

2-22-2017

Faculty Senate Newsletter, February 2017

Louisiana State University and Agricultural & Mechanical College

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Faculty Senate Newsletter

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Readers of the now old-fashioned novels of Dorothy Sayers and Evelyn Waugh remember an era of academic elegance: a time when colleges and universities reveled in custom, costume, character, and social complexity. True, the jottings of the aforementioned writers caricatured an academic establishment that hovered on the thin line between comedy (per academic satire) and criminality (per detective novels), yet they also portrayed a cultural elite that occasionally fell into absurdity or even lawlessness owing to its willingness to stand apart from the norm. Rank-and-file citizens might puzzle over the singing of the *Mallard Song* at All Souls College, but no one in early twentieth-century Oxford felt the need to deploy a media relations expert to explain why this generally deviant behavior served the needs of the average man or woman on the street.

It is easy enough to look around Louisiana campuses and see nothing at all in the way of elegance. Buildings have fallen into dereliction, chefs flee the junk food counters in student unions, university web sites pander to the casual and the comfort cultures, and not only students, but often professors, fall short of professional dress standards. The immediately visible signs of the decline of elegance, however, tell only part of a story about the withdrawal of universities from not only cultural leadership but also from cultural entitlement. Our shabby institutions no longer image a collective sense, among university members, that universities challenge, change, criticize, and overleap norms. The fear of displaying superiority—anxiety about the convincing presentation of universities and their denizens as the point of the spear in the war against ignorance and Philistinism—registers a lack of clarity about what universities ought to do and a reluctance in university leadership concerning the mission of higher education.

Superficially, systems, institutions, and their leaders have plenty of answers when it comes to the purpose of the collegiate enterprise. A campus or system president challenged by the press can always make recourse to the enormous economic impact of even the smallest campus or the centrality of an educated workforce to Louisiana's future of the spin-off technologies from advanced research or the miraculous saves accomplished by doctors at medical campuses. Common to all these claims is the recourse to utility: to overtly economical, physical, or occasionally tasks. Absent from these explanations is any reference to the quest for knowledge or to art for art's sake or to the pleasure that arises from living in a culture where the graduates of an architecture program have designed inspiring buildings. None of those defenses of the university, whether the "mad scientist" plea to probe the mind of god or the aesthete's appeal to cultivate beauty, are as eccentric as might seem. At one time or another in educational history, they have all been used by higher education administrations. The shoving to the side of these justifications for the university is the shoving to the side of aspirations. No wonder that Louisiana's campuses have a hard time building morale or even figuring out what their faculty ought to be doing.

Which brings us back to the elegance issue. Consider two phenomena: billboards and receptions. Anyone driving Louisiana's highways sees billboard after billboard from campus after campus, all screaming that this or that campus will provide tuition-paying students with the lifestyle they desire (Northwestern even displays one billboard suggesting that students may travel to class by canoe or pirogue). Anyone attending a reception on any Louisiana campus will see quite a melange of dress styles: administrators and board members in stiff, old-fashioned suits; faculty in dungarees; students in the usual gym clothing; mid-level staffers in what might be described as the Old Navy Elegant or the Kohl's Chic styles. Both of these examples, however understandable their origins and economics might be, show universities trying to follow the lead of everyone at the same time—to serve rather than transform the ideologies of every clientele in the book. Until Louisiana's universities develop more of a sense for elegance and for the generous exceptionalism that goes with it, they will continue to send a signal to legislators and other decision-makers that anything goes: that, rather than being servant leaders for a great society, academic professionals never really lead, but only serve.



Kevin Cope

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SUMMER CAMP

LSU UREC Tiger's Den is a recreational experience that provides fun and comprehensive camp programming for children ages 6 to 12. Each session is filled with sport activities, structured games, arts and crafts, and interactive educational activities.

Pre-Registration (LSU Affiliates): Feb. 1 Open Registration: Feb. 15

Prices: LSU Affiliates \$160, Community \$180

Per Child / Per Week

Session	Dates	Register By
Future Tigers	5/29 - 6/2	5/24
Under the Sea	6/5 - 6/9	5/31
Sports Extravaganza	6/12 - 6/16	6/7
Zootopia	6/19 - 6/23	6/14
Adventure Awaits	6/26 - 6/30	6/21
Water Week*	7/5 - 7/7	6/28
Reality Game Show Mania	7/10 - 7/14	7/5
Mad Scientist	7/17 - 7/21	7/12
Backyard Fun	7/24 - 7/28	7/19
Never-Ending Summer	7/31 - 8/4	7/26

*Prorated price for holiday

Ages 6 - 12 | For registration and more information, please visit lsu.edu/urec

LSU | University Recreation

Higher Education Headliner



Dr. Paul Carlsen



Paul Carlsen, a native of Colorado, eventually adopted Louisiana as his home. Carlsen's mission is to get as many people trained and in jobs as quickly as possible. He wants to afford people opportunities to create sustainable futures for themselves and their children, as well as provide contributions to the overall economic development of the state. He firmly believes that workforce development programs are a large part of this process and speaks with enthusiasm about Work Ready U, one of the programs designed to help students train for high demand jobs. He also believes in preparing students for the rigors of four-year universities should students decide on this path and would also like to see a higher matriculation rate from two-year colleges to four-year universities.

Carlsen, in fact, is no stranger to the university system. He began his own journey at the University of Colorado, majoring in political science. He then went on to get a Master's at the University of Denver and a PhD at the University of Georgia in Athens. He speaks fondly of the University of Georgia, but almost did not finish his dissertation. Yet, with a wife and a baby on the way, he had to find a way to complete his degree and garner the benefits associated with that level of education. That new baby was also the impetus for Carlsen taking a job with the South Carolina Department of Commerce. A fortuitous series of events eventually led to a job offer from the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS). His dissertation advisor, by happenstance, wound up at a barbecue in New Orleans with an individual from LCTCS who was looking for someone qualified to fill an open position. Carlsen's advisor then asked the young family man if he would be interested in this position, and indeed he was. He travelled to Baton Rouge that very week, staying at a rather questionable hotel that charged \$30 per week until his wife and daughter were able to join him.

Over time, Carlsen worked his way up to his current position of Chief Content Officer with the LCTCS. "It's an admittedly confusing title," he remarks, "because it doesn't strictly involve content." In fact, his duties entail collaborating between academics affairs divisions of community and technical colleges, students, and the state's employers. He relates the startling fact that the average college student in LCTCS is about 27 ½ years old, and many are going to school to learn a specific skill or trade to bring to the labor market; some even are seeking training for second or even third careers. Others

want to earn their high school equivalency, as 600,000 students each year do not graduate from high school. In fact, students do not qualify to get federal financial aid until they do earn their high school equivalency.

With students who have so many diverse goals, from finishing high school, to training for a career, to retraining for a new career, to earning an Associate's degree, to transferring to four-year universities, Carlsen certainly has his work cut out for him. As the Chief Content Officer, Carlsen navigates through and collaborates with the higher education system and industry leaders in the state to figure out where the next job openings will be, and he decides how to gear the various community and technical college curricula towards that end. However, he is quick to point out that Louisiana's community colleges also cater to students interested in transferring to four year institutions. Unfortunately, Louisiana's community college system lags analogous systems in other states when it comes to matriculation, and that is something that Carlsen certainly wants to change in the coming years.

