Call to Order

The meeting of the Thirty-Third Regular Legislative Session of the Louisiana State University Student Senate was called to order at 6:35 PM in the Capitol Chambers by Speaker Westbrook.

A moment of silence was called for which was immediately followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Senator Thompson

Roll Call

There were 39 present Senators

There were 8 absent Senators

Public Input

Beginning the public input section of the meeting was Dr. Henry who spoke on the SACS effort here on campus. He spoke on the importance of accreditation for courses and the University itself. He also gave deadlines on events that will take place over the course of the year. Dr. Henry told the Senators of student opportunities for Senators to work on committees with other teachers and staff with working on accreditation of the University.

Dr. O’Neil spoke on the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) and how integral it is to the SAKS reaffirmation process and to enhance the University’s overall quality of learning by a series of student learning outcomes or enhancing the environment in which students learn. Student engagement and undergraduate research are the main focuses of the QEP committee that follow with the goals and flagship initiatives of the University. Student engagement possibilities: community service, service learning, and others. Academic learning, stronger faculty relationships, career development, working with teams, ethics skills improving writing and
speaking skill are just a few of the positive outcomes if student engagement is chosen by the QEP. Opportunities of undergraduate research, if chosen, can include academic learning, complexity in understanding, stronger faculty relationships, understanding of many processes and breakdown how knowledge is attained. The two topics will be narrowed down to one by the end of the month.

A voice vote was taken by Dr. O’Neil to gauge the interest of the Senators on the basis of the two options (Student engagement and undergraduate research)

A motion was made by Speaker Pro Tempore Campbell to suspend the rules and immediately consider *SGCR No. 1*

Seconded by Senator Herwig, there were no objections

*SGCR No. 1* authored by Senator Cavell is to appoint David Llorca as a Senator for the Graduate School

Senator Cavell yielded his time to David Llorca who spoke on his reasons of joining Student Senate

There were no questions or debate

Senator Cavell urged for “Favorable Passage”

100% In Favor SGCR No. 1 Enrolled

Speaker Pro Tempore Campbell moved to suspend the rules and immediately consider *SGCR No. 2*

A second was made by Senator Beadle, there were no objections

*SGCR No. 2* authored by Senator DeBlieux is a concurrent resolution to appoint MJ Hernandez as a Senator to the University Center for Freshman Year

Senator DeBlieux yielded his time to MJ Hernandez who spoke of wanting to get involved in the executive branch and asked for the Senators’ approval.

There were no questions or debate
Senator DeBlieux urged for “Favorable Passage”

97% in FAVOR SGCR No. 2 ENROLLED

Senator Faulkner moved to suspend the rules and immediately consider SGCR No. 3

Seconded by Senator Watts, there were no objections

SGCR No. 3 authored by Senator Faulkner is a concurrent resolution to appoint Jacob Boudreaux as a Senator for the University Center for Freshman Year.

Senator Faulkner yielded time to Jacob Boudreaux who spoke of being on Senate last semester and asked for the approval of the Senators and that he was not ready to give it up.

Senator Zeringue asked of Mr. Boudreaux if he missed Senate, he responded “yes, very much so it was a hard winter break.”

Senator Beadle asked Mr. Boudreaux for his full name, he responded “Jacob Francis Ignatius Boudreaux.”

There was no debate

Senator Faulkner urged for “Favorable Passage”

96% FAVOR SGCR No. 3 ENROLLED

Speaker Pro Tempore Campbell moved to suspend the rules and move back to the induction of new Senators

Seconded by Senator Pinac, there were no objections

Chief Justice Faulk was called forward to swear in newly appointed Senators

Chief Justice Faulk went on to explain the Constitutional expectations of each Senator.
Reading, Correction, and Adoption of Minutes

There were no minutes to read, correct, or adopt

New Business

Secretary Ryder informed the floor of *SGCR No. 4* authored by Senator Faulkner, which is a concurrent resolution to appoint David Holley as the Student Government website designer

