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LSU FACULTY SENATE

Monthly Newsletter

May 31, 2011



President's Message

Contradictions are easy to find. One need only listen to the prattle at the state capitol about workforce development and then look at the support for any step along the K-20 educational pilgrimage to find stark contrasts. It is simple enough to survey any campus, compare the actions against the capacities and against the habits of assorted administrators, and come to the conclusion that confusion, if not hypocrisy, rules the academic world. That recognition, along with the proverbial twenty-five cents, will get you the stirring stick for a far pricier coffee. The question that might be asked, going into the summer period of research and reflection, is "what can individual faculty members do to make academic life better"?

All of this is to suggest that faculty colleagues are also susceptible to certain contradictions and conundrums that impair their ability to act, the overcoming of which can indeed increase the ability to make changes. One reason for the rise of administration and its intermittent usurpation of faculty prerogatives is a belief among faculty members that professionals will benefit more from cultivating acquaintances within their own disciplines and hoping for new opportunities in the nationwide market than from attending to business at the home base, where opportunities seems so few. Statistics, alas, seldom bear out such judgments. Fewer than ten percent of tenured faculty ever move from their tenure-granting institutions. The sad truth is that, with regard to the "metrics," the most good for the most colleagues results from contributing to the home campus and by working with legislators than by advancing in a specialty. Research is certainly important, but it is naive to believe the media-relations line that everyone will make LSU better by pumping up research volume (with the secret goal of becoming sufficiently marketable so as to look elsewhere and jump from Flagship).

Another odd habit to which all of us acquiesce is the love of departments. Departments possess very little policymaking power and often ensure that colleagues in smaller specialty areas will never blossom on the great field of educational debate. They attempt to force abundant talents through small funnels, with predictable results and with cooling effects. Academic departments induce a false consciousness, emerging from all those old hypothalamic impulses to protect territory, that leads colleagues to strengthen the fences that enclose them. As I suggested in my last "welcome" message, many faculty members would be best served not by garrisoning a department but by negotiating with this, that, or the other Dean for a chance to teach or research outside the home department or college or even, for a time, at another Louisiana campus.

Despite being encrusted by the hoarfrost of experience, academic professionals are often too hot to pursue ideals. After several years in faculty governance and after having visited dozens of campuses, I can affirm that no initiative has ever achieved unedited implementation or attained anything near its intended form. If anything, we have too high a level of morality in the professional ranks and a genteel reluctance to do battle with the sometimes slightly dirty weapons that fill the political arsenal. Perhaps the best key to attaining a feeling of success is to make a list of allowable compromises even at the same time that an idealized proposal or position paper is being developed.

Happy summer to all—allowing, of course, that there may be occasional compromises with respect to happiness, but that, even when adjustment occurs, there is little that a nice cup of tea and a slice of cake can't put into perspective!

Chancellor Martin UGA Interview Rips Veil of Secrecy

Denizens of Tiger Town were startled when LSU Chancellor Mike Martin, who, having expressed climactic career contentment and having affirmed that the stately oaks and broad magnolias of LSU would be his last stop before heading out to the Elysian Fields, suddenly turned up in Bulldog territory as a candidate for President of the University of Georgia System. No one would want to begrudge the infectiously, indeed epidemically friendly Martin a career-enhancement opportunity, but no one would want to miss the implication of Martin's itinerant moment: that all the propaganda about the necessity for secrecy in executive searches and even the limitation of such searches to one candidate has about as much validity as Harold Camping's prophecies of the Rapture. Not only at LSU, but on every campus in Louisiana, search committees are told by their handlers (whether executive search firms or higher-level administrators) that candidates for high office are so exquisitely sensitive and occupy such controverted seats that candidates' identities must never be revealed and that interviews must be conducted in concealed locations (usually mediocre airport hotels) so as not to disempower the candidate on his or her home campus, where the job-seeker might be seen as a deserter or traitor. Search committees are often told that a candidate is so precious or so endangered that he or she alone must be offered the job before he or she must pull the ripcord and return to the secure environment of his or her extant job. Does evidence support this high level of caution? Take the case of Chancellor Martin: when word broke in New Mexico that he applied to LSU, he was offered a raise back on the home turf; when Georgia contacted him, his "stock" back in Baton Rouge seemed to rise. Similar experiences seem to have befallen former Montevallo President and former Sea World attorney, now post-Shamu McNeese State President Philip C. Williams as well as former Baton Rouge Community College chief Myrtle Dorsey. It looks as if the cult of high security that has fascinated the now-reigning James Bond generation of executives may be under attack from that old enemy, evidence.

Fourth Alexandria Summit Slated for June 18th

The new Louisiana Statewide Colleagues' Collaborative (LSCC), colloquially known as "The Alexandria Summit Meetings," has slated its next working session for 10:00 am on Saturday, June 18th, on the campus of Louisiana State University in Alexandria. The mid-summer event will serve as an opportunity for the new committees established by the LSCC to confer and to consolidate plans as well as to explore a variety of new issues, including the latest round of attacks on state benefits programs. The LSCC is open to all persons with a long-term interest in faculty governance, whether or not those persons are currently serving on a faculty senate. For more information, contact LSU Faculty Senate president Kevin Cope (encope@lsu.edu).

LSU United Legislative Contact Team Now Blitzing the Capitol

Among the "firsts" of the second semester of the 2010-2011 academic year is the formation of two inter-campus, interdisciplinary organizations for faculty from every campus in Louisiana. In addition to the Louisiana Statewide Colleagues' Collaborative, LSU United, LSU's *burgeoning union movement*, has teamed with faculty activists from a profusion of institutions to create a "legislative contact team." As of the April 30th Newsletter, that team was in formation, but in recent weeks it has become a regular "player" on Louisiana's not-so-high capitol bump of a hill. Already, legislative contact team members from LSU, Baton Rouge Community College, and Southeastern Louisiana State University have teamed up to tackle mischievous bills such as HB530 and HB479 (dealing with benefits and retirement). Word on the street is that the legislative contact team is compiling a set of helpful legislators who evidence respect for faculty members and who will, at long last, give faculty members a reliable voice in statewide politics.

LSU Reveille Updates LSU Salary Database

In another of its signature irreverent moves, the *LSU Reveille* has updated and republished its *LSU salary database*. The database, which reports the state portion of all salaries paid on the Flagship campus, is a veritable engine for the production of both transparency and envy. But, whether good or bad, the database, which is remarkably unchanged since the publication of its predecessor in 2008 (the last time LSU offered general raises), contains more than a few revelations, some of them a consequence of omission. For example, it is very difficult to find salary records for those involved in the philanthropic work of the LSU Foundation, yet those Foundation stipends that do pop up indicate that the folks in that office really do love gold while living purple (or whatever that bizarre slogan is). Similarly, we see the danger of getting what we wish. An apparent overall decline in administrative salary suggests that those who may eventually serve in the leadership of LSU on an active basis will earn less than those who have receded into the tranquillity of private life. So much for the "baby boom" creating a better tomorrow.

