

Southeastern Louisiana University
FACULTY SENATE
Meeting Minutes
2008 April 2
[Approved by the Faculty Senate on 2008 May 7]

I. Call to Order and Roll Call

Senate President White called the meeting to order at 3:03 PM. Membership Secretary Ply called roll. Members absent were Bouton, Boykin, Burke, Harper, Hathorn, Hines, Kirylo, Marshall, Newkirk, Rushin, Schulte, Whitty, Yates.

II. Approval of the Minutes of March 5

The minutes of the March 5 meeting received approval. The approved March 5 minutes appear at <http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/030508minutes.pdf>.

III. Election of Members of the Executive Council for 2008-2009

In accordance with the Faculty Senate *Constitution* Article VIII Section 2 and the Faculty Senate *Bylaws* Article IV Section 3, President White yielded the floor to Senator Titard, Chair of the Nominations & Elections Committee, for purpose of election of the Faculty Senate President for Academic Year 2008-2009. After election of the President, President White constitutionally regained the floor but continued to defer and delegate to Senator Titard for the conduct of the other elections.

A. President

Senator Titard, indicating that incumbent President Mary White had been nominated prior to the meeting, called for additional nominations from the floor. Senator Ply moved (seconded by Senator Yeargain) to close nominations, which motion was approved on voice vote, whereupon Senator Neuerburg moved (seconded by Senator Genre) to re-elect President White by acclamation; Mary White was by acclamation elected President on voice vote.

B. Vice President

Senator Titard announced that incumbent Joseph E. Burns was the sole candidate nominated for Vice President before the meeting; Senator Titard called for additional nominations from the floor. Senator Yeargain moved (seconded by Senator Neuerburg) to close the nominations, which motion was accepted on voice vote. Senator Yeargain then moved (seconded by Senator Neuerburg) to re-elect Senator Burns by acclamation, and it was done.

C. Recording Secretary

Senator Titard noted that incumbent Richard David Ramsey was the sole candidate nominated for Recording Secretary before the meeting. Senator Titard called for additional nominations from the floor. Senator Burns moved (seconded by Senator Yeargain) to close nominations, which motion was approved. Senator Burns then moved (seconded by Senator Dunnington) to re-elect Senator Ramsey by acclamation, and it was done.

D. Membership Secretary

Senator Titard, observing that incumbent Mary Sue Ply was the sole candidate nominated for Membership Secretary before the meeting, called for additional nominations from the floor. Senator Dranguet moved (seconded by Senator Ron Traylor)

to close nominations, which motion was approved. Senator Neuerburg then moved (seconded by Senator Yeargain) to re-elect Senator Ply by acclamation, and it was done.

D. Parliamentarian

Senator Titard, observing that incumbent John Yeargain was the sole candidate nominated for Parliamentarian before the meeting, called for additional nominations from the floor. Senator Dranguet moved (seconded by Senator Neuerburg) to close nominations, which motion was approved. Senator Genre then moved (seconded by Senator Burns) to re-elect Senator Yeargain by acclamation, and it was done.

E. Members at Large

Senator Titard, observing that incumbents Rebecca Hite and Teri Root were the candidates nominated before the meeting for Members at Large (two seats), called for additional nominations from the floor. Senator Ply moved (seconded by Senator Yeargain) to close nominations, which motion was approved. Senator Yeargain then moved (seconded by Senator Ply) to re-elect Senators Hite and Root by acclamation, and it was done.

IV. Invited Speaker—Mrs Christine Eleser Bentley

Introduced by President White, Mrs Christine Eleser Bentley (Assistant Athletic Director for Academic Success), recognized the departments which won the Rock 'N' Roar displays: First place, Biological Sciences (accepted by Senator-Elect Erin Watson); second place, Communication Sciences (accepted on behalf of that Department by President White); and third place, Communication (accepted by Senator Burns).

V. Old Business

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

A. Extra Developmental Semester Policy

President White recognized **Senator Nelson, Chair of the Academic Committee, who moved (seconded by Senator Bancroft) Resolution 07-08-10 on the issue Extra Developmental Semester Policy.** There was no discussion. **Accepted,** Resolutions 07-08-10 appears at <http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/resolution070810.pdf> .

B. Internally Developed Course Materials

President White recognized Senator Shwalb, Chair of the Professional Rights & Responsibilities (PR&R) Committee. **Senator Shwalb moved (seconded by Senator Neuerburg) Resolution 07-08-11 on the issue Internally Developed Course Materials (IDCM).** Senator Shwalb summarized Resolution 07-08-11 with particular attention to AAUP (American Association of University Professors) provisions and donations to the Southeastern Development Foundation. Senator Shwalb pointed out the dichotomy between freedom and ethics (between what is physically or technologically doable and what is ethically acceptable) and the need for the Faculty Senate to clarify the issue IDCM from the faculty perspective. Senator Shwalb went through the numbered "resolved" statements, *q.v.* at <http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/resolution070811.pdf> in the Resolution, to explain the PR&R Committee's rationale.