Carlsen, as rewarding as his job may be, has missed working directly with students. So, he has begun teaching a course in American Government at River Parishes Community College. In this way, he can stay connected to the students and faculty he serves, while also aiding in the creation of programs that help those same students succeed. In essence, he considers his duty as an instructor as an extension of his job with LCTCS, but also one of its greatest rewards. The experience of teaching a course such as American Government – one that provides knowledge necessary to be a responsible citizen, but which is not directly applicable to a specific skill or trade – could help provide a blueprint for the kind of courses that work for students who are aiming for a four-year degree.

Carlsen has a vision for the future that includes "seamless transfer opportunities" to four-year universities and a leading workforce development program recognized nationwide. If his program, like so many programs in the education system in Louisiana, could have sustainable funding, he could certainly achieve his vision. In spite of the current problems that plague the higher education system in the state, Carlsen is optimistic about the future and the role that LCTCS can play not only in Louisiana's future, but in the nation's future.

— By Amy Catania and Nate Friedman

LSU UPGRADES TALENT DATABASE

Yes, there is good news out there in Louisiana academe, although, admittedly, one must look long and hard for it. That search has turned up a laudable effort by LSU's Greg Trahan to reanimate and also to rededicate the LSU A&M talent database. In days gone by, LSU maintained a slate of experts in the myriad fields of study that define the topography of a modern university. Unfortunately, the database never got beyond a mere list that sank many clicks down in the sea of internet profusion. Trahan has reconceptualized the talent database as both a public service and a university promotional tool. He intends to bring the database to the users: to encourage those in the business community to explore a reorganized and user-friendly new database that will make it easy to hire, borrow, or otherwise university talent. Congratulations, Greg, on your wondrous initiative!



**Greg Trahan of LSU
ORED**

DARDENNE GRANTS PAY RAISE TO LAB SCHOOL BUT NOT TO UNIVERSITY FACULTY

Recent issues of the *Newsletter* have reported on the cordial but occasionally tense dialogue between faculty governance activists and Louisiana Commissioner of Administration Jay Dardenne. Dardenne appeared at the September 2016 Alexandria Summit meeting, where he drew a favorable reception for the length and detail of his answers and for his willingness to pass not only a good time, but a long and thoughtful interval, with aggrieved faculty members. Dardenne, however, raised, nay, skyrocketed faculty eyebrows when, using discretionary powers belonging only to his office, he approved a significant pay raise for teachers at the LSU Lab School without allowing a raise for college professors. Faculty members had repeatedly petitioned Dardenne to allow a similar exception to the state raise freeze for faculty members. Dardenne, of course, carries out the will of the governor, who authorized this unequal treatment and who continues to fall far short of his promises to support higher education. Authorizing raises for some segments of a university population while excluding others is somewhat less than helpful for morale, let alone recruiting and retention.



Jay Dardenne

CAPTIVE TIGER CONTROVERSY CONTINUES AT FLAGSHIP-CUM-ZOO

Readers of the *Newsletter* have followed the controversy over the keeping of live mascots on Louisiana university campuses, the last example of which, following the moratorium



declared by Southern University with regard to jaguars, is none other than that Flagship-cum-zoo, LSU A&M. For several weeks, since the onset of the last Mike's final illness, LSU faculty governance officials had been reminding LSU System officials that faculty, citizens' organizations, and students had all expressed deep concerns about the use of captive predators as totemic figures and sports icons and about the normality of an environment surrounded 24/7 by bright lights and voyeuristic fans. To their credit, top-level LSU officials brokered a meeting for the airing of views and also indicated that LSU President King Alexander yearned to eliminate the parading of the tiger at football games and otherwise to downplay the honky-tonk aspects of tiger-based spectacles. Alexander, a member of international tiger rescue organizations, reported an intention to create a tiger hospital and rehabilitation center for tigers from around the nation and also to build up the educational components of the tiger presentation. At the same time, faculty began questioning the role of influential donors and of the Tiger Athletic Foundation, questions which pertained not only to the captive mascot issue but also to the integrity of the command and control systems of the university (some wags have wondered whether the LSU System is really in control of its foundations and also whether those foundations project academic values). In an attempt to ensure a careful decision about the future of captive mascots, the LSU Faculty Senate passed a [resolution](#) calling for a dialogue in which the full range of experts and stakeholders could debate the merits and demerits of displaying tigers to fans. In one of the more peculiar moments in this debate, the former Tiger Mike's veterinarian appeared at the Faculty Senate (despite having missed all previous debates) and unfurled a list of alleged educational goals attained by displaying tigers, shortly after which, the LSU System, in something of a contrast to the promises of an open dialogue, announced that this veterinarian "is continuing to search for a tiger" with or without Faculty Senate endorsement. In an unnerving [press release](#), LSU officialdom back-peddled from its supposed opposition to naive anthropomorphism, affirming that "the plan is to have Mike VII join LSU's incoming freshman class in August," as if the jailed tiger were participating in the advancements that education can confer. LSU faculty governance is now partnering with the LSU Office of Academic Affairs to make sure that the debate and forums on the captive animal debate take place.

MCNEESE PRESIDENT WILLIAMS TO RETIRE

Fans of southwestern Louisiana have taken note of the [retirement announcement](#) of Dr. Philip C. Williams, President for the last half-dozen years of McNeese State University. Over the years, Williams and faculty governance advocates began growing together, with Williams becoming a regular attendee of McNeese Faculty Senate events as well as a frequent spokesman at faculty events. True, Williams and faculty enjoyed the occasional sparring match, but Williams stood out among campus leaders in his readiness to enlist in the wars of truth. Among his many services was his ardent support of the Conference of Louisiana Colleges and Universities, where he was not only a regular, but an unfailing attendee, and to which he always added an erudite quip or two or maybe three or four. Williams's retirement announcement reports past experience as an author of children's books, and so we look forward to many future bestsellers!



Dr. Philip C. Williams



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By Appointment Only





A.G.'s Corner

LSU HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER, CHIEF A. G. MONACO, ADDRESSES QUESTIONS ABOUT HRM AND "EMPLOYEES' LIVES" IN GENERAL. IF YOU HAVE A PRESSING HRM ISSUE FOR A G TO ADDRESS, PLEASE SEND YOUR QUERIES TO ENCOPE@LSU.EDU.

The Letter

Dear A G,

I am what humorist Garrison Keillor was wont to call "a nervous person." I'm the kind of guy who likes to insure everything, even when I suspect my loss to premiums is greater than any possible damage recovery. My zeal for insurance has led me to two questions concerning retirement programs in Louisiana. My question has both "now and then" parts. First, the now; How are retirement monies in Louisiana insured? Are the funds in retirement accounts covered by guarantors similar to the FDIC, which insures bank deposits? Next, the then: Are there any good ways to insure my retirement funds after I "cash in"? Do the various payout programs (for example, annuities) include any kind of insurance, or are there third-party insurers who do this kind of thing? A G, I'm in ORP, but maybe some of these questions pertain also to the other, defined-benefit program. Can you show me a direction or at least put my mind at ease?