ADMINISTRATOR IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Tony Lombardo, Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor, Facility Services

Most people who set foot on LSU's main campus can say that they have been inside one of its forty six buildings which are listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Far fewer, however, can say that have been under one of them. Fewer still can fully appreciate the intricate networks of pipes and wires that undergird the university's storied botanical landscape and renaissance style architecture. But for Interim Assistant Vice Chancellor of Facility Services Tony Lombardo, LSU's rarely seen underbelly offers a beauty all its own. "I love something as simple as crawling through a crawlspace under a building that



hasn't been accessed in some time," says Lombardo, "You still find untouched areas from time to time."

Of course, heading Facility Services isn't all digging in the dirt. Lombardo oversees what is probably the single largest unit on campus, with a staff of just under five hundred employees and an annual payroll of around \$30 million. The unit's mission, to manage all the building and property assets of the university, encompasses everything from landscaping, to utilities, to routine maintenance, as well as reporting to both the state and the city of Baton Rouge on how the university is complying with various regulations pertaining to sewage, storm water and the like. The unit also ensures that any new constructions projects,

such as the new Business Education Complex ground breaking took place in March of last year meet the university's requirements and needs. Lombardo points out that any new construction on a campus with some 250 building already in place is bound to present engineering challenges that must be watched carefully: "when you construct a new building on this campus, there's a fine chance of bumping into utilities and underground systems," Lombardo observes.

Like many of the administrators who make the every day life for the LSU community as a whole possible, Lombardo's connection to the university and the state runs deep. A native of Lafayette, Lombardo holds a Bachelors of Science in Mechanical Engineering from LSU. Lombardo goes so far as to say that he immediately thought of Baton Rouge as home. Though he spent some time working in North Carolina after graduating from LSU, Lombardo confides that he knew he'd come back: "LSU was a tremendous anchor for me," he says with sincerity.

While no unit or department across LSU's main campus has been completely unscathed by the budget crisis, Facility Services' large payroll and operational costs have made it a target for scrutiny, resulting in some \$4.5 million in cuts since 2005. Lombardo's feelings on the subject are understandably mixed. From a business standpoint, Lombardo recognizes that the unit's goal is to serve the needs of LSU as a university dedicated to academic excellence: "we've got to shore up the core," he comments. At the same time, however, Lombardo knows all too well that cuts to any unit is not simply a numbers game: "when you start talking about 3, 5 and 10% cuts, you're invariably talking about coworkers," he says rather pointedly.

"positive work goes on here every day."

Lombardo's mixed feelings on the budget crisis speaks to the spirit that many of the university's administrators embody, a spirit that above all seems to focus on the LSU community and which often outweighs individual needs. In keeping with that spirit, Lombardo stresses that his job as Assistant Vice Chancellor is an interim position and that candidates are competing for the job even as he speaks. Yet his focus remains on the important contribution his unit makes to the university on a daily basis: "positive work goes on here every day," he says simply.

REDSTICK RESTAURANT REVIEW: FAT CLEMENZA'S BRICK-OVEN PIZZERIA

By Carl Freedman

For obvious reasons, I normally confine my reviewing to local (or almost local) restaurants. But I claim three excellent justifications for making an exception in the current instance. First, though the restaurant in question is not in or even very near Baton Rouge, it is located in the Destin, Florida, area, a popular vacation spot for a good many Baton Rougeans; and, as the season for beach holidays gets underway, I assume that anyone interested enough in food to read this column agrees with me that discovering good restaurants is one of the most delightful aspects of out-of-town travel. Second, what I have to say here follows logically from what I said last month, in my review of Monjunis Highland, about Italian food (or Italian-American food—a distinction of which I was reminded with some emphasis by a friend in Rome who read the Monjunis piece). Finally, my third justification is simply my enthusiasm for Fat Clemenza's Brick-Oven Pizzeria.

Last month I noted that really good Italian restaurants often tend to resemble the unpretentious family-owned places featured in mob movies; and Dom Damiano, the proprietor and self-styled "boss" of Fat Clemenza's, is clearly quite conscious of the connection. It's not only that he has named his restaurant after the Mafia capo in THE GODFATHER who, during one scene, teaches Michael Corleone how to cook: but further signifiers of what Roland Barthes might have called "the Mafia effect" abound as well, from the voicemail that claims to be recorded by Luca Brasi, to the restaurant's slogan, "Food For the Whole Mob," to the prominently displayed images from the GODFATHER trilogy, GOODFELLAS, THE SOPRANOS, and other works that have done so much to shape our cultural imagination of La Cosa Nostra. Described thus in cold print (or pixels), all this might, I suppose, sound a bit gimmicky. What enables Fat Clemenza's to make the effect work is the genuinely friendly, neighborhood atmosphere of the place—where Dom himself occasionally visits the tables to say hello and make sure you're enjoying yourself—and, above all, the extremely high quality of the food.

The pizza—baked at 900 degrees in an old-fashioned wood-fired oven—is superior by at least a whole order of magnitude to the usual American version of the dish, and is concocted in fairly classic ways. You will find no smoked salmon or canned pineapple sitting atop a pizza here. Instead, a limited number of well-chosen traditional ingredients—most prominently hot salami, prosciutto, onion, mushrooms, peppers, olives, oregano, basil, and, of course, tomato sauce and mozzarella cheese—are combined in various different ways. Though I've not yet had the chance to try it myself, I'm especially looking forward, on a future visit, to ordering the white pizza that the menu lists as a house specialty; it dispenses with tomato sauce and adds ricotta cheese to the mozzarella, along with hot salami and (a bit surprisingly) artichoke. (continued on page 3)

Higher Education Groups Raise Outcry Over Proposed Insurance Premium Fees

In an example of contempt for higher education that pockmarks Louisiana's tortuous road to success, Representative Kevin Person presented HB530 to the Louisiana House Retirement Committee. HB530 would have required state higher education employees to pay an extra 1½% on the first \$50,000.00 of their income and a whopping 3% more on any income above that threshold. The result would have been a \$1,500.00 pay cut for a colleague earning \$75,000.00 per year or \$2,250.00 for earners of \$100,000.00 per annum. The proceeds of this levy, which would have been applied without the slightest input from faculty members and without consideration for previous agreements or Social Security regulations, would have been siphoned into the notorious "unfunded accrued liability," the \$6,000,000,000.00 deficit created by irresponsible political promises for which faculty members have no responsibility and over which they have no control. Shockingly, the Teachers' Retirement System of Louisiana ("TRSL") and TRSL chief Maureen Westgard took no public position on this legislation, which would have devastated the thousands of employees whose assets TRSL allegedly guards. A very large number of groups—faculty governance officials, campus administrations, LSU Human Resources Management, LSUnited, elements within the Flagship Coalition—mounted an intense campaign to keep HB530 at bay. Presently, the bill stands in "deferred" status. Faculty governance officials across the state stand in readiness in the event that this unfair proposal revives.

