INFORMAL RAP SESSION, 3:30 pm, with Dr. Carolyn Bruder, Interim Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. Topics included (but were not limited to) the following:

Dr. Loren Blanchard, candidate for the position of Provost, will be on campus Monday and Tuesday, September 24 and 25. His vita and bio are on the Academic Planning and Faculty Development website, and he has a meeting with faculty in 103 Moody on Monday from 2:15 to 3:15 PM. Please attend and encourage your colleagues to do so.

We have had another heavy budget cut at the beginning of the current fiscal year, and another cut at midyear is possible. In that event the situation could become quite serious. We have been able to maintain our educational mission so far.

Enrollment is generally good, and overall we are meeting requirements for the GRAD Act very well. We do need to improve on the question of first to second year retention.

PRE-MEETING

We now have name cards, organized sign-in sheets, a microphone, printed motion forms, and more to help us run a smooth meeting and keep good records, as well as an agenda on PowerPoint. The agenda is also posted to the Senate website in PDF.

Bary (Secretary): roster and mailing list are not entirely updated, in part because some colleges have just finished elections or have not quite. There are newly elected senators who may not have received all mail. Continuing senators therefore please share Senate information with newly elected colleagues in your departments and colleges, while the roster is clarified and the mailing list issues resolved.

MEETING: CALL TO ORDER AND REPORTS (WITH MOTIONS)

1. Called to order 4:03 PM by Executive Officer Charity Bryan. Bryan: this year, organization of meetings will be streamlined. Rules of order have been sent out and are available for reference on the website, as are motion and report forms. Goals for this year include support for a wider voice for all Senate members, more active roles for all Senate committees, greater engagement, better follow-through on all motions, collegiality, respect, and perhaps fun. The use of uniform written report and motion forms is intended to facilitate this.

Important: reports for this meeting including the report of the EO, are available in PDF on the Senate website, under meetings, here: [http://www.louisiana.edu/Faculty/Senate/Calendar/index.html](http://www.louisiana.edu/Faculty/Senate/Calendar/index.html). Minutes of past meetings are also on the website.

2. Approval of minutes: Anita Hazelwood moved to approve the minutes of the April 18 meeting. She was seconded by Kay Reidel, and the motion was approved unanimously.

3. Membership on Executive Committee: Judy Gentry pointed out that Robert McKinney, immediate past EO, is now an administrator and so cannot be a member of the Executive Committee as a person in his position normally would. Constitutionally, we should hold an election for an at-large Senate member to replace him. Following a brief discussion it was decided that this year, given that the Executive Committee is a new institution, we will invite McKinney to participate ex officio, but without voting rights; McKinney accepted this and no objection was voiced.
4. Standing Senate committees: Introductions of Faculty Advisory Council members, committee chairs and committee reports: roles and charges were explained, and reports are available on the Senate website. There were no motions from standing committees at this meeting.

5. Ad hoc Senate committees: The Committee on Instructor Rank has completed its charge. Each college is now working on its own criteria for instructor promotion. The Committee on the Status of Women has tracking of salaries and gender equity more broadly. This committee has also collected data on sexual assault and may suggest that such information, and suggestions on self-protection, be included in information given at orientation meetings.

The Ad hoc Committee on the Status of Black Faculty was never fully constituted since it did not have a representative from each college, and its former chair, Dr. Toni Muhammad, has now left UL Lafayette for another job. What should we do about this? Aeve Abington-Pitre moved that the name of the committee be changed to “Committee on Faculty Salary and Underrepresented Groups.” She was seconded by Dawn Williams.

George Wooddell suggested a friendly amendment, that the committee name be “Status of Underrepresented Faculty Groups.” The committee's purview would then not be limited to discussions of salary. Abington-Pitre accepted this amendment and the question was called. The motion was passed unanimously.

6. University Committees: chairs were introduced.

Kay Reidel, Curriculum: this committee meets often to approve new courses and make other updates to the curriculum.

Jack Damico, Grievance: the committee met 14 times last year with 9 faculty members who were considering filing grievances but in the end, did not. When grievances are filed, the committee meets to consider them and makes a recommendation to the President. The committee files a yearly report to the Senate, including information on whether its recommendations were accepted and implemented. Normally the President does support the committee, and in the past three years he has supported all the recommendations it has made to him.

Brian Powell, Faculty Benefits and Welfare: has written report. This is an important committee, especially in the current situation of cuts to benefits by the state, and they are working in that sense.

Suzanne Ward, Academic Affairs and Standards: this committee is currently working to create a uniform procedure for instituting new minors.

Joey Sturm, Parking and Planning: absent, no report. This is a problem since we want to know what plans are being made for campus design and transportation, and we will work to resolve this issue.

Jonathan Kulp, Student Evaluation of Instruction: has sent a report and it will be on the web.

7. Motions having to do with the Grievance Committee: it has trouble meeting because quorum is 6 out of 8 members. Last year the Senate designated a list of alternates to help solve this problem, but this solution is unsatisfactory since it means Grievance Committee information has to go to a very large group and not all members of this group attend all committee meetings, so are not fully informed.

Judy Gentry moved that the committee's size be increased by one person, so as to eliminate the need for all the alternates. The Senate should provide the names of two senators to the administration, so they can choose one of these to add to the committee. This way, we would also be sure to have Senate representation on the committee. The motion was seconded by George Wooddell.

