Southeastern Louisiana University
FACULTY SENATE
Meeting Minutes
2007 September 05
[Approved by the Senate on October 03]

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Senate President White called the meeting to order at 3:04 PM. Membership Secretary Ply called the roll. Senators absent were Bancroft, Bouton, Caffery, Davis, Johnson, McCalman, Rushin, Sirikul, Trowbridge.

II. Approval of the Minutes of August 22

The minutes of the August 22 meeting received approval with a change from “curriculum in sports medicine” to “bachelor of science degree program in sport management” (the corrected version, as retrieved on September 14, is at http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/082207minutes.pdf).

III. Invited Guest

Dr Randy Moffett, President of the University, was the invited guest. He spoke about the University's achieved improvements in student quality, including the enrollment of more than 500 first-year students with ACT composite scores equaling or exceeding 24. He cited the University's new drop/add Policy as part of an overall drive to raise the graduation rate and indicated that the administration continues to improve the Policy on the basis of experience with it during registration for the 2007 Summer and Fall semesters. Dr Moffett mentioned the need to retain undergraduates in their junior and senior years. Much of Dr Moffett's presentation concerned human resources, particularly faculty recruitment. In response to an inquiry by Senator Nelson, Dr Moffett stressed the implicit rewards to the faculty for efforts to improve the graduation rate.

IV. Old Business

President White requested consent to suspend the rules and effectively rearrange the agenda so that the issue “Appreciation for Raises” could be considered while Dr Moffett, President of the University, was still present in the Senate meeting. Without objection President White's request was so ordered. See Section V Subsection A infra. The minutes, however, present the items in the sequence in which they appeared on the published agenda.

Items A through C (infra this section) constituted Old Business on the agenda.

A. Definition of “General Faculty”

President White recognized Senator Lewallen, Chair of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee, concerning the issue of the Definition of “General Faculty.” Senator Lewallyn reported no progress (the August meeting of the Senate was a mere 2 weeks prior to this one). The issue remains in Old Business.

B. Minute-Taking at Executive Council Meetings

President White again recognized Senator Lewallen, Chair of the Constitution & Bylaws Committee, concerning the issue of Minute-Taking at Executive Council Meetings. Senator Lewallyn reported no progress. The issue remains in Old Business.

C. Annual Evaluation Procedures

President White recognized Senator Holt-Ochsner, Chair of the Professional Rights & Responsibilities Committee, concerning the issue of Annual Evaluation Procedures. Senator Holt-Ochsner reported no progress (the August meeting of the Senate having been just 2 weeks prior). The issue remains in Old Business.
V. New Business

Items A through C infra constituted New Business on the agenda. Item A had been considered earlier under suspension of the rules (see the paragraph at start of Section IV supra).

A. Appreciation for Raises

President White recognized Senator Ramsey who moved two resolutions, both seconded by Senator Nelson. Senator Ramsey urged the separation of the issue Appreciation for Raises into two resolutions because of the different audiences acknowledged in each resolution.

1. Gratitude for Raises

Senator Ramsey audibly read a draft distributed before the meeting. After minor changes accepted by both Senator Ramsey and Senator Nelson, the Senate unanimously adopted the resolution “Gratitude for Raises.” This resolution appears at http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/resolution070801.doc.

2. Appreciation for Budgetary Increase

After brief supportive discussion the Senate unanimously adopted the resolution “Appreciation for Budgetary Increase,” thanking authorities external to Southeastern for increased funding. This resolution appears at http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/resolution070802.doc.

B. Electors for University Tenure & Promotion Committee

Senator Ply (second by Senator Neuerburg) moved referral, to committee, of the issue Electors for University Tenure & Promotion Committee. Without objection the issue was referred by President White to the Constitution & Bylaws Committee.

C. New University Drop/Add Policy

On behalf of President White, Senator Ply (seconded by Senator Genre) moved to refer the issue New University Drop/Add Policy to committee. Senator Ramsey (seconded by Senator Holt-Ochsner), citing support of the Policy and referring to the administration’s professed efforts to improve the Policy (see Section III supra), offered a substitute motion to bar Faculty Senate consideration of the issue until the spring semester of 2007. Senator Neuerburg (seconded by Senator Shwalb), citing free-speech concerns, moved to cause the issue to lie on the table indefinitely. Parliamentarian Yeargain ruled that a motion to table is not subject to discussion. By voice vote the issue returned to the table.

VI. Announcements

There were four announcements.

A. FAC/BOS Report

Senator Ply, Southeastern faculty Representative to the Faculty Advisory Council (FAC), summarized the August 24 meeting of the Board of Supervisors (BOS), her written summary appearing at http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/FACBOS0807.doc. Note the encouragement from BOS to consider an on-campus hotel.

B. SGA Report

There having been no meeting of the Student Senate since the last meeting of the Faculty Senate, Senators Marshall and Traylor indicated no Student Government Association (SGA) report.
C.  Class Syllabi—To Print or Not to Print

President White referred to messages faculty members have received from academic department heads that in each class section the instructor must give each student in writing, on paper, the information required by the Provost’s so-called semesterly “blue memo” (see, e.g., http://www2.selu.edu/documents/docs/welcome_back_fall_2007.pdf ). The requirement applies to internet classes and may not be circumvented by the instructor’s telling the students to print the information from a class web site or an e-mail attachment. President White recognized Dr John Crain, Provost, who expressed concern over the contingent legal ramifications. In response to an inquiry from Senator Yeargain, the Provost indicated that the substantive need is to be able to prove that each student received the information and that perhaps the need can be met by having each student sign a statement to that effect or, in internet classes (certainly those which never meet face to face), to have each student acknowledge via the Blackboard test or survey tool that s/he has read the information. The Provost also noted the desirability to reduce use of paper and toner and urged consideration by instructors of accommodating, on one sheet of paper, the essentials of the information described in the “blue memo.” The Provost expressed that the requirements on how to distribute the information are subject to revision by the administration and that changes, if they happen, will be conveyed propitiously to the faculty.

D.  Release of Information by the BOR

President White announced having heard numerous faculty concerns about a breach of private information in the records of the Louisiana Board of Regents (BOR). See http://notice.regents.state.la.us/ for measures which the BOR has taken. Several senators had followed up on an offer by BOR to identify to each individual whether her/his individual records were among those compromised. Senators Hite and Neuerburg received responses from BOR; Senator Naquin had not received a response, yet. Senator Higginbotham said that identity protection is being offered by an increasing number of employers. Senator Carruth claimed that Louisiana law requires availability of credit reports. Senator Burns noted a similar federal requirement and recommended http://www.freecreditreport.com (free) and http://www.lifelock.com (paid).

VI.  Adjournment

At 3:54 PM President White declared the meeting adjourned, the next regular meeting being scheduled for October 3.

Respectfully submitted by

David Ramsey
Recording Secretary