Projected Entrance Stats Point to Resegregation at UNO, SUNO

The proposed merger of UNO and SUNO is now old news, but some little-studied numbers tell an interesting story about the mentality of state government with regard to the ethnic traditions of institutions. According to figures released by no less than the Board of Regents, the new 2012 entry standards for four-year colleges would disqualify 26% of current UNO applicants and would also disqualify 79% of current SUNO attendees. If the governor had gotten his way and the two institutions had merged, shrunk, and ended up with half their population, roughly one-fifth of the SUNO students would remain and three-quarters of the UNO students would still be on deck. The move proposed by the Jindal administration would thus begin the re-segregating of SUNO, downsizing the black student population to levels lower than in most majority white institutions.

Red Stick Restaurant Review Draws Fanbase on Facebook

Our redoubtable Red Stick Restaurant Reviewer, Carl Freedman, has hit another high point in his career as a culinary critic. Witty and exacting Freedman's review of Italian bistro Monjunis', published in the [April 30th Newsletter](#), germinated into a Facebook community event, drawing a long thread of comments and creating a new network of Louisiana food commentators. See and weave yourself into the new thread on the special [Facebook thread](#).



Restaurant Review (Continued)

Yet, despite its full name, Fat Clemenza's is not solely or even, perhaps, primarily a pizza restaurant. The pasta dishes may be even better than the pizza. The spaghetti carbonara, for instance, is not only among the very best I've tasted anywhere but is somewhat lighter than one generally expects the dish to be. The secret, I think, is that, instead of being heavily laden with several different meats, as carbonara often is, it uses just enough pancetta to impart a wonderfully tangy flavor to what is otherwise a vegetarian dish dominated by a cheesy and creamy sauce. Lighter still is another of my favorites, the linguini with white clam sauce. This has a deliciously hot-and-spicy undertaste not quite typical of the dish—a reminder, perhaps, that Dom, whose grandparents, he says, were from New Orleans, has subtly incorporated some Cajun/Creole culinary elements into the traditional cuisine developed mainly in the big northern cities of the US by Sicilian and southern Italian immigrants.

To wash down your meal, Fat Clemenza's offers an adequate, though not outstanding, wine list. But I generally found that, after a sunny day spent mainly on the beach and by the swimming pool, I was more in the mood for a large bottle of San Pellegrino sparkling mineral water—more hydrating than wine and just as Italian.

Fat Clemenza's is located at 12273 US Highway 98 in Miramar Beach, Florida (just slightly east of Destin proper); phone: (850) 650-5980. Reservations are not required and are not always necessary for lunch. But they are definitely a good idea for dinner, when the place is likely to be crowded. The restaurant is not large, and, despite its unpretentious ethos and rather out-of-the-way location (just off the highway in an unimpressive-looking strip mall), word has clearly gotten around that Fat Clemenza's serves some of the best food to be found along Florida's Emerald Coast.

GUEST COLUMN

SUBR Chancellor Search Leads to Appointment of Jim Llorens

By Thomas Miller, Vice-President of the Southern University Faculty Senate

Thursday, November 4, 2010, we, the Faculty Senate of Southern University and Agricultural and Mechanical College, expressed a vote of no-confidence in the leadership of Chancellor Kofi Lomotey. This, in due course, gave way to the search of a new chancellor for the Baton Rouge campus. We recommended to Southern University System President Ronald Mason and the Board of Supervisors that Lomotey be kept on as chancellor during an internal search to find his replacement. Reasons listed for the vote of no-confidence included Lomotey's failure to effectively address issues relating to decreasing student enrollment and retention as well as his failure in private fundraising. However, the single most contentious issue that brought the vote of no-confidence on the Senate's floor was his \$120,000 nine-month appointment of Lisa Delpit as endowed full professor without any endowment money raised by him and without due search process. This showed short sightedness and the out-of-touch nature of his administration.

Note that, mostly owing to state induced budget cuts, the size of full time faculty at the Baton Rouge campus has drastically shrunk during Lomotey's administration. Nonetheless, Lomotey's leadership did have some admirable attributes. These included his standing up to the Southern University Board on behalf of the Baton Rouge campus while negotiating pool costs, his standing against the private, nonprofit Southern University System Foundation in early 2010 when he received approval to form a foundation specifically for the Baton Rouge campus, and his fighting for greater oversight and revenue control of the Bayou Classic football event.

Friday, December 10, 2010, the Southern University Board of Supervisors appointed a 17-person chancellor search committee to be co-chaired by Board Member Patrick Magee of Lafayette and John Spain, Executive Vice President of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation. Remaining members of the committee were College of Business Dean Donald Andrews, Board Vice Chairman-elect Murphy Bell, Alumni Federation President Dennis Brown, Nursing professor Sandra Brown, Attorney Scott Chenevert of the Baton Rouge Area Chamber of Commerce, New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu's Legislative Liaison Jason Hughes, Staff Senate President Toni Jackson, Board Member Patrick Jefferson, Criminal Justice assistant professor Chanika Jones, Attorney Wade Shows of Baton Rouge, Student Government Association President Demetrius Sumner, Custodial Services Director Ralph Sterling, Faculty Senate President Sudhir Trivedi, Student Recruiting Coordinator Mark Young, and Board Chairman-elect Darren Mire as ex-officio nonvoting member. The committee lacked adequate representation of faculty and women; we promptly brought this to the attention of the committee and the Southern Board.

Mason directed the search committee to work with DHR International, a Chicago executive search firm, hired at a cost of \$65,000. We felt that the hiring of the search firm brought very little to the table and was an unnecessary expenditure. The search firm presented ten candidates, out of twenty five, to the search committee for a thorough evaluation. The committee recommended five semi-finalists: Savannah State University President Earl Yarbrough, former Virginia Union University President Belinda Childress Anderson, current Assistant Chief Administrative Officer to Mayor Kip Holden and former Southern Dean of Graduate Studies James Llorens, former Alabama A&M University President Robert Jennings, and Philander Smith College President Walter Kimbrough. Kimbrough withdrew. Paul Quinn College President Michael Sorrell and Southern Physics Department Chairman Diola Bagayoko were added to the list of interviewees at the request of Mason and Trivedi, respectively.

