Full Meeting

The full meeting of the full senate convened at 3:15 PM, Kendall-Cram Room, LBC. 42 members were present.

Presiding: The chair, President Cowen.

Attendance:

Ex Officio: S. Cowen, J. Verano, M. Bernstein, T. Lorino, E. Anders, A. Loshbaugh, J. Wiese

Deans: I. Solomon, L. Query, K. Swartz, R. Marksbury, C. Haber, P. Buekens

A. B. Freeman School of Business: H Sujan, J. McFarland,

Newcomb-Tulane College: OPEN

Architecture: G. Owen

Continuing Studies: K. McLennan

Law: R. Scalise, J. Carriere,

Liberal Arts: F. Smith, H. Sullivan, A. Masquelier, H. Howard, J. Wolfe, G Desai

Medicine: Z. Pursell, L. Morici, R. Reitan, C. Sanchez, A. Betancourt

Public Health and Tropical Medicine: H. Long, K Theall, A. Madkour

Science and Engineering: C. Walker, D. Mullin, M. Kalka, J. Ruscher,

Social Work: C. Figley,

Student Senators: M. Lewis, M. Lamb, S. Stone

Staff Senators: S. Mitchell, M. Miller

Senators at Large: TBA

Absent Voting Senators:


Minutes:

The minutes of the May 7th meeting were approved without amendments. The final amended minutes are posted on the Senate website under both the May and September meeting agendas.

Introduction of New Members

President Cowen recognized the following new members of the University Senate. President of the Assoc. Student Body, Eli Anders; The Chair of the Staff Advisory Council, Alysia Loshbaugh; School of Liberal Arts, Justin Wolfe; School of Liberal Arts, Gaurav Desai; School of Public Health, Katherine Theall and Aubrey Madkour; School of Science and Engineering, Michael Blum and Morris Kalka; School of Social Work, Charles Figley; School of Medicine, Cecilia Sanchez; School of Architecture, Graham Owen; USG President, Michael
Lewis; GAPSA President, Michael Lamb; USG VP Student Life, Sam Stone; GAPSA Exec VP, Adam Pepperman.

**ELECTIONS**

1. John Verano, Vice-Chair of the Senate, presented the nomination slate for the President’s Faculty Advisory Committee, as derived from the executive faculty Senate meeting. Justin Wolfe, Morris Kalka, and James McFarland were nominated. A motion was made to open nominations. Having no additional nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed. Senators Wolfe, Kalka and McFarland were elected to the PFAC.

2. John Verano, Vice-Chair of the Senate, presented the nomination slate for the Representative to the Board of Administrators, as derived from the executive Senate faculty meeting. Dave Mushatt was nominated by slate. A motion was made to open nominations. Having no additional nominations from the floor, the nominations were closed. Senator Mushatt was elected to be the Representative to the Board of Administrators.

3. John Verano, Vice-Chair of the Senate, presented the slate for the Committee on Committees. A motion was made to affirm the Committee on Committee’s composition. The motion was seconded; the motion passed.

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

President Cowen provided an update on Devon Walker, the Tulane football player injured in the Tulane-Tulsa football game. It was noted that the administration has met, and continues to meet, with the family, as well the Tulane student athletes. It was noted that he has done well through the first surgery to stabilize the spine, but it is too early to tell with respect to the long-term prognosis.

The Senate took a minute of silence to place Devon Walker and his family in their thoughts and prayers.

President Cowen discussed the impact of Hurricane Isaac. Everyone was safe, and no one was harmed. There were damages uptown, downtown and at the primate center. The University is working with the insurance companies and FEMA regarding cost recovery. A week of school was lost, but it has been determined that extending the semester was not necessary. There has been no effect on enrollment.

The University is addressing how to handle future storms, particularly with respect to the unreliability of power. President Cowen discussed the power issues during and after the storm.

A question was asked regarding off-campus students, and what could be done for them. President Cowen noted that there are about eight to nine thousand students off-campus. It was noted that this is being addressed as a part of the University’s storm preparation strategies going forward, particularly with respect to improving
current educational and preparation strategies.

There around 1,640 undergraduate new enrollees, in addition to 75 transfer students. The overall size (13,400) and quality of the enrollment is at an all-time high.

President Cowen noted that each year the University leadership conducts a retreat to identify the strengths/weaknesses-successes/shortcomings from the previous year. The summation of this retreat has been posted to the Senate website.

President Cowen presented the Institutional Priorities for the 2012-13 academic year. The full report is posted to the Senate website.

1. Complete the strategic planning process initiated the previous year. Last year, there was copious time devoted to peer-institution comparison, trends in higher education, and the major academic themes in the next decade. This was finished in June, and it is being disseminated to the schools. This year, the focus is on the school-based strategic plans in the context of the University-wide strategic plan.