On "Resolved" 2 Senator Muller inquired how to differentiate between original and compiled materials. Senator Shwalb and President White: Resolution 07-08-11 is a set of guidelines, for which the details have yet to come into focus.

On "Resolved" 4 President White claimed that the paragraph is shaky. After inquiry from Senator Riedel, President White expressed an opinion that "Resolved" 4 will not fly. Senator Abernathy: How does one differentiate royalties for Southeastern situations from non-Southeastern situations? President White: The publisher sorts things out. Senator Naquin: What if competing textbooks are outdated and otherwise noncompetitive? President White: You have to justify *use* of your book, but you cannot accept royalties from obligatory use of it by Southeastern students. Senator Mitchell and President White: Currently the royalties are assigned on the basis of whether a Southeastern student bought, at Southeastern, a book written by someone at Southeastern. Senator Ply: The IDCM issue is complicated one; for example, what about *retired* faculty members? Senator Yeargain: Resolution 07-08-11 merely seeks to implement state statutes, rulings, and regulations, from the perspective of the faculty.

Senator Ply moved (seconded by Senator Genre) to eliminate the "Resolved" 4 paragraph. Senator Slawson commented on the complications of arriving at accurate information to sort out which of the author's royalties would belong to Southeastern and which of the author's royalties would belong to the author in light of the fact that some people purchase books from the campus bookstore that are not purchased as a class requirement and other students purchase required books for a class from local bookstores or even order from Amazon.com and other outlets. Senator Neuerburg: That [information] is the publisher's responsibility. Various comments ensued. Senator Titard: Keep "Resolved" 4 in; the need is to adopt the best book. Senator Slawson agreed. Senator Shwalb: The PR&R Committee seeks merely to express the will of the Senate. **Senator Ply withdraw her amendment, her second (Senator Genre) acceding.**

On "Resolved"s 4 and 5 collectively, Senator Ply posited that Ethics Board decisions relate to the statements in both "Resolved" 4 and "Resolved" 5. Provost Crain (on recognition by President White): The Ethics Board ruling illegalizes profiting "by virtue of position." President White: Obliging sale of faculty-developed materials is hard enough to justify anyway.

On "Resolved" 5 Senator Neuerburg indicated that the paragraph originally sought, within the PR&R Committee, provision of scholarships financed by accounts in the Southeastern Development Foundation.

On "Resolved" 9, President White averred that the paragraph is well informed.

Senator Muller: The Faculty Senate's statement in terms of Resolution 07-08-11 has to be justified above all to the faculty. Discussion having ceased, President White called for a vote. **Resolution 07-08-11 gained unanimous approval.**

C. Academic Calendar Revisited

President White recognized **Senator Nelson, Chair of the Academic Committee, who moved (seconded by Senators Bancroft and Bell) Resolution 07-08-12 on the issue Academic Calendar.** Senator Mitchell: Why did students have input to next year's calendar and the faculty didn't? Senator Yeargain (who sits on the University committee which devised the 2008-2009 calendar): "I gave the input. The idea was to begin earlier, not to extend the length of the semester." Senator Carruth: Should the Faculty Senate propose a calendar? President White: Surely. A chorus of comments segued. Senator Guillot: Calendar days affect not only library faculty but also library classified employees and their annual leave. Resolution 07-08-12, which appears at <http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/resolution070812.pdf>, was **approved.**

D. Computer-Speed Problems

President White recognized Senator Bancroft, Chair of the Facilities, Safety & Security (FS&S) Committee, who expressed that the FS&S Committee continues to research the

issue Computer Speed Problems. Senator Higginbotham: "I had a student on the Blackboard roll, then off it, then back on it." President White: Senator Bancroft and the FS&S Committee are investigating the problem.

E. Memberships Charged to Grants

President White recognized Senator Muller, Chair of the Faculty Welfare Committee. Senator Muller reported that Provost Crain and Dean of Enrollment Management Stephen Soutullo agreed to implement the Faculty Senate's wishes¹ with respect to memberships paid by University funds. Applause broke out. The issue terminated *sine die*.

VI. New Business

Items A through C (*infra* this section) constituted New Business on the agenda. Items B and C were added at the meeting.

A. Advising in the Center for Student Excellence

President White indicated a need to clarify whether the Center for Student Excellence (CSE) or the academic departments shall advise second-semester students. The **issue Advising in the Center for Student Excellence was moved by Senator Ply (seconded by Senator Yeargain) for referral to committee**. Senator Yeargain: Notice this semester came too late for the academic departments to respond as they could have to the additional advising needs. President White: Some of the students who came to the Biology Department² were not really biology majors. Senator Lewallen claimed to have been sent, by CSE, a student (in the second year) who should already have been in the Department of Mathematics. Senator Neuerburg cited a need for both CSE and the academic department to contribute to a sustained relationship between advisor and student. President White and Senator Nelson: Grade-point average (GPA) should play a role in whether and when a student moves to an academic department. After vote to approve referring the issue Advising in the Center for Student Excellence to committee, President White referred it to the Academic Committee.