Interviews were conducted during April 18-20, 2011. The three finalists for the chancellor's position were Bagayoko, Llorens, and Yarbrough. The Advocated wrote – "Southern Faculty Senate President Sudhir Trivedi pushed Wednesday for Llorens, Bagayoko, and Yarbrough to be the three finalists of the six. Trivedi argued that Sorrell was not prepared to lead a research university of nearly 8,000 students because Paul Quinn College only has about 200 students and because Sorrell did not have a doctoral degree or a background in academia beyond Paul Quinn." Mason interviewed the three finalists during the following week.

During the April 29 meeting of the Board of Supervisors, Mason was scheduled to submit his recommendation to the Board; but, he asked for more time. However, the Board promptly proceeded to appoint Llorens, one of the finalists, the chancellor of the Baton Rouge campus. Trivedi, after succeeding in the selection of the three finalists, refrained from advocating any one candidate over the other.

From the faculty's perspective, we are reasonably satisfied with the search process and cautiously optimistic about the final outcome of the search process and the incoming chancellor. We are hoping for the best.



Hero of the Year

LSU is full of heroes and heroines who manage to slog through the daily grind or to keep teaching and research going under adverse circumstances or otherwise to make a favorable difference. Almost everyone at LSU deserves a trophy, a medal, or a blue ribbon. Some of our colleagues, however, manage, through a mix of personal qualifications, untiring effort, and timely strategy, to epitomize the daily heroism of the people of the Tiger. With the hope of commemorating everyone's achievement, the *Newsletter* has created a new annual designation, to be conferred each May: HERO OF THE YEAR. While the competition for this high (and first) office has been intense, given the extraordinary efforts made by all our colleagues, the first brush of fame's palm must go to no less than A. G. MONACO, our new Associate Vice-Chancellor for Human Resource Management. When A. G. bounced into town (and spent his first few months billeted in an extended-stay motel that could have served as the set of Elvis Presley's Jailhouse Rock), he encountered a service department that had acquired the worst reputation on the campus and that remained confused with regard to its advocacy and customer-service commitments. Sweeping into Boyd Hall like Lykurgus surging into Sparta, A. G. infused his unit and indeed the entire campus with his no-nonsense service ethic and his springy good wit. A. G. immediately recognized that Louisiana needed to do a whole lot more to help its educational and public-service employees—that there were more than a few cages that needed rattling both down at the state house and over in the Boyd Towers. The palpable gains that A. G. has produced and his go-get-'em approach to snarled problems such as the retirement scam have mounded up more quickly than Hillary could scamper up Everest. A. G., who must often work in the shadowy world of confidential plans and elusive influence peddlers, never fails to illuminate even the darkest of issues with his laser-targeted ability to extract core truths. Congratulations, A. G., on exemplary service to all of Louisiana higher education!

LSU Faculty Senate Passes Three Quality-of-Life and Working-Conditions Measures

At its May 2nd meeting, the LSU Faculty Senate passed three measures relating to the quality of life and to working conditions. Sponsored by Joan King and Luigi Marzilli, Resolution 11-08, "Smoke-Free Entrancesways," passed in modified form. Under the revised resolution, smoking within thirty feet of an entranceway to a building on the LSU campus will be prohibited. Companion resolution 11-09 offered by Michael Russo, Stephanie Braunstein, Judith Sylvester, and JoAnn Henson calls for the declaration of LSU as a smoke-free campus and for the establishment of a task force on the implementation of that mandate. Resolution 11-10, sponsored by Patrick McGee, "On the Working Conditions of Instructors," criticizes LSU for the repeated issuance of provisional termination notices and recommends the establishment of rolling multi-year contracts for instructors with proven track records.

LSU in Alexandria Bags "Tree Campus USA" Honor

LSU in Alexandria has been climbing in public visibility ever since the Louisiana Statewide Colleagues' Collaborative (the "Alexandria Summits") decided to call it home. Now, the National Arbor Day Foundation has recognized the LSUA physical plant as a "Tree Campus USA," applauding its superiority in five categories of arboreal excellence, ranging from tree-related service-learning options to urban forest management. Congratulations to LSUA Chancellor David Manuel for recognizing the importance of good environments to the recruitment of students and faculty and to the composite value of an institution.

Pensions Revisited

By A. G. Monaco

Well I had hoped to write about something other than pensions but it has been a busy month in regard to that issue and so we remain tied to the subject.

Earlier this month HRM sent out notice of a legislative bill introduced in the pension committee in the Louisiana House (HB 530). HB 530 is seeking to increase contributions for participants in the two state pensions - LASERS and TRSL. Interestingly the bill exempted K-12 participants from increases and thus the proposed increases mandated for TRSL were clearly aimed at higher education employees.

While the staff at LASERS were vocal in attempting to protect their participants from this increase the leadership at TRSL exhibited no support for its participants or did so at the volume of a dog whistle. LSU faculty and staff reacted in both an intelligent and appropriate manner and many let their voice be heard and expressed their discontent with the idea. Credit is due to those of you who remembered the days of tie dyed shirts and courteous and civil discourse and organized and expressed your concerns to our state representatives. I was especially proud of our Chancellor in releasing a statement that indicated his concern with this direction by the legislature and the problems of recruitment and retention that are sure to follow if the bill is passed.

While initially tabled the bill did eventually exit the committee and moves toward the floor of the legislature. Still significant opposition was expressed by a number of committee members and importantly an amendment was added to the bill that exempted ORP participants. We are making progress in dealing with this issue but need each of you to remain engaged in expressing to all who will listen the damage the bill can do to LSU.

The challenges to the behavior of TRSL that have been expressed by our community and our friends in the Flagship Coalition are having some modest positive impact. Recently the retirement system announced a reduction in the administrative charges levied on the Optional Retirement Plan participants - In their release issued on May 24 TRSL stated the following - "The TRSL Board of Trustees voted in May to reduce the administrative fee collected from Optional Retirement Plan (ORP) participants by 50%. Beginning with the July 2011 ORP salary and contribution reporting, the fee collected by TRSL will be reduced to 0.05% from 0.10% of covered earnings."

As you may know the administrative fee is allegedly used to offset the cost of administration and maintenance of the ORP program. The pension leadership went on to further state that "Under current law, after the administrative fee, 7.9% of employee earnings plus employer contributions are transferred to ORP providers to be invested as directed by the participant. Effective with the July 2011 ORP salary and contribution reporting, a net 7.95% of employee earnings will be transferred to providers along with the employer contribution."