2. Three separate issues that need long-term solutions have been particularly called out. These are accessibility/affordability of higher education, digital strategies, and globalization.

3. Improving retention and graduation rates. Tulane’s retention rate is around ten percent worse than peer institutions. The goal is 95% retention (currently at 91%), and 85% graduation rate over the next ten years.

4. The future of the School of Medicine. The School represents one-third of the University’s budget. Our current clinical platform has to be reimagined, with a focus on a new direction to ensure sustainability and growth.

5. Complete the Search for the Distinguished Chair in Social Innovation.

Tulane had an excellent fund raising year last year, the second highest in university history ($82 million). We will take next steps in advancing these fundraising efforts.

President Cowen noted that there has been an exceptional amount of construction over the past few years. Over the past few years, there has been $490 million invested, another $75 million is planned for fiscal 2012. Some of these projects include Flower Hall (Science and Engineering), expansion of Howard Tilton Library (spring 2012). Renovation of the JBJ building (current), the new stadium (January 2013), a new residential college on the Zimple Quad, and another dining/residential facility that will replace Bruff.

SECRETARY REPORT

J. Wiese, Secretary of the Senate, presented the Provost's report on faculty size, as it pertains to the number of Senators from each
constituency. He noted that there are no changes in Senator numbers based upon this census. The full report is posted on the Senate website.

It was noted that the summer’s preparations for moving the Senate wiki to a day-to-day functional website has been completed. All Senate communications will not be via the Senate website.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was no unfinished business.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Secretary of the Senate provided an update on faculty size; based upon this census, there has been no change in the number of Senators appointed to the Senate from the respective schools.

John Verano provided a report/update on the **Committee on Committees**. Almost all of the committee appointments have been accomplished. The full report is posted on the University Senate website.

Ann Banos provided a report from the **Senate Benefits** committee. The health plan for the academic year was presented. The first six months of claims in 2012 were the highest that the University had experienced in the previous five years; by July the number of claims had doubled from the prior year. As a result, Cigna proposed a 22% increase based upon the number of claims. Currently, the University is back to United Healthcare for its insurance, with a 6.6% increase, with a rate cap of 13% for 2014. This will begin in January 2013; open enrollment will begin in October. The full report is posted on the University Senate website.

Laura Levy provided a report from the **Senate Research Committee**. One of the on-going obligations is to review publication restriction covenants. There were no such covenants to review. The committee also oversees the distribution of research fellowship awards; the awards distributed over the previous year are posted in the committee’s written report on the University Senate website.

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. A first reading was heard regarding amendments to the bylaws, **Bylaw VIII: Faculty Handbook**. This would add Bylaw VIII, codifying the current rule of practice regarding the Senate's authority over changes to the Faculty Handbook.

2. A first reading was heard regarding amendments to the constitution, **Constitution, Article VIII**. This would bring the amendment to the constitution in line with the current amendment to the bylaws. That is, 2/3 majority of those present and voting as opposed to 2/3 majority of all senators.
3. A first reading was heard regarding amendments to the bylaws, Bylaw IX: Elections. This would add Bylaw IX, clarifying the election process for the Senate's various elected positions.

4. A first reading was heard regarding amendments to the bylaws, Bylaw III: Senate Standing Committees. Eliminates the requirements that all committee chairs should be from elected senators. Establishes that the committee on committees be established prior to the end of the academic year.

5. A first reading was heard regarding amendments to the bylaws, Bylaw III: Senate Standing Committees: Athletics. Adds the Assistant Provost for NCAA Compliance as an ex officio member to the Athletics Committee.

6. A first reading was heard regarding amendments to the bylaws, Bylaw III: Senate Standing Committees: Assessments. Adds the Director of Institutional Assessments as an ex officio member to the Assessments Committee.

A motion was made and seconded to dissolve the ad hoc committee on Art Collections. There was no discussion; the motion passed.

A motion was made to establish an ad hoc committee to work with the Provost's office in reviewing and revising the Faculty Handbook. There was no discussion; the motion passed.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

John Verano, Vice-Chair of the Senate, announced that the following individuals have been elected by the executive Senate faculty as Senators-At-Large:

Thomas Luongo, Greg Stewart, Dennis Kehoe, Joel Friedman, Martin Davies, Leann Myers, Susann Lusnia, Stacy Seicshnaydre

**ADJOURNMENT**

Having no additional new business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:38 PM.

Respectively Submitted,

Jeff Wiese, MD

Secretary, Tulane University Senate

**Secretary's Note:** All written reports mentioned in the minutes, together with the full text of approved Handbook revisions and other policy changes, are available on the Tulane University Senate website.