Speaker Westbrook referred SGCR No. 4 to the Committee on Rules

Secretary Ryder informed the floor of *SGR No. 1* authored by Senator Schwartzenburg is a resolution to urge and request the LSU Board of Supervisors to appoint a student representative to the LSU Transition Advisory Team

Speaker Westbrook referred *SGR No. 1* to the Committee on Student Life, Diversity, and Community Outreach

Senator Schwartzenburg moved to insert *SGR No. 1* into Unfinished Business

Senator Beadle seconded the motion, there were no objections

Senator Cavell moved to insert *SGCR No. 4* to Unfinished Business

Senator Baumgardner seconded the motion, there were no objections

Committee Reports

Academic Affairs

Senators Frias and Thompson shared with the floor that Academic Affairs meets Tuesdays at 7pm and works diligently to prepare for plus/minus grading scale and will be working closely with the executive branch on reorganizing certain programs
**Budget and Appropriations**

Senators Beadle and Grashoff shared with the floor that Budget and Appropriations meets every Monday at 7pm dealing with all finances of Senate and Student Government.

**Campus Affairs and Sustainability**

Senators Taylor and Faulkner shared with the floor Tuesdays at 5:45 and go into detail about matter that CAS deals with, such as parking, bike routes and any infrastructure that can be changed and also transportation.

**Rules**

Speaker Pro Tempore Campbell and Senator DeBileux shared with the floor that the Rules Committee met on Tuesday January 15\textsuperscript{th} and Wednesday January 16\textsuperscript{th} to approve the four appointments (3 Senators and 1 web designer) and that the reason for suspending the proceedings of rules earlier in the agenda were so that the new senators could be approved by the floor and have a chance to vote. It was also stated that Rules Committee is open for sit-ins, but closed to appointments due to only chairs having leading roles in the proceedings, but all were encouraged to attend meetings. The Rules Committee does a lot of internal work with amendments to resolutions, by-laws, election codes, and make appointments.

**Student Auxiliaries and Services**

Senators Schwartzenburg and Landry shared with the floor that SAS meets Mondays at 5:45pm and deal with anything from athletics, ITS, technology, dining, Moodle, myLSU, tigermail, student fees, TigerCash, UREC.

**Student Life, Diversity, and Community Outreach**

Senators Cavell and Latusek shared with the floor that SLDCO deals with things not only on campus, but also with the local government entities and meet
Mondays at 5:30. On campus matters like the diversity board and international students are also handled through this committee.

Senator Zeringue asked the question about a way to contact Student Outreach

Senator Cavell explained an idea of using Googledocs where chair and co-chair will be able to edit

Temporary Committees Established by Senate Resolution

Student Government Financial Restructure Committee

NO REPORT

Caucus Reports

Black Caucus

Senator Beadle encouraged Senators to join the caucus and aid with different issues facing the group

Greek Caucus

Speaker Pro Tempore Campbell encouraged Senators to consider joining the yet established caucus and informed the floor that a minimum five Senators would be needed to form the group.

Executive Officer Reports

Thomas Rogers, Director of Academic Affairs began the report by thanking the floor for allowing Dr. O’Neal and Dr. Henry speak in regards to SAKS and QEP. Mr. Rogers also spoke about legislation regarding UCAC and the scheduling process explaining why there were so many problems with students not being to access the site. He went on in greater detail explaining that the system is made to handle about 1300 students at a time, but in the first session of scheduling there were some 13,000 students trying to gain access to the site. Work with the senior
director of the Registrar’s office is in process to find ways of alleviating these problems with constant increases in enrollment since the current process was first enacted in 2002. Mr. Rogers also called for the attention of everyone present to Middleton Library and the new tables that that had been put in.

