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Faculty Senate Newsletter, October 2011

Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College

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LSU FACULTY SENATE

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

Monthly Newsletter

October 31, 2011



President's Message

Once upon a time, assumptions were events that happened in monasteries, convents, and, occasionally, martyr scenes. In later, more corrupt times, assumptions transpired in mortgage broker offices. Nowadays, in our slickly cynical period, the literal meaning of the term—the taking up [of whatever happens to be in the vicinity]—has returned with a vengeance as academe allows itself to draw in a steady stream of unexamined postulates.

At the upper end of the assumption hierarchy are the nostrums promulgated by the ever coming-and-going political figures who allegedly lead higher education from

Regents' offices, legislative chambers, and occasionally the men's room of the City Club. Owing to the regrettable human tendency to follow whomever looks even slightly like a leader, such assumptions quickly become commonplace. Such assumptions currently include the notion that higher educational systems are best when they are homogenous (for example, when all regional institutions belong to one system or all junior colleges belong to one system); the contrasting, indeed contradictory assumption that educational policy ought to reflect local opinion (per Commissioner of Higher Education Jim Purcell's "listening tour"); the shibboleth that higher education should develop a workforce rather than a judging, intelligent citizenry; the insinuation that universities with widely different missions are pitted against one another rather than against a hostile government; the belief that students want to attend college close to home or even at home via online education (in the bad old days, that approach was called "keepin' em down on the farm"); the affirmation that there are such things as "regional universities" when, in fact, most of those regional schools are stuffed with international students hailing from homes further away than the homes of the local kids who populate research universities; and the visionary hope that massive waves of students will transfer from community colleges to four year institutions, flooding the ambitious universities with tuition-paying (or TOPS-absorbing) students while ensuring the solvency of two-years institutions in places where the "high" in "higher education" may not reach above a cypress knee.

Faculty are by no means innocent of assumption making. Rank-and-file professorhood is full of unexamined axioms. These include a superstitious belief that small discussion classes are, all other factors being equal, better than large, theatrical, socially cohesive lecture experiences; that it is always wise to defend or at least take shelter in one's home department rather than deal with the interlocking whole of the university; that some species of grant or some varieties of publication are better than others, even if no one can explain why; that every person in a department ought to do committee work or that committees in which two or three colleagues could accomplish a task require eight to ten members; that faculty meetings are a good way to find out what colleagues think (rather than a venue in which the discontented members of the shy majority simply stuff their opinions rather than risk looking uncool); that the administration is always up to no good; and that conforming behavior will lead to survival if not prosperity in the academy.

Whatever a university might be, there is little doubt that at least its official function should include the recognition if not the rethinking of the assumptions by which colleagues participate in their oppression. Why not practice liberation by choosing a sunny day, stepping out into the quadrangle or the nearest public place, and robustly announcing something irreverent—maybe something like "I don't think that the multidisciplinary hiring initiative accomplished much of anything"? Or maybe "no matter what we hear about some universities being ranked higher than others, I am convinced that there is some colleague in some department at the University of Louisiana at Monroe who is a whole lot smarter than 90% of the people in my college"?

Rozeman Led Higher Education Imperative Proposes Merger of LSUS and LaTech

Alarm bells rang around the state with the mid-October debut of a proposal from the Shreveport Bossier Higher Education Imperative, an organization whose name suggests a metaphysical abstraction (since when did an "imperative" issue position papers?). Said SBHEI is captained by the very physical north Louisiana television celebrity physician Philip Rozeman, whose practice is based in the research Mecca of Minden, Louisiana, a town also known for its curious attempt to put a German spin on Mardi Gras and for its appointment of a Teutonic, Lederhosen-appareled pickle, "Herr Gurken," as its spokesman. The "Imperative" announced the vigilante commissioning of a study from Eva Klein and Associates, an undertaking that added \$105,000.00 to the already formidable cost of repeatedly studying the structure of Louisiana's higher education. The two chapters of this study will concern a proposed merger of LSUS and LaTech and then the imagined integration of both those campuses with LSUHSC—Shreveport, with all of the foregoing allegedly revealing the need for a kind of dry-docked, land-locked counter-flagship institution in North Louisiana. Although Dr. Rozeman and his band alleged previous consultation with educational leaders, the loud and clear signal sent by the top brass not to cooperate with this curious effort in policy privateering clearly suggests a surprise attack by the "Imperative" gang. Past issues of the *Newsletter* have mulled over the dangers of excessive private interference with the operations of public universities, one of the grave downsides of the much-touted quest for autonomy. Time will surely reveal the quid pro quo expected in exchange for support even by this PT-Boat version of a flagship support coalition, but, given the multi-office nature of Dr. Rozeman's practice, we would wager that a cheap but technically skilled non-union workforce would be at the top of the list.

Coaches, Administrators Receive Pay Raises from Board of Supervisors; Women Short Changed

While faculty continue to await adequate economic recognition the administration has once again gone off to the races with salary supplements for a select few. Leading the pack among those paid on state-regulated lines are the coaches, with a 20% raise of \$20,000.00 going to women's golf coach Karen Bahnsen, a \$15,000.00 uptick elevating track coach Dennis Shaver's emolument to \$200K, and a \$20,000.00 infusion bringing new buying power to men's golf coach Charles Winstead. All those pale in comparison to the walloping (if allegedly temporary) 73% or \$200,000.00 first-down premium accorded to offensive coordinator Greg Studrawa, whose change in duties was presented to the press as a case of a buddy stepping up to help an ailing colleague but whose purported charity can now be scaled with an economic metric. Of particular interest is the comparison among the golf coach salaries, where market value seems to be justifying the continuing underpayment of women. So it is that even in liberal-minded Academic Affairs, the latest raise to one female holder of one of two apparently equal positions seems big at \$15,000.00 but comes nowhere near to attaining the "equity" that is the alleged justification for the raise given comparable in-office salaries (the \$10,000.00 raise paid to an able woman in IT Services may also be below par—research continues). Then there is the "retention" raise paid to a Boyd Professor to reduce the hardships associated with his position that might lead him to flee. Altogether, LSU handed out about \$335,000.00 in raises in but one month of Board of Supervisors' action. More puzzling is the apostolic faith that the administration holds in the doctrine of "market value" despite the widespread acknowledgment that there is no market for most specialties; more puzzling still is the granting of retention raises without any clear plan or policy, apparently on the theory that some faculty are indispensable—a suggestion that tells other faculty members that they are dispensable and that economic justice at LSU is at best capricious.

Southern University under Reign of Terror

The mood is grim at Southern University, where a Board of Supervisor's vote to declare financial exigency rather than to terminate the \$2,400,000.00 subsidy to the Southern Athletic program (which would have covered the deficit) has sent faculty scurrying for cover and has introduced a new ethos of obedience at an institution allegedly seeking the liberation of the oppressed. Llorens, whose accomplishments include advising of that well-known intellectual Kip Holden, invoked the doctrine of "flexibility" to euphemize away his intention to jackboot long-serving faculty members out the door and transform the "S" in the "SU" acronym from an abbreviation for "Southern" to a code-word for "Servile."



ADMINISTRATOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Mary Feduccia, Director, Career Services

One of the myriad challenges that administrators face at a large, flagship university like LSU is getting the attention of the faculty. Mary Feduccia, Director of LSU Career Services, is all too aware of this phenomenon. "I think a lot of faculty aren't aware of what we do," she confides.

Yet Feduccia understands that faculty and the Office of Career Services are on common ground when it comes to the part they play in shaping the futures of LSU's students. With this common goal in mind, Feduccia and her staff have worked hard to form partnerships with the various colleges and special departments across the entire campus. "We know faculty are our greatest allies," Feduccia says.



The mission of Career Services, which Feduccia describes as ensuring that students receive the quality level of aid they need to reach their full potential during their time at LSU and afterwards, begins when students are admitted to the university and carries through to graduation. To accomplish this mission, Feduccia and her team have implemented a four step plan. For step one, Career Services provides students with a wide variety of career decision making tools and services, including the Tiger Network, career testing, career counseling, and information gathering. Step two emphasizes experiential education through assisting students to find internships, part-time and summer jobs, volunteer work, and cooperative education opportunities. Step three focuses on job search skills, including guidance for those students who wish to apply for professional and graduate degrees. Finally, step four facilitates student's ability to find permanent work in their field through

providing on-campus interviews, recruiting and network events, job postings, and résumé referral services.

