

Southeastern Louisiana University
FACULTY SENATE
Meeting Minutes
2008 March 5
[Approved by the Faculty Senate on April 2]

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Senate President White called the meeting to order at 3:02 PM. Membership Secretary Ply called the roll. Members absent were Bancroft, Boykin, Burns, Campbell, Echols, Genre, Johnson, Kirylo, Lee, Lewallen, Llopis, Mitchell, Naquin, Nelson, Newkirk, Ratliff, Rushin, Slawson, Trowbridge, Williams, Wyld.

II. Approval of the Minutes of February 13

The minutes of the February 13 meeting received approval. The approved February 13 minutes appear at <http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/021308minutes.pdf>.

III. Invited Speakers

Introduced by President White, three members of the Department of Athletics addressed the Faculty Senate: Dr Joel Erdmann (Athletic Director) and Mrs Christine Eleser Bentley (Assistant Athletic Director for Academic Success), both of whom were named on the agenda, and Miss Nadia Douglas (Student Success Coordinator).

A. Joel Erdmann

Dr Erdmann spoke about the NCAA (National Collegiate Athletic Association) concern for the Academic Progress Rate (APR) of student-athletes. Southeastern has placed increased emphasis on retention and academic eligibility of student-athletes, and the Department of Athletics tracks each student-athlete on a point basis harmonious with NCAA's APR reporting requirements. (APR data for all NCAA institutions are available at http://www.ncaa.org/wps/portal/legacysiteviewer?CONTENT_URL=http://www2.ncaa.org/portal/academic_s_and_athletes/education_and_research/academic_reform/school_apr_data.html.)

B. Chris Eleser Bentley

Mrs Bentley provided a specific instance of the academic quality of Southeastern's student-athletes in that at a recent (2007) banquet 170 of them were cited as having cumulative grade-point averages of 3.0 or higher on Southeastern's 4.0 basis.

[C. Nadia Douglas

Miss Douglas spoke about Southeastern's award-winning¹ Online Progress Report (OPR) program to which faculty members contribute in tracking individual student-athletes academically during the semester. Senator Ply posited that Southeastern is ahead of sister public institutions in Louisiana with respect to academic tracking of student-athletes. Dr Erdmann rejoined with an observation that computer technology is one of several arenas which make coaches' jobs more sophisticated and challenging than in the past.]

IV. Old Business

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

¹ In 2005 Southeastern's student-athlete OPR program "was recognized as an outstanding innovation in the area of collegiate academic advising by the National Academic Advising Association (NACADA)" (from Rene Abadie's press release at <http://www2.selu.edu/NewsEvents/PublicInfoOffice/NACADAaward.html>, retrieved 2008 March 6).

A. Internally Developed Course Materials

Because of a recent retirement and consequent vacancy in the chair of the Professional Rights & Responsibilities Committee, the new chair, Senator Shwalb, having begun his leadership duties just 2 days prior to the Faculty Senate meeting, requested and received permission to defer a report on the issue Internally Developed Course Materials until the April 2 meeting—thus **no report**.

B. Extra Developmental Semester Policy

Senator Neuerburg reported on behalf of the Academic Committee. He cited various undercurrents in the issue Extra Developmental Semester Policy² and, in lieu of a motion, requested input from the floor to help the Academic Committee in sorting the concerns. By way of orientation Senator Neuerburg described the list of courses (see <http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/devcourselist.pdf>) as "arbitrary" as well as "merely a set of examples" despite the normative language (e.g., courses "must be selected from the list"). Senator Neuerburg averred that the "list of courses" and the Fall 2007 "Plan" (<http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/devcourseplan.pdf>) provide "leeway" to the student's Academic Coordinator. Senator Neuerburg: "Why revisit the entire list? It's just a set of examples. Leave things as they are." Senator Ply:

After the student fails the developmental course a second time, the student has to be advised and, before being advised, loses the following-semester schedule for which the student has already registered. The student's academic advisor [10-month faculty member] is not likely to be around during between-semester breaks. The Policy seems to assume that faculty advisors are here during the break, but they are not here. So why not go directly to the Academic Coordinator?

President White sought disambiguation on whether summer is considered a semester. Provost Crain: Not in the past. President White to Senator Neuerburg: Is the Academic Committee willing to revisit the issue Extra Developmental Semester Policy in the concern of "advising responsibilities" with respect to the list of courses? Senator Neuerburg: Yes. Senator Ply: If the list of courses is to give advisors examples or ideas, it should explicitly say so, not what it says (courses *must be selected from the list*). Senator Carruth to Senator Ply: Are you implying that even the Academic Coordinator remains on campus during breaks? Firm but polite exchanges ensued among Senators Carruth, Neuerburg, and Ply, followed by an inquiry from Senator Beauvais: Do such situations generate a flag? President White: For the *student*, yes, but not for the academic advisor or the Academic Coordinator. On request by Senator Neuerburg the issue Extra Developmental Semester Policy **continues as Old Business** for the April 2 agenda.

IV. New Business

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

A. Academic Calendar Revisited

President White indicated a need for earlier input by the faculty into the University Calendar.³ See <http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/othercalendars.pdf> for her tabulation of Louisiana's public university calendars. Senator Yeargain (seconded by Senator Ply) moved to refer the issue Academic Calendar Revisited to committee. After brief discussion

² For the background see Section IV of the February 13 minutes at <http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/021308minutes.pdf>.

