I. John Murphy called the meeting to order at 3:35 p.m.

II. President Wildes gave the invocation
III. Approval of January 12, 2006 Minutes
Because of technical difficulties, the January minutes were not posted three days prior to the Senate meeting, as required. The minutes were tabled, with no opposition, until the March 9 meeting.

IV. Elections
• Connie Rodriguez has asked to be relieved of her duties as secretary, and Barbara Ewell agreed to serve for the remainder of the term. Her appointment was approved without objection.
• The Executive Committee recommended that Trish del Nero serve as the Senate representative for the search committee for a Vice-president for Student Affairs. Her appointment was approved without objection.
• Earl Richard, Senate representative on the Fringe Benefits Committee, is retiring. Sherry Alexander has been asked to represent the Senate on the committee until the expiration of Professor Richard’s 2006 term. Her appointment was approved without objection.
• Conrad Raabe, Senate representative for the Standing Council for Academic Planning (SCAP), has stepped aside because of a class conflict. Maria Calzada was nominated by Mary Blue and was elected by acclamation.

V. Reports
University Planning Team (UPT):
John Murphy reported on the meeting of January 18.
  o John Cornwell reported on the SACS re-accreditation. The university received satisfactory responses on 80 of 84 points. The unsatisfactory areas were: (1) faculty with questionable qualifications; (2) graduate program support; (3) statement of learning assessment; (4) assessment of student learning in the common curriculum. These problems have been addressed and are now under review by SACS.
  o Brenda Joyner described the elements of the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP): faculty and staff development, a first year learning experience, and student leadership programs. The budget is $272,000 over a five year period.
  o Lydia Voigt reported on Provost Harris’s Renewal/Rebuilding Task Force, aka the New Orleans Alliance for Hope (NOAH Project); there are over 20 members with varied responsibilities and sub-committees.
  o Thomas Smith, acting Vice-president for Student Affairs, reported on events and activities for returning students.
  o President Wildes described his new task force, for which Laurie Joyner and Stephen Scariano are the Senate representatives.
  o Rhonda Cartwright, Vice President for Finance and Administration, reported that the current shortfall, created by the lack of income from residence halls, tuition, and food contracts, is about $20-30 million. Insurance for interruption of business will cover about $15 million, but could take up to three years to collect. Federal and state monies—as much as $8.7 million—are pending but uncertain. A strong fall enrollment of over 700 first-year students might reduce the deficit, but such enrollments are not assured.

President’s Task Force:
Professor Joyner, Senate representative to the President’s Task Force, reported that its purpose has been defined as advising the president and the board in developing a strategic blueprint, working from the draft that had emerged from
the Academic Affairs Strategic Agenda, in order to move forward in the realities of a post-Katrina Loyola. The plan will be presented by May 2006.

The President has asked that the plan be mission-centered and focus on the quality of the university. The Senate representatives raised issues of pace (are we moving quickly enough?), workloads (how can we retain good faculty and staff under pressure?), process (how will we structurally determine any cuts?), and communication (how can we encourage the flow of information between the Senate and the Task Force?).

Professor Scariano added that he believed that the call for confidentiality in the Task Force is unwarranted; he also expressed concern over the proliferation of committees.

Vernon Gregson, Senate guest, asked for clarification concerning the roles of the Budget Committee and the Board of Trustees. President Wildes responded that the Board of Trustees will address the fiduciary concerns of the university and that the Task Force will focus on programmatic matters. Professor Gregson reminded the Senate of several precedents for the presence of faculty members at board meetings and the value of faculty input.

Professor Rodriguez asked about Professor Blue’s appointment to the Task Force, noting that the Senate had recommended that, as the third person in a close election, she be appointed by the president. President Wildes agreed to her appointment.

After Professor Scarriano noted that the Budget Committee has not met since Katrina, Marcus Smith asked the president for a report from the Budget Committee next month. President Wildes said he would try to do so.

VI. Old Business

Motion by Professor Gregson, tabled in January pending the results of the student survey. Since the survey remains incomplete and Spring II still uncertain, the motion was again tabled on a motion by Professor Kondkar, seconded by Professor Ewell, and passed 18-5.

VII. New Business

Professor Gregson moved that the university formally request assistance in placing Loyola faculty at other Jesuit universities (complete motion attached). The motion was seconded, and a discussion ensued on the merits of such a proposal and the possible difficulties it might involve, including contractual obstacles and encouraging faculty to leave. Joseph Ganitsky objected that the motion focused on personal problems rather than addressing the more pressing matter of Loyola’s recovery. A point of order was called and the motion will be placed upon the March agenda for discussion, in concurrence with the by-laws.

Professor Blue then offered a motion to restrict administrators from representing the Senate on university committees, a change to the by-laws that will require a 2/3 vote. It will also be placed on the March 9 agenda for discussion.

VIII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned around 5:30.