A key component of this four step plan is the career expo that Career services hosts towards the beginning of the fall and spring terms each academic year. These events benefit not just students who are preparing to enter the professional world but also employers seeking to develop a presence on LSU's campus. In addition, the infusion of funds that employers inject into Career Services' revenue stream during these events covers a large portion of its operational expenses.

The stream of revenue Career Services has been able to generate through fund raising events like the career expo has in turn allowed the university to keep Feduccia's staff of 18 together in spite of the challenges that the ongoing budget crisis has presented Higher Education in Louisiana. "We've been fortunate," Feduccia says simply. At the same time, however, as in other departments, Career Services has not been able to hire any new staff, a situation which has made meeting the needs of an entire campus difficult.

"We know faculty are our greatest allies."

Like many of the administrators who have spent any amount of time traversing the LSU's stately campus Feduccia has been doing so for fourteen years, first as Associate Director before being appointed to her current position in 2000 Feduccia has developed a strong connection to the university community. A mother of three, Feduccia has watched each of her children graduate from LSU. Afterwards, Feduccia decided to pursue her PhD in Vocational Education as an 'empty nest' project. Feduccia attributes much of her ability to perform her job to the training she received here: "Almost everything I read and wrote is related to the work I do at Career Services," she observes.

Feduccia's connection to LSU as an environment that fosters learning and professionalism comes through in the way she speaks about her staff, the faculty that Career Services has partnered with, and above all, its students: "Students are at such a wonderful time in their lives," she comments, "the decisions they make will impact the rest of their lives."

IT Matters

By Brian Voss, Vice-president and Chief Information Officer, The University of Maryland

Kevin Cope—that maven of newsletters and president of the Faculty Senate—asked me not long ago if I might take up writing a running column for this publication. And I thought the title "IT Matters" would be a good one—multiple meanings and all. Sadly, this first column shall also be my last as I am departing the Gulf for the Eastern Seaboard. So Kevin and I discussed this being a farewell of sorts. Now I didn't tell Kevin whether I would be making a Shakespearean farewell (partings, such sweet sorrow, etc.) or a Melvillian one (last breaths, stabbing, spitting, etc.); but I have no such negative thoughts to convey! So it shall be Shakespearean.

As I leave LSU for a similar position at the University of Maryland, I carry with me the benefit of the experiences and education I received here—much of it from the faculty. I learned early on in my career that there is not only self-preservation wisdom in getting along well with faculty (as one should expect when one works in a university setting), but it is 'meet and right so to do' (courtesy of the Sursum Corda). The real value being what you can learn from the faculty. Which should be obvious—it's a university and they're the faculty for Pete's sake! I have learned so very much from working with LSU's fine faculty. And with its cohort of deans (who are, of course, faculty as well) and administrators.

I carry with me the experience of working with an enormously talented and dedicated staff of IT professionals in ITS. This is my business—my discipline—and I know my way around the national scene of IT organizations and staffs in major, flagship, research universities. I came from what most consider to be the 'Taj Mahal' of IT operations and organizations, Indiana University (though some of you are tired of hearing me say that!); and let me tell you all this in parting: **The folks at LSU-ITS are at the very top of their profession.** With deference to the OIT staff I have not yet met at UMD, and to those I still know and love at IU—I wouldn't trade the LSU ITS folks, top to bottom, for any other group in the nation. It's a great team. I was fortunate enough to be able to conduct that 'orchestra' and you all should feel confident that you're in the best of hands. (to be continued on page 3)

Growing LA Collective Bargaining Movement Garner Support from NAE Headquarters

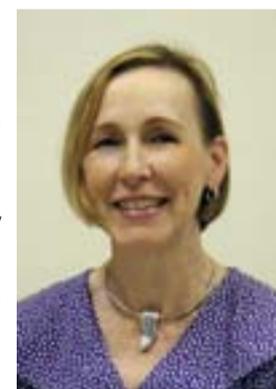
Administrations statewide may be alleging that collective bargaining seldom helps faculty members, but skepticism about this claim (and recognition that administrations can hardly claim huge success when it comes to delivering raises) is evidencing itself through that most reliable of metrics, the attendance slip box. An embassy from LSUnited and the Louisiana Association of Educators appeared to significant crowds this month at three institutions: LSU in Shreveport, the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center in Shreveport; and Southern University. The accelerating growth of the collective bargaining movement has turned heads at the headquarters of the National Association of Education, which has deputed veteran higher education organizer Tony Massar to support publicity about bargaining options in Louisiana. In an off-the-cuff (or, perhaps, cuffs-rolled-up) interview, the energetic Massar told the *Newsletter* that an additional set of plenipotentiaries from the tough-as-nails east coast may be expected.

AAUP to Mount Investigation of University of Louisiana Firings

University of Louisiana President Randay Moffett is once again a member of the Bad News Bears owing to a decision by the American Association of University Professors (AAUP) to investigate the termination of tenured faculty members at Northwestern State University and Southeastern Louisiana University. With his usual aptitude for maze-like sentences and mixed metaphors, Moffett scolded the AAUP for ignoring the "fiscal reality of having to cope with the serious budgetary constraints that the UL System institutions face and the educational reality of having to maximize the use of scarce resources to best meet our students needs." With all these "realities" in one sentence, one must wonder why this most realistic of presidents has forgotten that professors start their careers as students and continue to have needs (or would it be "the reality of having needs" in Moffettese?).

LSUS Archive Whiz Laura McLemore Compiles Higher ED Policy Contradiction List

Readers statewide are painfully aware of the contradictory imperatives under which higher education professionals must operate. The trite if catchy imperative to "do more with less" that routinely falls from the lips of a governor who does more out of state and is less in office is only the tip of the iceberg among the numer-



ous paradoxes that confront those trying to do a decent job in the honorable profession of learning. Now, ace archivist Laura McLemore, who presides over the underappreciated archive collection at LSU in Shreveport (which is rich in rare resources regarding northern Louisiana), has developed a handy list of the contradictions in the public discourse about higher education policy. The list, which may be viewed online via the [LSU Faculty Senate web site](#), makes for a good guide when chatting with the media as well as a reliable navigation aid when trying to negotiate the labyrinth of recommendations that surrounds educators.

IT Matters (continued)

Nietzsche said: That which does not kill us makes us stronger. As my adoptive Irish father might say—Sure and begorra, 'tis a grand attempt they made at killin' ye Lad! Hurricanes, oil spills, swollen flood-threatening Old Man River...I recently told someone I feel like I'm living in ancient Egypt. Whoever it is Louisiana is holding in bondage, can we please let them go? I'm expecting fiery hail and plagues of frogs any moment (not to mention checking daily on my daughter in Chicagoland, my first born). But aside from environmental challenges, there's the rest of it. I was struck from the beginning about a quote I read in Harnett T. Kane's book "Huey Long's Louisiana Hayride: The American Rehearsal for Dictatorship 1928-1940"...a vignette that always stuck with me. Long was told that there were some issues over on the LSU campus—the faculty "acting up and getting out of line" so to speak. His retort? Something to the effect that: "I will run them like any other damn department of this State!" Nearly 80 years later, we still have that here. So with everything ... environmental, political, bureaucratic, etc...I am much stronger than when I arrived, having not been killed off! I am ready for the challenges of living and working in the DC Metro area!

Regarding the future of IT at LSU, I can only say that I believe—beyond my comments above about the fine hands on the wheel—that **it will be what the faculty of LSU make it to be**. Because what we have now—much of which many of you bestow credit onto me for creating—is really the result of your work. The Flagship IT Strategy, created in 2005 and published in 2006, is without a doubt one of the finest such strategic IT plans ever crafted; and the hands of the faculty were the ones doing the crafting. I'm fond of telling the story that my first 'faculty meet & greet' was attended by two faculty—Neal Stoltzfus, who was my host during the visit and one other faculty member (whose name you'd think I'd recall due to lack of competition for memory space, but alas... aging intervenes)—and food was served, even! But we managed to encourage a large number of you to be involved in the process of developing the FITS, and the FITS is why we have the IT environment in place today. FITS 2011 was just recently published and it should provide the blueprint for the next few years forward under the vigilance of quality IT Governance put into place by the Faculty Senate. So pretty please—with sugar on top—**stay involved with IT going forward**. All of what has been accomplished, and all that yet can be accomplished, will be lost if you do not. LSU's administration has so many challenges to address, and the relative state of plenty in IT may mean they focus their attention elsewhere, where it is most needed; **you** will need to be the voice reminding them about continuing forward in IT.

