

**LSU AgCenter  
Faculty Council Meeting  
October 22, 2010  
Sullivan Conference Room  
9:30 a.m.**



**Call to Order**

Chairperson King called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. on October 22, 2010 in the Sullivan Conference Room of the John M. Parker Coliseum.

**Members Present:** Joan Almond, Lisa Benoit, Clayton Hollier, Wayne M. Gauthier, Natalie Hummel, Joan King, Guy Padgett, Ross Pruitt, Johnny Saichuk, Diane Sasser, Ed Twidwell, Adrienne Vidrine and Deniese Zeringue

**Members Absent:** Hallie Dozier and Nicole LeMaire

**Proxies:** Clayton Hollier for Jeff Hoy; Joan King for Richard Vlosky and Diane Glasgow, Adrienne Vidrine for Mandy Armentor and Andrew Granger

**Guests:** Dr. William B. Richardson, Chancellor, LSU Agricultural Center (LSUAC)

**Highlights**

- **Negative Impacts of FY 10 State Budget Deficit on LSUAC (1,2)**
- **Chancellor Richardson Denied Exercise of Financial Exigency Option (2)**
- **Uncertainty Characterizes Stability of FY 11 Budget (2)**
- **Reported Termination of 54 LSUAC Employees Erroneous (3)**
- **Merger of LSUAC with LSU-BR Persistently False Rumor (4)**
- **Chancellor Richardson Open to New Administrative Challenges (5)**
- **Implementation of Council Election Process to Replace Retiring Members (6,7)**
- **Designation of On-Campus and Off-Campus Units for Election Purposes (7(b), 7(c))**
- **ad hoc ACE Group Recommendations for Enhancing Effectiveness of ACE Groups (8)**
- **Council Votes to NOT Support LSU-BR, UNO and LSU-S Faculty Senate Resolutions (9)**
- **State Senator Claitor Urges LSU-BR Alumni Association to Mobilize Members (11(a))**
- **ULL Faculty Compels its Administration to Halt Modification of its Tenure Policy (11(c))**
- **TAF Supports LSU-BR Academic Programs with Money and Rhetoric (11(d))**
- **LSU-BR Needs a Faculty Senate to Qualify for Grant Funding (11(e))**
- **E-mails Sent and Received on State- Owned Personal Computers Subject to Scrutiny (11(f))**
- **LSU-BR Subject to \$86 Fine Per Social Security Number Appearing on Any Computer (11(g))**
- **BOS Member Anderson Deems Classification of LSU System Campuses “Inappropriate” (11(i))**
- **A Subordinate Supervisor’s Failure to Evaluate Can Deny All Superiors’ Annual Pay Raises (12)**

The minutes of the August 20, 2010 meeting were approved on a voice vote.

## **Chancellor's Report**

1. Dr. William B. Richardson observed that the Joint Louisiana Legislature Budget Committee was meeting today and they were going to formally acknowledge a \$ 108 million dollar deficit in the FY 2010 (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010) state budget. The deficit was due to shortfalls in revenues from corporate income taxes and sales taxes. By law, Governor Jindal has thirty (30) days from the day the deficit is officially recognized to eliminate it. The elimination of that deficit requires reductions in state agency budgets which included all institutions of higher education. Earlier, it had been announced that the reduction to the LSUAC's budget would be nine (9) million dollars.

2. In terms of a percentage reduction, the nine (9) million dollars was a far greater sum than other institutions of higher education. Chancellor Richardson outlined a chronological series of events which reduced the LSUAC share of that reduction from an initial nine (9) million dollars to three (3) million dollars. The Chancellor was unable to discern which particular office assigned the initial reduction of nine (9) million dollars to the LSUAC. Dr. Richardson was given to understand that he could not seek a declaration of financial exigency. Dr. Richardson, in turn, indicated to the proper authorities that any reduction greater than three (3) million dollars would leave him with no options. Chancellor Richardson indicated that the receipt of six (6) million dollars in royalty income from Clearfield rice in recent times is the event which made it possible for him to even cope with a three (3) million dollar reduction. Chancellor Richardson also observed that if the lawsuit over the use of \$198 million dollars in "rainy day" monies in creating the current (FY 11) budget goes against the state of Louisiana, then another round of budget cuts were likely. Dr. Richardson indicated that there was a possibility that there might not be a mid-year budget cut as sales taxes appear to be increasing. He did caution, however, that it was only a possibility.

