

Minutes
Faculty Senate Meeting
University of Louisiana of Monroe
September 6, 2007
ADMN 2-105

Members Present: Brett Bennett, Monica Bontty, Sally Davidson, Joseph Feldhaus, Stephen Fox, David Hare, Cecil Hutto, Kitty Kervin, Megan Lowe, Lance Nickelson, Mona Oliver, Shirlee Owens, Linda Reid, Donna Rhorer, Jeff Rush, Pamela Saulsberry, Dorothy Schween, C. Turner Steckline, John Sutherlin, Bruce Walker, and Holly Wilson.

Members Absent: None

I. President Steckline called the meeting to order at 12:30 P. M. Secretary Rhorer called the roll. Minutes of August 23, 2007, were distributed. Senator Rush moved to accept the minutes as amended. Senator Walker provided a second. Motion carried.

II. President Steckline welcomed Anna Hill. Steckline encouraged representatives from the under represented college to submit additional names of replacement senators. The President continued to update FS contact sheets for posting to website.

III. Committee Reports

- A. Executive Board and guests (Senators Oliver and Owens) met with Provost Richters to discuss the Faculty Handbook. The group reviewed half of the material and discussed the language of the Family Medical Leave Act. Steckline noted that the promotion and tenure document has not changed. The Faculty Handbook may be posted by the end of September 2007. The Provost was asked for the Reorganization Committees Report.

Senator Feldhaus called attention to an item in the minutes of 8/23/07 that should be changed. Senator Rettenmayer retired from the university, but his term in the Senate had expired. (Item has been amended in 8/23/07 minutes.) Senator Schween asked if we were going to address issues voiced by the Provost at the EB meeting, specifically enrollment observations. She noted that reports were optimistic. Steckline said we would consider a report from the Provost under new business.

On September 13, 2007, we will have a called meeting; we will address topics to be discussed then in new business.

- B. Academic Standards: No meeting has been called.
- C. Constitution & Bylaws Committee asked that copies of the two changes made last year be retrieved from the minutes. The president noted that minutes from last year will be posted to the website. Senator Wilson, last years secretary, will send the minutes to Secretary Rhorer for posting to the website; then, Rhorer will send a copy of the changes to Senator Sutherlin.

- D. Elections Committee will report the results of today's election after officers have been elected.
- E. Fiscal Affairs had no report.
- F. Committee on Committees has not met. Senator Nickelson will email the President as committee work progresses.

IV. New Business

- A. Election of officers for 2008-2009

President-elect Donna Rhorer

Senator Rhorer was nominated for President by Senator Kervin. The motion was seconded by Senator Oliver. Senator Rhorer was elected without opposition. Since she serves currently as secretary and is president-elect for next year, Senator Schween noted that we needed to add another representative serve as Member-at-Large on the Executive Board. Senator Fox volunteered.

- B. Nominations for Secretary-elect were opened.

Secretary-elect Anna Hill

Senator Feldhaus nominated Senator Anna Hill. Senator Rhorer seconded the nomination. Senator Hill was elected without opposition.

- C. Faculty Friends Social

A second Faculty Friends social will take place on Friday, September 7, 2007, from noon to 2:00 P. M. in Stubbs 219. Senator Wilson noted that the last social was a huge success with a remarkable turnout. Steckline asked senators to attend and to contribute refreshments.

- D. Faculty Welfare Committees Success

Senator Sutherlin mentioned the August paycheck that new faculty had received as a result of the Faculty Welfares spring & summer work. The August paycheck for new hires was a response by President Cofer to the committee's suggestion.

- E. Charge Committee Reminder

The president reminded designated members to call members together to elect chairs. Senator Walker asked if everyone had been assigned to committees. Steckline said that she had selected membership randomly, and she added that if we know times of committee meetings; then, we can attend all meetings.

- F. Faculty Advisory Council

President Steckline attended this meeting on August 24, 2007, in Baton Rouge. She met with the representatives from other Faculty Senates from around the state, received a copy of the ULM Operating Budget, the Faculty and Staff Pay Plan, and a resolution on sick leave, which will come before the legislature.

For these sessions, FAC likes to have an alternate designated so that full representation can be achieved. Senator Walker volunteered. Although representatives receive no compensation for attending the meetings, Senator Feldhaus reminded representatives to the FAC that they are entitled to compensation for gas and expenses. He suggested they contact Paxton Oliver who was a representative to the FAC for years.

G. Paid Time Off Legislation

This bill to go before the Louisiana legislature may replace accrued sick leave with paid time off. Senators had many questions about the implications of such a bill. Senators noted that moving from the accrual of sick leave to paid time off has limitations. Senator Feldhaus talked of changes in the past and noted the policy is being changed again. Senator Walker estimated a savings of 6%. Others asked if some people were going to get a buy out. Senator Owens, in the meeting last week with Provost Richters regarding the Faculty Handbook, asked the Provost if we could pool extra days so that these days could be allocated to people who need them. Senator Walker did not think well of this idea. Senator Reid noted its use in her own department, and expressed how helpful those additional days had been to a colleague. Senator Walker says university committee talking about it eats up time & nothing productive comes out of this. He also noted that the mechanics of the change would take place at an institutional level.

Senator Feldhaus asked if we were losing something in terms of the time earned. Senator Oliver noted it could be a 10 or 12 month plan. Senator Walker added that the change would begin with the next academic year, and salaries would be divided by 10 months. The question was whether or not we would then increase sick days to 10 instead of 9. Senator Wilson moved that we refer the matter to Fiscal Affairs. Senator Schween seconded the motion.

H. Faculty Senate Meeting with Deans and the Provost

The Faculty Senate voted to invite the Deans and Heads of College Budget Committees to explain how pay raises were determined. In addition, the FS voted to invite Provost Richters to touch on matters discussed most recently in the meeting of the Executive Board. September 13th works best. Steckline will get back to all when time and place are set. Senator Rhorer moved that we invite constituents. Senator Wilson provided the second. Senator Oliver asked for a later time since she meets with the TLRC Academy for Teaching Excellence at 2 P.M.

V. Informal discussion. Two problems were identified.

- A. Language on ULM police Web page instructs disabled not to park in certain places unless they use a wheelchair.
- B. Smoking restrictions are not enforced outside of entrances to buildings. Both problems have been identified by Steckline in a letter to President Cofer.
- C. A question from a constituent about term limits for senators was reported. Members have expressed early in our meeting how difficult it is to find people whose schedules allow them to participate in Faculty Senate activities.

VI. Senator Walker moved to adjourn at 1:30 P.M.

Next regular meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2007.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna A. Rhorer, Ph. D.
Secretary, ULM Faculty Senate