Your past efforts and administration's support ensures that many projects are in queue, paid for, and advancing. The long-awaited enhancement to Frey's Data Center is underway—A \$3.5-million investment to provide the kind of power and cooling needed to house the University's growing needs for centralized servers and high performance computing resources. LSU faculty and staff will be moving to a new email system in the Fall—which will look and feel exactly like what you're using today, only have 25-times the storage space and be 'Cloud' computing-based—which means it will be FREE. The NSF-funded network enhancement (~\$2-million) will be completed this year supporting the advance of research, as will additional life-cycle enhancements to the data network to make it more robust, more powerful, and more reliable for all of its uses. Moodle will get a new version (2.0) this Fall as well, making it even more valuable to faculty and students alike. A new 'main workhorse' HPC asset (supercomputer) will be acquired and installed, likely 4-6 times more powerful than Tezpur, thanks to the new partnership between ITS (OVCIT) and CCT (OVCREG); and a new service model will mean those who use it will get even better support in getting value from that investment. And significant progress will advance at charting the future for LSU's backbone information systems (financial, HR, and student) so that LSU can move off modified 1980s technologies and take advantage of all the developments in technology and 'Cloud' services in this arena that are emerging now. It will be an exciting year—I am not sure I'll be missed.

But I will miss you. I am of course excited about taking up the reins at UMD! Excited to meet and work with a whole new set of faculty, colleagues, deans, administrators, and students. Excited to discover a new set of 'hidden gems' and outright crown-jewels in the staff of UMD's OIT organization. And as a Hoosier boy born-and-raised, I will be happy to get back to basketball country (no offense ... I know all about Pistol Pete and Shaq!); my only complaint will be that there are all the images of UMD's 2002 national championship hanging about Comcast Arena, won at the expense of my Hoosiers!

As I said ... this is a Shakespearean farewell. So let me end with something from The Bard – 'Julius Caesar' Scene I., The Plains of Philippi, in the conversation between Brutus and Cassius:

And whether we shall meet again I know not.

Therefore our everlasting farewell take:

Forever, and forever, farewell!

If we do meet again, why, we shall smile;

If not, why then, this parting was well made.

The rest is, as Hamlet said, silence. See you around the campus(es),

UL System Board Bills System as Party of Eight. LaTech Not Invited?

Always eager to get ahead of the game but perhaps not always fully aware of the number of squares on the Board, the University of Louisiana System has published the advertisement of its search for the new president of the University of New Orleans—a search in which, in the true spirit of democracy and diversity, nine of the eleven voting search committee members belongs to the University of Louisiana Board of Supervisors and one of the purportedly non-voting members is University of Louisiana System President Randy Moffett. Published advertisements for the search include a logo reading "University of Louisiana System / Eight Universities Strong." Unless the UL management board has already written off LaTech, the University of Louisiana System, with the addition of UNO, includes nine universities. Perhaps the guerilla-style logo, which looks like an import duty stamp on a crate of bananas, has been recycled from some earlier chapter in the strange story of the University of Louisiana.



ITS Building 'Moodle Light' Option at Prompting of Faculty Senate

LSU A&M faculty have heard the calls from retention experts to begin using the Moodle gradebook in the hope that, sooner or later, student success may be increased by judicious monitoring of student grades and the occasional student under-performance that can happen even in a Flagship campus (it being well-known that any ship, no matter how glorious or heavily armed or insulated, will provide a habitat for a few rats). Trouble is, the Moodle gradebook, a hopeless morass of jargon and complications, remains all but unusable for the majority of human beings who fall short of the designation of frustrated eccentric chess champion. At the urging of a special delegation from the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, Moodle preceptress Melody Childs and her A-Team (one would not expect a DFW team among the retention gang!) have made admirable progress toward the development of a "Moodle Light" or "Gradebook for Dummies" that will rival the old Semester Book for ease and simplicity of use. The prototype has already been unveiled to the aforementioned FSEC delegation, which has submitted a series of recommendation prior to a second unveiling for general comment. Stand by for more!

Retention Committee Releases Final Report

LSU retention expert Sandra McGuire has delivered the final report of the Retention Committee, a report that should be of interest to all faculty at least insofar as the economic incentives associated with success in retention and graduation will likely affect all professional employees. The report includes a very long list of retention strategies that would be of value to almost any university—although, as all compilers of laundry lists recognize, some loads need doing faster than others lest the stains sets (a need all the more urgent because, as grocery-list compilers know, some items at the top of the list grow stale while the last items are being gathered). Also of interest are the price tags associated with the various initiatives and adjustments. Sandra McGuire will deliver a "live" version of her report at the December LSU Faculty Senate meeting, which, like all Faculty Senate events, is open to the general university community, including those from other campuses who might like to pick up a few retention pointers. Meanwhile, the report may be viewed online, in the [LSU Faculty Senate text and report archive](#).

LSU Lags in Advanced Degree Enrollment Figures

Those who hope that the LSU Board of Supervisors might take a stronger stance in favor of advanced study and fundamental research were vindicated by the latest enrollment figures, which show that LSU remains far behind the new target of 6,400 seekers of advanced degrees. The good news is that the documents relating to the reform of the Graduate School call for an outreach-oriented Dean who will educate the Louisiana population about the value of the highest reaches of higher education; the bad news is that enforcement of that agenda remains somewhere on LSU's ever-growing bucket list. Meanwhile, controversy continues to flare over whether the applications for admission reaching LSU are rising or falling in number. On the plus side, the redoubtable Kurt Keppler continues to meet and exceed target goals; on the minus side is the System-detected slippage on a variety of recruitment matrices that lie beyond the industrious Keppler's control; on the strange, mixed-blessing side is the odd fact that applications from minority groups are increasing, in part owing to the lamentable loss of market share by "HBCU"s (historically black colleges and universities) such as economically ailing Southern University.

Graduate School Council's Plans and Initiatives

By Wendy Braun, President of Graduate Student Council

The Graduate School Council (GSC), a branch of Student Government, has planned several initiatives to address challenges experienced by graduate students while improving overall quality of education within LSU's numerous graduate programs.

To identify key issues, the GSC solicited questionnaire responses at a mixer held in early October that was attended by nearly 300 graduate students. This input assisted the GSC in prioritizing the most critical needs of the graduate student body:

- **Reevaluate the roles of the GSC and the Graduate Student Association.** We are examining the reasoning behind having two entities with the same function, especially when the GSA is inactive. We are researching the ways these organizations are established at our peer institutes, and are brainstorming ways to combine these groups into one entity in the most beneficial ways. This consolidation of group strengths and resources is crucial to the success of our initiatives.
- **Increasing Teaching Stipends that are below the Louisiana living wage.** Several graduate programs have not increased their stipends in response to the state living wage and inflation. The current living wage for a single childless adult is at about \$16,250. Some GTAs make $\frac{3}{4}$ of this, forcing many to seek second jobs, take out extensive loans, and creating additional emotional and financial burdens in an already stressful program.
- **Tuition waivers that include student fees; or student fees that are proportional to stipends.** Following concerns about unfair wages, many graduate students are unhappy that student fees (about \$2,000 every academic year) are not included in the tuition waiver. For those already making very little, this additional cost is not only burdensome, and must be paid out-of-pocket creating further financial strain. The GSC is considering various methods of easing this strain for those making below the living wage, including students fees that are proportionally to stipends.
- **More transparency in academic process.** No officer of the GSC was asked to join the search committee for the new Graduate School Dean, and when we requested to participate in the most minor capacity, our inquiries were met with deflection and open hostility. Procedures for forming the search committee were vague at best, and as elected representatives of the graduate student body, we would like more transparency in processes that directly affect our educational experience.
- **Foster a sense of community among graduate students.** At the mixer, students eagerly expressed a desire to see more social events that created a sense of community among graduate students. A majority of attendees pointed out that this event was the first time they had met so many graduate students from other programs and that the event was a useful networking and social tool.

