Meeting
Regular meeting of the full senate, 3:15 p.m., Kendall Cram Room, Lavin-Bernick Center
Presiding: The chair, President Cowen.
President Cowen proposed a change to the agenda that would move up the report of the Committee on Faculty Tenure, Freedom, and Responsibility to follow the president’s report because Senator Hill had to leave early. The agenda change was approved without objection.

Attendance
Ex Officio: Cowen (pres/chair), Langston (vice chair), Bernstein (provost), Sachs (Sr VP Health Sciences), Lorino (CFO), Jones (COO), Ordoyne, (pres. ASB), Britton (proxy for Hayes, chair, SAC), Mackin (sec), Wiese (parl)
Deans: Query (Libraries), MacLaren (NTC), Bernhard (Arch.), Ponoroff (Law), McCall (proxy for G. Bernstein, SLA), Buekens (SPHTM), Altiero (SSE)
A. B. Freeman School of Business: M. Sujan (proxy for H. Sujan), Cardinal
Newcomb-Tulane College:
Architecture:
Continuing Studies: Green, Schwartz
Law: Nowicki, Davies
Liberal Arts: Dangler, Masquelier, Carroll, Desai
Medicine:
Public Health and Tropical Medicine: Hutchinson, Webber, Long, Rose
Science and Engineering: Schmehl, Diebold, Walker, Tasker

Social Work: Pearlmutter, Lewis
Student Senators: Edgens, Feng
Staff Senators: Earles, Barrera
Senators at Large: Hill, Koritz, Brancaforte, Myers, Gaver
Invited Guests: Wilson (chair, Athletics), Dozier (VP, development), Barron (CIO), Maczuga (assoc VP, tech transfer), Cherrey (VP, student affairs), Johnson (gen counsel), Hogg and Mitchell (assoc prov), LeBlanc (dir, public safety)
Absent Senators: DeNisi, Marksby, Marks, Page, Rothenberg, Klingman, Goodwin, Diamond, Pollock, Balée, Taylor, Mushatt, Doucet, Phinney, Diaz-Thomas, Bunnell, McSwain, Beevers, Kuczynski, Purrington, Landry

Minutes
The minutes of the December meeting were approved without change.

Elections
Nominations were taken for the position of vice chair to replace Professor Langston, whose term is expiring. Senator Schmehl nominated Senator Long, and his nomination was quickly seconded by Dean Buekens. No other candidates were nominated. The election will take place at the next senate meeting, and further nominations will be taken from the floor at that time.

President’s Report
The president reported on the December meeting of the Board of Tulane University. He said the resolution of the board ending the state of
financial exigency, together with the slides from his report to the board would be attached to these minutes when they were distributed. [Secretary’s note: both documents will be attached and also posted online at the senate Web site, http://www.tulane.edu/~usenate/]

The president highlighted a few items from his report to the board. On the topic of academic priorities, he said the provost’s office was working on the protocol and criteria for reviewing doctoral programs. That project was expected to be completed by the end of the current academic year.

President Cowen said the university would continue to build up student population to reach its target of 5,600 undergraduates. At the time of the meeting, the admissions office had received over 30,000 applications, the highest number in Tulane history. All metrics, including those indicating applicant quality, were at an all time high. The major problem remaining was estimating the yield. The university was using a slightly lower yield rate than before Katrina. If the yield turned out to be as high as before Katrina, the size of the incoming class could be as large as 1,700 or 1,800 students. Using the lower yield rate, the administration expected 1,400-1,500 first-year students, plus about 200 transfer students. The president said he was encouraged not only by the number but also the quality of applicants.

He said the timing was too early to assess the number and quality of applicants for Tulane’s graduate and professional schools, but the indications so far were good.

President Cowen said the administration was gathering benchmark data for faculty salaries. The budget for FY 09 will include an additional amount for raises for some but not all schools. The budget will also include raises for some staff positions across the entire university. Despite continuing operating deficits, the administration believed salary equity adjustments were necessary. The program of assessing and improving salaries will continue in subsequent fiscal years.

On the question of leadership positions, the president said that the searches for deans of the schools of Architecture and Liberal Arts were in the final stages. In both cases, he was happy with the quality of the recruitment pools.