Faculty Senate Present Kevin Cope who is the "tip of the spear" in our efforts to improve the quality of TRSL pensions for faculty and staff expressed some sarcastic pleasure in noting that he could soon afford to "pay for the cream in his coffee." I am concerned that Dr. Cope's command of Milton and Chaucer outstrip his interest in the activities of the commodities market. I have advised him to continue to order his Starbucks black since we can expect dairy prices to climb due to the increase in feed costs created by flooding along the upper Mississippi and Missouri rivers.

Still both Professor Cope and I agree that this modest gain is a positive and encouraging sign and is most likely the result of efforts from the campus, our colleagues on other state campuses, and our friends and supporters in the community. Let's hope that continued expressions of our concerns in the management of the pension systems will keep reaching our state leaders and their reactions will be supportive of our efforts to move our great institution ever forward.

Reflections from Administrator on First 14 months at LSU

By Kurt Keppler, Vice Chancellor for Student Life & Enrollment Services

Much has happened since I arrived in Baton Rouge in March, 2010. Suffice it to say that I have had a whirlwind learning experience and enjoyed almost everything, except budget cuts. The campus is beautiful, culture intriguing, and food downright dangerous.

My career in student affairs has taken me to four other public universities in Missouri, Virginia, and Georgia, ranging in size from 13,000-32,000 students. The journey taught me to be fairly effective in moving my family across the country, working thorough spousal employment issues, selling and buying homes with limited research and exploration, and seeking schools, soccer clubs, and veterinarians. Moving to a new institution presents both incredible opportunity and interesting challenges. Each institution has a unique campus culture, governance model, legislative process, and System Board, along with nuances that can take considerable time to understand and maneuver.

As a land-grant flagship, LSU reminds me a great deal of the University of Missouri. Louisiana's state revenue and budget shortfalls, combined with the large amount of mid-sized regional institutions, offer a similar scenario to one I faced in the University of Georgia System. The capital city location, history, and architectural style provide a similar feel to the city of Richmond and Virginia Commonwealth University. Despite the parallels, it was clear from the start that LSU had a spirit, vitality, and level of pride unlike anywhere else.

My arrival officially marked a divisional reorganization which added Enrollment Services and formed the Division of Student Life & Enrollment. With that (and further reflection by department leadership), the division's new mission became as "recruit, admit, engage, retain, and graduate a diverse student population for success at LSU and beyond."

Units in the division include Undergraduate Admissions, Student Aid, Orientation, Residential Life, First Year Experience, Center for Academic Success, Dean of Students, Campus Life, Disability Services, Greek Life, Career Services, Student Advocacy & Accountability, University Recreation, and Parent & Family Programs. I found staff in each unit to be dedicated, motivated, and experienced.

My first tasks on campus were simple, yet critical -- meet the many faculty and staff I would be working with to develop a clear understanding of their roles and establish a foundation for collaborating to achieve the common goal of student success. In my first month, I had over 40 individual meetings with leaders from the senior colleges, faculty, administration, and student body. In those first months, I toured each residence hall and college, recreational facilities, divisional offices, and many other campus facilities. (continued on page 5)

Registrar Unveils New Undergraduate Commencement Gown

Last month, the Newsletter reported the availability for viewing of the luxurious and elegant new LSU doctoral regalia, which remains on display in Registrar Robert Doolos's office. The ever-reliable Doolos has continued the fashion surge by obtaining a sample of the new undergraduate gown (for baccalaureate recipients), which joins its doctoral counterpart in the increasingly à la mode display window of the aforementioned Registrar's atelier. The new undergraduate gowns, in a ravishing but dignified purple, feature lapel tabs bearing the LSU acronym logo in bright gold and also include multi-color purple-and-gold tassels for the mortarboard. The LSU community owes a huge debt of thanks to Registrar Doolos for managing the logistics of the transition to a new, better, and highly identifiable "look" for LSU's graduation-related events.

UNO Faculty Divided in Wake of Proposed Merger

New Orleans correspondent and faculty activist Steve Striffler reports widespread disorientation and uncertainty on the University of New Orleans campus in the wake of the proposal to merge UNO with Southern University of New Orleans, a proposal that, after its failure, led to a follow-on proposal to transfer UNO to the University of Louisiana System. Faculty governance officials around Louisiana have grave concerns about the University of New Orleans, where an irregular "University Senate" (rather than a faculty senate) that includes staff and administrative personnel and that does not operate with the requisite independence from the administration may not manage to inform rank-and-file employees about the consequences of such a transfer. A substantial number of UNO faculty and employees seem to think their future would be brighter under the University of Louisiana management board yet have had no opportunity to examine the changes to tenure and other job-security rules that have recently been imposed by the University of Louisiana System in the name of economic "flexibility."

Dunkin' or Choppin' Mysterious Plinth

Fans of Area 51 will rejoice that, immediately in front of the new basketball practice facility, a secret object heavily wrapped in black plastic that looks rather like a shortened version of the monolith in *2001: A Space Odyssey* has appeared. Spooky, incongruous, and unexplained, this mysterious bit of uncanny detritus is less likely to be a sarcophagus for alien bodies than a pedestal for LSU's latest venture into public art, the not-so-long awaited statue of Shaquille O'Neal. The latest chapter in the continuing story of "facilities naming" and fundraising through commemoration, this latest exercise in backward aesthetics derives from the largesse of an unknown donor whose contributions to other aspects of University support remain unknown (surely the right to implant this object could have been coupled with a requirement to donate to the academic side of the Old War Skule). The statue itself, which was pictured in the LSU Media Sweep for May 11th, evidences a childish representationalism, showing the former Miami Heat player flying up from what appears to be a blazing kindling and delivering a dunk to a disembodied basket. If the myth of the "scholar-athlete" is true, why wasn't Shaq shown scurrying to dunk a sophisticated chemical into a test tube (in, as it were, Choppin rather than in Dunkin Hall) or perhaps shown leaping up to grasp a book on Schopenhauer from the top shelf of library stacking?

Reflections (Continued)

I also felt that it was critical that I learn as much as possible about our prospective students and accompanied admissions staff on several recruiting and yield trips to key locations. Our team – with much help from deans, college advisors, and other staff – had an extremely successful recruiting year which not only increased the class by over 700 students from the previous year, but also increased diversity and maintained quality. Our students have incredibly different backgrounds and I find it quite exciting to hear about their goals and aspirations.

In the fall of 2010, we began the process of developing a divisional strategic plan for use at the core of our departmental plans. Each will build toward the Vision of creating "...an environment that fosters student success and enhances the mission of LSU" and incorporate Values of Ethics, Collaboration, Character, Community, Stewardship, and Assessment. Likewise, each will address strategies for achieving Goals in the areas of Student Success, Communication, Staff Development, Technology, and Fundraising.

Additionally, the division is currently developing student success outcomes for each of our departments. If success is measured by retention and graduation (depending on who's counting), then Student Life & Enrollment must help students be ready to learn and encourage them in being actively engaged on campus -- both in and out of the classroom.