Yours truly,

Bosco in Bossier City



The Response

Bosco,

According to the Behavioral Economists among us it has been found that the discomfort from a loss is around twice as large as the pleasure achieved by a gain of the same amount. Humans are wired to protect ourselves from loss more so than we are willing to risk things for a gain.

Our natural aversion to risk seems to be capitalized upon by the insurance industry and as a result those folks are often taking advantage of us. Any benefit from paying for insurance are delayed, the ability for all of us to analyze the likelihood of us having a claim is very difficult, we never get good feedback from the marketplace on whether or not we are getting a decent return on our insurance purchases, and trying to figure out how much insurance we really need is purposely made difficult for most people so they will buy more than they need. The result tends to be that insurance companies will tell you that you need a low deductible to protect yourself. Economists and financial planners point out that the largest deductible in the great majority of cases is the best purchase. Finally only people at the electronics counter at Sam's Club recommend the purchase of extended warranties. So while most times strong competition in the marketplace will ensure that the price will often equate to value and quality, the insurance industry is quite opaque and price does not necessarily indicate a higher payoff over time or better quality protection in the short term.

As to the actual answer to your question..... Generally your ORP account or your 403b account is not protected by a mechanism the way your bank deposits are protected. While there are some protections in place, generally they are protections against fraud not the market place's activities.

Let's as an example use a retirement account with the vendor **TIAA-Cref.*** (TIAA-Cref once was the abbreviation for the Teacher's Insurance Annuity Association-College Retirement Equities Fund, until some marketing consultant convinced them to just go by their initials.) The services they offer are generally replicated by the other financial vendors working with us on campus. While we know that the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) insures deposits at member banks, insurance companies like TIAA and investment companies like CREF are not eligible for membership in the FDIC. But that does not mean that investments in such firms are highly

risky....

"The contract that you have with TIAA guarantees each dollar contributed to the account by you or your employer. It also guarantees a minimum rate of interest and provides the potential for additional amounts of interest. TIAA's " Trustees have declared additional amounts each year for 60 consecutive years although there is no guarantee made by TIAA that additional amounts will be declared in future years.

Each dollar contributed to TIAA Traditional buys a specific amount of lifetime income for you, as a TIAA participant. The amount is determined by the rate schedule in effect at the time the contribution is made.

TIAA's guarantees to repay principal and to pay the returns called for in the contract depend on TIAA's claims-paying ability. They are backed by the financial strength of TIAA's General Account. Which means as long as TIAA exists your money is guaranteed. Though not an "unbreakable" guarantee it is a strong one and not something one would worry about.

Unlike TIAA accounts, if you have a brokerage account with your 403b vendor or just with your local broker then the Securities Investment Protection Corporation (SIPC) would protect the money in that account against fraud. However, products like the CREF variable annuity accounts and TIAA-CREF mutual funds that you invest in through a retirement plan are not protected by SIPC.

Unlike the TIAA Traditional Annuity Account, a Cref account is an investment fund or investment account, so there is no guarantee made by the firm against market losses. The investments vary from one fund or account to another. They consist of stocks, bonds, real estate properties or money market securities.

The amount of money in these funds and accounts rises and falls each day as the value of those investments changes in the marketplace. (Exception: the TIAA Real Estate Account values aren't calculated every day.) In order to minimize the effect that any one investment can have on a single fund or account, each fund or account holds many investments. The funds are widely diversified.

—Continued on page 7

So now you are thinking “The smartest thing to do would be to move all my retirement funds into an annuity account. “ Your thinking could cost you a lot of money over the years.

Before taking the near guarantee of bonds over equities keep in mind the “**rule of 72**” (72 divided by rate of return = number of years needed to double your money) With bonds returning 2% it would take 36 years to double your money. Traditionally, over the long run stocks have returned an average annual return of 5-6%. Using the lower figure of 5% you still double your money is only 14.4 years. The “**insurance**” provided by an investment in bonds would appear to be overwhelmed by the much higher long-term return on stocks.

The best advice I have ever read about pension investments was given by the University of Chicago economist, Richard Thaler. Dr. Thayer advises to “buy a diversified portfolio tilted toward equities, especially if you are young, and then scrupulously avoid reading anything in the newspaper aside from the sports section.” Thaler and others through research have shown that long-term returns are higher for investors who do not look at their returns on a frequent basis. Still, Dr. Thaler also believes that as you get closer to retirement you should decrease the percentage of your investment in equities.

One way to do that is to use the “**Rule of 100.**” Take your age and subtract it from 100. The remainder should be the percentage of your investments that should be in stocks. In effect, the adjustment of your retirement portfolio based on age helps protect your principle from short-term losses as you near retirement. It is not insurance but it helps.

Guaranteeing income after retirement usually takes the form of investing in vehicles that guarantee a certain return for the rest of your life. Investing in an annuity or bonds will eliminate most risks of loss. Of course the returns you receive from annuities tend to be smaller in some direct relationship to reductions in risk. Another way

to diminish risk is to invest in laddered bonds that are highly rated and come to maturity at different times throughout your retirement. The same practice can be done with laddered certificates of deposit. The FDIC insures these CDs but right now the return on a one-year CD is averaging at 1.28% and for a five year CD the average payout is less than 2.25%.

Now with all of that said there are several points you should keep in mind....

You can manage risk but it cannot be eliminated. There are unpredictable random events that no one sees coming and they can have an incredible impact on the securities markets. Google this date ... **October 19, 1987.** 30 years later everyone has a theory on why the American market saw the greatest one-day percentage loss in its history, but no one saw it coming. **The mortgage meltdown in '08** was a surprise. While my paperboy now has a theory on why it occurred, Alan Greenspan who we all thought at the time was a genius did not see it coming.

Perhaps being over insured is not rational economics, but sometimes being “psychologically comfortable” is worth as much or more than money. If being heavily insured against risk makes you feel good and it let's you sleep better at night than it is giving you something of value and it is not wasteful.

Trading some future income for present day piece of mind is a personal, decision that has utility based on how it makes you feel. Consider it a similar decision to owning pets or having children. Neither pets or children contribute to the household economically and it is easier to split an atom than housebreak them, but many people have them because it makes them feel good.

As always I suggest that speaking to a trustworthy financial planner who is not in the business of selling you a product is a good investment.

*I have accounts with TIAA-Cref, Voya, T.Rowe Price, Fidelity, U.S. Funds, and a few others and I do not endorse any single firm.