On the issue of fund raising, President Cowen announced that the university had exceeded its goal of $700 million about six months early. He said that Senior Vice President Jones, Vice President Dozier, and all the deans deserved credit for the accomplishment, along with many others. When the administration began the campaign, consultants it had hired to help with planning said the university would be fortunate to get $500 million. The administration ignored the consultants’ advice and set an initial goal of $600 million, then raised it to $650 million, and finally to $700 million. He added that, although the campaign was complete, the university would not stop fund-raising after this fiscal year but would continue the same efforts until its next campaign.

The final topic President Cowen discussed was financial priorities and objectives. He said the university would not lose $33 million as originally forecast this fiscal year because of one-time payments from sources like insurance and FEMA. The president said he focuses on operating loss because that gives the normalized number whereas the balance sheet can be distorted by one-time payments. The FY 09 budgeted operating loss in the multi-year plan was $27.3 million. The loss is now projected at $27.5 million, so the forecasting seemed to be pretty accurate, which was one of the reasons why the board agreed to end the state of financial exigency. The university appeared to be outside the imminent danger zone.

President Cowen then entertained questions and comments. Senator Hill asked whether the board had made a decision on the status of the Faculty Handbook as the senate had requested. President Cowen replied that the board had two enquiries from the senate to respond to and would take up both of them at its March meeting.

Senator Dangler asked about the specific time line for doctoral programs. Provost Bernstein responded that his office would send its initial ideas to the deans at the end of this academic year.

Senator Rose commented that the salary study should not only consider salary comparisons to
other schools but also consider the increased cost of living in New Orleans and the problem with start-up funds that were 6-ledger funds. President Cowen replied that the total salary issue was under review and discussion. Faculty and staff would finally begin to get some relief.

Provost Bernstein said he did not understand what the problem was with start-up funds. Senator Rose responded that if a start-up fund was 6-ledger and frozen, then the funds were not available. So the start-up fund was not real.

President Cowen said that the freeze was never intended to keep faculty from start-up funds in 6-ledger accounts. Vice President Lorino added that the balances frozen were those in existence at the time and the policy should not tie up recruitment packages.

Dean Ponoroff asked if the administration had a timetable for the restoration of surpluses that existed in the budgeting model before Katrina. The president said yes, he had a timetable, and the date he had in mind was never.

Senator Feng raised the issue of finding adequate housing for students. President Cowen said he did not see a problem for the next year. In subsequent years, problems could arise. He said the administration was doing master planning now, but were not contemplating new housing for graduate and professional students.

Vice President Cherrey added that nothing for graduate and professional students was in the planning for the physical plant, but the university was equipping Papillon and working with landlords in the area. Professor McCall responded that Papillon was not affordable for many graduate students. Senator Feng added that housing was becoming a serious problem for graduate students.

Committee Reports

Committee on Faculty Tenure, Freedom, and Responsibility (FTFR)

Senator Hill discussed the written report of the committee. The committee had participated in the development of interim principles and procedures on financial exigency, which were approved by the senate in October. It had also reviewed the grievance procedures of the various schools and recommended they be made more uniform. That motion was then passed by the senate in December.

Finally, the committee had considered the status of professors of practice. According to information provided by the provost’s office, the university had hired 59 such professors in 2007. The committee reviewed the credentials of those hired and concluded that the appointments complied with the position description.

Senator Carroll raised the issue of the provost’s report on percentages of professors of practice in each school. She said the report did not satisfy the senate’s request for information on all non-tenure-track positions because it listed only professors of practice.

Secretary Mackin said that the request had been made in the context of a discussion of hiring professors of practice, and so he had interpreted it in that context when requesting the report from the provost. Provost Bernstein added that the report was a current snapshot of percentages of professors of practice.

Senator Carroll insisted that, as the minutes for December indicated, the request was for information on all non-tenure-track teaching faculty, which would include both full-time and part-time faculty members. She said that the university misused the term “regular faculty” in reference to non-tenure-track faculty.

Vice Chair Langston suggested that Senator Carroll make a motion that FTFR undertake a study that would include analysis of those positions. Senator Carroll countered that she did not understand why she needed to make a motion because the request had already been made and recorded in the December minutes.

Parliamentarian Wiese advised that a motion would clarify what information was desired and so would help avoid another misunderstanding. Secretary Mackin suggested breaking the information down by the faculty categories listed in the Faculty Handbook. President Cowen said the administration needed the request to be specific and in writing to avoid repeated requests.

Senator Carroll said she saw the request as
simple—to provide the number of faculty members at Tulane who would never be eligible for tenure.

