

**TEACHING AND LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER**  
**ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOTES**  
**Thursday, February 14, 2008, ULIB 622**

**Members Present:** Michelle Zagar (Chair), Christian Rubio (Vice Chair), Hank Bray, Michael Broome, Sharon Cruse, Ron Hill, Sherlyn Powell, Rebecca Stephenson, Jeff Taylor, and Mona Oliver.

**Members Absent:** Michael Beutner (excused), Johanna Boulton (excused), Amanda Richardson (excused).

This meeting was called by Provost Stephen Richters so that the members of the TLRC Advisory Committee could better understand the changes about to happen with the TLRC.

Dr. Richters led the meeting to inform the group that plans are underway to create a new Office of Extended/Alternative Learning, led by Dr. Rhonda Adams Jones, in Filhiol Hall. The plan is for both Continuing Education and the TLRC to come under this new office, basically being formed as a College of Extended Learning. This new office will oversee online courses, particularly our on-line degree offerings in the health studies area under Louisiana's CALL Program. He explained that the CALL Program would enable ULM to offer accelerated learning to adult learners, particularly working adults, by making the length of courses more convenient for those who want to continue their education despite other obligations. In other words, getting a degree would become much more convenient for the busy part-time student. The Provost stated that part of the plan is to hire a person who will serve as an instructional design leader.

In addition, he said he had invited the Committee to this meeting for another purpose: to ask for specific suggestions as to how the TLRC Advisory Committee could work with this new setup. In particular, he inquired if any of the members are willing to travel outside of our campus to explore new pedagogical changes/strategies at other universities, look for and attend conferences related to pedagogical possibilities like those offered by NCAT, and return to ULM with new and interesting ideas that they would be willing to communicate to other colleagues on campus. He stressed that he also wanted to see this Committee act as a conduit to inform him if people on campus are looking to do something new. In short, were they interested in being agents for change?

Dr. Richters would like to see any interested committee members continue Mona's work because she will be retiring from the university in July. For assuming particular duties, a Committee member might receive a half-time position as Director, or several members might wish to take on specific TLRC responsibilities perhaps during the summer or over the Christmas break in exchange for a stipend or perhaps a course reduction. One question was whether there would be clerical help. Also there was a question about where a reception area would be located for the TLRC, if Library 314 will be reassigned. Filhiol Hall, where the new Office of Extended or Alternative Learning, will be located was mentioned, but members were uncertain as to the answers to these questions.

Of course, this newer TLRC--however it is configured--will be a part of the QEP, seeing that one of its goals is for faculty to get and share new ideas to improve instruction. The Provost finalized his talk with the Committee by asking how the Committee wants to be organized. Before leaving to attend another meeting, he requested that the Committee let him know their suggestions after we meet again.

The Committee decided to remain in the room for another hour to discuss the matter further. One suggestion was that perhaps the Committee should look at our Mission Statement first. Another committee member stated that she was placed on the TLRC committee without being asked to participate. Mona replied that it has always been considered an honor to be asked to serve on this particular University-level committee because it was seen as an affirmation that your dean and your colleagues regard you as a good teacher. Another suggestion was that we should look at other faculty members not presently serving on the committee, with a view to their being placed on the committee to serve because of the new required responsibilities. Faculty who are committed to research and publication commented that having the summer months to work on projects is essential, so working on TLRC plans over the summer is not possible for everyone. Finally, the suggestion was made that a new leader should be appointed, then a sub-committee, and lastly, we would need to get a commitment for clerical help.

In other business, Mona Oliver reminded everyone that she will need two faculty members from each college to review the Tom and Mayme Scott Endowed Professorship in Teaching Excellence nominees' portfolios and proposals and assess each, using a computer program designed for that purpose, by the deadline.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 4, 2008, at 3:00 p.m. in the Library on the first floor in Room 106.

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