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ALEXANDRIA SUMMIT ILLUMINATES RESEARCH CAMPUSES, ACT 619

In addition to the motivating, rollicking, and informative presentations by Howard Bunsis and Michael Walker-Jones, which are described elsewhere in this *Newsletter*, the February 2017 Alexandria Summit Meeting included two vigorously helpful presentations by two tenacious colleagues, Michelle Arnold of the LSU Health Sciences Center Shreveport and Lewis Deaton of the University of Louisiana Lafayette. Professor Arnold addressed an issue that troubles, bewilders, and eludes most mainstream faculty members: the leading, inspiring, and organizing of colleagues on a “research campus” such as a medical college, where faculty members relate to the institution through a wide variety of contracts and agreements, where tenure is less than universal, and where deep divides separate clinical, regular, medical, disciplinary, and contingent faculty from one another. Professor Deaton analyzed and recommended faculty responses to Act 619, devilish legislation requiring the Board of Regents to develop plans for outcomes- and work-force-based education and to review advanced, graduate study on campuses statewide. Deaton provided a treasury of possible retorts to those leaders who, having been told what to think by legislators, cannot advocate for faculty or for the life of the mind. The PowerPoint presentations accompanying the Arnold and Deaton presentations are available online, via the menu page of the “Multimedia Archive” of the LSU A&M Faculty Senate [web site](#).



Alexandria Summit participants
learn and rejoice



Michelle
Arnold
explains
leadership on
research
campuses



Lewis Deaton
responds to
Act 619

FREE SPEECH EVENT SHAKES LSU A&M CAMPUS

If there were such a thing as a happy earthquake, it is surely that set of reverberations that followed Voegelin Institute Director James Stoner's first “free speech” event back in November of 2015, when two nationally recognized experts on first amendment matters gave presentations to and fielded questions from a standing room only crowd. Stoner has done it again with another major event, “The Free Speech Crisis on American Campuses,” in which Peter Wood of the National Association of Scholars and Thomas Cushman of Wellesley College expounded ideas and took questions from an eager audience for well over an hour. Advertised through one of the most dramatic [posters](#) ever to appear on a Louisiana campus, the event drew a laudable spectrum of audience members and inquisitors, who examined the free speech question from liberal, conservative, and hybrid positions. A full video of the event, which was moderated by Kevin L. Cope, is available [online](#).



Provocative poster heralds LSU free speech
event

IMMIGRATION PETITION IGNITES FACULTY ACTIVISM

Usually far from the madding crowd, LSU A&M has never had so salient a tradition of activism and social protest as do most other major research campuses. All that changed with the election of the forty-fifth President of the United States and with the introduction of a ban on immigrants from seven nations. In response to what many faculty regard as a capricious or discriminatory obstruction to the free movement not only of peoples but of ideas, a team of LSU faculty members headed by Brendan Karch and Catherine Jacquet have launched a petition calling on the LSU central administration to take a variety of steps in support of immigrants and in opposition to the aforementioned federal policies. After the non-academic management staff at the LSU System received and announced an intention to study the professorial petition, LSU President King Alexander both met with the petition team and also released a broadcast email letter to the community in which he lauded openness and expressed support; however, concrete actions have yet to occur. Still in the midst of this unfolding story, the faculty petition team will address the LSU Faculty Senate during the week in which this issue goes to press.



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SOUTHEASTERN LOUISIANA UNIVERSITY SENATE CALL FOR PAY RAISE PLAN

A succession of robust leaders—the likes of Joe Miranda-la, Dayne Sherman, Stephen Rushing, and James Kirylo—have lamented that Southeastern Louisiana University remains among the most resistant to faculty governance and even the most hostile to those seeking a share of “shared governance.” Stymied year in and year out by unresponsive administrations, the Southeastern Louisiana University Faculty Senate has passed a resolution calling on President John Crain and the SELU administration to develop a credible plan for faculty pay raises by the end of the academic year. The SELU FS action evidences courage on two levels: first, by standing up to an administration that has demonstrated disdain for faculty professionals; second, by exposing the falsehood of the claim that Louisiana, a state with vast resources, lacks the money to support higher education. Shortly after the SELU Senate passed its resolution, the courageous Faculty Senate at LSUA passed a concurring resolution also calling for a pay hike plan and supporting SELU faculty. This story will surely be continued.



SELU President
John Crain

Lifestyle Feature

The author of this column is taking a brief hiatus, but the column will resume next month.



LSU TO HOST SPRING 2017 MIDWEST MACROECONOMICS CONFERENCE



**MAY 19-21, 2017
BUSINESS EDUCATION COMPLEX**

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

JOHN HALTIWANGER

**DISTINGUISHED UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR AT UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND
PROF. HALTIWANGER HAS MADE SEMINAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN RESEARCH ON ENTREPRENEURSHIP, BUSINESS
DYNAMICS, AND JOB CREATION AND DESTRUCTION IN THE US.**

MARIA CRISTINA DI NARDI

**PROFESSOR AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, LONDON
SENIOR ECONOMIST AT THE FEDERAL RESERVE BANK IN CHICAGO
PROF. DINARDI IS KNOWN FOR HER INFLUENTIAL CONTRIBUTIONS IN THE STUDY OF SAVINGS, WEALTH INEQUAL-
ITY, SOCIAL SECURITY, ENTREPRENEURSHIP, AND TAXATION.**

This is the largest conference devoted to macroeconomics and related topics in North America. Traditionally hosted by Carnegie Research 1 universities in the mid-west and the Federal Reserve Banks, the conference usually has about 125 papers and two keynote lectures. In the past, participants included faculty from major research universities in the US and overseas, as well as research economists from the Federal Reserve Banks, Central Banks of other countries, multilateral organizations, such as the IMF and World Bank, and US government agencies such as the US Census, Congressional Budget Office, etc.

This will be a unique opportunity for LSU to showcase its commitment to research and the facilities of the Business College. LSU will be only the second Carnegie Research 1 University outside the mid-west to host the conference in its 23 year history. It will also be the largest economics conference hosted at LSU.

THE CALL FOR PAPERS IS NOW OPEN!!!!

THE CONFERENCE WEBSITE IS: [HTTPS://BUSINESS.LSU.EDU/MM2017](https://business.lsu.edu/mm2017).

The conference organizers are Areendam Chanda and Fang Yang in the department of economics. Financial support for this Conference is being provided by the LSU Economics Department, the Economics & Policy Research Group and the E. J. Ourso College of Business.

Further details about the previous conferences can be found here:

<http://www.vanderbilt.edu/econ/conference/midwest-macro-group/>

NEW STUDENT UNION STARTUP SUPPORTS LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS

More often than not, faculty and administration working together can score a hit. Such a blow in support of the good and indeed the beautiful occurred when LSU Auxiliary Services, under the leadership of Margot Carroll, allocated a slot in LSU's bustling Student Union not to yet another chain store operator, but, rather, to a local entrepreneur starting up a new service company. *LSU Now*, the successor to the *LSU Reveille*, [reports](#) that the new operation, Dorm Room Kutz, showcases a local, minority businessman who has also brought two female stylists into his enterprise. Concern had arisen when the previous tenant, the long-term proprietor of the LSU Student Union Barbershop, came to the end of his lease and left LSU premises. Fortunately, Margot and her "prosperity team" have found a superb new service provider who promises to "kick it up a notch" while shearing it down a centimeter or two!



