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Faculty Senate Newsletter, March 2011

Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College

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LSU FACULTY SENATE

Monthly Newsletter

March 31, 2011



President's Message

Few would doubt that LSU and Louisiana higher education have made enormous progress over the last thirty-odd years. The notion that history progresses and that institutions advance has been out-of-fashion for aeons, yet it does seem that the one-time Old War Skule and its cohort campuses are doing a lot more in a much better way than they did at their inceptions. Sustaining the linear if not altogether teleological progress of Louisiana higher education, however, is the boom-and-bust cycle of the Louisiana economy, a cycle driven by the price of and demand for natural resources and related services. Over time, we have been lucky enough to be one of those few

spots in the universe that seem, if not to defy, then to find ways to exploit entropy. Year in and year out, decade after decade, the boom-bust cycles seem to get bigger and perversely better. Somehow or other, Louisiana comes up with a greater and grander higher educational system, a system that seems to drag, crawl, scamper, or otherwise yank itself toward improvement even when its economic foundation resembles an out-of-control merry-go-round.

Despite all the talk and fear about budget cuts, we can expect as well as hope for a day when Louisiana institutions, including LSU, emerge from the economic slump in slightly grander and stronger form. The expectation—some might say certainty—of recovery raises the question of economic justice both before and during the prosperous time to come. All of which is to say that it is already time to raise the question of raises. The members of the current managerial caste in Louisiana universities evidence a surprisingly naive commitment to the cult of celebrity that emerged during their childhood, amidst the transition from the Metro-Goldwyn-Meyer studio system to the suntanned and star-studded era of George Hamilton and Gina Lollobrigida. The academic equivalent of this *People Magazine* mentality is the conviction that (a) there are certain “star” academics who can raise a department through their intellectual charms; (b) there are likewise certain parties who are graced by a certain *je ne sais quo* that has nothing to do with any personal or institutional support; (c) occasionally such a person erupts from the home campus, whereupon he or she is converted into a household god in need of perpetual veneration; and (d) persons evidencing stellar attributes must be retained at any price, without reference to the fates of those who work around them.

Whenever more money comes in, the hard-working faculty and staff of LSU will look for the jettisoning of institutional superstitions relating to compensation. Few would deny that there are some persons of greater talent and accomplishment than others and that those persons merit rewards. By the same coin if not token, few who have reached the heights of academic celebrity or, with that, the heights of compensation have worked in a vacuum or have not benefitted from the assistance of the many noble persons who comprise an academy. To ensure that justice is served, a post-recession LSU will need to consider a variety of adjustments to its reward system. For example, LSU might initiate a form of indexation, in which the salaries of all employees would be adjusted upward in some reasonable proportion or by some understandable formula. The very highest salaries might be constrained and a “star” or two lost, but the overall morale and productivity of the institution would increase, as would the coherence of institutional behavior with institutional mission. Still another possibility, that I will expound in my column next month, might be the decoupling of faculty from their “native” colleges so as to align themselves with those units where their services are relished and rewarded (thereby increasing interdepartmental and interdisciplinary cooperation). Third, LSU, even now, should consider a moratorium on retention packages to those who threaten to abandon the Flagship until such a time as a reward system for loyalty may be deployed.

Louisiana schools, whether or not flagships, will recover, but while doing so they need to provide grateful coverage for those who have sustained damages during the tempest.

With all good wishes,

Kevin L. Cope, Faculty Senate President

Nurse Battalion Testifies at Transfer Council

The world of transfer and articulation lies oceans away from the day-to-day concerns of Flagship faculty, yet the adventures played out in that remote land have a far greater effect on LSU and on Louisiana higher education than is commonly recognized. Few faculty teaching in familiar disciplines feel the meteor-level impact of nursing curricula, yet every campus in this state, including LSU in Baton Rouge, produces numerous graduates aiming to work in “allied health” fields, often at other Louisiana campuses, and benefits from the tuition paid by students passing through a campus in preparation for a health-related vocation. The Statewide Articulation and Transfer Council (SATC) is currently working on programs productive of transfer credentials that will allow these budding helping professionals to move more readily between campuses without obstructions to or delays in their education. In an unprecedented move, SATC Chair and LSU System Vice-President Michael Gargano marshaled out a battalion of nursing school deans and directors to offer testimony on these programs. Revelations abounded, the chief discovery being that the clinical training and internship options are so few that, despite our statewide nursing shortage, students are fleeing for other states while underpaid nursing faculty are defecting to hospital work that pays many times their academic salaries. In another bold move, Chair Gargano charged the nurses’ battalion with the convening of a special synod to work out the profile of a new and streamlined initial-training program for nurses that reflect best practices and that can be transported, for the purposes of continuing education, into most any reputable institution. We await the return of, if not the Seven Samurai or the Magnificent Seven, then at least the Seven Sisters of the Syringe (with their proposals in hand).

Applications to LSU on the Rise Despite Hits to Higher ED

Competence and charisma, it seems, can overtake recession and depression. Despite all the bad news about LSU, Kurt Keppler and his recruitment teams report no less than a projected 6% increase in applications for admission to LSU. When we ponder the demographic dip among college-age students and when we reflect on all the bad news about higher education finance in our great state, we realize that Kurt and his colleagues must be doing something right and that LSU must be offering better value-for-money than is commonly realized.

LSU Foundation to Solicit Donations at Upcoming Faculty Senate Meeting

Statisticians might wonder whether a ten percent increase in faculty salary might lead to a twenty percent increase in faculty charity. Faculty content with the inexpensive life of the mind might be tempted to donate greater sums of money to LSU were they not feeling shortchanged at the quartermaster’s window. Ready to tap into an unexplored fundraising resource, LSU Foundation innovator Beverly Major will reveal, at the April 11 Faculty Senate meeting, an initiative designed to encourage faculty, staff, and even student donations to the good Old War Skule. The public as well as Faculty Senate members are welcome to attend that meeting and to offer suggestions to Beverle as to how faculty giving might be raised to levels similar to those at other major institutions.

Road Map for Proposed UNO-SU Merger Hiding Potholes in Plain Sight

Overburdened faculty members who rely on the newspaper for coverage of academic events may have been misled by spare reporting about the report concerning the proposed merger of the University of New Orleans and Southern University in New Orleans. Hidden away in the Regents web site under the unlikely heading of “assets/media/2011,” the report, filed by the prestigious consulting group, The National Center for Higher Education Management, presents the governor’s preferred plan, the merger of these two institutions and their delivery to the University of Louisiana System, as “Alternative B.” Ever-satisfied with the eightieth percentile, a host of gubernatorial dependents granted the B-level plan a ready endorsement. “Alternative A,” however, calls for a far more thorough rearrangement of New Orleans higher educational assets under an authority other than the University of Louisiana. This rich and thorough document provides abundant commentary on the mismanagement and under-performance of New Orleans institutions and shows that the path to the proposed merger includes more than a few potholes. It is also of concern to faculty governance officials that the enthusiasm for the University of Louisiana System on the UNO campus emerges from the administration rather than from the employees. Employees leaving the LSU System to the University of Louisiana System would suffer a considerable reduction in their contract rights and a redefinition of tenure guarantees that has already faced harsh national criticism.

ADMINISTRATOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Robert Doolos, University Registrar

Of all the administrative offices that keep a university running smoothly, perhaps the least recognized is the Registrar. And yet it is arguably the most integral administrative post on any college campus. Such seems to be the case at LSU, where, according to University Registrar Robert Doolos, so many important functions that make the everyday lives of students and faculty a little bit easier are administered by his office. "We're one of the few that touches every student and faculty," Doolos observes.

Doolos has good reasons to describe the services his office provides the LSU community in such a fashion. For starters, the



Registrar is intimately connected with student registration and course scheduling and played a key role in implementing the online course wait listing program that has freed students from constantly having to check for openings. Doolos points to the fact that nearly 10,000 students were able to add more than 15,000 courses to their schedules via wait listing: "It's been a phenomenal success."

The Registrar is also the custodian of students' official records and has been responsible for everything from the newly implemented electronic transmission of transcripts system to replacing student's social security numbers with the now familiar 89 LSUID number. Beyond these functions, many people may be surprised to learn that the Registrar oversees the three commencements that take place each spring, summer and fall. And if this were not enough, it also tracks the progress

of new freshman and transfers to the university to ensure that these students are making progress toward completing their degrees in a timely manner.

Like so many of the administrators who make LSU an excellent center of higher learning, Doolos' connection to the university stretches back to his education. After completing his B.S. at Central Arkansas, Doolos came to Baton Rouge to complete an M.S. in Latin American History. Doolos talks about the writing skills he honed while working on his degree in particular as instrumental in preparing him for his current job as University Registrar: "I write every day," he remarks, "if you can't get your point across in writing, I don't know how you can succeed in this position."

Doolos has been at LSU for 33 years. Starting out as an academic counselor in Arts and Sciences, Doolos worked his way up to Assistant Dean for Student Services before switching over to Associate Registrar in 1989. Doolos also served as an Army Reservist for twenty

years. His unit was activated for Operation Desert Shield not long after he assumed his position as Associate Registrar. One reason why Doolos is staunchly loyal to LSU may be because the university held his position during his tour of Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. "They certainly could have filled it," he states matter of factly.

Despite being somewhat hidden in plain sight as far as the services it provides go, the Registrar is not so invisible that it has escaped the effects of budget cuts. Doolos does point out that he has been able to address financial shortfalls through regular attrition as opposed to layoffs. "We've been fortunate," he remarks. Yet, just like in other departments across campus, Doolos and his team have had to shoulder the extra workload that has resulted. Doolos also speaks candidly about what he perceives as a lack of appreciation for Higher Education in Louisiana. Regarding the fact that, unlike a host of other services, Higher Education as a whole remains unprotected in the state's constitution, Doolos comments, "that sends a clear message to people in this business."

Doolos' feelings about Higher Education are undoubtedly related to the life he has built for himself and his family in Louisiana over the last three decades. Speaking of the collective we who have developed strong ties to the state for one reason or another, Doolos says, "I don't even think of myself as native Arkansian anymore."

LSU Board Information Session Provides Startling Look At Performance Oriented Metrics

Over the last few months, the LSU System Board of Supervisors has instituted the new custom of an "information session" in the morning in which some of the juiciest details about Louisiana higher education can get a public airing. A kind of asylum in which no votes are taken and minimal debate occurs, the informational session provides a safe haven for those who might want to talk out a bit in a way that hovers between on- and off-the record. At the March 4th informational session, for example, the normally taciturn LSU in Shreveport Chancellor Vincent Marsala cried out for accelerated approval by the Board of Regents of degree programs related to workforce development. In a clever move to set one band of Jindal appointees against another, Marsala asked the Jindal-saturated LSU Board to find a way to get the Jindal-saturated Regents moving on what the Jindal regime supposedly wants but blocks whenever other political interests, including inter-campus rivalries, interfere. From LSU in Alexandria Chancellor David Manuel we learned that the IPEDS (Integrated Postsecondary Data System) criteria exclude 97% of LSUA graduates from inclusion in the graduation rate count. IPEDS and other distant bureaus apply criteria not congruent with the lifestyles and needs of students at regional or rural institutions. Such a gigantic exclusion rate calls into question the probity of the LA GRAD act, which measures graduation rates by IPEDS-congruent criteria. From yet another seat at the Chancellor's desk, which faces the LSU System quarterback John Lombardi as if in imitation of a powerful defensive line, we learned that Louisiana Senate District 6, on the northeastern boundary of Lake Maurepas and the Florida Parishes, boasts the lowest baccalaureate degree rate and the lowest per capita income of the Pelican State. From the AgCenter world, we learned that books are out of fashion and that publications in the agrarian sphere are moving to the Internet, the print zone, in the opinion of the mavens of manure, being a venue where "you're at the mercy of the journals as to when these things come out." Look at what we learn when we give chancellors a megaphone!

Honoric Guidelines of PS-7 to be Updated

An old spiritual hymn notes that "every day is a day of thanksgiving," but for faculty governance officials every day is a day of policy revision. The vast number of "PS" (policy statement) documents at LSU testifies to the long-term effectiveness of faculty governance yet also presents a continuing maintenance problem as new situations require the revision of these guidelines. The latest "PS" document to fall short of a current situation is PS-7, governing "honoric" such as awards, chairs, professorships, titles, and other forms of collegial recognition. In the early days of LSU, when it was even poorer than the proverbial church mouse, these honorifics were few and far between. Nowadays, a new abundance of honorifics has the happy potential to create excesses of and conflicts regarding the rules for receiving honors. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee will soon commence a review of PS-7 so as to make it more congruent with contemporary (and, amazingly, improved) conditions.

Faculty Senate Executives and Chancellor Discuss Flagship Coalition Over Breakfast

The dialogue between the Flagship Coalition and faculty governance leaders continues. Additionally, several other worthy groups eager to assist higher education have sprung up around the state. At the suggestion of Chancellor Mike Martin, Faculty Senate Executive Committee members met for a crack-of-dawn breakfast with the sunrise-loving Martin to explore the interactions of these committees and coalitions and to talk about their reception among faculty members, who are often chary of efforts to influence campuses from the parapets of economic power. This very productive breakfast resulted in a plan to meet on-campus with Flagship Coalition leaders (as well as any other pro-education activists) to explore faculty suggestions and concerns and to reinforce the importance of basic as well as workforce-pertinent teaching and research.

New Executive Committee Member Corrects General Catalog Error

Registrar Robert Doolos, ever-ready to improve the offerings of his excellently administered service, has thanked new Executive Committee Joan King for discovering a significant inconsistency in the published LSU catalogue. That catalogue announces that the bulletin will be published four times per year, but a review of press records indicates that the frequency has been no more than annual for at least three decades. The issue came to the foreground as part of a push by King to accelerate the introduction of curricular changes into published materials, whether in online or print format. Meanwhile, eagle-eyed Registrar Doolos has discovered a trend among students to register in courses for which they have already received satisfactory credit, apparently in an effort to boost grade point averages. Doolos is launching a pilot program to curb this illicit practice through electronic blockades and other cyber-warfare techniques.



