

Southeastern Louisiana University
FACULTY SENATE
Meeting Minutes
2008 February 13
[Approved by the Faculty Senate on March 5]

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Senate President White called the meeting to order at 3:05 PM. Vice President Burns called the roll. Members absent were Bell, Hathorn, Kihm, Kirylo, Mitchell, Ratliff, Riedel, Shwalb, Sirikul G. Traylor, R. Traylor.

II. Approval of the Minutes of January 23

The minutes of the January 23 meeting received approval. The approved January 23 minutes appear at <http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/012308minutes.pdf>.

III. Invited Speaker

On introduction by President White, Vice President for Student Affairs Dr Marvin L. Yates proceeded to articulate a point-by-point analysis on the topics parking and safety from violence (Subsections A and B *infra*).

A. Parking

Dr Yates cited the challenge of an increasingly automotive culture and its effect on use of space at colleges and universities. On assuming his role as Vice President of Student Affairs, Dr Yates expressed a need for additional trained personnel in the administering and policing of parking. This need continues. Recently, reductions in the pressure for parking space have been accomplished by the shuttle system, which since its inauguration in Fall 2007 has transported some 6300 students between north-campus parking and classroom buildings south of University Avenue. The parking garage, first of its kind among public universities in Louisiana, is now open in part and ultimately will hold 450 cars. Already the Spring 2008 semester has, in the net effect, 350 more parking slots than existed in Fall 2007. In the future, within the next 4 or 5 years, Dr Yates foresees further expansion of parking in the vicinity of McClimans Hall, conversion of 81 parking slots on Friendship Circle to pedestrian use, and construction of an additional parking garage.

Dr Yates asked for questions and comments from the floor. Senator Naquin thanked Dr Yates for his exacting analysis of parking and asked him about recent reduction of faculty parking slots near D Vickers Hall. Senator Beauvais indicated a need for more curb bumpers to separate faculty slots from student slots east of D Vickers. Senator Lewallen called for permission of so-called "parking down" by faculty members during the early part of each semester. Dr Yates said that he would look into these matters. He requested faculty members to send ideas and concerns about parking to him (marvin.yates@selu.edu).

B. Safety

Dr Yates transitioned to the topic of safety, which he described as a concern not only of all people currently on campus but also of potential students and faculty members and thus the future of the University (a recruiting issue). Dr Yates served as consultant for 43 historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) and for the United Negro College Fund (UNCF). During this experience he was involved in compiling statistics on characteristics of troublemakers. He stressed that many problems could be identified and anticipated on the basis of individuals' behaviors at the secondary-education level.

Additionally his research found that many high school administrators were more fearful of lawsuits than of potentially abusive students. Southeastern, he said, has appropriate rules in place. The challenge is in communication with students.

Dr Yates pointed to the dichotomy between access and control. Currently Southeastern has a largely open campus, great flexibility which makes the campus appealing. How does one maintain the sense of openness while also keeping out unsafe characters? Dr Yates answered his own question by listing the following measures:

- Even before the Virginia Tech incident in April 2007,¹ Southeastern's administration was looking at safety concerns. Since then the Southeastern administration has expelled about a dozen students.
- Police are always informed, with a picture, when a student is expelled.
- Southeastern's campus now has 160 surveillance cameras in public areas, and more cameras are on the way.
- Thirty (30) more bluephones are coming, including 6 in buildings.
- All bluephones will also become warning systems (each bluephone will broadcast a warning message in case of campus violence or other emergency).
- University police cars have cameras which help ascertain whether police have acted professionally.
- Mike Prescott is an outstanding University Police Department (UPD) Chief and has smooth rapport with municipal, parish, state, and federal law-enforcement officials.

Dr Yates pointed out some limitations.

- Individuals have rights. Suspicion based on data or reasonable assumption may lead to the culprit of a past crime or prevent a future crime but cannot be the same as a crime.
- Police cars, which are in virtually constant use, need steady replacement, and they are expensive. The University Police Department adheres to a regimen of preventive maintenance to obtain the full life-cycle of vehicles.
- Mass text-messaging experiments have not worked well, including one at Louisiana State University and Agricultural and Mechanical College (LSU).

Dr Yates emphasized that, if an incident concerns a faculty member, the faculty member MUST file an official complaint. The complaint is necessary if there is to be a case; additionally, official complaints help the police develop data and consequent trends in illegal activity to narrow in on culprits and to anticipate illegal acts.