Mr. Rogers then goes on to clarify an email that was sent out to the student body regarding the plus/minus grading system. It was stated that plus/minus would go into effect in the Fall of 2014 due to a vote made by a committee designed for such a purpose. Mr. Rogers explained that he sat on this committee and that no such vote took place, yet the committee voted to recommend plus/minus in the Fall of 2014. This was done to come up with an implementation plan based on the needs of the university. As of now, plus/minus has not been approved by higher LSU administration and that all other accounts were “not true.” Part of that implementation plan is waiting on word from athletics, financial aid, and admissions on how the plus/minus grading system would affect their areas. A pilot program will also be done this semester where GPAs from the Spring 2013 semester will be scaled to the plus/minus system to see if there are any dramatic changes on the LSU community. Grades from Biology 1201 will be used in this pilot. It was stated that so far, statistics on the effect of the plus/minus system have not been based on LSU statistics, but on those from anonymous universities across the US.

Senator Taylor asked a question regarding professors that already use a plus/minus system in their classes and if that will effect on grades in the current system.

Mr. Rogers clarified by saying that since the plus/minus systems has not been approved or implemented; there should be no effect on student grades. myLSU and Moodle do not recognize plus/minus as of yet. He also stated that the committee report will be turned in by the end of the semester and in order for changes to take effect, a notice of at least six months must be made and changes cannot be made in the middle of the academic catalog year. Clarification was also made that even if previous catalogs (i.e. 2012-2013) that do not have the plus/minus system printed in them the changes to the grading scale will still affect all students.

Speaker Westbrook yielded time to Commissioner Simon
Commissioner Simon asked a question regarding how many classes will be used in the pilot this semester.

Mr. Rogers explained that it is solely based on the professor and if they want their class grades given to the committee. He clarified that 89 numbers and other personal information will not be taken or used for this program, only the amount of grades that professor has. Also, classes will be chosen at all levels.

Senator Herwig raised the question of possible ways to alleviate the scheduling blocks as to avoid overloading the system.

Mr. Rogers went into explain that certain time slots may be allotted to students that are set to schedule on certain days.

Chief of Staff Andrew David

Mr. David announced that Jackson Voss with FLC will be resigning from his post as director of FLC to pursue other opportunities. Bryce and Mallory will be taking his place in the meantime.

It was also announced that nametags would be offered again this semester for anyone that would be interested. Nametags will be $8 and an email will be sent to all Senators.

Commissioner of Elections Simon

Commissioner Simon started out by stating that she is responsible for keeping the integrity of elections and asked the floor to run clean campaigns and that no one should hesitate contacting the commissioner if there are any questions about if something is correct.

Senator Faulkner raised the question on how it is possible to increase voter turnout.

Commissioner Simon explained setting up “stations” in academic building (i.e. the Lounge in CEBA) with students appointed by the elections office passing out cards with QR codes and that other ideas are being talked about at this time.
Senator Faulkner also asked for an estimate on voter turnout from the last election.

Commissioner Simon stated that she did not have the exact numbers, but estimated about 1/6 of the student body voted and that the university was last in the SEC for voter turn-out.

Senator Rees asked the question about how students would be selected to pass out the cards for these stations.

Commissioner Simon explained that a board has been created and that she assures that this system will be fair.

Senator Harper raised the question what kind of complaints the board for elections is looking for.

Commissioner Simon stated that if a person has a serious complaint that he/she should not hesitate turning it in. She also reminded that these must be serious complaints because not only is the candidate at risk, but so is the person that sends in the complaint. There are no specific complaints that the commissioner and her office look for and are hoping for no complaints due to a smooth election process.

Speaker Westbrook yielded time to Thomas Rogers

Mr. Rogers informed the floor that LSU was no longer last in the SEC for voter turn-out that in fact the University of Florida was.

Commissioner Simon continued her report giving election dates for the coming semester.