REDSTICK RESTAURANT REVIEW: CHEEBURGER CHEEBURGER

By Carl Freedman

The restaurants I've previously reviewed in this space are fairly pricey ones that offer what is generally (if somewhat infelicitously) called "fine dining." But nobody who truly appreciates food can be snobbish about it. The kind of restaurant that has linen tablecloths and an extensive wine list may be good or bad; and the same is true of the kind that has Formica table tops and metal napkin-holders.

Cheeburger Cheeburger is one of my favorites among the latter kind. The décor is 1950s retro, and the place is clearly meant to recall the hamburger joints, dairy bars, and malt shops that flourished in America during the Eisenhower era. But I am old enough to have personally experienced some of those places; and, even despite inevitable nostalgia for the sights, smells, and tastes of one's childhood, I still cannot recall a restaurant of this sort from the actual 1950s that was as good as Cheeburger. Though the menu is fairly varied—main courses range from a grilled mushroom salad to a BLT, and, among the side dishes, the fried onion rings are as good as I've had anywhere—there are two dishes in which the place really specializes and which make it worthwhile to drive out of your way to get there.

The first of these specialties is, of course, the cheeseburgers. In this age of appalling "fast food," the first thing that needs to be said is that the burgers here are real burgers—that is, the meat is produced by grinding an actual cut of Angus beef, untouched by added hormones or antibiotics. (In disgusting contrast, a single "burger" at the golden arches or other such places can contain residue from as many as a thousand different cows, plus more additives than you want to hear about.) You can choose among seven varieties of cheese and several dozen toppings, including salsa, ranch dressing, pepperoni, and those wonderful (if highly caloric) onion rings. The cheeseburgers come in several sizes, and, if you manage to finish the "pounder" (actually made from 20 ounces of uncooked beef), you get your picture placed on the restaurant's "wall of fame." Though you don't come to a place like this in the first place if you're determined to eat healthily 100% of the time, most of us will find the "classic" (5.5 ounces) a more sensible choice.

The cheeseburgers are excellent, but I like the milkshakes even better. They are made with real ice cream (again, unlike the vile concoctions at fast-food places), and you can have them plain or—a rare option these days and a delicious one—malted. There are dozens of flavors on offer, and, since you can combine any two flavors if you choose, the actual number of different shakes available is (according to the menu) a staggering 378,000. For instance, you might want to combine chocolate banana peanut butter with Snickers, or key lime pie with Oreo cheesecake. On the other hand, if you just want a straightforward chocolate shake, you can get that too. Whether the flavor be ordinary or exotic, the milkshakes are, I'm willing to bet, the best in town.

The service at Cheeburger Cheeburger is a bit slower than you might expect with this kind of food, but I'm pretty sure that's due not to incompetence or indifference but to the fact that each burger is cooked to order and thus served hot and juicy. (Once again, compare the genuine burgers here with the dried-out hockey pucks that McDonald's and its imitators pretend are fit for human consumption.) In fact, my only real complaint about the place is the name—which, of course, derives from the old Saturday Night Live sketch that was as tedious and humorless as most of the stuff on that show has always been. (In fairness, SNL has managed two or three funny jokes almost every decade.) Food this good ought to be served under a rubric that suggests pleasure, not inanity and boredom.

Cheeburger Cheeburger is a medium-sized national chain that is concentrated east of the Mississippi. Our local Cheeburger is located at 6725 Siegen Lane. The phone number is 296-0395, but reservations are unavailable and unnecessary.

CHANCELLOR'S FORUM

Leaping Off the Cliff Or Over The Chasm: LSU During and After the Recession

LSU Chancellor Mike Martin once again played host to faculty and local news at the Faculty Senate sponsored Chancellor's Forum on March 16. Martin focused his discussion on the present financial crisis LSU must navigate in the short term as well as his vision of how LSU conducts business over the next decade.

As at previous forums over the last two academic years, Martin emphasized relying less on the state to keep Louisiana's higher education system afloat and competitive. "I'm convinced that we have to make a fundamental transformation at LSU for sure and perhaps in all of Higher Ed. in Louisiana to move away from as heavy a dependence on state appropriations as we now enjoy," Martin stated in his opening remarks. Moving from its current level of a fifty percent dependence to somewhere in the neighborhood of twenty to twenty five percent, the Chancellor commented, would align LSU with many of its peer institutions.

Martin also voiced his opinion that less reliance on the state could enable LSU to go about its day to day operations more efficiently. On the cost cutting side, Martin observed that current state mandate results in LSU overspending on non academic related items in comparison to other universities around the country. "We buy every year about \$180 million worth of common stuff," the Chancellor remarked. Reducing this figure by just ten percent, Martin pointed out, would save the University \$18 million a year. "That begins to significantly reduce our dependence on the state if we can apply that back into academic programs," the Chancellor commented.

With respect to generating revenue, Martin argued that higher tuition costs may be necessary not simply to keep the university's doors open but also to accurately reflect the valuable service LSU provides to the state: "I think we greatly under price to some extent tuition and fees given the quality of this university," the Chancellor stated, "and I believe students are willing to make a greater investment in their education." (continued on page 4)



ULM Admin Attempts End-Run around New Survey Rules

Last month, Newsletter readers recall, the Board of Supervisors of the University of Louisiana System passed a unilateral adjustment to tenure guarantees without the consent of faculty. Continuing this assault on faculty independence, one University of Louisiana campus, the University of Louisiana in Monroe, has attempted to slow up the assessment of faculty opinion by suggesting that the taking of polls among faculty members requires careful scrutiny and approval from a human subjects review board. Under the proposed rules, faculty governance officials wishing to assess faculty satisfaction with administration would face the same protracted application and evaluation period required to administer experimental drugs to inmates (we remember Chancellor Martin's quip in the recent Faculty Senate-Chancellor Forum to the effect that students might be reclassified as prisoners so as to attract greater state support). We await word on whether or not the ULM administration is willing to volunteer to take a long overdue dose of truth serum.

LSU Reaches Out to Local, State and National Stages



Joyce Haynes,
President, Louisiana
Association of Educators

March has been a busy one for LSUUnited, LSU's fledgling unionization movement. LSUUnited leaders Michael Russo and Patricia O'Neill appeared on WRKF's popular morning talk show, The Jim Engster Show, to explain the goals of the union movement on Louisiana campuses. LSUUnited leaders also staged a series of first-time meetings with LSU campus officials, including a meeting with Chancellor Mike Martin and a follow-on brass-tacks meeting with HRM Chief A. G. Monaco. Russo and several other LSUUnited officers made a pilgrimage to Boston for a special symposium on collective bargaining in higher education. Finally, the movement initiated by Russo et al. seems to be going mainstream, with satellite organizing sessions on the campuses of Baton Rouge Community College and Grambling State University attracting very large crowds. LSUUnited itself has topped the 100-member mark and is in the process of seeking certification as an official campus organization.

Faculty Across State Push for Fully Funded LOUIS Service

Fed up with the electronic equivalent of a concern that the books might not be in the library tomorrow and unable to plan research programs owing to uncertainty about information resources, faculty statewide have joined in a new push to support LOUIS, the Louisiana Online University Information Service. LOUIS purchases, manages, and provide access to and interfaces for a huge array of databases and electronic information sources. The latest initiative emerged from the University of New Orleans, which passed a resolution calling on the Board of Regents and the legislature to provide full funding for this highly efficient and cooperation-commemorating as well as indispensable resource. The LSU Faculty Senate passed a concurring resolution, Resolution 11-07, which was authored by Kenneth McMillin, at its March 15th meeting. That resolution, which garnered considerable media attention, has been sent to the Commissioner of Higher Education, the Chair of the Board of Regents, and the Chairs of the Louisiana Senate and House Education Committees. Additionally, the LSU System Council of Faculty Advisors has passed an analogous resolution on behalf of the entire congregation of LSU System faculty members.