A scene from Dorm Room Kutz, a new barber shop in the LSU Union. Photo credit to Ari Ross of *LSU Now*

UL CHIEF HENDERSON PROCLAIMS OPEN DOOR POLICY

No one ever accused the University of Louisiana System of excessive inclusivity. Featuring campus president searches in which committees are staffed by appointment from the central system offices and occasionally declaring finalists for the System presidency without any publicly accessible, precursory evaluation of candidates, the "UL" System has always been the most thoroughly closed, nay, padlocked of all shops. It was no surprise that an inside candidate, James Henderson, erupted onto the scene as the designated heir apparent to the UL throne, seemingly without anyone knowing what had happened or who had called this particular shot. Henderson, admittedly, had compiled a formidable record as campus leader at Bossier Parish Community College and then again at Northwestern of Natchitoches, although his success hinged on an unrelenting commitment to workforce development, outcomes education, and an assortment of initiatives that veer from the fundamental research and analysis functions of great universities. In what appears to be an attempt to unload the interrogative weight that attends both his past record and the means by which he gained the UL imperium, Henderson has declared an open door policy to all those who wish to advance ideas and had, even before Donald Trump's inauguration, opened his own Twitter feed. Although the mechanism for entering the open door remains unclear, an ensemble of faculty leaders, including Ravi Rau, Dayne Sherman, and Kevin Cope, have already planned a visit that will include a proposal to lift Louisiana universities, including several UL campuses, from the AAUP censure list. To be continued.



UL System President Jim Henderson



Save the Date

Shaping the Future of eLearning Conference

Tuesday, April 4, 2017
Pennington Biomedical Research Center
Baton Rouge, LA

Topics Include:

eLearning Trends
Emerging Technologies
Instructional Innovation
2016 eLearning Innovation Grant Awardees

Featured Speakers:

National Higher Education Experts
Commissioner Joseph C. Rallo

Special Session: 2017 Board of Regents
Open Educational Resources (OER) Project Team Presentation

More information to come!

Sponsored by the Louisiana Board of Regents and the Electronic Learning Task Force

STATEWIDE ORGANIZING EXTRAVAGANZA SHOWCASES BUNSI, WALKER-JONES

Those who have expressed skepticism as to whether Louisiana faculty can ever organize and thereby bargain with their employers changed their opinions during the recent whirlwind tour of Louisiana campuses by two of the leading organizers of professional labor in the United States, Michael Walker-Jones and Howard Bunsis. Jones, the former Executive Director of the Louisiana Association of Educators and now the Associate Commissioner for the State of Rhode Island, and Bunsis, the Chair of the AAUP (American Association of University Professors) Collective Bargaining Congress, visited the LSU A&M campus, the University of Louisiana Lafayette campus, and the LSU of Alexandria campus (as part of the Alexandria Summit Meeting). At LSU, these two engines of workplace equity met with three stakeholder groups (the AAUP Chapter; LSUnit-ed; and the Faculty Senate Executive Committee) and also drew a hall-filling crowd at a climactic luncheon presentation that was open to the community at large. At the University of Louisiana Lafayette, Bunsis and Walker-Jones participated in a marathon three-hour collective bargaining jam session that also included the renowned Sonya Hester of Southern University Shreveport. At LSU of Alexandria, the



Associate
Commissioner
(Rhode Island)
Michael Walker-Jones



Howard Bunsis of the AAUP
CBC

visitors unveiled no less than two hours of data, advice, and direction, some of which may be recaptured through the excellent PowerPoint presentation offered by Howard Bunsis, which is now available [online](#). A key theme to the Bunsis-Walker-Jones presentations: It is now time for Louisiana faculty to begin acting like a union even if right-to-work legislation is in place. Louisiana, the presenters noted, is more union-friendly than might seem in that there is no legal bar to organizing (even if workers cannot be required to join collective bargaining units) and no bar to such activities by public employees. More organizing events are planned, with more help from Bunsis and Walker-Jones being anticipated.

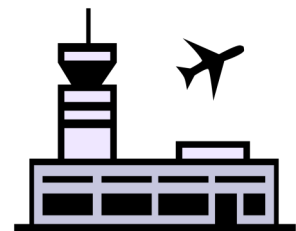
LSU PHARMACY OPENS TO FACULTY

The dark world of faculty deprivation has been shattered by a dazzling ray of light from, Toni Scott, the buoyant new manager of the LSU Pharmacy in the LSU A&M Student Health Center. Scott, who characterized LSU Pharmacy work as her "dream job," energetically invites faculty to visit and make use of the various services that the on-campus pharmacy can provide. Details of the re-opening of the pharmacy are included in an advertisement within this newsletter. Thank you, Dr. Scott, for your outreach to faculty.



TIP OF THE MONTH: CONDOR AIRLINES AND ITS PET-CARRYING SERVICE

Those who belong to the aviation community—and there are many more professional pilots than one might imagine!—as well as frequent international travelers know the frustration of living along a major economic corridor such as Interstate 10 yet having no recourse, when it comes to international travel, other than traveling through the perennially crowded, dirty, and delay-beset "hub" cities such as Atlanta, Houston, and Newark. Now an easy gateway to Europe has opened with the introduction, effective March 25th, of nonstop flights between New Orleans International Airport and Frankfurt, Germany. Operated by [Condor Airlines](#), this one admittedly long flight provides transfer-free access to Germany as well as easy one-change connecting flights to almost any city in Europe, the near and middle east, and even Africa. Upgraded travel such as the equivalent of "premium economy" is also available. Condor's remarkably slick and easy web site also allows pet lovers a service not found on any other carrier, which is the reservation, via an easy drop-down menu, of transportation arrangements for pets, including travel on-board the jet, alongside the pet-parent. Current charges for an on-board cat are surprisingly economical, coming in at \$110.00. The only drawback is that Condor currently only offers three flights per week (three outbound and three inbound, on alternative days), which can make scheduling a bit tricky. Those who have options regarding travel dates will, however, find the nonstop New Orleans option an attractive alternative to the uncertainties introduced by transfers in big-city airports.



LSU Pharmacy Opens
Located in The Student Health Center
Free Delivery Options for Faculty



FACULTY IMPACT SURVEY EXPOSES CRATER IN FACULTY MORALE

Two of the most inventive wits in Louisiana academe, Matthew Butkus of McNeese State University and Michael Meeks of LSU in Shreveport, have deployed their talents in the creation, distribution, and analysis of the faculty state of mind—and of likely faculty actions. After consulting with the many members of the ALFS (Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates) who populate the Alexandria Summit Meetings, Butkus and Meeks devised a “faculty impact survey” that evaluated the overall morale of faculty members, their future plans, and their opinions regarding Louisiana higher education. To the astonishment of everyone, this opportunity to speak the truth drew a whopping 575 replies from campuses across the state. The results, although perhaps not surprising, are distressing. Fully 72% of faculty members across the state are actively looking to leave their institution for a new job and 65% are seeking a job specifically outside of Louisiana. An astounding 71% would not encourage a colleague to apply for work in Louisiana. 61% would leave Louisiana for even a lower-paying job if it included the prospect of raises. Those four statistics are only the tip of the iceberg of a data-rich if emotionally devastating data-driven exposé. The full if initial data analysis and narrative may be found online in the “Multimedia Archive” of the LSU A&M Faculty Senate [web site](#). Several uses are planned for the survey, including the release of the data narrative to management boards, campus leaders, and denizens of the Board of Regents office.