3. Dr. Richardson identified as erroneous a report in the Morning Advocate that 54 individuals were to be terminated from the LSUAC because of a budget shortfall. Some employees' assignments may have been shifted, but no employees have been released because of a budget reduction.

4. Chancellor Richardson again made it clear that the LSUAC was not going to be merged with the LSU-BR campus.

5. Chancellor Richardson observed that he had indicated to President Lombardi at an earlier time that if an opportunity for him to assume a new administrative challenge were

to arise, he owed it to himself and to the LSUAC to pursue it. Two such opportunities presently exist in Arkansas and he is in the process of pursuing them. At this time, he has no indication of the outcome.

### **Joan King, Chairperson**

6. King outlined the process that had been approved by the Faculty Council on November 20, 2009 for the annual election of Council members. For the selection of calendar year (CY) 2011 members, King announced that the voting process would commence on November 1, 2010 and end on November 12, 2010.

7. King reviewed those sections of the Council's By-Laws addressing the election of officers, nomination procedures, and the election of and representation of members to the Council. Following review and discussion, the following actions were taken:

- a. It was moved and seconded that the Council retain those provisions in its by-laws providing for a two week period for the nomination process to be completed before proceeding with an election. The motion passed on a voice vote.
- b. Changes to the election manual to clarify the open Assistant level positions each year, as discussed by email, was accepted by the council.
- c. A question arose by someone running for election, as to whether the faculty at the Burden, Aquaculture and Central Station research stations are considered to be off-campus or on-campus for elections purposes. Currently these faculty members are classified by HRM as on-campus faculty because they did not considered them to fall within any region. The motion that any unit with LSUAC faculty assigned to it and designated a station was to be considered an off-campus was seconded and discussed. The question as to how La House is to be classified remains unanswered. Chairperson King was assigned to ask the directors for clarification about these issues.

8. Clayton Hollier, Mike Blazier, and Mandy Armentor responded to Dr. Russin's request to serve as members of an ad hoc ACE group committee. The objective of the group was to improve the organization and functioning of the ACE groups. Following their meeting, Dr. Russin identified a set of actions recommended to Drs. Boethel and Coreil for

accomplishing the objective. The set of recommended actions included the provision of guidance to ACE group leaders and their administrative advisers to encourage interactive meetings rather than seminars; the distribution of agenda and reporting format information to all LCES and LAES faculty; rotation of ACE group leadership between its research and extension members; varying meetings sites; multiple meetings during the year; discussion of new hatch projects; joint research and extension faculty involvement in submissions of new competitive proposals and grants; sharing of new research and extension publications; the presence of unit heads at ACE meetings and the creation of concise summaries of extension and research needs at ACE meetings.

9. Joan King and Diane Sasser distributed information assimilated from meetings of the LSU Board of Supervisors, Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates (ALFS), and the LSU Faculty Senate. Items brought to the attention of the Council by King included:

- a. Resolutions from the faculty senates at LSU-Shreveport (LSU-S) and the University of New Orleans (UNO) critical of the magnitudes of the budget cuts to higher education in Louisiana relative to the cuts to other state agencies. The resolutions requested that the administrators of LSU-S and UNO: (1) call upon state government to halt their budget cut scenario planning exercises and (2) urge the Louisiana Board of Regents and LSU Board of Supervisors to: (a) accelerate their advocacy roles for higher education and (b) work with the Louisiana legislature to forestall drastic budget cutting to the state's institutions of higher education.
- b. Presentation of LSU-BR Faculty Senate Resolution 10-14 to express "No Confidence in the Budget-Cutting Process; Reclaiming Faculty Authority over the Curriculum which had not yet been voted on.
- c. The motion that the Council support items (a) and (b) above was not adopted.

10. King reported on an ALFS meeting with Dr. Tom Layzell who had initially been selected to become the Commissioner of the Louisiana Board of Regents but who is, at present, its consultant. At that meeting, the consultant had presented excerpts of his ideas presented to the La BOR on the direction Louisiana should to take in education. Dr.

