

**Minutes**  
**ULM Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**January 17, 2008**

**Present:** Brett Bennett, Monica Bontty, Sally Davidson, Joseph Feldhaus, Anna Hill, Cecil Hutto, Megan Lowe, Shirlee Owens, Pamela Saulsberry, Donna Rhorer, C. Turner Steckline, Bruce Walker, and Holly Wilson

**Absent:** Stephen Fox, David Hare, Kitty Kervin (excused), Lance Nickelson, Mona Oliver, Jack Palmer, Linda Reid, Jeff Rush (excused), Dorothy Schween, and John Sutherlin (excused)

President Steckline called the meeting to order. Secretary Rhorer called the roll. Minutes were accepted.

**Committee Reports:**

**Executive Board:** Last met with the administration on November 28, 2007; December 5th meeting was cancelled. Board is scheduled to meet with President Cofer on January 31, 2008.

**Academic Standards:** No report.

**Constitution and Bylaws:**

1. Change

Motion passed last time on whether or not FS officers should be tenured is rescinded. According to the Constitution and Bylaws, the resolution needed a 2/3 vote to pass.

2. Election last semester of Anna Hill as Secretary-Elect.

All officers must come from the elected membership of the Senate.

Since Anna Hill was appointed to replace John Knesel, she is not eligible to serve. Turner Steckline will take her place as secretary for 2008-2009.

3. Executive Board

Vacancy on Executive Board. EB will need another member now that Senator Hill cannot serve as secretary. The Senate asked her to continue her term on the board.

Membership. President Cofer has noted that our Executive Board could be more representative of other colleges. If the Executive Board represents the Senate and most officers are from one college, then this should not be an issue or concern.

Senate could consider another at-large position, moving us from 2 to 3. At-large positions should be elected, but often people must volunteer to fill them.

4. Constitution and Bylaws is discharged of its duty to look into whether or not senators should be tenured.

**Faculty Welfare Committee:**

No report.

**Faculty Advisory Council:** President Steckline attended the meeting and reported that the next meeting is February 29th in Lake Charles.

**Strategic Planning Subcommittees:** Senators Lowe and Walker reported briefly.

**Re-organization:**

Both Deans Berry and Cass were not able to meet with us today.

Discussion of the re-organization process and document followed with individual senators from each college with the exception of Pharmacy reporting. In summary, senators from the College of Business noted that when the call to re-organize came, Dean Ron Berry took a different approach to the challenge and created 3 scenarios. Members of his college were asked to discuss the pros and cons of each. In the end, senators for CB reported that Dean Berry had done a wonderful job of incorporating faculty input to make sure re-organization worked.

Representatives from the other colleges represented reported problems with the process.

President Steckline noted that we could formulate a response to the re-organization report in which we recommended that department heads meet and respond to concerns expressed in the document.

**Budget Concerns:**

Since many of the concerns about re-organization centered on monetary issues, the Faculty Senate decided to invite Dave Nicklas to our next meeting to address many budgetary concerns.

**Handbook:**

The Faculty Handbook is up and available online. We need a standing handbook committee (perhaps coming out of Faculty Welfare Committee) who will review the handbook by March of every year. Changes can be submitted.

**Faculty Senate Web site:**

President Steckline asked everyone to look at the new design of the Faculty Senate website. She invited comments on content and design.

**Other Items:**

Senator Walker asked for an agenda to be published a week ahead of time. He also requested a reminder of meetings.

**Memorials**

Memorials for faculty members can be read into the minutes. The next should be for Professor Cindy Dobson Bennett who was a member of the Nursing faculty.

**Fees**

In response to questions raised previously, Academic Excellence fees have existed for four years, and there are no added fees because of the new parking unit.

Re-examine whether we should add comments about intellectual property and academic freedom into the constitution. This was referred to Constitution and Bylaws Committee.

Senator Wilson moved to send it to them. Senator Rhorer seconded the motion.

**Adjournment**

Senator Walker moved to adjourn. Senator Lowe provided the second.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna A. Rhorer, Secretary  
ULM Faculty Senate