Initially we were overwhelmed by the bureaucratic processes involved in researching and implementing these initiatives, but we would like to thank our Faculty Advisor (Dr. Dan Novak), the Faculty Senate President (Dr. Kevin Cope), and the Director of Graduate Student Academic Services Center (Clovier Torry) for their collaboration. For more information about our plans for the academic year, feel free to contact us.

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Faculty Senate to Revise Executive Search Committee Procedures

When the English poet William Blake described the ruling class as "blind and age bent" and otherwise stumbling into reclusion, he perhaps foresaw that rush of retirements and other egresses that will hit LSU in both the present and coming years. Presently, there are no less than five executive searches running at the Flagship campus: Chief Information Officer; Office of Research and Development; Provost; Dean of the Graduate School; and Dean of the College of Art and Design. As these committees have appeared, the LSU Faculty Senate has noted, the procedures for assembling the selection committees have become increasingly improvisational and unpredictable. Sometimes this leads inadvertently to good results, as the composure of the Art and Design search, with its able leadership and heavy faculty presence, clearly demonstrates; sometimes this leads to questionable results, as in the somewhat bewildering, ex nihilo amalgamation of the search committee for the Dean of the Graduate School shows; but always the wild west approach to committee formation leaves heads spinning as the bullets fly. For example, the Art and Design search came to the attention of most faculty members via the advertisement in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, an advertisement that, contrary to usual precedent, made no mention of any contact person for the search, as if the Wizard of Oz were reluctant to reveal who might be pulling the levers or, more likely, hesitant to reveal that the runaway levers were as much in control as the puller). In an effort to prevent the troubles that inevitably emerge from excess extemporaneousness, the Faculty Senate will be developing a new revision of PS-1, which governs many aspects of executive appointments but which remains vague with regard to search procedures.

Short's Flap Lands LSU Faculty Member Far off Course



Queratero, Mexico

The seemingly endless saga of the official state travel agency continues with a new chapter featuring LSU agriculturalist Philip Stouffer, who recently arrived at what he thought would be his Short's-selected hotel in Cancun, Mexico, only to find that the hotel into which he had been booked was 800 miles away. It seems that the often bewildering and highly abbreviated information contained in the capsule hotel descriptions on the Short's Travel web site can be more than a little misleading and may even reference the corporate headquarters of a hotel chain rather than the physical location of the hotel. In the case of colleague Stouffer's mishap, the physical address of the hotel mentioned Queratero, Mexico but also indicated

that Queratero is within five miles of the Cancun airport when, in fact, it is deep in the interior of continental Mexico. When Dr. Stouffer pursued his case with Short's travel, a Short's representative issued a breathtakingly impudent letter in which Dr. Stouffer was accused of inadequate diligence for not researching the actual rather than the announced location of the hotel. Dr. Stouffer was also chided for not calling Short's Travel to check on the accuracy of the Short's web site. Dr. Stouffer's experience matches up with a less serious experience from another colleague (name withheld) who, baffled by the abbreviations on the Short's web site, came very near to booking himself into a hotel at a rate reserved for a Harley-Davidson motorcycle enthusiasts' convention. Surely that colleague should have called Short's Travel to ascertain whether packing leather apparel would be a prerequisite for completing that itinerary.

LSU System Launches Sleek New Web Site

Readers of the *Newsletter* remember the groundbreaking survey of the ten worst web sites within the LSU domain. Fortunately, many of those sites have undergone spa-quality rejuvenation and are scheduled for a reprise examination and possible upgrade in a forthcoming issue of this publication. Staff critics at the *Newsletter* were delighted to see that the noble quest for improved web presence has charged forward at the LSU System office, where Joe Hischer, inveterate production manager of the LSU Media Sweep and a one-man perpetual compressed video link, has unveiled a sleek new web site full of dazzling features. Opening with a rotating display of the signature sites on each of the LSU campuses (including the astounding Victorian clock tower that serves as a virtual polar axis for the LSU in Eunice campus), the System web site achieves a level of dazzle and of interactivity that continues to elude the individual campuses. Among the hottest features on the System web site is a simulated wall calendar on the Supervisors' agendas and minutes pages that accesses and activates documents pertinent of the events of each day. We do wish that the System were not so ardent in its love for equilibrium among its competing campuses as to image that neutrality in a tapenade color scheme (olive, eggplant, caper, assorted vegetal browns), but, then again, the long-lived regimes are those that stick to the Mediterranean diet.

August Agenda Minutes	August Agenda Minutes
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Higher ED Governance Commission De-Super-Izes Board

Faith in free debate has been restored by the actions of the low-key Louisiana Higher Education Governance Commission, the latest effort in the Jindal administration's drive to consolidate control of the universities in one imperium or "superboard." During their October meeting, commission members handed the governor a sweetly sour surprise, cautioning that wholesale changes in the structure of higher education would accomplish little and that far greater yield would come from refining and clarifying the mission statements of the extant structure. Perhaps the anticipated departure of Jim Tucker from capitol sort-of-hill subsequent to the failure of his election bid has given the commissioners courage. The commission members deserve applause for their recognition that institutions and their systems have identities and traditions that add value to education.

Faculty Senate Executive Committee Abstains on Electronic Device Requirement in PS-29

LSU's Student Government Association recently passed a resolution calling for a double negation: a ban on bans of technology in the classroom. Convinced by dubious research concerning "learning styles," student legislators sought to require faculty to allow electronic devices in all classrooms. After careful review, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee has decided to take no action on the measure. The new "PS" statement, PS-29, makes it clear that classroom decorum is the prerogative of the instructor. Although the FSEC sympathizes with students' desires for an optimal learning environment, it also affirms that a variety of classroom experience and teaching styles enriches the college experience.

HRM Matters

By A.G. Monaco

As the Faculty Senate and members of the administration continue to mount challenges to the strange funding process of TRSL's Optional Retirement Plan some personal effort is called for as well. Despite the lack of general pay increases being distributed on campus it is still important for all of us to consider alternative ways to increase savings toward retirement. Now before you roll this document into a weapon and come looking for me, I recognize that at times there is not much left over at the end of the month. But tough times do call for creative problem solving.

Kevin Cope and I have engaged in conversations with several of the campus representatives of our 403b representatives and most have agreed to work with us to provide both programming and improved personal counseling to LSU campus employees. For those of you who are already experts you most likely already know what needs to be done, but for those of us in the remaining "99%" we might find it useful to garner more information about ways to reduce our tax burden while increasing our savings.

In the Spring Semester we hope to be able to bring a number of folks to campus to provide information for retirement planning to the faculty. These folks will offer retirement investment information (without a sales pitch) in an effort to help the community's body of investment knowledge to grow.

In a similar vein HRM continues to work with Professor Cope and others to try and increase the quality of service provided by vendors to those folks who already have a 403b account as well as those folks who are participants in the ORP. We recognize that TRSL's obvious neglect of ORP members is often mimicked by vendor representatives and we are attempting to take our complaints directly to the investment companies in the hope of improving both accessibility and customer service.

All of us have until November 4 to review our present benefit selections and make those changes that are possible. Few changes have taken place among our benefit offerings for next year although an unfortunate increase in health insurance premiums will occur. Comparatively this increase is well below what we are seeing across the country but I will be the first to admit that any increase still "stings". If you have any concerns or questions about your benefits please contact Human Resources Management and discuss the matter with a staff member.

Finally, HRM remains committed to working with the Faculty Senate to address any faculty concerns and we invite calls, visits, or even angry inquiries.

Core 4 Requirements Generating Blowback

Last year, admittedly with the express or sometimes tacit approval of faculty senates statewide, the Board of Regents established a new set of requirements for admission as an undergraduate student to Louisiana's various campuses. Commonly known as the "Core 4" requirements, the new criteria reasonably enough prescribe differing levels of measurable accomplishment as requisites for entry into junior, local, regional, statewide, and Flagship-level campuses. Like so many well-intended efforts to create an equitable policy that binds an entire and very diverse state, this new policy is beginning to generate blowback from several quarters. For one, faculty statewide are unnerved about the dissolution of the physics requirement into a somewhat less specific expectation for four science courses. Colleagues wonder whether this represents a decline in rigor and a reduction in preparedness—although, in past years, students from outside the state were not required to meet this requirement (everyone knows that physics is irrelevant in Arkansas and Texas, where the law of nature has been repealed). Other officials have been worried by the fine arts requirement, with registrars around the state being pummeled with requests for exceptions, the total of which is capped. Apparently the fine arts curriculum is at a low ebb in Louisiana high schools. Which is no surprise, the study of fine arts being the dividing line between education as workforce development and education as the development of an enlightened citizenry, or, in a word, between civilization and barbarity.

