

LSUHSC-NO Faculty Senate Meeting
Minutes, July 8, 2003

President Johnny Porter called the meeting to order at 3:35 PM. Members present were: Jennifer Lloyd, Laura Tarcza, Jo Thompson, Aloma Lykes, Bob Rowe, Mike Levitzky, Bob Richards, Jean Jacob, Larry Carver, Kelly Landry, Peter Winsauer, Doris Cather, Paula Gregory, Cathy Springstead, Vice-Chancellor Ronnie Smith, and Chancellor Rock. All members introduced themselves. Outgoing members were recognized with certificates signed by Chancellor Rock and past president, Larry Carver.

Vice-Chancellor Smith then addressed the Senate regarding the financial status of LSUHSC-NO. A new enhancement fee has been approved by the Board of Supervisors. Students will be assessed \$300 per year (\$120 for the Spring and Fall semesters, and \$60 for the Summer semester) that will begin in January 2004. This fee is an addition to the 3% increase in tuition approved previously by the LSU Board of Supervisors with implementation for the 2003-2004 academic year. This money will be used for academic enhancement, including salary increases.

Vice Chancellor Smith distributed a memorandum from the LSU System President regarding the 2003-2004 Operating Budget. A \$1.5 million dollar line item appropriation was made by the legislature for the purpose of faculty recruitment, particularly filling vacancies in key leadership roles of the three deanships and several departmental chairs. The New Orleans campus is expected to receive \$1 million of this new appropriation. The balance will be allocated to the Shreveport campus.

There will be a 0.8% across-the-board reduction in state general funding to all institutions of higher education. Vice-Chancellor Smith estimated that spending power at LSUHSC-NO will decrease by 2% to 2.5%.

We do not anticipate obtaining any new money from the Board of regents and hope to be able to retain the approximately \$600,000 we received last fiscal year for acquisitions by the library. Vice-Chancellor Smith stated that the annual budget for LSUHSC-NO was about \$412 million per year, of which approximately 66% is self-generated by our faculty and 34% appropriated by the state through the general fund and statutory dedications.

Chancellor Rock then addressed the Senate. He stated that reducing dependence on state funding is one of his goals. This will be accomplished by improving income from the delivery of health care and by increasing support from the private sector. This can be accomplished by improving the research enterprise at LSUHSC-NO. He stated that there would be a \$79 million cut in the budget of the state hospitals. Also, he plans to publish a monthly LSUHSC-NO

newsletter to inform faculty and staff of items of mutual interest. After his presentation both he and Vice Chancellor Smith left the meeting.

The closure of the Health Sciences Center was discussed because of a hurricane on 6/30/03 at approximately 9:30 A.M. The information used to make this decision was available by midnight. Information regarding the closing of other local institutions was available from the media by the time many LSUHSC employees left for work. The delay in closing LSUHSC forced many employees with children to seek day care at the last minute, an inconvenience that could have been avoided if a decision to close LSUHSC-NO had been made sooner. Therefore, it was suggested that the committee that makes the decision to close the Health Science Center includes members with children. It was noted that LSUHSC closed before the city or Tulane Medical Center. President-elect Jacob will attend the next Emergency Preparedness Committee meeting to keep the Senate informed of preparedness policy.

With regard to new business, Senators were urged to review Presidents Memorandum 12 that deals with tuition waivers for dependents of LSUHSC. Tuition waivers for dependents were not supported by the Baton Rouge Faculty Senate because of the estimated cost to the University. Our Senate previously voted to endorse the concept of PM12. Dr. Porter expressed our vote on this issue to the Faculty Advisory Group meeting in Baton Rouge.

President Porter asked Senators to develop a list of issues for the Senate to address, and determine which committees they would like to serve. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:03 P.M.

Submitted

Don L. Layman
Senate secretary