In a question-and-answer session:

- Senator Neuerburg asked about a "First Alert" system. Dr Yates: "It's coming." On recognition by President White, Provost Crain clarified that the "First Alert" system is being coordinated by the Board of Regents (BOR) for use throughout public higher education in Louisiana. Provost Crain announced that a public-address loudspeaker system is being installed atop the Linus A. Sims Memorial Library.
- Senator Bancroft: "Text messaging will not work because people's cellphones are supposed to be off" (Dr Yates' cellphone had just gone off!).
- Senator Kihm: Is there a way to localize an audible warning which may be of no interest to the rest of the campus. Dr Yates: Working on that.
- Senator Bancroft recommended urging students to put (985) 549.2222 (UPD's telephone number) into their cellphone call lists.

¹ Further contextualization: On the day after the meeting, a shooting-spree occurred at Northern Illinois University. On February 25 Assistant Director Christina Chapple of Southeastern's Office of Public Relations issued "Southeastern Unveils Wide-Ranging Emergency Alert System" (http://www.selu.edu/news_media/news_releases/2008/feb/alert.html).

- Senator Jones: Ask enrollees about criminal record? Dr Yates: No longer can do (declared unconstitutional).
- Senator Genre: Who makes decision to remove individual from class? Dr Yates: The police officer who comes to the scene. The officer must consider whether the student represents a "clear and present danger." If yes, the officer is to remove the student physically, and the student receives a "bar statement" for the record, to "bar" the student either from the class or from the campus totally; a barred student cannot come back until cleared.
- Senator Bancroft: If a problem occurs in class, first address it diplomatically with student; second ask student to leave the class; third ring UPD (Extension 2222). Dr Yates: Correct. Southeastern's policy is roughly the same as Virginia Tech's.
- President White, at the request of Provost Crain, distributed "Student Behavior in the Classroom" with regard to policy on disruptive behavior (see <http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/StudentBehaviorintheClassroom.pdf>) as well as "Instructor's expectations regarding student behavior/classroom decorum" (http://www.selu.edu/admin/provost/documents/syllabi_statements.pdf).
- Senator Bancroft: Put (985) 549.2222 (UPD's number) explicitly on each syllabus.
- Senator Neuerburg: Stickers with "2222" are available for attachment to telephones and other critical locations. Senator Llopis: Will (985) 549.2222 work as a non-emergency number for UPD? Provost Crain: Yes, Extension 2222 serves for any UPD purpose, but bluephones are *exclusively* for emergency.
- Senator Genre told that he had asked one of his classes *How many know the emergency number?*; none did.
- Senator Genre also inquired about various warning signs? Provost Crain and Vice President Yates acknowledged that some signs are missing and a need exists to get them restored or otherwise erected.

Provost Crain re-emphasized Vice President Yates' remarks on communication with all students. Vice President Yates concluded by indicating his open-door policy, his office being Dyson 126.

IV. Old Business

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

A. Faculty Safety

President White recognized Senator Bancroft, Chair of the Facilities, Safety and Security (FS&S) Committee. **Senator Bancroft (seconded by Senator Genre) moved Resolution 07-08-08 on Classroom Violence and Faculty Safety.** Senator Bancroft also recommended pursuing the issue with elected officials. After a failed amendment (moved by Senator Naquin and seconded by Senator Bancroft) to remove part of the Resolution, it was **unanimously adopted** on voice vote. Resolution 07-08-08 appears at <http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/resolution070808.pdf>.

B. Internally Developed Course Materials

Pending further information and clarification, **the issue Internally Developed Course Materials was deferred to the March 5 meeting.**

C. University Excused Absence Policy

President White recognized Senator Nelson to speak on behalf of the Academic Committee regarding the issue University Excused Absence Policy. **Senator Nelson (seconded by Senator Neuerburg) moved Resolution 07-08-09.** Senator Clifton requested clarification about the time-frame during which the student must submit the excused-absence documentation. Senator Nelson: Nothing in the regulations at present, but Resolution 07-08-09 is flexible for the faculty member. Senator Marshall: Why does the Off-Campus Group Visitation Form (OCGVF) make a difference between in-state and

out-of-state student trips on University business? Provost Crain: Out-of-state trips are usually more elaborate and incur additional legal considerations, but perhaps the difference can now be attenuated or even eliminated. Senator Beauvais: What about the difference (in the requirement for a time-frame for submission to the faculty member) between the OCGVF and Resolution 07-08-09? Provost Crain: Resolution 07-08-09's time-frame for submission to the faculty member, if ultimately approved through administrative channels, will be harmonized with Student Affairs (Assistant Vice President Jim McHodgkins), Academic Affairs, etc. and a consistent policy operationalized; a revised OCGVF will harmonize to any new policy. Senator Muller pointed to p. 66 of the *University Catalogue 2007-2008* for the section titled "Southeastern Attendance Regulations." A brief discussion ensued among Senator Muller, Senator Neuerburg, and President White. Senator Neuerburg offered an interpretation of the first paragraph, beginning

An instructor may withdraw any student from a class for excessive unexcused absences.