Professor McCall said she would like to know the number when only full-time faculty are considered and then add in the part-time faculty to get the complete picture. Vice Chair Langston asked if she would make that a motion.

Professor McCall then moved that the senate request data on faculty at Tulane by school, first specifying the number and percentages of full-time faculty who are tenured or tenure-track versus all other non-tenurable positions and then that the same information be provided on all adjuncts.

After conferring with the parliamentarian, Vice Chair Langston suggested that the request be made through FTFR. Professor McCall agreed and modified her motion to have FTFR provide the data to the senate.

President Cowen said that he did not think the senate would be satisfied with the information as requested because it would be a snapshot in time. He recommended that the issue be turned over to FTFR and that committee could decide exactly what information was needed.

Senator Koritz said her major concern was the percentage of classes taught by tenured or tenure-track faculty versus those on a temporary appointment. Senator Carroll agreed that information on teaching was needed and added that the senate needed to know what had happened to the teaching faculty since Katrina.

President Cowen pointed out that Professor McCall’s motion had not been seconded. Senator Carroll seconded the motion.

Dean Buckens said the data could be very difficult to interpret. Some non-tenure-track faculty are research faculty, others are clinical. The numbers change all the time because of grants.

Senator Carroll replied that the motion as phrased was useful because it distinguished between full-time and part-time. She said the motion also relates to Senator Koritz’s concern about quality of education.

President Cowen commented that he did not understand the resistance to asking FTFR to put together a written request that would have more clarity. Professor McCall noted that the motion did refer the issue to FTFR.

Vice Chair Langston said the motion requested specific data from FTFR. He suggested having FTFR undertake a fuller study instead of asking for a snapshot in time. If tenure was at stake or had been undermined since Katrina, he said he was comfortable leaving it to FTFR, given its mission, to determine what data were needed. Some questions are, How far back should we go? What can we learn by studying instructional hours? Answering those questions, he said, was the kind of precise work a committee could do as opposed to the full senate.

Dean Ponoroff said that the motion referred to all faculty, but the discussion emphasized teaching faculty. Some faculty categories do not include teaching. He asked whether the motion should be limited to teaching faculty.

Professor McCall acknowledged that the discussion had made the issues more confusing. She said she would support an amendment to let FTFR determine additional needs for data and classification.

Vice Chair Langston proposed amending the motion to simplify it. His substitute motion read, “FTFR is asked to study the employment and use of non-tenurable faculty at Tulane University, both full and part time (separately), pre- and post-Katrina, in the context of the status of tenure at the university.” The motion to amend was seconded.

Senator Long said the proposed study was too broad. He asked if the question was about the quality of education.

Senator Rose commented that in the length of time the senate had spent discussing the issue, the schools could have provided the information.

Provost Bernstein said that nothing prevented the schools and faculties from providing that information. His office’s resources were limited, but it would respond to FTFR’s request.

A motion to close debate was made and seconded. It passed with well over two thirds of the vote.

Vice Chair Langston’s amendment was then approved by a large majority. Subsequently, the
main motion as amended was passed, also by a large majority.

Committee on Libraries
Senator Brancaforte gave a brief summary of the committee’s written report, which covered three topics: (1) the library's plan to implement "Portico," an archival system for electronic journals; (2) ongoing recovery efforts at the library and long-term plans for the library system; and 3) the possible adoption of "Federated Searching," a program that allows cross searching of the library's online databases.

Portico would provide archival copies of electronic journals as insurance against the loss of access. Normally, access will be through publisher's platforms, but Portico will provide access if for some reason the publisher cannot provide access. Portico will keep the backup copies in a format that can be converted to other formats as needed.

Howard-Tilton Library is expected to expand by two floors. The costs are expected to be borne by FEMA to replace the lost space in the basement. Library materials that have been restored off site will be returned to the permanent collection.

Federated Searching would allow students and faculty members to search the library’s 300+

Committee on Student Affairs
Senator Pearlmutter, chair of the Committee on Student Affairs, touched on a few points in the committee’s written report. The committee had been reviewing proposed changes to the student code of conduct. The major proposal of the committee was the campus smoking policy, which the senate had referred to the Committee on Social Issues in February.

With no new business to consider, the senate then adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Mackin, Secretary

Secretary's Note: All written reports mentioned in the minutes will be available on the senate Web site, http://www.tulane.edu/~usenate/.