Students Storm Faculty Brown Bag Venue, Express Concerns About Swine Farm Closure

LSU Faculty Senate officers were surprised when a crowd of fifty or more surly students turned up at the first, trial "Faculty Senate Brown Bag Luncheon," the purpose of which was to obtain input from faculty members regarding issues warranting further investigation. It seems that some well-meaning soul started a rumor that the luncheon would address the expected closure of the swine farm, the source of animals used in the swine education program. Pulled from their pork rather than feasting on pulled pork, the flash mob of students peppered LSU Faculty Senate officers with questions for nearly sixty minutes before recognizing that the swine farm belonged in the budget not of the LSU A&M campus, but, rather, the LSU Ag-Center. In an effort at a kind of BBQ aftercare, the Faculty Senate arranged for a small delegation of LSU students to parlay with the LSU Provost, who welcomed their proposal to investigate the possibility of a special fee to support the educational operations of a downsized swine breeding operation—a lower-priced "Pork Place" adjacent to the former peccary Boardwalk.



Rau Delivers Final Museum Task Force Report to Faculty Senate

A. R. P. "Ravi" Rau, Chair of the LSU Faculty Senate Museum and Performance Task Force, filed the final report from his committee at the October 3rd LSU Faculty Senate meeting. Surveying the vast and often under-appreciated museum resources, Rau affirmed that LSU holds world-class collections in several scientific disciplines and that a unified approach to LSU's museum outreach is needed. Drawing on extant campus surveys, Rau's team identified three sites for the joint museum, affirmed the need for more collaboration among curators, and developed a budget for the museum project. The written report appears in the LSU Faculty Senate web page in the "Text and Report Archive", where it is currently the second link in the menu, while the related PowerPoint presentation may be viewed in its full splendor via the "Multimedia Archive" page.

SGA and Faculty Senate Partner with Student Life to Update Code of Student Conduct

In 1978, one of the *Newsletter* staffers saw the newly elected Pope John Paul II during his tour in Boston. The then-young pontiff advised the crowd to "do good and avoid evil." While that is certainly useful advice, it may lack texture. So it is that codes of student conduct around the country tend toward abstraction and idealism but do little to address the fundamental issue of building an intellectual community, a task that continues to challenge campuses of every size, shape, and description, including those in Louisiana. For this reason, the Faculty Senate and the Student Government Association are now partnering with Student Life as well as with the Student Advocacy bureau to update the Code of Student Conduct. The update will address such issues as the responsibilities of an educated person, the attributes of a community of learners, and the importance of persistence and (in the lingo of the LAGRAD act) "retention."

Miles Appearance on Stage with Governor-Elect Jindal Raises Outcry

Louisiana civil service employees are forbidden by law to engage in statewide political activism while other state laborers, including academic professionals, are routinely cautioned about the dangers of engaging in partisan politics without making clear and careful distinctions between speaking out as a private person and acting as a representative of a university or other public agency. The many highly educated employees who have experienced such pressures stood aghast as one of Louisiana's most visible and highly paid servants, LSU football coach Les Miles, stood on the platform and exchanged congratulations on winning seasons with governor-elect Bobby Jindal, an event that blazed throughout the media. Miles, whose base pay of \$3,750,000.00 provides him with \$10,273.92 every day of his life (or \$428.0 per hour round-the-clock, or \$7.13 per minute, or eleven cents per minute—holy March of Dimes!), walked away penalty-free from an endorsement action that would have drawn severe penalties or even court action to a lowly state worker making less than one of Miles's long-weekend emoluments. Faculty everywhere cannot help to be grieved to see the high-ticket LSU sports "brand" being applied without thought to a governor whose burning ambitions have led to so much misery and anxiety for hard-working employees.

Former CIO Voss Elected to EDUCAUSE Board

In another case study of the big one that got away, former LSU Chief Information Officer and now University of Maryland Vice-President and CIO Brian Voss has won election to the EDUCAUSE Board of Directors. A national organization and convention organizer for campus information officers, EDUCAUSE promotes the wise use of technology in higher education and provides a venue for the national discussion of computers in the learning and researching environment. Voss's election shows the high esteem in which one of LSU's greatest administrative success stories is held by his colleagues and by the league of information experts. Congratulations to Brian, who, we hope, will install a large south-oriented mirror atop his new headquarters by way of reflecting his hard-earned glory to Louisiana's struggling campuses.



ALFS: A Future

By James Robinson, President of the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates

The recent news of 2 year old Chinese girl, Yueyue, hit three times by two vans and ignored by 18 passers-by traveled from the digital media with more than a million hits to world news broadcasting. This phenomenon of bystander apathy is nothing new. Catherin Susan "Kitty" Genovese was stabbed to death with at least thirty onlookers over a period of thirty minutes at her apartment complex in the Kew Gardens section of Queens, New York. This prompted Latane and Rodin (1969) to assess what it would take for individuals to assist. As we know from this and other research, the more individuals present the less likely positive action occurs. Latane found only 7% of individuals in the "ignoring accomplice mode" of their experiment attempted intervention.

Faculty Senate chairs becomes well aware of bystander apathy when various issues that come before them critically affect the lives of an individual, and that are likely to have an impact on many others in the future. It is difficult to get 7% of the Faculty Council to attend and show visible support when such issues are publicized to be brought up at senate meetings. It is this 7% that we wish to energize with the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates (ALFS).

One of the keys to good management is transparency. In some instances, this exposure comes through the insistence of whistle blowers. These individuals have qualities that make them not only unique, but rare—(7% ?). They often must dismiss the fear of losing their job and must be willing to take on individuals who may play a major role in their career advancement.

ALFS provides the sounding board that brings to light both the excellent and the deficient policies and actions that help and hurt campuses. Bystander apathy is not new. Information dispersion on the scale enjoyed today is new.

The first goal of ALFS is to disseminate information critical to faculty throughout the state as rapidly as possible. This goal is partially fulfilled with the website at <http://www.alfs.us> and Faculty Senate Email lists. The second goal, the discussion of faculty issues by ALFS members, can potentially provide solutions experienced on other campuses. This has been an ongoing function of the ALFS meetings. The third goal, visibility; the very presence of the organization may serve to encourage administration to more realistically serve the needs of their campus by fairly addressing the needs of the faculty.

Administration and faculty have a common goal, to provide for the good of the students and university. One should not attribute to malice what can be attributed to stupidity. All are guilty of this fault to varying degrees. Unfortunately, when it occurs in administration, it may have some major repercussions. We as faculty can help mitigate the problems by approaching administrations with ideas proven successful on other campuses.

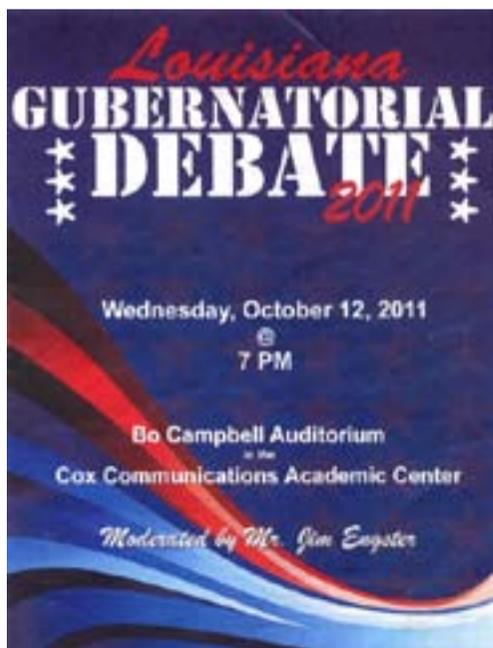
This is the organization as it now stands. It will evolve into something more dynamic as new ideas, new technology, and new faculty bring in their visions and insights.

Looking forward to serving you.