Chancellor's Forum (Continued)

Despite a somewhat spartan turnout, Chancellor Martin spent most of the hour fielding questions from the audience. These ranged from concerns about how LSU will maintain its Healthcare program, to how business oriented the university should become, to criticism of LSU's political savviness, to burdening students in traditionally low income Louisiana with higher tuition costs, to how the university might be restructured in the long run, to performance mandates by the state, to losing rank in some disciplines at the graduate level, to erosion of faculty salaries at state universities and retention of faculty.

On these last points, Martin stressed his belief that to remain competitive LSU needs to make some painful decisions and focus on those programs most likely to promote the high standard of education it provides to the citizens of Louisiana. Comparing the university's academic programs to its sixteen sports teams, all of which are highly competitive on a national level, Martin stated "we can be taught something about focusing on excellence unambiguously and demanding of ourselves that we only expand or reach as far as that excellence can be ensured."

Human Value Added: HRM Report

By A. G. Monaco, Associate Vice-Chancellor For Human Resource Management

My previous request for faculty members to contact me with questions and concerns resulted in approximately two dozen emails and a smattering of telephone calls. The messages received have led me to believe that a major concern of the faculty was the design of the Optional Retirement Plan (ORP).

The questions regarding the ORP were wide ranging. Do you know of or have you experienced other defined contribution plans that are designed in a similar matter. No, it is unique to my 30 years of experience. What is your personal opinion of the ORP plan? Pension choices are based on individual assessments of value and personal tolerances of risk. My review of the plan led me to choose the defined benefit plan. What is your professional opinion of the ORP plan? Any plan that has achieved a high level of dissatisfaction and a low rate of return among employees while maintaining a high level of expense for the employer needs to be reviewed. And, perhaps most hurtful, was the anonymous question, Did you actually pass freshman composition? Barely and since I misplaced my Harbrace Handbook my eroded grammar skills have declined even further but at least the occasional Bushmills "neat" has added a "Joyce like" quality to my prose. (Kevin, I know that was you so let's try to be a little kinder with your questions!)

Just as the Faculty Senate have reached out to other institutions in their research we in the administration are discussing the challenges presented by the design of the ORP with other institutions in the state and it is clear that a very large segment of the ORP member population is employed on Louisiana's higher education campuses. This disproportionate participation in the ORP will put higher education directly at odds with the teachers and their representatives in the K-12 sector and that probably adds to the reluctance of TRSL to see the plan the way we see it. Regardless of the limitations of their vision we recognize that those issues the ORP participants face are not simply a problem caused by market cycles alone. The challenge to find ways to improve the ORP design belongs to all of us and should be a major concern. Just as the problems created by recent recommendations impacting our co-workers in LASERS belong to all of us. [If you haven't heard, Governor Jindal has submitted a budget proposal that includes a 3% increase in contribution rate for employees in LASERS; this is a major issue of concern for the entire LSU Community.] Perhaps what makes this LASERS recommendation even more appalling is that the University will not benefit from any savings that might be achieved.

The smart people I report to are in no way "blind" to the faculty's concerns regarding the pension. A number of administrators have been asked to continue to research, discuss and dredge for new solutions to the problem. We share the faculty's concern, and we will strive to find answers. I for one remain thankful for the work that has already been done by faculty members regarding this issue. The analysis that has been presented through the Faculty Senate over the last few years has been outstanding and on target.

While I hope to be able to keep the discussion of the ORP in the center of the community's consciousness I do also hope from time to time to talk about some positive developments. In April we hope to provide the faculty with information on the results of the system wide activities regarding an RFP for health insurance services. Indications are that the news regarding that benefit plan will be positive.

I thank each of you for your continued efforts on behalf of our terrific students and our wonderful LSU community. Feel free to contact me at amonaco@lsu.edu.

GUEST COLUMN

Chemical Engineering Professor Employs Technology to Create Student "Ah Ha" Moments

By Cassie Arcenaux, Assistant Director of Communications, College of Engineering

Most students would not ordinarily listen to a class lecture more than once. But, for chemical engineering students enrolled in Professor Krishnaswamy Nandakumar's ChE 2176 class, recorded lectures and annotated notes are accessible as many times as they need.

As multimedia players, including the Nook and iPad, become more common among students, these technologies will play a more influential role in learning. Repeated listening can help students grasp concepts they may have missed or not understood clearly during class time.

Nandakumar incorporates technology into class lectures to excite as many students as possible. "Research shows that students are the most attentive in the first 10 to 15 minutes of class time," said Nandakumar. "Some students are self-motivated, while others need additional methods to capture their attention." (continued on page 5)

Peer Review of Benefits and Retirement Issues at Dry Dock

The entire LSU community owes an immense debt to Roger Laine, Chair of the Benefits Advisory Committee, who continues his relentless, indeed round-the-clock work on benefits and retirement issues at LSU. Friends of Laine appreciate his equally relentless invention and wit. Now, like some academically alert version of Noah, Laine has created a veritable ark of assessment, nay, a raft of referee-ship, christening his personal vessel not the "Peer" but rather, the "Pier Review." Presently that great craft is dry-docked for refurbishing (if only the same might happen to accrediting agency SACCS).



Educational Policy Legislation Streams from Faculty Senate

The February and March meetings of the LSU Faculty Senate abounded in passed or considered legislation pertaining to educational policy and to the learning environment. Owing to a series of on-campus incidents in which students have appeared in class accompanied either by unregistered persons or offbeat animals or in which assorted technology-assisted behaviors have disrupted classroom decorum, Senator Kenneth McMillin introduced Resolution 11-02, which calls for the reissue of PS-29, a policy statement concerning instructor sovereignty over the learning environment that had previously been collapsed into PS-19, guidelines relating to classroom security. That resolution passed and is now under study by the Office of Academic Affairs. The Senate expects formal re-issuance of PS-29 within a few months. Meanwhile, the Senate passed Resolution 11-04, which was introduced at the request of the Student Government Association and which clarified assorted limits on graded assignments during the concentrated study period, colloquially known as "Dead Week." Also currently under consideration, between first and second readings, are proposals to lengthen the Thanksgiving holiday to a full week, to accelerate the introduction of curricular changes into published university materials such as the general catalogue, and to ease the transfer of students into, out of, and across curricula.

Proposed Expansion of Baseball Stadium Deluxe Suite Emphasizes Revenue Over Appreciation for Sport

Once upon a time, before the emergence of corporate sky-boxes, fans actually watched the football, baseball, or basketball games. With the increase in the quality of LSU athletic performance has come not only a demand for better facilities but also a rash of attention deficits among wealthy ticket buyers. The result: LSU, along with the Tiger Athletic Foundation, is scheming to expand the deluxe deck of Alex Box Baseball Stadium, creating not only more high-rolling boxes but also an "East Side Club" in which delicacies will be served and where neurotic corporate types may pound away at their smart phones without bothering with looking at the game. Indeed, the distracting game will be blocked from view so that patrons may eat, drink, and be telephonically merry. As Bernard Mandeville observed early in the eighteenth century, "private vices [yield] public benefits."

