, University Planning Council, and University Tenure and Promotion Committee) which are University wide, with these seats filled by elections which are confined to each college and administered by the Faculty Senate.\(^5\) The results,\(^6\) compiled by Senator Titard, appear at http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/2008UniversityElectionsMay.pdf. Senator Titard noted the unresolved nature (arising from an anomaly in the voting) of the election in the College

---

\(^2\) For specifics of the 2.5%, including its actuarial-reduction caveat, see http://www.trsl.org/calculator/index.php?page=Retirement_Eligibility.

\(^3\) Southeastern's Human Resources Office.


\(^5\) Faculty Senate Constitution, Art. IX; Faculty Senate Bylaws, Arts. V, IX, X. The requirements of the articles appear in http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/constitution.html.

\(^6\) The posted results correct an error in the results distributed at the meeting. The results distributed on paper at the Faculty Senate meeting did not indicate the unresolved character of the election for College of Science and Technology membership on the University Tenure and Promotion Committee. At the Faculty Senate meeting Senator Titard orally corrected the error, and the posted results are accurate.
of Science and Technology for a seat on the University Tenure and Promotion Committee; the anomaly will be resolved by election from that College in the fall.

B. Science in the classroom

President White announced that faculty members are encouraged to express their individual feelings on Senate Bill 733 ("Louisiana Science Education Act"). The text of the SB 733 is at http://www.legis.state.la.us/billdata/streamdocument.asp?did=482728.

C. SGA report

Senator G. Traylor, Faculty Senate Liaison to the Student Government Association (SGA), reported that all SGA officers oppose concealed weapons on campus. (See III.C supra.)

D. FAC/BOS report

Senator Ply, Southeastern's Representation to the Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) of the University of Louisiana (ULS) Board of Supervisors (BOS), reported on the April meeting of BOS and FAC: BOS was particularly concerned with per-student funding in comparison with Southern Regional Education Board (SREB) averages. With respect to FAC, Senator Ply reported that the search committee for the vacancy, created by the resignation of Dr Sally Clausen as President of ULS to become Commissioner of Higher Education, will contain faculty representation. Senator Ply reported that BOS Chair Elsie Burkhalter has formed an advisory committee to the search committee. [Senator Ply's full report will be available later.]

E. Live Jazz Concert tonight

Senator Schwartz, who represents the Department of Music and Dramatic Arts, announced Jazz Ensemble II in Pottle Auditorium at 7:30 PM (on May 7, same date as the Faculty Senate meeting).

F. Hammond and Ponchatoula "Cool Cities" meeting tomorrow

President White announced a Sierra Club meeting at Organic Planet restaurant for the evening of May 8, Thursday, at 6:30 PM.

G. UFCT Crawfish Boil

Senator Dranguet announced the United Federation of College Teachers (UFCT) crawfish boil set for 5:00 PM on May 8, Thursday, at Hidden Oaks Campground.

VII. Adjournment

At 4:16 PM President White declared the meeting adjourned sine die as the last regular meeting in Academic Year 2007-2008, the next regular meeting being scheduled for August 27 as the first regular meeting in Academic Year 2008-2009.

Respectfully submitted by

David Ramsey
Recording Secretary