Regents Seek to Redefine Low Completer Programs Based on 'Work Force' Needs

Pinched by LAGRAD act requirements, the Regents are again opening what sounds like a chiropractic office. The latest scheme calls for a panel of savants from the four higher education systems to evaluate the "alignment" of curricula with workforce development needs. Said "Workforce and Economic Development Workgroup" (which, despite the hammering reiteration of "work," has yet to punch the clock) has been charged with exploring an untoward synonymy by describing "the institution's current review processes to identify academic programs that have low student completer rates or are not aligned with current or strategic workforce needs." Faculty will be rightly alarmed to find that low completion programs now apparently belong in the same category with industrial inefficiency and should also begin to wonder what will be done once the offending areas of study are "identified." One wonders what the fate of an honorable field like Art History—the jewel of every academy—will be under this new mandate. The panelists must also prove to the Regents that institutions are initiating "new programs that meet current or strategic future workforce needs." It will be interesting indeed to discover whether the Flagship Coalition will use its influence to stem the industrialization of the curriculum or whether we will see new curricula in areas pertinent to the companies owned by those gentlemen (and ladies?).

Faculty-Sponsored Debate Heats Up Airwaves, Cyberspace



October 12th marked the beginning of a new era in university engagement when an unprecedented consortium of faculty groups banded together to sponsor the only multi-candidate debate of the gubernatorial election season. Perhaps the most widely-publicized stealth operation of all time, an open forum that promised to attract only thoroughly neutered underdogs ended up being the hottest game not only in town, but across the multimedia spectrum. Featuring noted talk-show host and commentator Jim Engster, the debate, which drew nearly 200 observers, sizzled across statewide radio, the internet, and a formidable segment of the Louisiana blogisphere. Perhaps most heartening about this affirmation of the value of vigorous debate was the high degree of cooperation among diverse faculty organizations, including the LSU Faculty Senate, the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senate, LSUnited, the Louisiana Association of Educators, the American Association of University Women, the AAUP, the Southern University Faculty Senate, and the new Louisiana Statewide Colleagues Collaborative. Along with its natal affiliate, the Louisiana Association of Educators, LSUnited emerged from the debate as a new and recognized player in the higher education game, able to mobilize to organize men, women, and media in a way seldom seen in the sleepy carrels of academe.

2002 Firing of LSU Professor During Anthrax Scare Once Again Making Headlines

Ever wonder why faculty governance officials statewide are so hung up about procedures? LSU is once again in the news for its rash and chaotic action way back in 2002, when, during the anthrax scare, it peremptorily dismissed Dr. Steven Hatfill from his research post at the National Center of Biomedical Research and Training, thereby joining in on a witch-hunt sponsored by the FBI and other top-level constabularies. New research by current LSU colleague and Faculty Senate committee member Martin Hugh-Jones is once again bringing into focus the rash character of that action, which, as all old-timers will remember, was carried out by the then-serving Director of Affirmative Action, who demonstrated his commitment to inclusiveness not by burying, but by dropping the hatchet.

SEC Achieves Middling Grade in Performance Ranking

The indefatigable John Lombardi, the stellar metrics man at the very center of the renowned Center for Measuring University Performance, has, along with his statistics-loving sidekicks, released the latest performance ranking for the seven leagues participating in the BCS system. Lombardi, who is clever enough to realize that trained academicians are better able to evaluate higher education institutions than are reporters at major semi-pop magazines (one can well imagine a logo T-shirt to be vended at LSU: "Proud to be ranked 124th by a poll among cub reporters"), includes in his composite rankings an assortment of reasonable criteria ranging from federal research support to admission standards for students. In this admittedly somewhat abstract but revealing ranking, our good old Southeastern Conference (SEC) comes out in the good old happy medium range, in the spot-on middle number-four post (and, as everyone who loves the ponies knows, the fourth place won't pay at the window but will draw at least a share of the purse). At least our troubled region beat Baylor!

Jindal Responds to Faculty-Sponsored Debate with Smear Campaign

Never reluctant to attempt a low blow even when a clean punch is an option, perpetually absent governor Bobby Jindal was sufficiently unnerved by the faculty-sponsored candidates' debate to send a camera crew and propaganda team to the gubernatorial candidates' debate. The result of the reconnaissance mission was an [attack ad video](#) that attempted to portray the candidates as either eccentrics or taxation enthusiasts. The curious result of this espionage effort is a tape that highlights the diverse and inventive ideas that those free-thinking candidates put forth, whether the extracting of revenue from oil transport and processing or the revising of teacher assessment programs or even the drug-testing of legislators (why, we must wonder, is the governor so reluctant to enter a urinal when he is all in favor of sending everyone from college athletes to poor state workers into the rest area?). Remarkably, the video that was intended to backstab well-meaning Louisiana citizens has rendered them examples of clear thinking in troubled times.

Publication Schedule for Holiday Edition of the Newsletter

Per our usual practice, the staff of the *Faculty Senate Monthly Newsletter* will release its holiday-season issue during the second week in December (rather than on November 30th). That Yuletide issue will carry readers through until the resumption of the regular end-of-month publication schedule on January 21st in 2012, the year of the long-forgotten harmonic convergence!

Backhoe Blunder Costs Southern University One-Quarter Mil

The October Southern University System Board of Supervisors meeting included a breathtaking account of a costly backhoe blunder. Proceeding with a construction project without having sought the customary marking of underground pipes and cables, a heavy excavating device plowed headlong through a buried gas main. Months of negotiation followed, with the contractor seeking additional compensation and damages for the costs and delays. When a member of the Southern Board of Supervisors asked whether the facilities department had considered purchasing equipment to detect buried hazards, the resident expert retorted that such devices might cost a million dollars or more; to that claim, the aforementioned supervisor recommended a beachcomber-style metal detector and, as a last resort, the method used by his parents, to wit, a divining rod (“two sticks that dipped when they found something”). Unfortunately, the economy solution—a good old birch fork in the hand of a diviner—came along a little too late as Southern settled the contractor’s claim for no less than \$269,000.00, fully 16% of the \$1,700,000.00 that Southern needs to avoid financial exigency. Add that to the \$1,200,000.00 extra subsidy to Southern Athletics and the Southern budget would be solvent.

Pilot Procurement Program Wows LSU Faculty Senate

At the October 3rd LSU Faculty Senate meeting, purchasing and procurement wizards Marie Frank and James Frazier unveiled the new purchasing system enabled by the LAGRAD Act liberties. Now that LSU has qualified for the first set of LAGRAD Act autonomies, it is free to develop a purchasing system granting greater flexibility to users. The two aforementioned purchasing potentates have created a splendid new system in which an expanding array of merchants and their offerings may be accessed through a single portal which will also display LSU buyer discounts, bypass sales tax levies, and allow for quick and convenient delivery. The new system approaches those of private online merchants in its ease, user-friendliness, and all-around excellence. James’s and Marie’s presentation may be reviewed online via the “[Multimedia Archive](#)” of the Faculty Senate web site, where it is currently accessible via the first link in the menu. Congratulations to James and Marie for this dazzling achievement.

LSUHSC-New Orleans Retires CFO; Rehires as Contractor

While promising young people and ambitious mid-career academic statespersons continue to cry out for opportunity, the LSU Health Sciences Center in New Orleans has deepened its investment in the past. Reliable but anonymous sources in the New Orleanian health kingdom report that LSUHSC’s Chief Financial Officer has been allowed to retire, collect the 100% retirement pay for which he is eligible, and then return to work as a rehire at a salary reportedly equivalent to 90% of his original emolument. This, while other retired faculty members, out of the goodness of their hearts and their love of the Crescent City, have been teaching for free at the dental school. The justification for turning away from the cultivation of young administrative talent is the continuing negotiations with FEMA, which are apparently so complicated that only one person on the planet can conduct them (which opens questions as to what the LSUHSC-NO Chancellor plans to do should the well-paid CFO do a twenty-three skidoo). It is also remarkable that the political disease of double-dipping, which brought down a female commissioner in this state, has no apparent effect on an old-timer vaccinated by masculinity.