Guest Column (Continued)

Nandakumar personally invested in a tablet PC and the screen capture software, Camtasia, so that he can record lectures and provide notes with handwritten annotations that he adds during class. His personal interests in technology fuels his dedication to providing these resources to his students.

Nandakumar encourages students to participate in conversation and ask questions rather than worry about taking notes. Together, the class works through problems, and the lecture is guided by the students' questions.

"If you miss something in the lecture, you can go back and listen to the recording," said Drew Scheinuk, sophomore, chemical engineering. Scheinuk uses his iPhone frequently to access the resources that Nandakumar has posted for the students.

Surprisingly, attendance has not decreased in Nandakumar's class since providing recordings of class lectures and notes. When asked if they appreciated Nandakumar's efforts, students unanimously agreed that these tools are essential to their success in the class.

"Dr. Kumar also posts supplemental resources and notes if there is something we don't understand," said Roshan Pandey, sophomore, chemical engineering.

This semester marks Nandakumar's third time providing these resources to students at LSU. Before and after each class period, he takes five minutes to set up the equipment and 30 minutes to upload the video to his YouTube channel.

"My students have told me that they appreciate the extra effort," said Nandakumar.

"It's simple to provide these types of resources to students. Especially in teaching engineering, I can demonstrate software in class and integrate it into the lecture."

The benefits of the recorded class lectures and annotated notes are far reaching. Since creating a YouTube channel, Nandakumar has received e-mails from students around the country and the world explaining that they found his lectures useful.

"It's rewarding for me as a teacher when I create as many moments of 'ah ha, I get it' for the students" said Nandakumar. "I can really see when the students get it."

To visit Dr. Nandakumar's YouTube channel, click here.

A PEZ Dispenser Out There for Everyone

How many different PEZ Dispensers have come off the assembly line? Vice Chancellor for Finance and Administrative Services Eric Monday may know. Something of an aficionado on PEZ, VC Monday has more than 1200 of the plastic, spring-loaded candy dispensing machines in his collection, many of which are on display in his office in Thomas Boyd Hall.

Monday's love affair with all things PEZ is indeed a bit like falling in love. Although the Vice Chancellor began collecting in the early 90s, his relationship with PEZ was casual, having only fifteen dispensers or therabouts in the early going. It was not until he stumbled across a world-wide fan base via eBay and the internet that his passion for collecting PEZ ignited. "You saw that there were thousands and thousands of other people collecting," Monday confides.

Monday is not the first to fall head over heels for PEZ. Whether through flirting with collectors via promotional items or through enticing children with a seemingly infinite variety of sugary candies, PEZ has been a keeper since it was invented in Austria in 1927. Coined from the letters P, E, and Z in the German *pfefferminz*, the square candies were so addictive that, as an alternative to smoking, Oscar Uxa designed the first dispensers, which were introduced at the Vienna Trade Fair in 1949, to resemble a cigarette lighter.

More than eighty years since taking the world by the tongue or sweet tooth, PEZ are still something of a cultural phenomenon. Austria's annual PEZ Gathering will take place in June this year. Stateside, at least half a dozens trade shows will be hosted throughout the rest of the year, including in St. Louis and Myrtle Beach. Fans can subscribe to a variety of newsletters, including PEZCollectorsnews.com, which bills itself as "the PEZ Collectors #1 source for information since 1995." A single set of matching PEZ Dispensers featuring Prince William and Kate Middleton will be auctioned on April 11 on eBay. According to businesswire, which ran the story on the royal couple, the highest price paid at auction for a PEZ collectible was \$32,000 for the Astronaut B model in 2006. Such a sum attests to PEZ's staying power among its devotees.

Nor has LSU been immune to PEZ's charms. In 2004, the university became the first collegiate property to have its own PEZ dispenser. Initially promoted for the LSU baseball game against SEC rival Georgia, free dispensers were given to students who deposited \$50 or more into their Tiger Cash accounts. Soon afterwards, the university ran a similar promotional campaign for the football team, and dispensers for both sports are available at retail. Each of these memorabilia are on display among the many other dispensers that grace VC Monday's office.

Monday's decades long commitment to PEZ offers an interesting cross section of Americana. Whether it is the first dispenser he collected-Mickey Mouse, for those in the know, for which he paid \$.79-his favorites, among them the firemen, policemen and elephants; or the representations of real and fictional figures that have captured the hearts and minds of Americans (there is even one of Elvis on display); there seems to be a PEZ dispenser out there for everyone.



Removal of Toups from Board Akin to Situation Vacant

Frequent visitors to Britain are familiar with those "situation vacant" signs that sometimes advertise accommodation and sometimes advertise employment opportunities. LSU savants are already familiar with the cynical ejection of Regent Roland Toups from the Board of Regents in order to create the facsimile of diversity through the opportunistic appointment of a younger minority Board member (although it appears that being up in years—i.e., old—is a "diversity" category that hasn't occurred to the youth-obsessed Jindal administration). What is perhaps less known is that Roland Toups, an engineer, was one of the more erudite and competent Regents and that he has been honored by our own LSU School of Engineering. Toups is certainly in a situation following this undeserved humiliation and there are certainly plenty of vacancies within the LSU cadre of supporters. Couldn't LSU do something to involve this clever captain of industry on our fundraising and governance efforts?

Statewide Common Course Numbering Plan Gains Momentum

If the Board of Regents office is good at anything, it is in detecting new itineraries for the intellectual wanderings of those often misguided legislators who sojourn among educators. So it is that hints have been given regarding an imminent call for statewide common course numbering. A "common course numbering" plan would assign every course in a given category at every campus in the state a single number. Thus, a course in college-level algebra at LSU and a similar course at Delta Community College might both be designated "Louisiana Math 101." The objective of such a scheme would be the easing and acceleration of transfers among Louisiana institutions and the guarantee that courses taken at one venue would not be discarded at other venues. Such an initiative raises an array of technical and philosophical problems, ranging from the immensity of the resulting course matrix (there are many, many courses of many, many different kinds offered at our too-many campuses) to the question of faculty control over admissions and grading standards on individual campuses. One solution has risen to the level of mysticism by proposing a kind of metaphysical liaison number that will be invisibly assigned to courses that otherwise bear different numbers but that evidence some secret unity. Chaired by LCTCS Vice-President Monty Sullivan, the new statewide panel on common course numbering will include LSU Faculty Senate President Kevin Cope as well as representatives from all LSU System schools that offer instruction to undergraduates.

Financial and Accounting Services Ease Restrictions on Framing Services

Anyone who has ever completed purchasing paperwork requiring \$200.00 worth of processing time in order to purchase \$25.00 worth of goods will rejoice at the latest, low-key announcement from Financial and Accounting Services. Ending a period of irrational fear in which auditors seemed to suspect that every colleague with a budget might spend prodigious sums to obtain gilt-framed pictures of his or her favorite granny, FAS has announced that, henceforward, the acquisition of framing services or other commemorative items (trophies, plaques) will no longer require special approval. A new and streamlined form allows the acquisition of these items according to the usual purchasing rules. So, when framing that picture of that favorite granny, make sure to Photoshop in an LSU logo coffee cup reading "give to the LSU Foundation until it hurts" so that the image advances the interests of everyone's favorite Flagship institution.