I have tried to get a feel for the ebb and flow of activities at various times of the year. My conclusion is essentially that the pace here is always "high gear." No day is routine. There is an abundance of regularly scheduled meetings, most of which are necessary to keep up with the ever-changing menu of programs and services at any given time. I also know that, at any minute, my schedule could stop to address the needs of a frustrated parent, concerned faculty member, or distraught student or two or three... (I wouldn't have it any other way.)

As I get ready for round two of 11 summer Orientation sessions, I am still amazed by LSU's potential. Despite the doom and gloom of the state budget picture, rising waters causing anxiety, and numerous projects slowly creeping from the proverbial backburner, I am convinced that LSU is a true educational gem and economic bargain. I am proud to call it home.

Geaux Tigers!

Internationalization – From Margin to Mainstream

By Jane Chandler, Assistant Director, Development and Outreach-International Programs

Over the last decade, the Faculty Senate has passed no less than three separate but interrelated resolutions to promote international education at LSU. Additionally, in 2005 the Faculty Senate International Education Committee submitted an extensive report to the OAA on the state of international education at LSU and peer institutions. In 2007 the committee proposed three key actions to the administration: clarification of the University's intentions with regard to international education and research, empowerment of International Programs to coordinate campus international initiatives with the FSIEC acting in an advisory capacity, and an administrative mandate for a systematic assessment of current international activities and a strategic plan leading to a comprehensive globalization program.

In February 2009, with the support of then LSU Provost Astrid Merget, International Programs(IP) formed a task force to determine the existing level of internationalization at LSU. With the help of IP staff, the Task Force of 35 faculty worked for over a year, carrying out individual interviews and a campus-wide survey of faculty international activity. Guided by the definition that "internationalization integrates an international, global, and/or intercultural dimension into the teaching, research, and service functions of a university", focus groups gathered information on student involvement (American students abroad and international students at LSU), faculty research and teaching, international components in curriculum, international linkages, and university policies and practices that deter international engagement. The Task Force co-chairs, Dean Nancy Clark and Professors Meredith Veldman and Lawrence Datnoff, presented the findings in a comprehensive final report to Provost Hamilton in June 2010.

Subsequently, a seven member Ad Hoc committee comprised of representatives from IP and faculty met to determine the next steps to move LSU towards intentional, comprehensive, and integrated internationalization. Using the Task Force report, internationalization strategic plans from other universities, and a large array of literature on best practices developed by the American Council on Education, Center for Institutional and International Initiatives, the Ad Hoc committee submitted a formal request to Provost Hamilton to establish an Internationalization Strategic Planning and Implementation Committee. (ISPIC) Without hesitation, the Provost signed on to the ISPIC, appointed Vice Provost Jane Cassidy as the liaison between the committee and OAA, and issued invitations to the committee nominees. The composition of the ISPIC is predominantly faculty along with a few key administrators, thus representing a broad representation of disciplines, expertise, and perspectives.

The 20 member ISPIC will create a strategic plan that echoes and enhances the basic premises of globalization in the 2020 Flagship Agenda and will oversee its implementation during a three to five year period. A member of the UPC also resides on the ISPIC to help guide actions that will contribute significantly to the performance indicators in the areas outlined in the Flagship Agenda: Discovery, Learning, Diversity and Engagement. The inclusion of intercultural competencies will add a new dimension to these indicators and contribute to the ability of our university and our graduates to collaborate and compete in today's global workplace.

We are confident that the long-awaited internationalization of our campus is now achievable. A strategic plan will provide the impetus for the transition from reports to concrete and measureable outcomes, and with sustained support from senior administration and implementation by mid-level and lower administration, the obstacles to internationalization can be addressed.

More information on LSU's Internationalization Initiative: www.oip.lsu.edu. The second meeting of the FSPIC will be June 5, 2011, co-chaired by Dr. Emily Batinski and Dr. Mark Gasiorowski.

OAA Art Exhibit Treks into Undiscovered Country

Earlier issues of the *Newsletter* have reported on the efforts of Office of Academic Affairs officials to hoist the administrative buildings above their utilitarian blandness. To be sure, the effects have sometimes been a little odd, as in the extraordinary emphasis placed on the blurry paintings of the little-known Knute Heldner. Yet, overall, the upscaling of artistry in Boyd Palace has been salutary. Without announcement and by happy surprise, a new shipment of artifacts has arrived in the Office of Academic Affairs suite. This latest cavalcade of creations features futuristic lithographs and serigraphs from the mid-twentieth century (conjectural dating—OAA has left the labels in the box, as if to present visitors with identification items on an art history exam). Many of these prints explore shocking color combinations and abstract evocations of unusual mental states (or perhaps unusual entities); others celebrate the zest for science fiction during the high age of pulp fiction (don't miss the "Enorma" poster). Admittedly, the juxtaposition of ferocious expressions of eery alternate futures against fly-fishing genre scenes from good old Knute Heldner make for an unusual case-study in alternative connoisseurship, but we compliment the OAA staff for boldly going where no curator has gone before!



Retention Committee to Prepare Final Report

Sandra McGuire's gargantuan retention committee, which was charged with the urgent search for ways to retain greater numbers of students between the various years of their undergraduate educations, has received final reports from its five subcommittees and is in the process of formulating a set of recommendations for Provost Jack Hamilton. The subcommittee recommendations bristle with both commonsensical and innovative solutions to the nagging problem of student retention, some of which include improvement of the learning environment and the sense of citizenship in an academic community; scheduling of events so as to allow participation by students living off-campus; creation of a targeted intervention program for those students at greatest risk of dropping out; review of an assortment of policies relating to ease of transfer or re-entry into LSU; and upgrading of student and customer service training among student workers.

Annual Faculty Football Ticket Raffle Underway!

With the generous cooperation of the Athletic Department, the LSU Faculty Senate is once again sponsoring a raffle for 100 season tickets (or fifty pairs of tickets) for 2011 Tiger Football. Twenty tickets (ten pairs) will be reserved for instructors; the remainder will be allocated to those in professorial ranks. If you are a full-time faculty member who would like to enter the raffle, please send an email containing your name, your contact address, your rank (professor or instructor), and an indication as to whether you seek one or two tickets to facultyfootball@lsu.edu by June 2nd. Please do not use any other address as this creates extra work. The raffle will occur in mid-June, with winners being notified through a broadcast email.

LIFESTYLE FEATURE: THE SIX COOLEST RIDES AT LSU

For years, ambitious professors and administrators have affirmed that LSU is a university that is going somewhere. Those same enthusiasts for destinations have been a bit less attentive to the large number of vehicles, either functional or commemorative, that spangle the campus. True, many of LSU's transport devices are little more than rickety old jalopies plastered with purple or gold decals and hyped up with the designation "fleet vehicle." Nevertheless, the campus also provides byways for some of the coolest rides on the planet, of which we unveil the top half-dozen (in the hope that readers will find or recommend more!).