Matthew Butkus analyzes the faculty impact survey

NEW REGENTS HAIL FROM SAME OLD VOCATIONS

Very few among the higher education community doubt that Governor John Bel Edwards supports our college campuses more than did his predecessor. Nevertheless, disappointment continues to fester as Edwards replaces retiring, Jindal-era management board members not with genuinely new faces from diverse walks of life, but with familiar figures from the same old money-saturated vocations. The latest batch of decision-makers includes good old land and resources speculator Bubba Rasberry, whose Crestview Woods LP is on the record as a donor to Republican candidates; assessor and real estate operator Darren Mire; attorney Blake R. David; and businessman Charles R. McDonald, whose Freedom Mobility provides backwoods-capable scooters that allow disabled persons to join in with other hunters in the favorite Louisiana “sport,” the unevenly matched quest for wild protein. Although McDonald claims to hold an Ed.D. degree, the new Regents cadre contains not one educator, let alone anyone concerned primarily with social justice, basic research, or philosophical or artistic activity.



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MONTHLY MOVIE REVIEW

THE BEATLES: EIGHT DAYS A WEEK—THE TOURING YEARS (Ron Howard, 2016)

—Reviewed by Carl Freedman

Ron Howard has never been my idea of a great filmmaker, or, for that matter, a great actor. One could probably make a good case that the best work he has done in his long career was his performance as a child actor playing Opie Taylor, Sheriff Andy Taylor's young son on *The Andy Griffith Show* (CBS, 1960-1968). Still, he is capable of directing straightforwardly competent and reasonably entertaining movies; and the best of these are usually dramas based on real-life events. Examples include *Apollo 13* (1995), about the nearly catastrophic moon mission that just barely managed a happy ending; *A Beautiful Mind* (2001) and *Cinderella Man* (2005), biopics that trace the lives of such diverse individuals as the brilliant but severely schizophrenic mathematician John Nash and the heavyweight prizefighter Jim Braddock, respectively; and *Frost/Nixon* (2008), about the series of televised interviews that the British comedian and talk-show host conducted in 1977 with the disgraced former American president. These films sometimes stick quite closely to real history: It is said, for instance, that, when several personnel from the actual Apollo 13 mission visited the set that Howard had had built to simulate mission control, there were moments when they briefly forgot that they were not back at the real thing. Still, these movies are all fiction films, with screenplays and professional actors. Howard's latest, by contrast, is a documentary, and one that tackles a subject about which it might seem that there is little left to be said: the most successful years of the most successful rock band of all time.

As the subtitle indicates, *Eight Days a Week* concentrates on the Beatles' years as a live touring band, playing and singing what many still consider the best pure rock-and-roll ever heard. The main story begins in 1963, the year that the Beatles moved from modest success to "Beatlemania," a global superstardom on a scale that has never been equaled before or since. One interesting detail we learn from the documentary is that, as American cities in 1964 prepared for their first Beatles concerts, local authorities tended to be confident that they had matters well in hand. After all, they knew their own populations—or so they thought—and they had plenty of experience dealing with large crowds that gathered for presidential visits or to see other popular entertainers. Surely a Beatles crowd would not be much different from the crowds that they had handled at Frank Sinatra or Elvis Presley concerts? In the event, Beatles crowds were totally different. Beatles fans turned out in numbers and with an intensity that were simply unprecedented. By the time of the later American tours, local authorities were pleading with the Fab Four to perform not in concert halls but in giant outdoor stadiums. The Beatles agreed readily enough, since it meant many more tickets sold; and, since they had signed some rather unfortunate contracts with the record companies, they depended on ticket sales for most of their income. From the cops' viewpoint, though, the point was that, if the Beatles performed in a theatre holding 5000 fans, there were certain to be another 50,000 screaming fans outside, desperate to get in and impossible to control.

Beatlemania was such an extraordinary phenomenon that it is easy to forget how brief it was. Its arrival in America—which, even more than the Beatles' native England, became the real center of Beatlemania—came with the band's appearance on *The Ed Sullivan Show* (CBS, 1948-1971) on February 9th, 1964. As has often been noted, we Americans met the Beatles less than two months after losing President Kennedy, when we needed some cheering up. On August 29th, 1966, the group performed at Candlestick Park in San Francisco, the last stop on a massive three-continent tour; and not long thereafter came the official announcement (curiously overlooked in Howard's film) that the Beatles were through with live performing.

It has often been asked why perhaps the best live rock band of all time stopped performing live. The factor that the Beatles themselves have tended to stress whenever they have addressed the issue concerns the music itself. However others may have seen the Beatles—as sex symbols, as youth gods, as a cultural phenomenon—they always saw themselves primarily as musicians; and, as serious artists, they could not be forever content with doing the same sort of thing over and over and over again. Even before the end of Beatlemania, in albums like *Rubber Soul* (1965) and *Revolver* (1966), they were straining against the musical limits of the pure and simple rock-and-roll

that the fans of Beatlemania were used to. In 1967, with live performing and Beatlemania over, *Sgt. Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band* marked a complete break with the Beatlemania sound. Most of this music, and that of the albums that followed, is simply not dance music in the way that their earlier work (and rock-and-roll generally) had been; and much of it, with its use of multi-tracking and other electronic devices, was flatly, technically impossible to perform live. The end of Howard's documentary reminds us, however, that, as the Beatles were making their final album, *Let It Be* (1970), and the accompanying film of the same title, they did play one last concert. Apparently without notifying anyone, they hauled their instruments up to the roof of the Abbey Road Studios where they worked, and performed a set of songs. Gradually, people on the street below realized what was happening and spontaneously arranged themselves as the Beatles' final live audience. Also in 1970, the Beatles' dissolution as a group was officially announced.

But the world-wide wish for a live Beatles reunion persisted for years. An excellent musical play, Willy Russell's *John, Paul, George, Ringo. . . and Bert* (1974), is built on this wish-fantasy. (Bert is a fictional working-class Liverpudlian who considers himself "the Beatles' number-one fan," having followed them with enthusiasm since the days when they were just one of many Merseyside rock groups.) The basic idea of the play is that Paul McCartney would come on stage, alone, at the beginning of a scheduled concert by his band, Wings, and say something like, "I'm afraid my regular band couldn't make it tonight. But three old friends came by to help me out." Then John, George, and Ringo would join him on the stage, and the audience that had paid for Wings would get to see and hear the Beatles. Even within Russell's play, though, the thing doesn't actually happen; but people in the real world kept hoping. Even after John Lennon's death, it was sometimes suggested that the Beatles could still reunite, with Julian Lennon taking his father's place. But it never happened, and it never will.