³ See Section IV.D of the minutes of January 23 (<http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/012308minutes.pdf>), Faculty Senate Resolution 07-08-07 (<http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/resolution070807.pdf>), and Section V.A of the minutes of February 13 (<http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/021308minutes.pdf>); cf. http://www.selu.edu/admin/rec_reg/calendar/index.html retrieved 2008 March 6.

to confirm the accuracy of <http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/othercalendars.pdf> with respect to semester-ending dates, President White, with unanimous consent, **referred the issue Academic Calendar Revisited to the Academic Committee** (the chair is Senator Nelson).

B. Computer Speed Problems

Senator Neuerburg (seconded by Senator Shwalb) moved to refer to committee the issue Computer Speed Problems. Senator Neuerburg, among others, expressed an impression that Blackboard, webmail, and other programs involving egress with the University's computer infrastructure have been mysteriously and, apparently, capriciously sluggish since about the middle of February. The **issue Computer Speed Problems was referred unanimously to the Facilities, Safety and Security Committee**, Senator Bancroft being the chair.

C. Memberships Charged to Grants [Purchase of Individual Memberships with University Funds]

President White directed the Senators' attention to a handout titled "Purchasing Regulation" (see <http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/PurchasingRegMemberships.pdf>). President White said that Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College (LSU) permits purchase of individual memberships with LSU funds; here is the statement (retrieved 2008 March 6) on LSU's web site <http://www.fas.lsu.edu/purchasing/memberships.htm>:

The purchase of individual memberships in professional societies and organizations with University funds is permitted if the member clearly demonstrates that the membership in such an organization assists the department, faculty or staff in efficiently executing the functions and responsibilities of their job and is related to the departmental mission.

Senator Muller (seconded by Senator Beauvais) moved to refer the issue to committee. Discussion indicated various counterproductive disadvantages in Southeastern's policy barring purchase of individual memberships with University funds. The policy forfeits, for the University, discounts available to members and instead encourages paying for more-expensive institutional memberships and subscriptions vice their individual counterparts. Senator Yeargain: Are we saving the University money by using personal funds? The issue was unanimously **referred to the Faculty Welfare Committee**, of which Senator Muller is chair.

V. Announcements

Items A through C *infra* were on the agenda as announcements.

A. Upcoming Elections

Items 1 through 3 *infra* relate to certain provisions and requirements of the Faculty Senate *Constitution & Bylaws* (<http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/constitution.html>).

1. Faculty Senators

Election of faculty senators for seats with terms expiring in even-numbered years must occur this month (March). Senator Ply (membership secretary) will communicate via e-mail with non-expiring senators and the Nominations & Elections Committee (the chair being Senator Titard) for guidance on electing or re-electing faculty senators. Senator Titard concurred after brief discussion of the mechanics of the elections. [After the meeting, Senator Ply, as she promised, sent an e-mail message at 17h49 (5:49 PM) with subject "Elections for Senate Seats"; it conveyed these two links:

- <http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/2008elections.pdf> AND
- <http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/2008electioninstructions.pdf> .]

2. Faculty Senate Offices

The Faculty Senate will elect members of the Faculty Senate Executive Council for Academic Year 2008-2009 at the April 2 meeting—a consequence of the importance of the earlier elections cited in V.A.1 *supra*.

3. College-Wide Membership on Elected Committees

Senator Ply will timely send information regarding elections to the University Planning Council, University Tenure & Promotion Review Committee, and Faculty Grievance Committee. Senator Titard (chair of the Faculty Senate Nominations & Elections Committee): For various reasons some senators may be requested to conduct election outside their college.

B. SGA Report

Senator Marshall reported that SGA (Student Government Association) has been discussing allocation to student organizations of grant funds derived from student fees.

C. BOS/FAC Report

Senator Ply reported the February 28-29 meeting of the University of Louisiana (ULS) Board of Supervisors (BOS). Former Southeastern President Dr Sally Clausen is to become Louisiana Commissioner of Higher Education in June, pending thaw of the hiring freeze in all state agencies (the Commissioner of Higher Education is with the Board of Regents). Dr Clausen assured BOS that, before leaving her current position as President of ULS, she will do what she can to convince the Department of Public Administration (DPA) to lift the hiring freeze with respect to candidates “highly sought” by ULS campuses. BOS approved various Southeastern-related administrative and academic decisions, including the hiring of Dr Jerald Ainsworth as Dean of Research and Graduate Studies. BOS awarded Southeastern \$52,308 on the basis of performance indicators. Various other decisions and discussions, including clarification of the Equipment Audit announcement in Section V.A of the January 23 meeting of the Faculty Senate,⁴ occurred in what Senator Ply described as a “lengthy meeting.” See Senator Ply’s full report emphasizing Southeastern’s interest at <http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/FACBOS022829.pdf>.

Senator Ply also reported that the Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) discussed various issues. FAC urged BOS to add a non-voting faculty representative to the search committee for ULS President and for Vice President for Academic Affairs. Among other issues FAC discussed the effect on higher education of Louisiana’s new ethics statutes⁵ and sought clarification of the impact of the hiring freeze on non-tenured and non-tenure-track instructors (Dr Clausen said that the freeze should not apply to them). See again <http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/FACBOS022829.pdf>.

VI. Adjournment

At 3:56 PM President White declared the meeting adjourned, the next regular meeting being scheduled for April 2.

Respectfully submitted by

David Ramsey

David Ramsey
Recording Secretary

⁴ See <http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/012308minutes.pdf> , pp. 3-4.

⁵ For a summary, with additional links, see http://www.nfib.com/object/IO_36352.html retrieved 2008 March 7.