Week one: January 28th-Febuarury 1st
Pre-qualifying: Jan. 29th-30th
Candidate notification: Feb. 1st
Week two: Feb. 4th-8th
Filing: Feb. 4th-6th
Non-mandatory meetings: TBA
Week three: Feb. 18th-22nd
Passive Campaigning starts: Feb. 18th at 7am

Qualifying results posted: Feb. 18th outside of Executive, Judicial, and Senate doors

Ticket registration: Due by Feb. 20th at 4:30

Qualifying results to Dean of Students office: Feb. 22nd at Noon

Week four: Feb. 25-Mar. 1st Passive campaigning begins

Week five: March 4th-8th Active Campaigning starts at 7am; Mandatory meetings will also be this week; Election debate will also be this week

General Election: March 11th-12th Polls will be open from 7am on Monday until 6:59pm on Tuesday

Election Results: March 13th at 4:30

Complaints due: March 15th by 4:30

Week 7: March 18th-22nd

Run Off: March 18th-19th Polls open from 7am on Monday until 6:59 on Tuesday

Election Results: March 20th at 4:30

Complaints due: March 22nd

Everything will be completed before Spring Break

Senator DeBileux asked a question concerning active campaigning during voting.

Commissioner Simon believed that there were no restrictions regarding that subject, but will check to make sure.

Senator Faulkner stated that she believed that active campaigning was set to end by 4:30

President Taylor Cox
President Cox welcomed all Senator back from Winter break and stated that Exec. will meet for the first time this semester Tuesday Jan. 22nd at 4:30. He explained that dates had to be moved due to schedule conflicts, but the room had not been changed. President Cox also invited all senators to attend the meeting. It was also announced that all senators, via SGV1, had received an email concerning a competition put on by Frito-Lay/Doritos, which is sponsoring this year’s Super Bowl, involving student governments from across the SEC. All that is needed to be done is for the public to go online and vote for the LSU video. President Cox urged senators to pass along the link to everyone, for the winner goes a $25,000 which will be presented on the field during the Super Bowl. The money will be used for a Spring Concert with Doritos sponsoring food for the event. Voting ends on January 29th. President Cox went on to urge senators to send in emails concerning the LSU Transition Advisory Team not having a student representative on the team. It was stated that he has been working diligently to get a student on this committee for the fairness of the university and all of its satellite schools across the state. President Cox went on to announce that he is extremely proud of Student Government and all of the accomplishments so far this year. He stated that 26 initiatives have been completed, 10 are in progress, and 2 have yet to be started and all initiatives have been set to be completed by the end of April when terms are at their end.

Senator Herwig raised the question on how a student will be selected to serve on the Transition Advisory Committee.

President Cox went on to explain that since it has not been approved yet for a student to sit on this committee that there is no definite idea of how many students will be able to sit on the committee and how a student(s) would be selected to do so.

Judicial Officer Reports

Chief Justice Faulk went on to announce that there are two openings on the court and applications are available at this time. Also, there are one (possibly two) vacancies for the Student Appeals Board and that applications are also available for that. There is also a public defender position that is open.

The first meeting will be Thursday
There is a new Deputy Chief Justice and the Judicial Branch is looking to exciting things for the coming year.

Senator Schwartztenburg raised the question of the roles of a public defender

Chief Justice Faulk explained the public defender is there for any respondent that wants some type of representation. She went on to explain that this is like the role of an attorney.

Senator Beadle asked if there were any initiatives that are set by J-Branch

Chief Justice Faulk explained that although she has some of her own that she would like to sit down with the rest of her officers and concrete a set and that a report may be made to the Senate at next week’s meeting.

**Unfinished Business**

Speaker Westbrook yielded to Commissioner Simon

Commissioner Simon clarified that the 4:30 restriction on active campaigning was correct and can be found on page 8 of the election code.

*SGCR No. 4* authored by Senator Faulkner is a concurrent resolution to appoint David Holley as the Student Government website designer

Senator Faulkner opened by introducing David Holley and yielded her time to him

Mr. Holley explained his excitement for the opportunity to hold this position and keeping the website within the Constitution. He also explained what would go on the website; approved minutes, new legislation, any changes to legislation, etc.

