

**Minutes of Faculty Senate Called Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 1, 2014**  
**Student Union Building Ballroom A, ULM Campus**  
**12:30 – 2:00 p.m.**

* indicates excused absence; Name/Name indicates Moved/Seconded
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**Senators Present:** Anderson, Dagley, Frye, Gissendanner, R. Hill, Niemla, Stockley, Cumming Strunk, Sylvester, White, Wiedemeier

**Senators Absent:** Bray\*, Caldwell\*, Craighead\*, Giles\*, A. Hill\*, Lasiter\*, Vangelisti\*, Wilson\*

**Handouts circulated:** Circulated documents included a copy of House Bill 142, an editorial from the Advertiser entitled “Louisiana treasurer’s plan would fund higher education,” an article from lapotlitics.com entitled “Kennedy has own ideas about consulting contracts,” an article from Shreveport Times entitled “John Kennedy: Cut spending on consulting, funnel those savings to higher ed,” an article from The Advocate entitled “State treasurer offers plan to help colleges,” an editorial from the News Star entitled “Our View: Kennedy’s contract proposal is a good one,” a list of contact information for the Louisiana State Senate Finance Committee members, and a list of contact information for the Louisiana House of Representatives Appropriations Committee members.

Faculty Senate President Anderson **called the meeting to order**, at 12:30 p.m.

Faculty Secretary Cumming Strunk **called the roll**.

**Agenda Items:**

- **Special Guest: State Treasurer John Kennedy**
  - State Treasurer Kennedy came to discuss House Bill 142 to increase funding for higher education by cutting money for consultants. This bill has passed the house, but not the senate yet.
  - If each agency decreases their consultants by 10% (on approximately 19,000 contracts), \$528 million could be raised per year. State Treasurer Kennedy would like to dedicate this money to higher education.
  - In 2008, the state spent \$1.6 billion on higher education. Now, the state spends \$525 million. Some of this difference is made up by increasing tuition (which is a tax increase on the students and their parents).
  - When the state budget was \$12 billion, higher education was fully funded. Under Gov. Blanco, the state budget was \$19 billion and higher education was fully funded. Now the state budget is \$25 billion with no increase in population and higher education is not fully funded.
  - Many of these consulting contracts can be renegotiated or cut. This bill is about setting priorities. These contracts have their purpose, but perhaps not all of them are necessary.

- Higher education is funded from overcollection funds. That is like saying you will pay for your son's college tuition with the pay raise that you have not yet received. So all the funding for higher education is uncertain.
- The WISE Plan is another bill in the legislature. It contains \$40 million for job training. State Treasurer Kennedy supports this plan. However, it is not enough money for enough people.
- Universities are more than an employment agency. A university degree is about how to live a productive life.
- State Treasurer Kennedy took some questions.
  - What can we do as faculty to speak out? The civil service laws do not prohibit speaking out.
  - Why are there protected funds? There is a myth that certain money is dedicated to certain things in the constitution. Most of the dedications are statutory (meaning a legislative majority can vote to change these laws).
  - What are the next steps for this bill (Bill 142)? It has passed the house and the House Finance Committee. It needs to get out of the Senate Finance Committee so it can go to the Senate.
  - How can we help? Send emails to the Senate. Send letters. Call the representatives. Come to Baton Rouge to talk about the state of higher education.
  - President Bruno thanked State Treasurer Kennedy for coming and for bringing attention to higher education.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:45 pm (Frye).

Respectfully submitted,  
Christine Cumming Strunk, Faculty Senate Secretary

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