The Beatles' artistic development from straight classic rock-and-roll to the more complex and studio-bound music of their later work is not, however, the only reason that the touring years came to an end. By 1966, the Beatles had been touring nearly nonstop for six years. They were exhausted—"eight days a week" probably expresses how their work schedule felt to them—and they were sick of living out of their suitcases. Beatlemania enabled them to travel to many of the world's great cities; but they saw virtually nothing of these cities save for airports, hotels, and concert venues. Furthermore—a factor that Howard's film acknowledges but perhaps somewhat understates—Beatlemania was never quite so purely innocent as it seemed. Perhaps 99% of it was just joyous adulation. But there was always that other 1%, an undercurrent of malice and implied violence. When the band first arrived in New York, some Irish-Americans took it as an occasion for anti-English demonstration (ironically, since Paul McCartney and John Lennon were both of Irish background, and, as some of their post-Beatles songs would make clear, had considerable sympathy for Irish nationalism). When the Beatles performed in French Canada, Ringo Starr received anti-Semitic death threats. Above all, there was the reaction to John Lennon's offhand remark to a British interviewer in 1966 that the Beatles were more popular than Jesus. The comment was barely noticed in England but created a firestorm in the American South, where the Ku Klux Klan picketed the Beatles and the managers of some radio stations emulated their spiritual forbears in Nazi Germany by holding "Beatles burnings" of record albums and other paraphernalia. Howard's film makes clear that, even from the beginning of Beatlemania, the Fab Four recognized that the intense reactions to them contained an implicit possibility of physical violence. The film neglects to note the terrible realizations of this possibility in the fatal shooting of John Lennon in 1980 by a born-again Christian and the near-fatal stabbing of George Harrison in 1999 by an intruder whose motives remain unclear.

—Continued on page 17



KING'S COMMENCEMENT COMMITTEE COMES IN AS GAME-CHANGER

Louisiana and its universities have always had trouble understanding imported customs. Far from native to those exile, refugee, and fortune-seeking peoples who created our state, commencement ceremonies at our campuses have often enough degenerated into diluted versions of football tailgating. Recognizing that the motion out the door is more important, when it comes graduation rituals and other public academic sacraments, than the meat on the field (so much so that LSU has deployed a commencement speaker from the vegetarian-friendly Whole Foods Board of Directors), King Alexander recently chartered an LSU Commencement Atmosphere Improvement Committee, charging that body with the overall re-calibration of commencement customs at LSU A&M (and, we would hope, eventually at other LSU campuses). Already on the table of proposals is a pre-Commencement grand reception along with a senior walk and a series of events celebrating faculty achievements, all by way of extending Commencement into a week-long festivity that shows the public the academic value of our institutions and that reminds our citizens that the university creates knowledge for everyone, not only for those between the ages of seventeen and twenty-two.



TRSL PORTAL SHOWS UNEQUAL TREATMENT OF MEMBERS, PROPS UP LAWSUIT

Regular readers of the *Newsletter* have long followed the slow but steady progress of the lawsuit against Teachers Retirement System of Louisiana (TRSL) and against the LSU Board of Supervisors. Those who participate in the Optional Retirement Plan (“ORP”) and who have consequently received smaller benefits than those enrolled in the traditional defined-benefit plan know that a key allegation in this lawsuit is the unequal treatment of those who are compelled to subscribe to TRSL-supervised retirement programs but who are not participants in the defined-benefit plan. The latest installment in this story: TRSL has created a new online service called “TRSL Member Access” that provides online access to a broad range of services, from evaluation of retirement resources to benefits calculators and on to information about TRSL Board elections—elections from which ORP participants, in another amazing act of discrimination, are excluded, even despite paying service fees to TRSL. Topping it all off is the failure of TRSL to explain its own systems even to university benefit and “HRM” departments. McNeese State University, for example, made a good-faith effort to inform colleagues about the new portal, but, in the process, called attention to the fact that ORP members would have “to register with the ORP carrier for any type of member access to your [sic] account.” Attempting such a registration will indeed give access to an account but not to anything even resembling what TRSL is giving to an exclusive subset of its customers.



ANOTHER TOP TEN FOR LSU: LOUISIANA HAUNTINGS

If there were ever a curse that emanated from the elementary pre-science of arithmetic, it is the preoccupation with the “top ten” that we inherit from the decimal, base ten numeration system. Every university wants to be in the top ten in something or other; in Louisiana, the preferred scale is that measuring big-time sports teams. Although LSU, in the 120s in the academic national rankings, is a long way from the intellectual top ten, it has cracked into that sphere in another zone, that of haunted venues that attract paranormally inclined tourists. Coming in at number eight on the list is no less that LSU’s very own Pleasant Hall, home base of the *Newsletter* and command center for the LSU Faculty Senate. The location of a terrible, tragic love story that ended in mortal calamity, the third floor of LSU, specifically the former room 312 (now, subsequent to the re-numbering, most likely room 3120), is beset by the “presences” of those involved in the aforementioned baleful story. Read the full story [online](#)!



Haunted Pleasant Hall at LSU



LSU ITS Replaces Netreg

LSU Information Technology Services is modernizing the system by which your networked computers, printers, servers, and devices connect to the Internet and each other. On Saturday, February 25, LSU ITS will roll out its new BlueCat system which replaces the homegrown NetReg system we currently utilize. This means that you will need to first reboot then re-register your networked computers and devices within the system when you return to campus any time after noon on Saturday, February 25. You will still go to netrag.lsu.edu to accomplish this, but you will see a slightly different interface as the system will then be the new, modern BlueCat Registration Portal. Detailed instructions will be available in article 18751 in GROK. GROK is the LSU ITS knowledgebase and is accessible online at grok.lsu.edu. Please note, this implementation will not impact laptops and mobile devices that connect wirelessly to the network. You will not need to follow these steps for wireless devices. These procedures only apply to devices that are plugged into the network.





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RALLO FORUM PUSHES NEW REALITY

Just when we thought we had gotten by the “alternative facts” pushed by the new American President, along should come the memory that, in Louisiana, something called “the new reality” has long become the same old song. Given that an old tune never tires a sympathetic audience (one of the many possible varieties of auditors), inventive Commissioner Joseph C. Rallo created a statewide forum designed to examine and at least to some extent promote (or perhaps obtain faculty consent to) the anticipated new universe for higher education. Originally bruited, some months ago, as a statewide faculty day, the event gradually morphed into a multifaceted extravaganza, with one day being dedicated to administrators and another being allocated for faculty. The faculty day, however, turned out to be largely pre-programmed. An official welcome, two imported guest speakers, and a Commissioner’s luncheon preceded the faculty panel, the names of the personnel for which remained off the printed program. Curiously, that panel was presented as a passive event: as an opportunity for faculty to respond and react to the revelations concerning the new reality that had been unveiled by assorted outsiders during the first three-quarters of the day. The objective reader looked long, hard, and unsuccessfully at the program for indications that a panel or speaker would consider the fundamentals of the “new reality” or would ask whether those reservoirs of critical thinking that are our universities ought to encourage or dismantle this allegedly oncoming behemoth.



GOVERNANCE SUPERSTAR HESTER PUBLISHES IN AAUP ACADEME

Since her elevation to the Faculty Senate Presidency at Southern University Shreveport, (SUSLA) Sonya Hester has garnered honor after honor and introduced innovation after innovation, whether the running of audited elections for Faculty Senate officers or the penetration of the mass media or the scheduling of faculty celebration days. Now President Hester has taken the next step and gone national. The current issue of *Academe*, the official periodical publication of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), features an [article](#) co-authored by President Hester and her colleagues Joslin Pickens and Harolyn Wilson (who have also frequently joined conferees at the Alexandria Summit Meetings). Entitled *Organizing Real Faculty Governance in Northern Louisiana*, the article by Hester et al. recounts the struggle to reestablish legitimate and effective faculty governance and the SUSLA campus and abounds with tips for those who might want to recharge faculty activism on moribund campuses. The article is a mainstay in a special issue on the topic of faculty activism, an area in which Hester and her colleagues have proved themselves the consummate experts.