[B. Sick Leave

Senator Ply moved (seconded by Senator Yeargain) to suspend the rules and add (to New Business) the issue Sick Leave. The motion to add the item to the agenda had the support of the Executive Council and passed unanimously. Senator Ply explained orally certain changes to sick leave proposed in the legislature³ with regard to higher education members of the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL). Senator Ply moved (seconded by Senator Dranguet) to refer to committee the issue Sick Leave. Senator Higginbotham: "Are they going to take sick leave away from me?" Senator Ply: The Board of Regents (BOR) request was to protect current members from any changes, but the protective caveat is not in the bill. Senator Yeargain: A resolution on this issue needs to be offered at the May meeting. Senator Muller: The Executive Council should have latitude to speak for the Faculty Senate instead of calling an emergency meeting of the entire Faculty Senate. Senator Higginbotham: Do the proposed changes apply to LASERS (Louisiana State Employees Retirement System)? Senator Ply: Some

¹ See the Faculty Senate minutes for 2008 March 5, Section IV.C, at <http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/030508minutes.pdf> .

² Officially the Department of Biological Sciences.

³ Numerous bills proposed in the regular session of the 2008 Louisiana Legislature concern sick leave. A few of them address entitlement for sick leave specifically on the part of postsecondary educators. See, e.g., HB 179 by Representative Stephen Carter (<http://www.legis.state.la.us/billdata/streamdocument.asp?did=464515>) and HB 983 by Representative Joe Harrison (<http://www.legis.state.la.us/billdata/streamdocument.asp?did=471958>).

legislative bills do,⁴ but the Faculty Senate issue is with regard to personnel in higher education. Provost Crain, after being recognized by President White: Higher education bills at this time in a legislative session are not unusual. The higher education Boards and administrations are tracking the bills and ascertaining their financial impact. Frequently such bills either go away or get amended in committee. On affirmative vote to refer, the issue Sick Leave was referred by President White to the PR&R Committee.

C. Guns on Campus

Senator Ply moved (seconded by Senator Yeargain) to suspend the rules and add the issue Guns on Campus to New Business. The motion to add, supported by the Executive Council, passed overwhelmingly.⁵ Then Senator Ply moved (seconded by Senator Yeargain) to refer the issue Guns on Campus to committee. After virtually unanimous approval to refer, President White referred the issue Guns on Campus to the FS&S Committee.]

VII. Announcements

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

A. Departmental Senate and College-Wide Elections

Senator Ply expressed that she will be communicating with the faculty in fulfillment of certain election provisions and requirements of the Faculty Senate *Constitution & Bylaws* (<http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/constitution.html>).

B. Electricity Conservation

Senator Ramsey expressed that many instructors who have the last class of the day turn off the lights and that all instructors should do likewise, to cut costs and be sensitive to environmental concerns. Senator Higginbotham rejoined with experiences about sensors now being installed to turn off the lights automatically; a few do not work at all, and others do the job when they are not supposed to (as in the middle of class). Provost Crain (on recognition by President White) urged that computers and projectors also be turned off. Senator Ramsey added that projection lamps generally cost hundreds of dollars each.

C. Smoking in No-Smoking Zones

Senator Yeargain commented on lack of respect and enforcement of signed no-smoking zones on campus. He noted that, in lieu of placing on the Faculty Senate agenda an issue to discuss a smoke-free campus, the Executive Council awaits the disposition of a system-wide smoking (or no-smoking) policy by the University of Louisiana Board of Supervisors (BOS). Different smoking policies at different campuses could become subject to the law of unintended consequences, as some students would transfer on the basis of the varying policies (*i.e.*, to be on a campus where they can smoke or, alternatively, to be on a campus where smoking is banned).

D. SGA Report

Senator Marshall: There were no issues of interest to the Faculty Senate with respect to the Student Government Association (SGA) or Student Senate.

⁴ The Louisiana Legislature has a useful search engine on the search tab of <http://www.legis.state.la.us/>.

⁵ In the Louisiana Legislature as of April 2, HB 199 by Representatives Wooten and White would permit concealed weapons on university campuses. The text of HB 199 appears at <http://www.legis.state.la.us/billdata/streamdocument.asp?did=484143>.

E. BOS/FAC Report

Senator Ply, Southeastern's faculty representative to BOS and the Faculty Advisory Council (FAC), commented on a number of issues which transpired at the March 28 meetings of BOS and FAC. These she has summarized in her written report which appears at <http://www2.selu.edu/Academics/Depts/FacSen/FACBOSrepMarch2808.pdf> .

[F. Employee Appreciation Day

President White announced that all senators are invited to the Employee Appreciation Day celebration on Alumni Field immediately after the Faculty Senate meeting.]

VIII. Adjournment

At 4:29 PM President White declared the meeting adjourned, the next regular meeting being scheduled for May 7.

Respectfully submitted by

David Ramsey

David Ramsey
Recording Secretary