Board of Regents Blows My Mind

By Carla Clark, Louisiana State University in Shreveport

On March 23, the Board of Regents discussed funding initiatives for 2011-2012. For the second year in a row, the Regents opted to provide only \$500,000 for LOUIS-The Louisiana Library Network. Until last year, the Board had provided \$2.7 million to fund this academic library support initiative. Member libraries have helped to fund LOUIS as well, paying fees based on enrollments.

LOUIS is an outstanding example of effective collaboration that has led to increased resources for our patrons, improved efficiency of services, AND reduced costs. Since its inception in 1992, LOUIS has saved the state an estimated \$152 million dollars. We are the embodiment of our Governor's stated goal to "do more with less."

LOUIS is consolidated hardware and software, maintained by a dedicated support staff, housed in a central office in Baton Rouge.

LOUIS is strength in numbers, using collective bargaining to acquire a great variety of online resources like e-books, and e-journals, at tremendous savings to member libraries.

LOUIS was established precisely because many of our libraries could not afford to purchase the physical and virtual resources that this collaborative effort provides. Funding from the Board of Regents meant that university, community, and technical college libraries across the state could provide a core level of resources and services that many sites couldn't offer independently. The resources and services provided through the LOUIS group support the research needs of faculty, staff, and students, along with K-12 students and the general public, who visit our libraries every day.

LOUIS resources and services are necessary for our campuses to maintain accreditation. Our higher education institutions must be "blessed," as it were, by various governing bodies that define and enforce academic standards to assure quality educational programs. When campuses lose accreditation, academic AND athletic programs are jeopardized.

The Board of Regents acknowledged these facts in its recent meeting, yet they still chose not to provide the necessary funds to keep LOUIS strong. The Regents stated that local campuses must produce the additional funds to cover this decrease. Local campuses, already reeling from recent budget cuts, will have to either pass these costs on to students as increased fees, or cut already anemic library budgets even more in order to deal with increased costs to support LOUIS.

To provide a useful illustration, think of LOUIS as a big brain that all of our academic libraries share. LOUIS is our physical brain, (hardware and software), and LOUIS is our collective knowledge (online resources and expertise). If LOUIS were to disappear, every local campus would have to buy its own new brain; to self-transplant its new brain; and to then populate its new brain with the same resources and expertise, for five to ten times the cost that we currently pay. Campuses without the money to do this will simply lose their minds.

Please contact your Regents, Representatives, and Senators, with a brief message: "Use your brain! Don't defund LOUIS!"

LOUIS: The Grassroots Effort

By Sara Zimmerman, Executive Director, LOUIS

The letter by Carla Clark at LSU-S is one example that demonstrates the effort by so many people to get the message out about reinstating funding for LOUIS. These efforts are being led by Louisiana's higher education community, dedicated faculty, staff and students. I am amazed at how many are engaged with this issue, and the same engagement is behind the success of the LOUIS project for the past two decades. It illustrates how important the services and resources are to faculty and students.

LSU has been instrumental in the grassroots effort. LSU Libraries introduced the "Save LOUIS LSU Libraries Electronic Databases" Facebook page in July, 2010. Faculty Senate President, Kevin Cope, invited LOUIS to present at the January, 2011, Higher Education Summit Meeting in Alexandria. In collaboration with Faculty Senate counterparts at UNO and other institutions around the state, the LSU Faculty Senate passed a resolution to support funding at the March 2011 meeting. Each institution that participates encourages others to follow suit. This is how the grassroots effort has taken root.

Using social media has been critical in the grassroots effort. In addition to using Facebook, Twitter, and emails, University of Louisiana Monroe's Karen Niemla purchased and created the SaveLOUIS.org site. In collaboration with Mike Matthews at Northwestern State University, Carla Clark at LSU-S, Nicole Morello at Baton Rouge Community College, Megan Lowe at University of Louisiana Monroe, and Tony Fonseca at Nicholls State University, Karen has created a site that simply and clearly explains the issue. If the information motivates a person to become engaged, the site provides a form to express support in his/her own words via email. That email is sent to every Regent, the Governor and elected officials in Louisiana by simply selecting "send message".

The bottom line is these efforts are paying off, not yet in funding, but in attracting the attention of those interested in the issue. As of this newsletter, the Regents have only committed \$500,000 of the original \$2,700,000. LOUIS members continue this grassroots effort in the hopes that the state legislature will find a way to reinstate the remaining \$2,200,000 in central funding to LOUIS. If you would like more information please visit the SaveLOUIS.org or LOUISlibraries.org webpages.

Climbing the Mountain in A Flat Land: The Easy and Fun Challenges of Life at LSU

"What the World Needs Now is Love, Sweet Love" opines Jackie DeShannon in her golden oldie, adding that there are more than enough mountains and that emotional verve can lessen the slope of those that do rise up from everyday life's plane. The flatlands of Louisiana offer precious little in the way of slopes. As anyone can see from the Manship School terrace, whenever there is a hill at LSU, it summits in any easygoing roundabout. So it is that festive LSU, which has more than its shares of difficulties, usually attaches some form of ease, pleasure, or even twisted entertainment even to the most excruciating experiences. Every bump in the road leads to a roundabout that seems to finish, if not in a water-slide, then at least in a splash of fun. (continued on page 7)

Renowned Biologist J. K. Haynes Slated to Lead Workshops for Faculty and Students in Early April

Thanks to the industry of Professor Randy Duran, currently outposted to the Cain Center, prominent biologist and nationally recognized academic administrator J. K. Haynes will visit LSU under joint sponsorship by the LSU Faculty Senate, the Southern University



Faculty Senate, LSU, and Southern University. Haynes, who holds an honorary chair in the area of cell biology at Morehouse University and who serves there as Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics, will offer two workshops. The first, on April 7th, will introduce students to careers in science. A shuttle service from Southern University will bring Southern students interested in the STEM disciplines to the LSU campus. On April 8th, at 3:00 pm in the Campbell Auditorium of the Cox Communications Academic Center (reception at 2:30 on the porch of same), Haynes will offer a presentation and discussion on the lifelong evaluation of faculty, asking whether the uniformitarian practice of applying the same evaluation instruments to beginning and experienced, young and old, conventional and duty-changing faculty members is fair, productive, or useful. This event will be the first such co-sponsorship spanning the two large flagship institutions in Baton Rouge. Additional information will be announced over the LSU "Broadcast" email system. Stay tuned!

Remedial Course Enrollment Data Evokes Proverbial Lemonade Addage

We all know the old aphorism, intended to encourage optimism, that suggests making lemonade when life gives one sour lemons. Old adages offer encouragement but not implementation instructions. Sometimes lemons only make lemon juice and sometimes they rot. So it is that the latest batch of statistics from the edu-wonks downtown show the modesty of the material from which faculty are asked to extrude educated citizens. Data for the years 2004-2009 show both the raw numbers and the percentages of students from each parish who, upon entry into colleges and universities, enroll in at least one remedial course (with many enrolling in more than one). Leading the pack for the most recent available year is Red River Parish, whose high school alumni remediate in swarms: no less than 59.1% of ruby-riverside students must find their way into remedial instruction. Few parishes in Louisiana send less than one-third of their college-going population into the retooling chute, with more than a few central Louisiana parishes swelling the remedial ranks with 40% or more of their output. It is indeed challenging to see how the performance of institutions can be accurately measured with respect to graduation rate when the input into the system is so lacking in readiness.