President White contrasted that paragraph to the third paragraph:

It is a student's responsibility to withdraw from a class. A student does not withdraw from class by failing to attend.

The difference between the first and third paragraphs notwithstanding, the consensus was that only the second paragraph (beginning "Absence due to authorized trips") was within the order of the day on the issue of University Excused Absence Policy.

Senator Muller objected to retroactive submission of an approved OCGVF to the faculty member. Senator Yeagain and others, in support of Resolution 07-08-09, explained that sometimes the exact population to take the trip is unknown until just before the start of the trip (as in the particular needs of an athletic team if not all the players are needed) although this reality occasionally has to be backfilled on the OCGVF regardless of what it cites as the explicit date requirement or when it actually entered the approval process.

Resolution 07-08-09 **passed unanimously.** Resolution 07-08-09 appears at <http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/resolution070809.pdf>.

D. Pay Stubs and Optional Retirement

President White recognized Senator Beaubouef, Chair of the Budget Committee. Senator Beaubouef had researched the issue and offered assurance that pay stubs will be more articulated as to the uses of withholdings/allotments. Subsidy payments from the Optional Retirement Program (ORP) to the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL) are a statutory issue. Provision for members to participate voluntarily in 403b on a Roth (tax-free) basis is also on the way. Senators Schwartz and Bancroft briefly sought clarifications from Senator Beaubouef, who attributed certain variances to rounding differences. President White: Rounding differences may be slightly different depending on calculation procedure. **The issue Pay Stubs and Optional Retirement ceases *sine die*.**

IV. New Business--Extra Developmental Semester Policy

President White called attention to the Fall 2007 Plan for students who have reached their two-semester limit for completing developmental courses. Speaking on behalf of Senator Ply, President White indicated that perhaps the policy is too restrictive or otherwise needs revision. Senator Muller: In MATH courses fewer students (34) have pursued the policy than were anticipated (100). Senator Muller wants the restrictive quality of the policy to remain. Senator Neuerburg (seconded by Senator Lewallen) moved to refer the issue Extra Developmental Semester Policy to committee. President White (for Senator Ply) raised points about summer school and need to level possibly "whimsical" differences between MATH and ENGL requirements. Senator Lewallen: Current provision for summer already clear. Senator Neuerburg: Summer is a "semester" and is treated as such under current policy. Provost Crain: In the past, summers have been a "free pass"

(circumvention or obviation around) the Extra Developmental Semester Policy, but the matter needs to be under reconsideration. Senator Schwartz called for a return to discussion of the restrictive quality of Developmental courses. President White: Current restrictive quality continues until modified. Further discussion ensued relative to particular colleges, departments, and courses. Senator Gibson commented on the effect the restrictive quality has on KIN classes. **The Neuerburg (Lewallen) motion to refer passed on voice vote and was referred to the Academic Committee**, the chair of which is Senator Nelson.

V. Announcements

Items A through C *infra* were on the agenda. Item D was added at the meeting.

A. University Academic Calendar

Senator Yeargain felt "blindsided" and "annoyed" by the insertion of 2 additional class days into the University Calendar for 2008-2009 (see the minutes of the January 23 meeting, especially Section IV.D at <http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/012308minutes.pdf>). Senator Yeargain, who serves on the University committee which constructs the Calendar, offered this advice: "Be careful what you ask for." Senator Yeargain wanted to start early to get out early, not to make the semester longer.

B. Hiring Freeze

With respect to the State of Louisiana hiring freeze, President White recognized Provost Crain, who conveyed that Southeastern's administration has submitted a request regarding "mission-critical" vacancies. The University has 250 vacancies and is now awaiting response on 199 vacancies deemed mission critical. All faculty vacancies are on the submitted list. Senator Genre: "How long will the hiring freeze continue?" Provost Crain: Don't know. The gubernatorial administration is new. A plenary freeze on faculty positions has not occurred in a long time.

C. SGA Report

No report was offered on activities of SGA (Student Government Association).

[D. Our Departed Comrades

Senator Yeargain noted the deaths of former Faculty Senate President David N. Buell and former Senator Maryjo Craig Lockwood.

Buell obituary: <http://obits.nola.com/NOLA/DeathNotices.asp?Page=LifeStory&PersonId=102839320>
(retrieved 2008 February 25).

Lockwood obituary: http://www.hammondstar.com/articles/2008/02/23/top_stories/obituaries/9526.txt
(retrieved 2008 February 25).]

VI. Adjournment

At 4:43 PM President White declared the meeting adjourned, the next regular meeting being scheduled for March 5.

Respectfully submitted by

David Ramsey

David Ramsey
Recording Secretary