McNeese State President Takes Higher Ed Commissioner on Tour, Avoids Faculty

Past issues of the *Newsletter* have reported on the rising visibility of higher education in southwest Louisiana, a new prominence in large measure attributable to faculty activism. In an overdue enhancement of vision, Calcasieu Parish once again entered the radar screen in that academic near-equivalent of the Pentagon, the Regents’ office, as Commissioner of Higher Education Jim Purcell took his “listening tour” and road show to a venue in downtown Lake Charles, not-so-narrowly avoiding the McNeese campus and its querying faculty. Observers in-place indicate that McNeese President Philip Williams avoided a faculty karaoke session by managing the microphone so as to keep the Commissioner’s ear safe from dissonant tones. Better, Williams conducted a post-event ghost-town tour, squiring the Commissioner around the Rita- and Ike-battered McNeese campus without contacting any faculty members. Viewers of horror films know that one can never be too careful about bumping into zombies in tree-covered plazas, advice that the McNeese managers have apparently taken to heart.



LIFESTYLE FEATURE: THE TEN MOST TEDIOUS HOLDOVERS

One of the problems that Louisiana faces is that the combination of university improvement, economic diversification, and immigration from good old “new blood” has outpaced the rate of change in plain old habit. The people of Louisiana’s wonderful university towns—whether the meat-pie munching denizens of Natchitoches (home of Northwestern) or the bayou ramblers of Thibodaux (site of venerable Nicholls State)—have not always followed the fashion, taste, and lifestyle directions issued by the denizens of their colleges. The result has been a curious cultural lag in which the “leftover” has become a noteworthy idiom: in which residues of the days before an ambitious Louisiana provide sometimes baroque contrasts with the occasionally demanding, culturally accelerating tastes of imported connoisseurs. Here, then, are the ten most quaint holdovers from the kinder and gentler but less sophisticated days of easygoing mid-size university town Louisiana, presented not for criticism but simply for observation, conversation, and consideration.

10. FAUX FINISHES. The editor of the *Newsletter* admits to having finished his own kitchen with a pearlized opal finish, but that was way back in the 1990s. To enter restaurants or boutiques nowadays and to find pre-mottled textures or acrylic-based simulated leather or even what appears to be whole fields of orange peels bubbling up from walls is to take a step back into the days when everyone hoped that the next visitor would be happy Mr. Bubble, that forefather of giggle-inducing texture. No one believes that a bistro in a strip mall emerged out of the construction site with walls that look like the Café Napoleon in New Orleans. Time to put away the sponges, daubing cloths, and other offbeat applicators bought at the HGTV online shop.

(to be continued on page 8)

Pennington Biomedical Center Gets Faculty Advisory Council



It might be too pert to allege that, in the deep dark past, nutrition-aware Pennington Biomedical Research Center was run like a banana republic, but so it was in the alleged health paradise, where faculty without tenure protections lacked any cabinet or voice or other means of providing

input. Under the leadership of grant-getting researcher Jennifer Rood, Pennington is exiting the third and entering the first world with the establishment of a Faculty Advisory Council. Congratulations to the Pennington faculty and staff on the creation of this promising new board and on this affirmation of the sanctity of faculty prerogatives.

Martin and Hamilton Formulate New F&A Policy

Although the natural posture of a faculty newsletter is one of assertive inquisitiveness vis-à-vis the administration, the primary mandate of all journalistic enterprises is to report the truth. The *Newsletter* rejoices to report that LSU Chancellor Michael Martin and LSU Provost Jack Hamilton have scored a joint slam-dunk with the formulation of a new policy governing the relation between “F&A” (facilities and administration costs charged to grants) and the tuition and insurance support provided to graduate students. Rather than subsidizing these costs from the “F&A” recovery on grants, researchers must now include at least a segment of those costs in the request for funding. Although it remains to be seen whether this adjustment will affect the winning of grant support, the principles at play warrant applause, for it is high time that granting agencies covered the costs of the already inexpensive research workforce that graduate students provide.

Podcasting Policy Aimed at Protecting Intellectual Property Runs into Data Retention Snag

Faculty governance action at the medical campuses in Shreveport and New Orleans has been accelerating lately as technology both promises and threatens to make faculty members as readily and frequently available as pills in a prescription bottle. Under the guidance of faculty members Mike Mathis and Tammy Dugas, the brothers and sisters of the stethoscope have hammered out a podcasting policy aimed at protecting faculty members’ intellectual property and also protecting institutions against litigation stemming from the ill results of out-of-date training received from an ancient file on an iPod rather than in the operating theater. The good news is that the “podcasting” policy adopted in Shreveport covers most of the problems and affords faculty members reasonable control over their intellectual property; the bad news is that the administration overlooked some recommendations and is allowing the storage of podcast files—the making of which is mandatory in many courses—up to four years, far in excess of the refreshment period for most medical knowledge. In response, the council of Faculty Advisors is working on a statewide template policy for electronic intellectual property.

Lifestyle Feature (continued)

9. ASSESSMENT. Does anyone believe that a professor who has served honorably for decades is suddenly going to become stupid if not constantly assessed? Does anyone think that the endless assessment instruments imposed on universities and state agencies are ever read, remembered, or otherwise used by anyone? And can anyone estimate how much good could have been done with the money dedicated to the assessment industry? Voltaire observed that “in order to stop being criticized, you have to die,” but, in Louisiana, in order to stop being assessed you have to overcome Tommy Teepell, the Tea Party, and, in sum, a whole state full of folks who seem content to keep being criticized. The origin of the assessment movement is in the wannabe phenomenon—in the hope that a university can come up with a metric that will prove that it is better than Oxford and Heidelberg together despite being located in Rapides Parish.

8. SILVER OR SALT-AND-PEPPER PARTED MEN'S HAIR. Gents, the Baptist Deacon look is long-gone. Sprinkling that old white shock with just enough Grecian Formula 16 to look as if you had just had a car crash with a pair of giant salt-and-pepper shakers only convinces folks that you are on the market for a third or fourth marriage. Perhaps that long straight part along the side of the skull could be construed as a forerunner of the incised hair insignia seen in hip-hop culture, but even hip-hop is now decades old.

7. HEAVY BROWN SERVEWARE. Many an otherwise fine restaurant in Louisiana feels compelled to demonstrate its solidity by presenting its delicacies on thick brown stoneware plates. Worse, these plates often appear without the benefit of pre-service warming, with the result that they drain every last calorie of heat out of the offerings on the plate. Thick and ungainly, these dull, lifeless, and light-free plates suggest that dinner is being unfurled on the tongue of an elderly steer. Time to start looking through the Crate-and-Barrel catalogue for something with a little more pep and a lot less weight.

6. CASUAL DRESS IN THE PROFESSORATE. Beginning in the 1970s, professors began to fancy themselves as counter-cultural figures and to dispense with the suits and ties that distinguished the culture- and knowledge-bearers of the postwar years. Now, of course, those Ludwig von Drake figures from the Willy Brandt era had their pluses and minuses, too. A good many of them were intolerable tyrants and horrid patriarchs. Yet one thing they had that we haven't got is the air of dignity that comes from proper dress. Dress declares the importance of one's calling (which is why even those in manual trades wear crisp uniforms). The cult of casual dressing is especially strong in the sciences, where the open shirt and tattered culotte is taken as a sign of seriousness. This suggestion that research and openness has so occupied the scientist's imagination that no attention may be paid to dress is something of a pretension given the ferocious approach to peer-reviewing and grant-competing that goes on in the laboratories. In the humanities, on the other hand, informal dress seems to suggest pop Bohemianism—or, as it were, the culturally approved inversion of the Zsa Zsa Gabor idiom.

5. CHAIN AND “BIG BOX” STORES. A lot of money passes through Louisiana, yet Louisianians generally seek to be perceived as reasonable, which is not so terrible an inclination so long as it doesn't suppress choice and availability. The commonsensical habit in our state of buying at the sixtieth percentile level in a thirtieth-percentile shop—choosing an item just above the middle of the quality at a purportedly discount price—has led to a profusion of “big box” stores such as Best Buy or Conn's and the gradual expulsion of boutique offerings such as, most recently, Altermann's Audio. True, we have the occasional Kadair's, but we lack an adequate men's shop and our confectionaries and bakeries are, in a word, the pits. Time to redirect purchases to specialist merchants who will ensure a diversity of offerings rather than the illusion of economy.

