

Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, August 20, 2009
Admin Rm 2-91, ULM Campus
12:30-2:00 p.m.

Senators Present: J. Anderson, M. Bontty, W. Brown, W. Campbell, D. Chandler, J. Feldhaus, A. Hill, C. Hutto, K. Kervin, M. Lowe, M. Matusiak, L. Nicholson, S. Owens, J. Pankey, M. Parker, L. Reid, D. Rhorer, C. Steckline, P. Sylvester, B. Walker. H. Wilson

Senators Absent: Y. Dupre*, C. Grinnell*

Call to Order and Roll Call: Past-president Rhorer called the meeting to order and turned the gavel over to President Bruce Walker. Walker thanked Dr. Rhorer for her tireless work and leadership last year. He and the past presidents of FS were involved in a goal-setting strategic retreat last week with administration and key members to plan the future of ULM in light of anticipated budget cuts for 2010-2011. His welcome addressed the impact of the budget cuts but encouraged the senators to continue to represent our colleges in this process.

Secretary Reid called the roll.

Approval of minutes: The Minutes of the April 23, 2009 meeting were reviewed and approved with an editorial correction to include the names of the new senators, J. Pankey and J. Anderson, who were in attendance at the April meeting (Matusiak/Hill). The minutes included a list of all senators, terms to serve, colleges represented, as well as the attendance records of senators for the 2008-2009 year. Senator Steckline stressed the importance of attending meetings and the policy for excused absences.

Minutes of the called meeting of July 22, 2009 were reviewed and accepted (Feldhaus/Hill).

Committee Reports:

Executive Board: Past president Rhorer gave a report on the process of FS as observers of the budget meetings and SRAC. While the original invitation positioned FS representatives as observers, the respective chairs of these committees encouraged Senators to voice their concerns. Issues that FS stressed at those meetings: 1) financial impact of faculty teaching extra classes should be included in the spread sheets documenting monetary amounts, 2) things (i.e., supplies and operating expenses) should be cut before people, and 3) problematic logic of the hiring of new faculty while laying off faculty, particularly within the same department. A final list of cuts coming from SRAC has been requested. A senator asked if we felt that FS made a difference. Instances of difference/impact were noted.

Faculty Advisory Committee: Senator Rhorer attended the meeting in June and noted that President Moffitt thanked all the constituencies except faculty for their efforts on budget cuts and gun control. President Walker appointed Donna Rhorer (who serves as FAC Secretary) as a representative to FAC. As FS president, President Walker is also a representative to FAC. Appointment approved (Feldhaus/Owens).

There was no report from the other committees.

Unfinished Business:

Senator Steckline addressed that we have not followed up on the resolution regarding memorials for the death of a faculty member. Faculty Welfare Committee was asked to review the policy and to consider posting the policy on of the Faculty Senate Webpage. Steckline read the following:

Memoriam to Harold Williamson who died in March of 2009 after a lengthy battle with cancer. Dr. Williamson was a full Professor of Criminal Justice and Head of the Department from 1990 to 2008. He came to Northeast Louisiana University in January 1981 as Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice, having earned his doctorate from Sam Houston State University. He also served as Director of North Delta Regional Training Academy. He belonged to several professional organizations, including the American Society for Public Administration, the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (life member), the American Correctional Association, the American Society of Criminology (life member), the Mid-South Sociological Association, and the Louisiana Society of Criminal Justice and Criminology. He was also a member of the Air Force from 1966-1970.

New Business:

- A. Tucker Commission** is the LA Post Secondary Education committee appointed by the State to review higher education and submit a report in February. In anticipation of this report ULM has created 6 groups/committees made up of faculty/staff. The overall purpose of these groups is to give strength to ULM's report as compared to Tucker Commission reports. This is a self review process, not a program review. The plan is to perform the evaluation this semester (within 6 wks to 6 months) and every 3 years. Hill stressed the need for FS representatives to have input into the committees. Campbell noted that collaboration is needed, but also reported on how such efforts are not new and have been attempted in the past. BOR website provides a live feed to follow the actions of the Commission. Following much discussion, senators agreed to become involved in all of these committees. Senators completed a sign-up sheet indicating their area of interest.
- B. New Faculty at ULM/ Faculty Friends:** A handout of new faculty was provided. There was no action taken for the Friends of Faculty welcoming.
- C. Faculty Club** – Faculty Welfare Committee will work with the Professional Staff Senate to determine the likelihood of having a Faculty Club for coffee and lunch. To make it economically feasible, professional staff will be included. The location will possibly be in the SUB.
- D. Student Withdrawal for Academic Dishonesty** - Senator Steckline raised a question to the Academic Standards Committee to address an issue that was noted in the “Chronicle” regarding students needing to withdraw from a course for academic integrity. She stated that the article noted that W-D (withdrawal for dishonesty) was being used. The suggestion was to involve SGA.
- E. ULM Email Policy** – An email policy has been developed and was sent to FS for review. The policy was approved: (Steckline/Sylvester).

F. New Officers – President Walker made the announcement for senators to consider running for office for the 2010-2011 year. Nominations will be held next month.

G. Faculty Chat will be at the University House, on Thursday, 2:00-4:00 pm, September 3, 2009.

G. Faculty Senate Meetings: September 17, October 15, November 19 12:30-2:00, in Admin. 2-91.

Respectfully submitted,
Linda Reid
Faculty Senate Secretary

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