

CAMPUS CORRESPONDENCE

Southeastern Louisiana University

TO: Dr. Teri Shaffer, President
Faculty Senate

DATE: August 27, 2002

FROM: Randy Moffett
President

RE: Faculty Senate Resolutions, 2001-02

The following is offered in response to the Faculty Senate's 2001-02 resolutions:

Resolution 01-02-3, Textbook Rental System

Several meetings have occurred in an effort to share concerns and formulate actions to facilitate improvement in the utilization of administrative systems and flow of information related to the textbook rental systems. Additionally, the ad hoc Textbook Rental Committee has been charged with formulating specific recommendations regarding the handling of ancillary materials (CDs, etc.) that accompany rental textbooks.

Resolution 01-02-4, Academic Dismissal

The Council of Deans has reviewed the Senate's recommendation regarding an Academic Dismissal Hearing Committee. The Council agrees with the Senate recommendation to use the University Tenure and Promotion Committee in this capacity with one stipulation. The Council believes that any vacancies on the University Tenure and Promotion Committee should be temporarily filled prior to the Committee serving as a Hearing Committee for academic dismissal cases. The council proposes that the President appoint temporary members to fill these vacancies, selecting from faculty recommended by the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate.

The Senate's resolution 01-02-04 has been forwarded to the Council of Department Heads for their feedback. The Academic Affairs Council will address this issue after the Council of Department Heads has had an opportunity to provide input.

Resolution 01-02-5, Governance Procedures

Over the past several years, the Administration of Southeastern has faithfully demonstrated its commitment to shared governance. Routinely, the Administration has sought out and incorporated the opinions of faculty and other constituents when formulating policy. The diverse and changing nature of issues facing the University, as well as the expectation for the University to respond in a timely manner, makes it impossible to describe the one appropriate governance procedure. The Institution must maintain an element of adaptability in addressing issues that arise. Accordingly, while the Administration is not opposed to

including in the *Faculty Handbook* a statement of commitment to shared governance, it is not in favor of a statement of specific governance procedure.

Resolution 00-01-6, Election of Faculty Members to the Tenure and Promotion Committee

Recommendations contained in Resolution 00-01-06 regarding composition of the University Tenure and Promotion Committee were reviewed by the Council of Department Heads and Deans Council. Both groups concurred with those recommendations, and they were approved by the Academic Affairs Council at its meeting of March 11, 2002.

Resolution 01-02-7, Election of Faculty Members to the University Planning Council

The Council of Department Heads, Deans Council, and Academic Affairs Council concurred with recommendations contained in Faculty Senate Resolution 01-02-07 regarding the addition of members to the University Planning Council. That recommendation was forwarded to the President, who appoints the Planning Council.

Resolution 01-02-8, Faculty Recruitment and Retention

A broad-based, ad hoc committee will be created during the Fall 2002 Semester to address this issue. The Administration has made every effort over the last several years to raise faculty salaries to be competitive with SREB averages. Likewise, substantial resources have been allocated for faculty/staff development. Nevertheless, the Administration remains concerned about recruiting and retaining qualified faculty and staff, and some disciplines present particularly significant challenges.

Resolution 01-02-9, Equalizing Faculty Workloads

Faculty workload is a complex issue, with individual faculty workloads driven by many factors including, but not limited to, special assignments, unique discipline or course-specific characteristics, discipline-specific accreditation or performance expectation, etc. The Office of the Provost, through the Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs, is currently conducting a review of existing (and past) faculty workload assignments and issues in order to ascertain whether current workload assignments are appropriate.

Resolution 01-02-10, Designated Smoking Areas

The University administration, working through Mr. Stephen Smith, Vice President for Administration and Finance, and Dr. Brad O'Hara, Vice President of Student Affairs, will work with Physical Plant staff and the Student Government Association to implement designated smoking areas on campus.