

Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, January 15, 2009
Rm 2-91, Ad.Min. ULM Campus
12:35-1:15 p.m.

- * indicates excused absence;
- Name/Name indicates Moved/Seconded

Senators Present: M. Bontty, Y. Dupre, J. Feldhaus, D. Hare, A. Hill, C. Hutto, M. Lowe, M. Matusiak, L. Nichelson, M. Parker, D. Rhorer, C. Steckline, J. Taylor, B. Walker, H. Wilson.

Senators Absent: D. Chandler*, S. Jois*, K. Kervin*, S. Owens, L. Reid*.

Handouts available: Agenda, Minutes last meeting, Shared Governance Committee's formulated questions regarding FS Community Governance Model (distributed and recollected).

President Rhorer **called the meeting to order**, at 12:32 p.m.

Secretary Steckline **called the roll**.

The **Minutes of the November 20, 2008** meeting were **accepted** with no corrections. (Walker/Hill).

Committee Reports: From existing FS Committees one report was presented by President Rhorer regarding the December Faculty Advisory Council meeting in Baton Rouge. She noted that she will be attending the next scheduled meeting on Jan. 23, 2009; that LAFS (the Louisiana Association of Faculty Senates), is the FAC for the LS system schools, so she did not attend their meeting in December; that the FAC conversations focused on the performance based funding schemata that all UL schools are reacting to, observing that the "Humanities 1" formula designation has created a lot of dissonance for several schools; the ORP questions are still being investigated; that personnel issue clarifications were made regarding the purview of Faculty Senates.

The resignations of two Senators were noted: Christopher Johnson and Anne Case Hanks.

Unfinished Business:

1. College of Arts and Sciences Senators voted to accept the nomination of Claudia Grinnell to the Faculty Senate, replacing one of three senators from that college. The nomination was made to the entire Senate and unanimously approved (Parker/Steckline). Senator Grinnell will regularly attend meetings beginning in February 2009. Senators from the Colleges of A&S, and EDHS were again charged with bringing forth their College nominations for replacement Senators.
2. President Rhorer indicated that "Professor of the Year," other such awards, and plans for renovations of the University House for Faculty Senate, and Faculty Club, were undoubtedly off the table in this current period of budgetary constrictions.

New Business:

- A. Announcement of implementation of Faculty Chats with Provost, FS President, and FS President-Elect. First scheduled for later this same afternoon. All will take place in University House. [Next two scheduled for 1/26/09 from 2:30-5:00; 1/29/09 from 10:00 to noon]. Senator Walker characterized the purpose of the chats as a forum for announcements, discussion of faculty concerns, issues, and questions.
- B. The Shared Governance Committee, chaired by Paxton Oliver, received from President Cofer, a copy of the FS's Community Governance Model, and submitted questions about the model to President Rhorer for response. Rhorer chronicled the dates and content of the exchanges she had

with Dr. Oliver, (Dec. 17, 21, 28, 2008) and then sought input as to how to respond. After discussion President Rhorer was authorized to draft a short response to Dr. Oliver and the SG committee.

- C. The FS went into Executive Session to discuss employment issues brought before the Senate. (Steckline/Walker). The FS came out of Executive Session. (Matusiak/Steckline). The topic for the Faculty Senate Spring Forum with Faculty will focus on operationalizing EEOC at ULM.
- D. Current interpretations related to faculty pay and potential furloughs suggest that faculty pay (and any associated furlough) might enjoy property right protection under LA law. "Stelly" was the tax act that was repealed last legislative session that is accounting for the larger part of the state's revenue shortfall for this coming fiscal year. Further interpretation of this may be forthcoming.
- E. Program Review and interpretations of "low completers," was discussed.
- F. Noted need for some kind of Spring "Faculty Friends" clutch. Senator Wilson will pursue this.
- G. Senator Walker urged all Senator's to set a standard of positivity in a climate of uncertainty.

Meeting adjourned at 1:35 p.m.

Next Faculty Senate Meeting: February 5, 2009, 12:30 p.m. Ad. Min. 2-91.

FYI: Remaining FS Meetings of Spring Semester 2009 are scheduled for Feb. 19, March 19, and April 23—all at 12:30 in Ad. Min. 2-91.