Bill Stewart (President LA AAUP) also addressed the ALFS concerning the UL Board's issues with tenure.

11. King reported upon the following activities at the October 4, 2010 meeting of the LSU-A&M Faculty Senate and the October 15, 2010 LSU System Board of Supervisors meeting as well as the Council of Faculty Advisors pre-meeting with LSU System University faculty representatives:

- a. Mr. Dan Claitor, a Louisiana state senator whose district includes LSU, was invited to attend. He observed that the LSU-BR Alumni Association needs to promote the contributions that LSU makes throughout Louisiana's small towns. Senator Claitor encouraged members of the LSU Alumni Association to write letters to their legislators encouraging them to protect the state's institutions of higher education. (LSU A&M Faculty Senate)
- b. The LSU-A&M faculty is looking for a local union representative. (LSU A&M Faculty Senate)
- c. The University of Louisiana-Lafayette (ULL) has had problems with its administration which attempted to modify provisions in its tenure policy. Faculty resistance to this initiative caused the administration at ULL to cease its modification of the tenure policy. (LSU A&M Faculty Senate)
- d. General Ron Richard identified contributions of the Tiger Athletic Foundation (TAF) to the academic program at LSU-A&M. In terms of money, General Richard indicated that the TAF had given \$6.5 million dollars to LSU-BR in addition to a one million dollar funding of athletic scholarships. General Richard also noted how TAF, in raising monies for athletics from its donors, also makes them aware of LSU-BR's academic needs. In addition, TAF also promotes such initiatives as the construction of a new building for the business school. (LSU A&M Faculty Senate)
- e. In order to qualify as a recipient for grant funding, LSU-A&M must be accredited by SACS. One of SACS' requirements for accreditation is that the institution have a faculty senate. (LSU System Council of Faculty Advisors)

- f. UNO faculty learned that computer messages being sent and received on their computers were subject to scrutiny by UNO administration. It was stated that is a privacy policy at LSU-A&M regarding computer messages. Kevin Cope suggested that an IT audit be conducted to determine what was happening with e-mail messages being sent and received on UNO campus computers. (LSU System Council of Faculty Advisors)
- g. Mr. Robert Doolos, LSU-A&M university registrar, has been advised that all social security account numbers need to be removed from LSU-A&M computers. Failure to comply means that LSU-A&M will be subject to an \$84 fine for every social security number found on any of its computers. It was it was discussed whether this might also apply to the LSUAC and to the 4-H program in particular. (LSU System Council of Faculty Advisors)
- h. It was reported that the students at LSU-Shreveport (LSU-S) had passed a referendum to levy a surcharge of \$54 per student in order to save their athletic program. Note was taken of that action followed by an interpretation that, under the GRAD Act, the monies generated from that \$54/student surcharge could be deducted from LSU-S' allocation. (LSU System Council of Faculty Advisors)
- i. LSU Board of Supervisor member Ronnie Anderson during the BOS meeting observed that distinguishing between teaching and non-teaching campuses in the LSU system for purposes of implementing budget reductions was inappropriate. (BOS meeting)

## 12. Service Unit Advisory Committee Reports (Committee Representatives)

- a. The Human Resource Management (HRM) Committee met. Its chairman, William Hogan, reviewed the 2009 accomplishments of the HRM office. These accomplishments included administration of: a hiring freeze, two retirement incentive programs, a wellness program, background checks on volunteers, and the PPR system. All supervisors doing evaluations will have to go through a supervisor's training program. There is a provision in the

regulations which would deny a supervisor and all of his/her superiors a raise for any year that supervisor failed to provide an annual evaluation of an employee reporting to him/her.

- b. The “Violence in the Workplace” power point presentation was assessed as being a worthwhile documentary which should be presented to all LSUAC employees.
- c. More diversity initiatives are anticipated to be forthcoming in 2011.
- d. The HRM Advisory Committee met on October 13. Faculty Council members Adrienne Vidrine and Mandy Armentor served on the committee. Minutes will be forthcoming

Following a voice vote, Chairperson King adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m. on October 20, 2010.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Wayne M. Gauthier, Secretary**