Textbook Orders Take Temporary Digs in the Low-Rent District

Students have rejoiced at the emergence of a new textbook rental scheme, to be offered by the LSU Union Bookstore with the imprimatur of the LSU administration. What didn't make the news is that this arrangement produces a \$50,000.00 dip in payments to LSU from Barnes and Noble, the franchisee for the bookstore. Future years hold out the prospect of higher revenues, but the short-term prospects are a little less glorious, with the future yet to be seen.

Climbing the Mountain in a Flat Land (Continued)

Which, then, are the most divertingly miserable experiences in or pertaining to the Baton Rouge campus?

Plato reminds us that wonder is the beginning of all philosophy. Given the high level of excited curiosity that characterizes a great university, first thoughts in answer to the foregoing question lead to the experience of LSU interior design, where three colors dominate. Nothing could better begin a wondering intellectual's day than a confrontation with the ghastly trio of café au lait beige, wilted podocarpus green, and depressed mockingbird grey that, singly or in tandem, darken almost every environment on campus. Which madman would create such a palette, and why? Was it some effort to reach out to the woody people of Louisiana by painting buildings to look like a camouflage bib from the sale rack at Cabela's? Eager to learn more, our fun-seeking philosopher might next attempt to explore the physical plan of the campus, trying to find his or her way with the help of the bewildering online campus map, which not only delights the eye by splashing the viewer with saturated hues but introduces a brave new world full of unknown edifices (all other than the one sought) as the would-be navigator drags his or her errant cursor through the slippery virtual campus. Among the newfound buildings are few that are very tall, but with those few comes not only the healthful, exercise-inducing "find the stairs" and "find the elevator" game, but also the thrill of wondering whether the elevator will make it to the top and whether at the top might come the outside chance of stumbling into one of LSU's secret executive-level upper decks, where the majesty of the view is usually rivaled only by the oddity of the highly protective inhabitants. Speaking of the adventures attendant on entering buildings, few exploits can compare with the entry into the Hill Memorial Library, where garrison-level security matches up with remarkable personalities to make a simulated prison-movie experience that is grounded in bibliographical expertise (watch out for the man in the sharply pointed Chinese hat).

Louisiana is a gambling state with more casinos than men on a football line. Several of the perverse pleasures of Louisiana academic life involve an element of gambling: wondering what will happen, whether something will happen, and, occasionally, whether a bit of mildly stimulating danger may be overcome in the pursuit of notable deeds or marvelous destinations. One of the milder gambling "rushes" comes from returning a book at Middleton Library, a service which offers patrons a chance to obtain return receipts but that makes it easy to "take the bet" and drop the book down the quick return chute, knowing full well that, if chance leads the book astray, the credibility of one's excuse "story" will sink to that of those old "No Mora Excuses" that, way back when, welcomed allegedly winning Saints Coach by that same name. A higher-stakes gamble involves returning an interlibrary loan item to a mysterious and unguarded but putatively highly secure carton, a near-black box that will take nostalgic psychologists down association if not memory lane, back to the time of B. F. Skinner. The outdoorsy can indulge their gambling taste at the gated access points to LSU's limited-access streets, where bookies could make a decent living accepting bets on the length of time required for the gates to rise following the flashing of the wand or by promoting derivative wagers as to when the horns will begin honking, when the access-seekers will begin backing up, and whether the exchange with the helpless gate attendant will be friendly or inflammatory. Those with the good fortune to have a University purchasing (LaCarte) card are acquainted with an even more perverse form of emotional gambling: wondering whether the attempt to use that card at a given merchant will lead to a delay, a discussion, or a scene involving peeved managers as well as panting customers eager to get the line moving. Use of the LaCarte card, admittedly, may be a cloaked outreach effort that encourages cloistered LSU denizens to enter into long and ever-interesting conversations with the merchants of Louisiana. At the lower end of the gambling experience restroom is that of using a restroom at LSU, where conditions are unpredictable and experiences potentially bizarre. One never knows what the condition of the environment will be—even the prestigious Office of Academic Affairs men's room proffers tiles from which the glaze has peeled away—or what amazing environments one will encounter. There is, for example, the eternal fountain that is the men's room on the ground floor of Allen Hall, where old-fashioned steel latrines from the time of Robert Penn Warren gush prodigious quantities of water day and night; there is the high-gloss neon-color unisex restroom on the third floor of Pleasant Hall that looks for all the world like a 1950s diner on a very confined scale. And then there is the unmentionable thrill that one might get caught in a one of the LSUPD's "sting" operations in any of the more notorious cloacal conveniences on campus. Surely the most esoteric of all such chance-driven pleasures is that of deciding where to have a private coffee, there being no brewed-bean bazaar on or near campus that is altogether immune from observation. Campus cognoscenti have lately decided that the atrium coffee area in the College of Art and Design is an excellent place to retreat for secret conversations, yet so widely dispersed is this insider knowledge that one can be sure of being overheard by one's favorite intruders. There being few pleasures greater than that of being noticed and thereby feeling significant despite being but one citizen of a vast republic of letter, who could ask for anything more?

Many of the strangely inverted pleasures of the LSU campus are tinged with a poignant quality. Reading the *LSU Reveille* is one such experience; students try so hard to do well and to look like hard-hitting reporters, yet so often stumble into howlers. Now and then one sees a heart-rending efforts by our humble helpers to make life better and more beautiful. One thinks of the sprays of short-lived snapdragons planted at strategic locations around campus to do aesthetic battle with their tenderly colorful tissues against the harshness of cracking LSU asphalt. Straddling the boundary between appreciation, sorrow, sympathy, and disgust is the experience of hearing well-connected amateurs attempt the national anthem at LSU baseball games (or, more poignantly still, the experience of driving along Nicholson Boulevard during daylight rehearsal hours, occasionally hearing that scratching high note barely make its way out of a well-meaning but immature throat en route to a hoped-for audience that, during the rehearsal time, is no more "there" than it is when awaiting the first pitch. Then there is the exquisitely awkward experience of being served in a sophisticated restaurant by a well-meaning and needy student who is working overtime but who has little training and less experience of high life and who elicits compassion and a kind of sympathetic delight all in one go. All these experience mix melancholy and artistry, joy and sweet sorrow in a way worthy of a Noh dramatist.