Senator Baumgardner asked for clarification for Senator Herwig as to what the GOP is.

Mr. Holley explained that he worked six years for the US House of Representatives and that GOP stands for the Grand Ole Party (Republican Party)

There was no debate
Senator Faulker closed with expressing her excitement over Mr. Holley and that she looks forward to having an up-to-date website. She urged for favorable passage.

98% in FAVOR SGCR No. 4 ENROLLED

SGR No. 1 authored by Senator Schwartzenburg is a Resolution to urge and request the LSU Board of Supervisors to appoint a student representative to the LSU Transition Advisory Team

Senator Schwartzenburg began by explaining what the Transition Advisory Team is and that this team was to consolidate different aspects of the university and to plan the restructuring that the Board of Supervisors has initiated and will also aid in the search of a new system president. Right now, there are ten members that sit on the committee that have little ties to the university. The only person with direct connection to the university is President Jenkins, there are no students that serve. Senator Schwartzenburg explained that students are the most important part of the LSU system, because without students there would be no university. With state cuts, students provide more than 50% of the operating budget for the university. As student leaders, it is our role to make sure all students are represented equally. Senator Schwartzenburg clarified that in no way is this resolution hostile or anything against to merger.

Senator B. Williams raised the question of how a student will be selected to sit on the committee.

Senator Schwartzenburg explained that the process would be created if/once the position is made available.

Senator Zeringue asked if there was any plan that could possibly be suggested for selecting a student.

President Cox assured the floor that he would be working closely with the committee and board of supervisors in making sure that the best possible student representative would be selected to sit on the Transition Advisory Team.

Senator Schwartzenburg went on to explain that the Transition Advisory Team is the sole resource when it comes to making suggestions to the Board of Supervisors, although there are five sub-committees that work under the team.
Senator Faulkner raised a question concerning the names of the five sub-committees.

Senator Schwartzenburg yielded the question to President Cox who needed to find that information to present to the floor.

Senator Boudreaux asked for clarification on whether the Transition Advisory Team just wanted students to serve on sub-committees or if they would allow students to serve on the Transition Team itself.

Senator Schwartzenburg explained that they are wanting students to serve on the sub-committees and that the main team was not against having a student on the Transition Advisory Team.

Speaker Pro Tempore Campbell yielded time to T. Graham Howell

Mr. Howell raised a question about there not being a vote from students

Senator Schwartzenburg explained that all appointments were done by vote

Senator Taylor raised the question if the advisory team had given any justification for why there were no students sitting on the board?

President Cox explained that there was no real explanation given and that there is no guarantee for 10 students (2 students on each sub-committee) will get spots

Senator Schwartzenburg explained that his interpretations of emails received regarding the search of a new System President was that the Transition Advisory Team would be assisting in the search of a new President along with a separate board that has been created.

Senator Faulkner raised a question regarding who sits on the Transition Advisory Team

Senator Schwartzenburg explained that a full list of team members could be found online at www.lsu.edu/lsu2015

Senator Herwig raised the question if there were any students already serving on any of the five sub-committees and who decided the members of the sub-committees.

Senator Schwartzenburg explained that all appointments were done by vote.
President Cox explained what the five sub-committees were: an Academic Sub-committee, Finance, Research and Discovery, Student Experience, Technology and Operations Sub-committee. Each of these committees are chaired by a member of the Transition Advisory Team and is seeking that a student serve as a co-chair to each of those committees.

Senator Faulkner asked if these meetings were open to students to go and sit in on.

The question was yielded to Thomas Rogers who gave greater clarification to what the law stated regarding having meeting such as this open to the public and/or students. He stated that there are certain areas where the committee has full discretion of when and to what matter the public can sit in on.

There was a point of clarification that these meetings work like Student Government Exec meetings.

Senator Buvens raised the question if someone had been in contact with the satellite schools.

President Cox explained that he is the student body president of LSU and his main concern is for the students of this university, the main campus, but he has been in contact all student body presidents, but has not heard back from the one at the Health Science Center in Baton Rouge.