NUMBER SIX: ATHLETIC DEPARTMENT GO-CARTS. Every bit as green as they are purple and gold, the denizens of the Athletic Department have long specialized in electric vehicles of all descriptions. Possibly recognizing that the upgraded school buses that haul athletes to practice sessions lack panache, the NASCAR-ready folks in the tall brick building nestled by Death Valley have created a remarkable array of multi-purpose carts that blend the best of the golf-cart, go-cart, and even shopping-cart traditions. Caddies, carriers, and hoists of every description sprout from these ever-metamorphic transport devices. The only reason that these peppily-painted buggies remain at number six is that they haven't fully shed their association with airport carts and lazy hitchhiker-travelers ready to mow down those on their way to their departure gates.



NUMBER FIVE: THE FETI AIRLINER. Way down on Nicholson, at the little-visited but ever-exciting Fire and Emergency Training Institute, the curious visitor will discover a wonderland of deconstructed travel devices ranging from a spindly old war-horse of a helicopter to the bridge of a vessel that looks like a retirement home for Popeye. At the center of this training camp and clearly visible on satellite photos in the FETI airliner, a blasted-out passenger jet (very likely an old DC-9) that has taken more than a few hits for the firefighting team. If you ever want to see what a jet might look like after the Green Berets or Navy SEALs have a run at it, this machine of many miles is the treat for you!

NUMBER FOUR: THE LSUPD MOBILE COMMAND UNIT. Nearly everyone applauds the upgrades that Chief Rabalais has brought to the LSU Police Department. Now, the Ultimate College Cop has unveiled his Mobile Command Unit, a customized truck worthy of West Coast Choppers that so abounds in design energy as to seem to leap out of its parking place. In its dazzling white base color, the MCU seems to glow in the dark and to appear over the horizon like a cowboy wearing a white hat. A purple and gold door shield proclaims its authority while italic logo lettering in purple with gold flashing seems to scream readiness, speed, and capability. Zooming into an emergency scene aboard this civilized tank would be the ultimate Dolph Lundgren experience.



NUMBER THREE: SEISMEAUXBILE. One can never tell when or where creativity will pop up, and so it is that it has suddenly spewed out in a big way from the vents of the geology department. There, an alumnus trailer has been retrofitted out as a mobile geology laboratory and then dressed up in colors suggesting Mike the Tiger's Sunday best. There is always something sublime about the geological. Few can help speculating about the thundering processes underway beneath the earth; fewer can resist the allure of a volcano or the mystery of a fault or crevasse. To imagine the pilots of the Seismeauxbile criss-crossing the earth's surface and sending down probes after probe into unknown abysms is to recover the sense of wonder that should animate academic careers.

NUMBER TWO: THE FETI FIREWAGON. FETI scores high with regard to stimulating transport options. Driving is about destinations, and the places that FETI goes are the places where big events transpire. Few vehicles can match the robust enthusiasm and unremitting vigor of the splendid FETI fire wagon, which veers from the traditional red hue of veteran fire engines to present a full-body tiger-stripe scheme. Muscular and bouncy, the magnificent FETI engine suggests an avid fire-fighting feline—to conjure images of Mike the Tiger dressed in a slicker and sporting a fireman's hat while spring from fire hydrant to flare-up to hose and then back to the big bowl of milk that awaits all firefighting kitties, no matter how big. This bit of "emergency whimsy" is also one of the greatest art concepts ever to emerge from the LSU campus and well deserves a place in the LSU Museum of Art whenever it retires.

NUMBER ONE: LSU SYSTEM PRESIDENT JOHN LOMBARDI'S JEEP. Fans of the old television series *The Rat Patrol* cannot help but regard the ever-percolating System President's jeep as the ultimate in campus transport. For the driver of this rough-and-rowdy vehicle, Bobby Jindal is mere child's play. Such a driver is ready to take on Field Marshal Rommel, to help out General Montgomery, or maybe just to take a little air leaping over the sand dunes! Lombardi, whose aptitude for and love of mechanical contraptions is well known, has not pampered the eye by selecting puce or pale persimmon for his paint job, but had come on strong with a relentless red that let's the viewer know that this racer is ready to "bring it." Not the devil, but the genius, is in the details—one look at that "President" parking hang-tag in windshield of a buggy that explodes all the stereotypes and that celebrates surprises is all that one needs to put a smile on the old kisser for the rest of the day! Congratulations to President Lombardi for the gutsiest approach to transportation that higher education has ever seen.



Faculty Senate, Gautreaux Stoutly Resist Plans to Privatize Office of Group Benefits

Late in April, the Jindal administration announced but provided minimal explanation of a plan to privatize the office of Group Benefits ("OGB"). OGB oversees a smorgasbord of insurance and savings offerings for state employees but is primarily known for its management of all state employee medical plans other than the much-admired LSU First plan, which is available only to LSU System employees. Shortly after the announcement of the plan, Jindal officials sacked OGB Director Tommy Teague, who had raised questions about one goal of the plan, the fate of the \$521,000,000.00 (as in "half billion") surplus presently in the OGB coffers. Senator Butch Gautreaux, powerful head of the Louisiana Senate Retirement Committee, launched a resistance effort, summoning Commissioner of Administration Paul Rainwater to his committee hearings and asking state employee leaders, including higher education faculty leaders, to voice their views about the proposed confiscation. During extended testimony on May 2nd, Rainwater could offer no explanation as to what would become of the huge OGB surplus other than to indicate that he planned to "unlock value." As the testimony proceeded, Rainwater back-paddled from a request for the outright sale of OGB to a suggestion that a few of its health plans might be temporarily outsourced to private management firms. LSU Faculty Senate President Kevin Cope offered opposing testimony, arguing that the destabilization of benefit plans would impair recruitment at all levels, would constitute a confiscation of employee-derived payments without due process or proper representation, and would not result in measurable savings. Cope slammed Rainwater for resorting to euphemisms to conceal nefarious intentions, cautioning that a phrase such as "unlock value" would lead to a failing grade in even an elementary English course. The debate may be viewed [online](http://senate.legis.state.la.us/Retirement/Archives/2011/video.htm) [go to <http://senate.legis.state.la.us/Retirement/Archives/2011/video.htm> and click the link to the May 2nd meeting video] (note: videos are best viewed in Internet Explorer). Gratefully, and thanks to the hard work of Senator Gautreaux, the privatization move seems to have stalled.