Sonya Hester, Faculty Senate President of Southern University Shreveport

LSU GOVERNANCE TO LAUNCH GAME-DAY POLICY

Wherever credit is due, it should be given, and so it is that the *Newsletter* acknowledges the great step forward taken some months ago by LSU A&M Vice-Provost Jane Cassidy, who saw to it that LSU A&M now has a clear procedure for initiating new policies. That procedure allows any legitimate stakeholder group to present a policy, which is then sent for review to various officers, groups, and concerned parties. In response to this invitation to contribute to good campus government, the LSU A&M Faculty Senate is creating a new campus-wide committee to draft a “game day policy.” This policy will address every aspect of the football weekend experience, from the management of crowds to the wear-and-tear on the campus to the presentation of the academic side of the university amidst the gladiatorial entertainment to the deportment of students and fans on the campus. For many years, faculty have expressed concern about the cavalier treatment—some might say “trashing”—of the campus on game days and about the apparent disengagement of the LSU Athletic Department from the long-term consequences of its weekend frolics. The new game day policy committee, which will include administrators as well as faculty members, will provide for an airing of opinions and will allow all those who love our universities to have a say in their protection and even advancement under the stress of large public events. It is hoped that the game day policy will eventually provide a template for similar policies on campuses across Louisiana.



LSU DOES IT INTERNATIONALLY! APPLY FOR A GRANT TODAY!

Louisiana State University recognizes the strategic importance of international engagement. Internationalization activities are part of the academic triad of teaching, service, scholarly activity and artistic work and specifically include teaching and organizing courses, invited state of the art presentations, organization of international meetings, funded collaborations and grants. LSU International Programs (LSU IP), Office of Academic Affairs, in partnership with LSU Global, has secured seed funding for activities that promote internationalization. LSU IP and the Faculty Senate Internationalization Committee formed a subcommittee charged with developing guidelines and selecting LSU “Internationalization Grants” proposals, submitted by LSU faculty, and intended to benefit faculty, staff and students for activities which would support LSU’s internationalization goals. For more information please visit:

www.lsu.edu/intlpro/LSU_Grants/untitled.php

As one would expect of a Ron Howard film, there is nothing cinematically innovative or complex in *Eight Days a Week*. But, also as expected, it does what it does pretty well. Formally, the film is a conventional mixture of file footage and interviews—the latter including some original ones with Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr and also with such Beatles fans as Elvis Costello, Eddie Izzard, Sigourney Weaver, and Whoopi Goldberg—combined with a glorious musical soundtrack. In terms of content, the film is not wholly without originality. The interviews contain a number of interesting anecdotes that one may not have heard, and much of the file footage has never been widely viewed before. Still, it is all the *kind* of thing with which any Beatles fan will be familiar. There are no big surprises on offer.

One might complain, indeed, that *Eight Days a Week* offers a sanitized account of Beatlemania—unsurprisingly, since it is a rather “authorized” film, made with the co-operation of the two surviving Beatles and of the widows of the two deceased ones. There is, for example, no hint that, in the privacy of their hotel suites, the Beatles’ touring years amounted, evidently, to something like an almost constant floating sex orgy: John Lennon once described the scene as being like *Fellini’s Satyricon* (1969) with four musicians added. Of course, this proves only that four young heterosexual men, eagerly offered sexual favors by a practically unlimited number of attractive women, responded as most young heterosexual men would. But it does somewhat conflict with the decidedly clean-cut image that the early Beatles projected. Then too, the film contains no indication of the tensions within the Beatles. Ringo Starr once said that he and his bandmates were as close as four brothers—but added that, like actual brothers, they sometimes got into ferocious arguments with one another. Eventually, of course, the conflicts within the group—

most notably those between the two giant talents and giant egos of John Lennon and Paul McCartney—blew it apart.

Yet there are enough good things in the film that one need not dwell on the things left out. The file footage, for example, contains numerous confrontations between the Beatles and the press; and it is impressive how consistently these four Liverpool youths without much formal education responded with graciousness, intelligence, and wit to questions that were nearly always condescending, usually stupid, and sometimes offensively rude. It is also interesting to observe how the Beatles, who at the beginning of Beatlemania seemed to many like four interchangeable mop-tops, subtly developed distinct public personalities: mischievous, intellectual John; wholesome, handsome Paul; reserved, vaguely mystical George; and good-natured, humorous Ringo. The interviews contain a number of memorable stories. In one of my favorites, the aging Paul McCartney recalls how, when he was a young teenager, new acquaintances would ask about his interests and hobbies; and he would answer by saying that he liked to write songs. No one ever seemed interested—until he met another young teenager named John Lennon, who replied that he wrote songs too. Thus was born the most creative songwriting team of all time.

But the best thing about the film, as it must be the best thing about any film with the Beatles, is the music. Songs like “She Loves You,” “I Want to Hold Your Hand,” and, of course, “Eight Days a Week” are so old, so familiar, and so lyrically and musically simple that one might think they would seem quite stale today. But they don’t. The best songs of Beatlemania (which is most of them) are still as fresh as new paint. This music possesses a rare, subtle genius that has kept it—to borrow a phrase from the Beatles’ only songwriting peer among their contemporaries—forever young: unlike those of us who can personally remember that most consequential episode of *The Ed Sullivan Show*.

LSU PREPARES FOR ALTON STERLING INDICTMENT DECISION

Sources deep within the Lakeshore Drive Palace have informed the *Newsletter* that LSU is quietly preparing for any actions or civil unrest that may emerge when Justice Department authorities decide whether or not to indict those involved in the Alton Sterling shooting. Concerns emerged that aggrieved groups might march on the Baton Rouge campus or that violent persons might direct their animosity against LSU persons or property. Security at the Lakeshore Building has been ratcheted up (although no moves have been made to protect faculty, who teach in utterly insecure classrooms). Which is all well and good, but has no one on the LSU Board of Supervisors stopped to consider whether the political and economic behavior of its membership, which includes some of the wealthiest persons in a state with grossly unequal distribution of resources, might be responsible for social unrest?



LSU prepares for the possibility of social unrest in the wake of Alton Sterling controversy

LSU UPDATES TIMELINE FOR MASTER PLAN

Progress is sparking along at the Old War Skule, where the Master Planning Committee and its consultants from NBBJ have announced an updated time-line for the release of the new LSU master plan. The current target date of mid-April seems to suggest that denizens of LSU A&M will soon see a vision of their future. Insiders tell the *Newsletter* that the draft plan calls for the long overdue demolition of Middleton Library and of Lockett Hall, the creation of a green space in the resulting Lockett crater, and the replacement of the library with a resources and information center near the current School of Art and Design. Naughty rumor mongers have speculated that LSU fundraising will raffle off the right to push the button that brings down the aforementioned buildings!