Senator Schwarzenburg explained that the Transition Advisory Team was created in December and since then there has been only one meeting.

Time for Questions Expired

Senator Beadle moved that 3 minutes be added to the questioning period.

Seconded by Senator Baumgardner, there were no objections.

Senator Grashoff raised the question on how this committee will affect students. And will a student being on these committees make any difference with the demographics of the Advisory Team.

President Cox explained that he has asked the same question to get no straight answer. He also went on the answer the second part of the question by saying that no matter the group demographics he finds it important to have that
difference of opinion and viewpoints of a student with some of the biggest changes that LSU has ever seen.

Senator Taylor came up for debate and stated her complete support for SGR No. 1 and showed her concern that no student voice for nearly 30,000 students at LSU-BR.

Senator Baumgardner came up with an amendment to the resolution stating that instead of “LSU Board of Supervisors” the resolution should read “Louisiana State University System Board of Supervisors”.

It was deemed friendly by Senator Schwartzenburg and immediately adopted.

Senator Rees came up for debate and gave full support for having a student sit on the Transition Advisory Team, yet he is worried that the students voice not be heard based on the accolades and demographics of all other on the board. And that the student is chosen carefully to make sure they will voice and stand by their opinion

Senator Schwartzenburg asked to amend the authors of the resolution to everyone in the room to help solidify the backing of everyone present.

There were no objections

Senator Schwartzenburg closed by reminding the floor that major changes are coming to the university and it is of utmost importance that students get some kind of say in what goes on. He also urged that every stay well informed on the subject. Once the resolution is passed and signed, it will be sent to the governor, board of supervisors, and LSU President. Favorable passage was urged.

**100% in FAVOR SGR No. 1 ENROLLED**

*LO No. 1* authored by Speaker Westbrook is a Legislative Order to appoint Korey Ryder Secretary of the LSU Student Senate.

Speaker Westbrook began by introducing Secretary Ryder and explaining how excited she is for the coming work.

Secretary Ryder introduced himself to the floor and explained his excitement to be working with the Student Senate.
There was no debate
Speaker Westbrook closed with urging for favorable passage.

100% FAVOR LO No.1 ENROLLED

LO No. 1 authored by Speaker Westbrook is a legislative order to appoint the standing committees of the thirty-third LSU Student Senate.

Speaker Westbrook explained that this order was to appoint the chairs that presented earlier in the meeting and that their co-chairs would be selected by next Wednesday.

There was no debate
Speaker Westbrook urged for Favorable Passage

98% in FAVOR LO No. 1 ENROLLED

Advisor Reports

Michael Smith introduced himself has the advisor for all branches of student government and thanks everyone for being in attendance and expressed his excitement for the retreat on Saturday.

Legislative Officer Reports

SEC Exchange

Senators Beadle and Faulkner were placed into a run-off election based on paper vote of the senators present. After a second tying vote, Senator Beadle was selected by pulling a name from a hat. He will be one of several people representing the university at the SEC exchange in College Station, Texas.

Speaker Westbrook then reminded the floor of the retreat Saturday from 8am-Noon and that any senator not in attendance, with proper reason, will vacate their seat. She also announced that there are several vacant seats in Senate and asked the floor that if they know of anyone interested to recommend them to apply. Speaker Westbrook also reminded senators that with upcoming election, what they can and cannot do regarding candidates.
Speaker Pro Tempore Campbell announced that if anyone had not received his email “This Week in Senate” via SGV1 they need to contact him so as to stay connected with Senate

Speaker Westbrook then announced the resignation of several senators

Senator Beadle moved to accept the resignations

Seconded by Senator DeBileux, no objections

Senator Schwartzenburg moved to adjourn the meeting

Senator C. Williams Seconded

There was objection, brought to vote

100% FAVOR

Meeting was adjourned at 8:41pm

There were no Petitions, Memorials, and Other Communications