New Transfer Degree Website Debuts, Garners Modest Attention in the Short Term

The Louisiana Transfer Degree, the sixty-hour portable credential that guarantees admission with junior standing to any Louisiana public four-year institution, has debuted its [web site](#) and has shown at least a slight increase in usage, with Google Analytics reporting a peak of fifty-one hits on May 23rd. There is also a downside, in that visitors to the transfer degree site seem to be lingering on the web page for only two minutes and forty-nine seconds, according to the same source. LSU seems to have gotten the best of this game insofar as a Google search for "Louisiana Transfer Degree" turns up an [LSU web page](#) that describes how one can depart from another Louisiana school and then slide into Tiger Village.

Newsletter to Take A Summer Recess, Resume Publication in September

The Faculty Senate Monthly Newsletter will take its annual summer publishing recess following this issue. Publication will resume in September, per the usual schedule and with the usual host of features, news, and commentary. Many thanks to all of our faithful readers and happy summer!

Higher Education Officials Get Surprise Visit at CLCU-ALFS Meeting

After a long hiatus, the Conference of Louisiana Colleges and Universities (“CLCU”) held a joint meeting with the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates (“ALFS”) at the Lod Cook Center on May 9th. Hosted by the current CLCU President, Chancellor Michael Martin, the CLCU drew a hall-filling crowd of one-hundred participants from all four public higher education systems and from an array of private institutions. Rather than summoning the usual ensemble of talking heads, CLCU President Martin called for an opening panel comprised of faculty leaders from around the state. That ALFS-sponsored panel, which headlined the event, included University of Louisiana Faculty Advisory Council President Donna Rhorer; Louisiana Tech Faculty Senate Vice-President David Szymanski; Baton Rouge Community College faculty leader Alan Elkins; Southern University President Sudhir Trivedi; ALFS President and LSUE Professor James Robinson; and LSU Faculty Senate President Kevin Cope, who doubled as panel Chair. Panelists offered opening statements and debated questions and theses presented spontaneously from the very large floor. Lunch was punctuated by a presentation on the budget by Revenue Estimating Committee veteran James Richardson and by a surprise visit by the avuncular head of the Louisiana Senate Education Committee, [Senator Ben Nevers](#). Always frank and never short on surprises, Nevers startled as well as delighted his audience by recognizing that the LA GRAD act cannot work in a theorized bubble and that colleges should not be held accountable for the poor K-12 preparation that prevents the speedy graduation of students. The session was capped with an informative if sobering presentation by Commissioner of Higher Education Jim Purcell, who reminded us that Louisiana was barely hovering at 49th in the nation with regard to jobs for holders of advanced degrees.

REPORT FROM THE FRONTIERS OF COMPUTATION

By MELODY CHILDS, DIRECTOR, USER SUPPORT AND STUDENT IT ENABLEMENT

Over the past decade, LSU has established itself as a national and international leader in a number of fields of research that push the frontiers of high performance computing (HPC). Throughout this decade, CCT, ITS, and more recently, LONI, have led and facilitated LSU's— and the state's— development of facilities and expertise in support of computation and research-enabling computing. However, until recently, there was no “formal” LSU structure that would ensure that funds were dedicated to the long-term maintenance of our research cyberinfrastructure and the talented people who comprise the HPC staff.

Therefore, I am pleased to announce that the existing, but informal, collaboration between CCT and ITS has been formally recognized and strengthened in a way that will help ensure the long-term sustainability of our HPC resources and staff. Working closely over the past several months, Vice Chancellor Brian Voss and CCT Director Dr. Joel Tohline have agreed to permanently dedicate funds and other resources for this important and strategic work.

The formalization of the ITS/CCT collaboration is also timely in that it will finally allow Dr. Honggao Liu to focus on his new responsibilities as Deputy Director of CCT. Some of you may not realize that Dr. Liu has been wearing two hats for quite some time now: as both Director of HPC and Deputy Director of CCT. Under the new collaboration, Dr. Liu will continue to be heavily involved in the strategic advancement of research computing, but the day-to-day systems and operational responsibilities for LSU and LONI HPC resources will be transferred to ITS, and responsibility for these services as well as many of the current HPC staff will be housed in ITS within the USS division.

As of today, therefore, I am pleased to announce that “HPC-1” (for lack of a better name, therefore perhaps a temporary name) is officially part of the USS division of ITS, and Sam White has graciously agreed to serve as interim Director of HPC-1. “HPC-2” (in addition to other staff at CCT not in HPC-2) will report to Dr. Liu at CCT. The staff of HPC-1 and HPC-2 met jointly yesterday, and they will continue to work as closely together now as they have always done. However, just so you will know who your “new” colleagues are, I have listed the HPC-1 and HPC-2 staff below.

Please join me in congratulating both Honggao and Sam as they focus their attentions on their new responsibilities. Likewise, please extend a warm welcome to your new ITS/USS colleagues.

HPC-1 HPC-2

Sam White, interim Director Honggao Liu, Deputy Director CCT

Phil Bordelon Harsha Bhagawaty

Lisa Giaime Charles Cavanaugh

Jason Kincl Joshua Gruge

Robert Leche Jim Lupo

Wan Lee

Alex Pacheco

Isaac Traxler

Sirish Tummala

Liqiang Wang

Xianwu Xu

Le Yan

Lombardi and Simoneaux Brief Faculty Senate on Funds SWAP

Faculty eyebrows ascended when the LSU System announced a plan to redistribute the Regents budget allocation via the Higher Education Initiatives Fund (HEIF). Several faculty members suspected that the plan would undercut the rewarding of high performance by some campuses by transferring the economic fruits of those rewards to less prosperous units. In response to a faculty outcry, LSU System Controller Wendy Simoneaux and LSU System President John Lombardi provided Faculty Senate members with an hour-long briefing on the scheme, a briefing that was peppered with spicy questions. The entire briefing is available for view on the [LSU Faculty Senate web site](#).



Tip of the Month: VARSITY VESTS

LSU logo and trademark products have always been a mixed bag. Despite urging from the Faculty Senate to create upper-end LSU and LSU Tiger goods, apparel, and services, most of the items offered in the Tiger Gift Shop as well as in the various sports-themed shops around Baton Rouge linger at the lower end of the quality scale. Fortunately, a start-up on our own Industriplex Boulevard has begun online merchandising of better-quality LSU apparel and accessories. [Varsity Vests](#) now offers a delightful selection of ties, vests, scarves, cufflinks, garters, and cummerbunds for that top-shelf logoware customer. Faculty Senate President Kevin Cope is especially fond of the Tiger cufflinks and the yellow tiger motif tie. Offering a four-season palette in fabrics that adapt to Louisiana humidity, Varsity Vests is sure to emerge as a top-ten design initiative!

