CALL TO ORDER: President John Slosar called the meeting to order at 3:40 PM.

CALL OF THE ROLL: Executive Secretary Miriam Joseph called the roll.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the February 20, 2001, Faculty Senate meeting were approved.

MOMENT OF SILENCE: A moment of silence was observed in memory of Senator Lynda R. Campbell (Public Service), who passed away suddenly on March 15, 2001.

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE BY JOHN SLOSAR:

- Reminded senators about the need for schools to hold elections for new senators prior to the May commencement, and to report the results of the elections to the Senate secretary by June 15, 2001. A handout identifying outgoing and continuing senators was distributed (Appendix A).
- The all-faculty vote on the revised Faculty Senate constitution is underway. Paper ballots were distributed last week; the deadline for receipt of ballots is April 30, 2001.
- Commented briefly upon the two years of his Senate presidency:

  On the whole, it's been a very good two years. However, in many ways, shared governance has not blossomed as fully as I would've liked to have seen it in the past two years. As president of the Senate, I sat on the PCC these last two years. But increasingly, the number of decisions seem to be made at senior staff meetings that Fr. Biondi holds on other Tuesdays of the month. The Faculty Senate's been asked to provide representatives for University committees, but were still asked to have more than one name for each position that is to be filled. Nevertheless, I think shared governance has advanced during the last two years. Having a representative of the faculty on the PCC, I think, is an important step forward and I've participated as a full voting member of that committee. The president of the University and the provost have sought out the advice of the Executive Committee on several occasions,
and they have been very responsive to our requests to discuss issues that we have of concern. We have met several times with Fr. Biondi and Sandra Johnson about issues that we felt were important. Recently the University terminated about 85 staff from the Frost and Health Sciences Center campuses. The Executive Committee of the Senate requested a meeting with the provost about these terminations. At that meeting, we expressed concern about the manner in which those terminations took place. The provost gave us her assurances that the dismissals were done in a respectful, humane manner, and in accord with University policies, and that efforts were being made to help the affected individuals find new positions. The Administration feels free to contact us for advice and we feel free to call upon them when we have concerns. We don't always agree but it has been, generally, a very constructive dialogue.

In terms of concrete accomplishments during the last two years, I think we can point with some pride to the new Tuition Exchange Program that's been in place now for a year, the revision of the Faculty Senate Constitution and Bylaws, the final approval of which is in process, and the proposed new grievance policies and procedures developed for the new Faculty Manual. It's going to be a major step forward when we get those in place. We haven't seen those yet; they're just going forward to the provost from the discussion committee that developed the policies. Among our disappointments was the inability to move forward on the Faculty Manual as fast as we would've liked to. Hopefully, that's something we'll be able to rectify over the summer and fall semesters and move toward its conclusion. The Manual is a very, very important issue, though, and something that shouldn't be rushed so going slowly isn't that much of a problem. It's better to go slowly and do it right, than to get something in there that's not right because it's our contract with the University.

- Noted that the Senate’s standing committees do much of the Senate’s business. He thanked all committee members, and the chairpersons in particular, for their work over the past two years. Copies of the committee’s annual reports received to date were distributed (Appendices B-G) and will be posted on the Senate’s Web site in the near future.
- Thanked the members of the 2000-2001 Executive Committee for their work.
- Requested that senators give their full support to incoming president Randy Sprague.

REPORT ON UNIVERSITY STRATEGIC PLANNING—Julie Weissman, Assistant Provost
Weissman reported on the University’s strategic planning process, now underway. She stressed that the planning process was characterized by broad participation by the University community and by extensive information gathering and sharing. Weissman provided an overview of the process and input to date; this information is summarized on the strategic planning Web at http://www.slu.edu/provost/strategic/ . Four strategic directions (Appendix H) have emerged and will be presented to the Board of Trustees in May for its approval. Weissman invited faculty to review the proposed directions and send their comments to her at weissman@slu.edu.
ELECTION OF SENATE SECRETARY AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEMBERS
Nominees for Secretary were Jeanne Donnelly (Allied Health) and Ian Redmount (Parks); Donnelly was elected to the two-year term. Nominees for two seats on the Executive Committee were Rick Breslin (Public Service), John Griesbach (Law), Dorothy James (Nursing), Andy Lonigro (Medicine), and Fred Wolinsky (Public Health). Breslin and Wolinsky won the seats. They will be joined by continuing Executive Committee members Toby Benis (A&S) and Daphne Demello (Medicine).

ADJOURNMENT: President Slosar adjourned the meeting and turned the symbolic gavel over to new President Randy Sprague. Sprague reconvened the meeting.

PRESIDENT RANDY SPRAGUE’S REMARKS
Sprague thanked John Slosar for his service to the University and to the Senate, saying the Senate had experienced a renaissance under Slosar’s leadership. Slosar will be recognized formally at the Senate’s Fall 2001 kickoff dinner. He also thanked Miriam Joseph for her service as Senate secretary. Sprague stated his belief that the faculty are the University and identified as a challenge for the Senate the need to communicate this point to both administration and students. He closed by asking for senators’ support as he takes on this new role.

NEW BUSINESS -- None

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Miriam E. Joseph
Executive Secretary