Discussion: Evans, Cook, and others said the committee does have several senators on it. Damico said the issue is not senate representation, but quorum on committee, and he appreciated the idea of eliminating the unwieldy system of alternates in favor of a lower quorum.
Friendly amendment from Bill Ferguson, accepted by Gentry: change quorum on committee to a simple majority, 5 out of 8 members instead of 6.

Discussion: this is two issues: Senate representation on this committee, and size of quorum on the committee. The question was called and the motion failed by voice vote.

Then Rhonda Evans moved that the quorum on this committee be lowered to 5. She was seconded by Damico; the question was called and the motion passed by voice vote. It will have to go to the Committee on Ways and Means since this entails an amendment to the Constitution.

MEETING: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Presentation from Charlene Hamilton (HR) on pooled sick leave. This program has been approved, but not implemented because there are multiple issues regarding administration and maintenance of the program. HR will work on this with the Committee on Faculty Benefits and Welfare.

Denise Linton, Committee on Ways and Means: requests input on her report from all, or from anyone who has insight. The report is posted to the web.

George Woodell: what action has been taken re the new policy on background checks? Bryan: the letter that goes out to job applicants will now indicate that drug testing applies only to those in certain sorts of positions such as operation of machinery. Note: Executive Committee will follow up on other aspects of this with the Committee on Faculty Benefits and Welfare, which was charged by a Senate motion last year with investigating other aspects of the new policy.

MEETING: NEW BUSINESS (WITH MOTIONS)

George Woodell presented a motion on support of the new LGBT Studies minor (letter to President Savoie, posted to Senate website) and was seconded by Brian Taylor. There was no discussion and the question was called; motion was passed by voice vote with no nays and one abstention.

Gholam Massiha presented a motion on funding support for faculty teaching and research (posted to Senate website at http://www.louisiana.edu/Faculty/Senate/Calendar/pdf/Committee_Reports/ as “FacultyDevelopment-Compensation-FA2012.pdf”), accepting a friendly amendment from Bary to add a provision that new funds be supplemental to existing or regular funds. The question was called and after a voice vote was inconclusive, the motion failed by paper ballot: 25 yeas, 29 nays, and 4 abstentions.

Melinda Oberleitner presented a motion to ratify David Yarbrough as our representative on Faculty Advisory Council, with Jeff Lush as his alternate. She was seconded by Gentry and the question was called; the motion passed unanimously.

The announcement of the visit of the Provost candidate, Dr. Loren Blanchard, now Provost at Xavier University, was repeated.

Future meeting dates this academic year are Wednesdays, 17 October and 14 November, 2012, and 23 January, 20 February, 20 March, and 17 April, 2013.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20 PM.
APPENDIX: MOTIONS

Approval of minutes: Anita Hazelwood.
I move that we approve the minutes of the April 18 meeting.
Seconded by Kay Reidel.
Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Committee on the Status of Black Faculty: Aeve Abington-Pitre.
I move that the name of the committee be changed to “Committee on Faculty Salary and Underrepresented Groups.”
Seconded by Dawn Williams.
Friendly amendment from George Wooddell, to revise proposed committee name to “Status of Underrepresented Faculty Groups.” Abington-Pitre accepted.
Motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

Grievance Committee: Judy Gentry.
I move that the committee's size be increased by one person. The Senate should provide the names of two senators to the administration, so they can choose one of these to add to the committee.
Seconded by George Wooddell.
Friendly amendment from Bill Ferguson: Move to add to the motion a change of quorum on this committee to a simple majority, 5 out of 8 members instead of 6. Gentry accepted.
Motion failed by voice vote.

Grievance Committee: Rhonda Evans.
I move that the quorum on the Grievance Committee be lowered to 5.
Seconded by Jack Damico.
Motion passed by voice vote.
Committee on Ways and Means to see whether this entails an amendment to the Constitution.

LGBT Studies Minor: George Wooddell.
I move that the Senate write a letter of thanks to President Savoie for his support of the new LGBT Studies minor.
Seconded by Brian Taylor.
Motion passed by voice vote, no nays, one abstention.

Faculty Morale: Gholam Massiha.
I move that the Senate make the following suggestion to President Savoie:

“Dear Dr. Savoie and dedicated UL administrators:

“All UL faculty are aware that you are working hard to compensate faculty for their hard work. Funds for the acquisition of teaching and research materials, as well as equipment and professional travel have been reduced. In order to maintain institutional quality and specifically improve faculty development in teaching and research, the Faculty Senate would like to suggest a creative way for faculty to fund research and teaching in 2012-13 school year.

1. Each faculty regardless of her/his rank should get $2,000 in a “G” account. Faculty may use the money to purchase equipment for lab, office, or PC, laptop, iPad. Faculty should be allowed to use the account to travel to a conference or workshop. This fund/money should be used by the end of the 2013-14 school year or returned to the general fund.
“2. Faculty’s G account should be credited additional $2,000 for each year if there is no raise.

“Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

“Faculty Senate.”

Seconded with friendly amendment by Bary to add a provision that new funds be *supplemental* to existing or regular funds.
Motion failed by paper ballot: 25 yeas, 29 nays, and 4 abstentions.

Faculty Advisory Council: Melinda Oberleitner.
I move that the Senate ratify David Yarbrough as our representative on Faculty Advisory Council, with Jeff Lush as his alternate.
Seconded by Judy Gentry.
Motion passed unanimously.