So complex is LSU and so involuted is its experience that some mixed misery-pleasures have special times and places in the life span. LSU Union leisure classes, for example, remain a great favorite among newly singled or otherwise displaced persons, providing intelligent and wholesome diversions for persons in life transitions while also seldom delivering the desired beau or belle. More than a few have entered singing classes in search of a partner only to be confronted by hordes of happily married church choir members eager to sharpen their notes and to put a new trill on *A Mighty Fortress is our God*. Some have descended from the singles-saturated upstairs Union dance classes to try their luck at gustatory gambling, getting a thrill from making a risky choice among the grimly heartless junk-food offerings in the Tiger Lair while living out an inter-relationship dining purgatory. (continued on page 8)

Governor Led Low Completer Program Singles Out Education Courses for Decommissioning

Despite the governor's expressed commitment to foster public education and build a tech-ready workforce, the statewide list of low-completer programs scheduled for decommissioning takes aim at everything to do with the preparation of educators. Teacher training being a popular set of concentrations in this state, almost every institution offers a variety of "ed" courses: music ed, science ed, math ed, etcetera. The low-completer list, however, bristles with "ed" curricula. True, these curricula are under-enrolled, but perhaps teacher salaries explain the flight from the classroom. It remains to be seen whether the Board of Regents, which is charged with balancing curriculum offerings around the state, will consent to the simultaneous decapitation of most any program named "ed."

Chemistry Professor Restores Ramparts to Street

It's fine and dandy when the saints go marchin' in and when one is livin' on Easy Street, but no one wants to unsettle the peace and calm created by the Easy Streets program, which limits access to on-campus roads. Vigilance has paid off in the case of normally mild-mannered Chemistry professor Luigi Marzilli, who last week spotted a breach in the Easy Street ramparts near Knapp Hall. Student drivers were jumping minimal barriers and slipping directly into the core campus grounds. Thanks to Marzilli's police action, traffic and parking czar Gary Graham will install full-scale bollards to keep the would-be invaders at bay.



SACS Chief to Speak at April Faculty Summit

Newly denominated the "Louisiana Statewide Colleagues Collaborative," the network of faculty leaders and interested faculty members from around Louisiana will meet for a third time in Alexandria on April 16th. Growing by leaps and bounds, this organization, which seeks to establish a loose, large, and flexible array of faculty members interested in faculty governance and ready to amplify the faculty voice in higher education management and policy, is open to everyone ready to work for higher education and crosses both campus and system boundaries. One evidence of this growth and inclusiveness is the addition of the membership of the statewide AAUP chapter to this next meeting. Thanks to our AAUP colleagues, we will have our first major speaker at this event: Belle Wheelan, President of SACS, the accrediting agency that assesses and certifies most Louisiana colleges and universities. The involvement of Belle Wheelan in this new, experimental, and attention-getting collaborative shows that Louisiana is leading the region and the nation in the development of innovative faculty supervision of the educational project. Meeting time on April 16th is 10:00 am. The venue is the Student Union on the campus of Louisiana State University in Alexandria. More information will soon be posted on the LSU Faculty Senate web site.

Climbing the Mountain in a Flat Land (Continued)

Traversing the stark landscape between the LSU campus and downtown lends reassurance with respect to the passage of time, demonstrating that even the worst projects perish. Even more dramatically mixed pleasures can accrue from a visit to the Shaw Center, all the way at the end of the Nicholson Drive perpetual rehab zone, where the LSU Museum of Art fights a desperate and refreshingly successful battle to maintain a cultural presence in the midst of poorly conceived restaurants (it is hard to determine whether the insouciant fare at the Capital Grill is worse than the vulgar “night on the town” atmosphere of tower-top Tsunami), vacant display spaces, and a theater that seems unfit for any act other than bucket drummers. Looking up at the art treasure on the fifth floor of the Shaw Center brings a smile as the viewer recognizes that something nice can and will happen, always and everywhere.

Lighting Ceremony of Sign Over Lsuhscc Eclipsed By Settlement Payments

Everyone knows that everything is bigger in Texas, to which nothing could be closer than Shreveport. Big news has been the watchword at the Shreveport campus of the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (LSUHSC) in Shreveport. On the bright side, donors, not satisfied with the horrendous institutional architecture of that otherwise estimable health care facility, have provided a gigantic illuminated sign, positioned atop the main tower, which, on March 4th, was illuminated in a ceremony suitable for our old light-seeking friends, Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar. Reportedly the largest illuminated sign north of Lea’s Lunch Room, the sign now blazes over the King’s Highway (there being more than three kings along this stellar road). In somewhat dimmer news, LSUHSC pushed the million mark in settlement payments (let alone attorney costs) by settling a whistleblower lawsuit in which a doctor and a nurse—members at the upper end of Bobby Jindal’s visionary work force—exposed spurious Medicare billing for unperformed procedures. Uncle Sam walked away from this mess with a \$700K penalty, the doctor and the nurse with a combined \$200K, while the lawyers doubtless also performed some surgery on the LSU pocketbook. For the attempts of the LSU Faculty Senate to provide a proper auditorium for whistleblowers, see Faculty Senate [Resolution 08-12](#). None of this includes the other big bit of legal economy this month: the closing of the case on fraudulent piano-tuning charges paid out by the LSU School of Music.



Retention Committee Meeting Sparks Debate Over Extracurricular Activities

Sandra McGuire’s mammoth Retention Committee, a pan-university ensemble of seventy-five savants charged with devising ways to increase the year-to-year retention rate among students, continues its push into uncharted territories, drawing comments as it steamrollers into unexplored avenues. At its March meeting, assessment mogul Bobby Matthews offered a presentation on primarily two topics: high-impact activities that are correlated with student retention and curricular adjustments that correspond to increased retention rates. Crisp debate followed Matthews’s presentation, with several wondering whether the high-impact activities might symptomize rather than cause those attitudes and intentions that encourage learning, and others wondering whether a full-throttle move toward service learning would increase the post-college aptitudes of large numbers of students in a big state institution. Some questioned whether the gung-ho attitudes evidenced by those students who join every last club or engage in every possible leadership activity indicated deliberative scholarly skepticism as much as it might indicate tame compliance with the ideologies underlying workforce development. Sandra McGuire is to be applauded for igniting some of the most honest debate on these topics seen in years!

LSU Cuts to Foreign Languages Moving Against Mainstream

It appears that the reduction of foreign language education at LSU is running contrary to national enrollment trends. The Modern Language Association has released a new study indicating double-digit enrollment growth in the study of the top fifteen foreign languages. All the languages curtailed at LSU count among the growth fields. Weren’t we aiming to increase student credit hours?

Tip of the Month: CELERY SEED

Faculty Senate President Kevin Cope, who started his life in the restaurant environment, has a keen interest in condiments and other concoctions. His number-one culinary secret? Celery seed! The most overlooked item on the herb and spice shelf is surely celery seed, which, in fact, is smallage seed, smallage being the wild antecedent of modern celery. The effect of celery seed on almost any savory dish is comparable to the playing of the harmony or continuo lines in an orchestra or perhaps a harpsichord. It has the effect of filling in the open spaces in a flavor clef while maintaining a bit of “ping” and remaining a differentiated staff of flavors rather than a blur. Celery seed could even be used in some sweet preparations (say, breakfast bread or tea cookies) to add the contrast that is so sadly lacking in American baking. No matter how you treat it, celery seed will love, if not you, then at least your dish!





LSU Office of Undergraduate Research & Graduate School,
LSU Office of Strategic Initiatives, and Southern University and LSU Faculty Senates

PRESENT

JK Haynes Jr., Dean of Science and Mathematics, Morehouse College, Atlanta Georgia

Time: 3:00pm(reception 2:30pm)
Date: Apr 8, 2011
Place: Campbell Auditorium, Cox Communication Academic Center