4. PLANTATION DÉCOR. Possibly the number-one problem in Louisiana is the nostalgic adherence to plantation style. People who make their livelihood studying the ills of slavery and the abuses of old-style agrarianism never hesitate to fill their homes with antique rubbish, rivet-enriched over-upholstered seating, daguerreotype images, and even marine surplus from the paddlewheel era. This kind of sentimentality—this suggestion that the past was so much more wonderful than the present—is fed by the bridal magazines, which show young ladies in flowing white gowns with trailers spilling down staircases and with faces illuminated by the artificial light of simulated love. Often, plantation environments feature either reproduction images from the John James Audubon illustration canon or swirling oil paintings of magnolias executed by the under-employed spouses of physicians or, worst of all, history painting portraying great moments in the history of LSU football. The only way to relieve this scene would be to commission an Audubon-style image of a predatory Mike the Tiger chasing down a golden egret who is unable to escape owing to a heavy overgrowth of crepe myrtles.

3. UNDER-INFORMED SERVICE. Need anyone say more? How often is one confronted, in Louisiana, by a pursuing shop assistant asking “may I help you” who, when presented with a question, displays a blank face? Or a waiter or waitress who, when quizzed about the menu, doesn't know a pizzelle from a pizza or a caper from a capon? If Louisiana is ever going to be upscale, serving and assisting need to be given dignity, which is most easily achieved by proper pay scales and adequate education.

2. GROUP PHOTOS ON THE SOCIETY PAGE. How many pictures can be made of groups of ten to twelve doers of good deeds standing in a row, awkwardly displaying a shoulder and an upper arm that may have seen better days? How many rolls of film or CCDs will be burned in imaging unidentifiable gangs holding a gigantic check made out to an unknown philanthropy? How many more issues of InRegister will roll off the press before we see the last hysterically smiling face radiating from a rental tuxedo or a sequined gown?

1. INDISCRIMINATENESS. The great virtue of the people of Louisiana and, indeed, the people of American academe is that, by and large, they want to be nice. But is it really necessary that every institutional initiative elicit intense enthusiasm and unremitting commitment? Is it in the best interest of academe that every conference paper draw sighs of “wonderful” or “what exciting research”? Owing to the nervousness that comes from living and working in a state that is on the make rather than already made, even our acute wits seem to think that criticism and judgment verge on impoliteness. A little bit of rough-and-ready remarking can make life a little more zesty and a whole lot less hypocritical. Remember, Louisiana is legendary for its hotness and sauciness.

Fresh Market Takes Grocery Review to Heart

Lovers of fine foods remember the review of the academic food supply line that culminated the September 30th issue of the *Newsletter*. Shortly after that story, The Fresh Market instituted an array of changes recommended by that critique, including the restoration of Niederegger dark chocolate marzipan bars to the confectionary offering and the enhancement of customer service at the delicatessen island. The Fresh Market clearly realizes that its bread is buttered among the affluent *Feinschmecker* contingent that populates the universities of the Interstate 10 corridor. Congratulations to the brethren of the brown bag!



Faculty Senate President Appears on Jim Engster Show

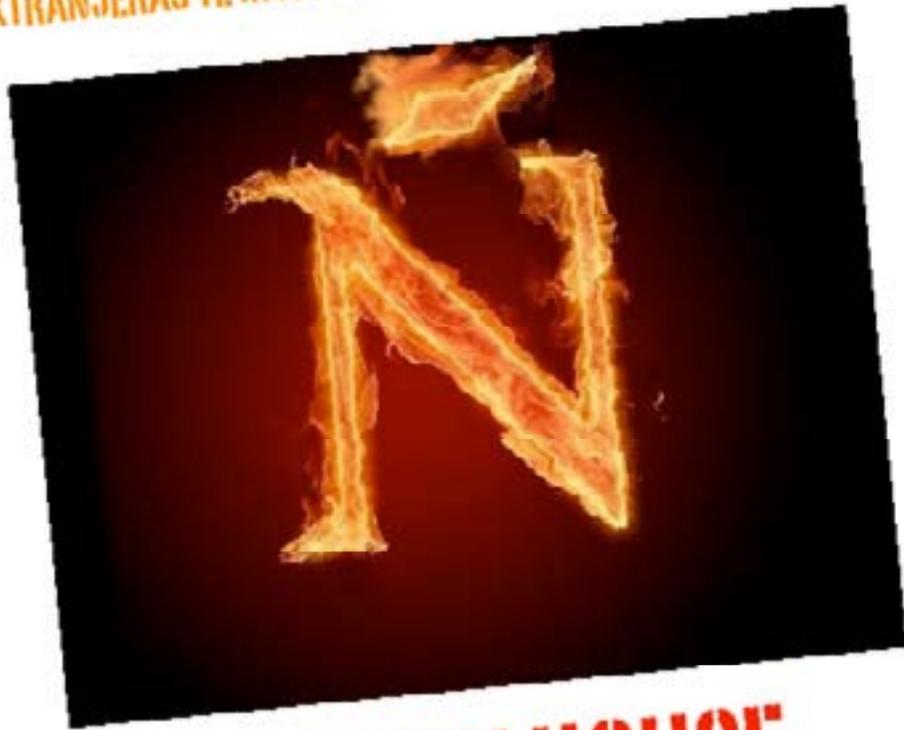
LSU Faculty Senate President Kevin L. Cope appeared on WRKF's Jim Engster Show on Friday, October 28th, discussing a wide variety of topics relating to higher education and fielding calls from listeners. Those who missed the broadcast can listen to the podcast (which can also be heard on a conventional computer) by going to the [WRKF archive](#) and selecting the October 28th edition of The Jim Engster Show.

Tip of the Month: 24/7 POLKA HEAVEN

Not since the days of Lawrence Welk have we had the same kind of happy-go-lucky, toe-tapping pleasures that a good old unthinking polka dance can provide. The polka has been much maligned in recent years as the harsher cadences of hip-hop, disco, and salsa have come and gone and left their footprints on wooden floors. Now the polka has returned with enthusiasm and high-tech panache at a new streaming web site, [24/7 Polka Heaven.com](#). Unlike many musical streaming sites, which are rife with advertisements and punctuated by annoying interjections, this new polka paradise site features a full carousel of continuous polka music programmed by polka experts in every sub-polka-discipline, whether Slovenian, Polish, German, American, or plain old “oom-pah” polka. Fidelity is good if not perfect but good sound boards or other peripherals can clean it up to an almost-live beer-hall sound. Just the thing for a Louisiana autumn!

[24/7 Polka Heaven.com](#)

EL DEPARTAMENTO DE LENGUAS & LITERATURAS
EXTRANJERAS TE INVITA AL



SPANISH OPEN HOUSE
WEDNESDAY, 6 TO 8 PM, NOV 2ND
INTERNATIONAL CULTURAL CENTER, HEAGLER ROOM

COOKING CLASS "EL GAZPACHO LOCO" @ 6:30

Find out about all the opportunities offered in the Hispanic Studies Program:

- Spanish Major/Minor
- Secondary Education Program
- M.A. in Hispanic Studies
- Study Abroad / LSU in Spain
- Sigma Delta Pi Honor Society
- Teaching Assistantships in Spain
- Spanish Resource Center

Other LSU organizations:

Spanish Club, Latin American Student Association, Hispanic Student Cultural Society, Friends of Spanish Studies

*Hear from other students who have done a dual or double major in Spanish!

**THE MUSIC AND
THE DANCING AND
THE TASTING AND
THE TALKING (EN
ESPAÑOL, POR
FAVOR)**

AUGUST: OSAGE COUNTY

October 26-November 13, 2011



SHOW DATES

PAY-WHAT-YOU-CAN:
Performances start at 7:30 PM

OCT

WED
26

SNEAK PREVIEW:
Performances start at 7:30 PM

OCT

THU
27

EVENING PERFORMANCES:
Performances start at 7:30 PM

OCT FRI 28	OCT SAT 29	NOV TUE 1	NOV WED 2	NOV THU 3
NOV FRI 4	NOV TUE 8	NOV WED 9	NOV THU 10	NOV FRI 11

AFTERNOON PERFORMANCES:
Performances start at 2:00 PM

OCT SUN 30	NOV SAT 5	NOV SUN 6	NOV SUN 13
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SINGLE TICKET PRICES

Adult	\$28.00
Senior/Faculty/Staff	\$19.00
Student	\$15.00

**FOR TICKETS AND
INFORMATION:
225-578-3527**

Published by [The LSU Faculty Senate](#)

Questions? Comments? Email gmlch1@tigers.lsu.edu or ngu1@tigers.lsu.edu