Respectfully submitted,
C. Turner Steckline, Faculty Senate Secretary

<p>*indicates excused absence. (Name/Name) indicates Moved/Seconded</p>

**Minutes of Called Meeting of the Faculty Senate for Department Heads,
Program Administrators, and other interested Faculty
January 29, 2009
12:30-2:00 p.m., Stubbs 100, ULM Campus**

Senators Present: Chandler, Dupre, Feldhaus, Grinnell, Hare, Hill, Hutto, Kervin, Lowe, Matusiak, Nicholson, Owens, Parker, Reid, Rhorer, Steckline, Walker, Wilson.

Senators Absent: Jois*, Taylor

Guest Speakers: Provost Richters, Dave Nicklas, President Cofer

FS President Rhorer called the meeting to order at 12:32 in Stubbs 100, delayed approval of minutes from last (Jan. 15, 2009) meeting until next regularly scheduled FS meeting, oriented all in attendance as to the history of such efforts to better and directly communicate with the faculty over the past two years, previewed the sequence of speakers, welcomed the guests and turned the floor over to Provost Richters.

Provost Richters situated the called meeting and most recent series of Faculty Chats in the context of expected statewide budgetary cuts for higher education; in the complete fluidity of a situation that can change from moment to moment; in the multitude of unknowns which include duration and magnitude of expected cuts; in the desire to find strategies that preserves the integrity of the university, and effect the fewest number of staff and faculty. The strategies were carefully qualified as temporary measures, that in

the large scheme of things are not academically desirable or sound, but can suffice for a short period of time to address the expected crisis of state funding. The strategies were also carefully situated in Department/Unit decision-making determinations, as Departments function differently, and the strategies may not be entirely possible for all Departments/Units/Colleges. The strategies were outlined as follows:

1. Streamline offerings to majors—What's the minimal number of upper level courses we can offer? Examples were offered using English and Psychology 300/400 level classes, with the illustrations serving to show that the idea is to restrict breadth of offerings over a short period of time (2 years?).
2. 12 month Staff with SACS certification would be available to teach sections as part of their workload for this period of difficulty.
3. Faculty will be asked to pick up 1 extra classes per year without compensation. Workload for this period of time would be a 4/5 or 5/4 load.
4. The concepts of ½ year [unpaid or half pay] voluntary sabbaticals; of banking classes taught in this period of crisis, for future returns in the form of release time; and of graduated retirements are being investigated.
5. Working with the Faculty Senate to create the paper trail, keeping this temporary is viewed as essential, so we were asked to formulate a resolution.

Dave Nicklas complimented and complemented the information shared by the Provost. FS President Rhorer indicated that ULM was way ahead of other UL System schools in responding to the possibilities, and that to her knowledge (from FAC meetings in Baton Rouge), ULM's is the only administration to bring it before faculty and staff for direct input, planning, and response. FS President Rhorer moderated the questions asked by Department Heads and Faculty, which were addressed by President Cofer, Provost Richters and Dave Nicklas.

The litany of questions/concerns included but were not limited to the following:

How pre-requisites can interfere with course rotations; How's this to work within the 9/12 month contract base we currently have; refocusing of summer offerings and exploration of the success of other universities "guaranteeing 4 year graduations" when curriculum requirements are distributed over the entire year; revenue generation; furloughs for classified and unclassified staff; white horse rescue scenarios from Federal Stimulus package, State Rainday and/or Megafund; How's this work on the ground—in terms of enrollments; workweek changes? Consolidating buildings in use, cost containment, purchasing consolidation; does promotion/tenure proceed as usual? Impact on new hires? Projected to begin when?

The meeting concluded with expressed appreciation for opportunities to participate in strategizing, for bringing faculty and staff into the loop. While we can all wish this challenging period to all of Higher Education will just go away, it is best to consider a variety of ways to meet demands and preserve the integrity of University. Department Heads were urged to go back to their departments and discuss these and other possible measures individual units might be able to create, invent, and consider.

The meeting ended at 2:00.

This will certainly be an agenda item for the next Faculty Senate meeting, scheduled for Feb. 5, 2009 in Ad-Min. 2-91.

Respectfully submitted,
C. Turner Steckline, Faculty Senate Secretary

