

Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, January 19, 2012
Rm 3-94, Walker Hall, ULM Campus
12:30-1:50 p.m.

- * indicates excused absence;
- Name/Name indicates Moved/Seconded
- **hard copy provided as well

Senators Present: Anderson, Arrant, Casey, Durkee, Eisenstadt, Feldhaus, Frye, Hill, Hutto, Junk, Lanham, Owens, Rhorer, Steckline, Stockley, Strunk, Sutton, Sylvester, Walker, Wiggins

Senators Absent: Andrews*

Invited Guests: President Nick Bruno and Dr. Eric Pani

Handouts circulated electronically: Draft of Minutes of FS November 17, 2011 meeting**; Agenda for FS , 2011 meeting; Draft document of “Tenure and Promotion Questionnaire to Dept. Heads, Preliminary Results,” emailed by Senator Junk; Commissioner of Higher Education’s memorandum to System Heads regarding Role, Scope and Mission Statements.

President Rhorer **called the meeting to order**, at 12:35 p.m. She promptly handed the gavel over to President-Elect, Paul Sylvester, now FS President, as Dr. Rhorer assumes an administrative post with the College of Arts and Sciences as Interim-Associate Dean of the College, as Dr. Michael Camille steps into the Interim Dean position occasioned by the departure of Jeffrey Cass. The Senate thanked Senator Rhorer for her tireless service to the University, and her outstanding leadership in the Faculty Senate. She left the room.

Secretary Steckline **called the roll**. Senator Vicki Durkee was welcomed to the Senate as a replacement Senator for Senator Towns.

The **Minutes of the FS November 17, 2011** meeting were **accepted** with corrections to a senator’s excused absence, and the inclusion of the word “increased” in the first sentence under the Faculty Advisory Council, to read “FAC is considering drafting a resolution to oppose increased premiums for the Office of Group Benefits.” (Frye/Feldhaus).

FS President Sylvester noted the uncertainty about when exactly the official “handover” of the FS Presidency would take place, and the possibility for some mistakes in this earlier than originally planned changeover. He also requested the FS to go as totally electronic as possible asking Senators to print their copies of minutes, proposals, and other documents prior to coming to scheduled meetings. He then noted that he’d like to take as many committee reports as possible before discussing the Executive Board Meeting.

Committee Reports:

Senator Anna Hill noted that the logistics of attending the **Faculty Advisory Council** Meetings were going to prove challenging as the BOR had altered their meeting times from Thurs/Fridays, to Tuesdays, and most schools in the state have adapted to availability on Thursdays/Fridays. Tuesdays, cut into teaching schedules for many.

Faculty Welfare observed that a new chair is needed for this Committee.

Senator John Anderson noted that **Fiscal Affairs** is aware of problems ahead, and that President Bruno would be talking to us directly about some of these.

presented a **report on the Executive Board meeting** with Dr. Pani, the Deans, and Senators Hill, Steckline, Feldhaus, Andrews, and himself which occurred Tuesday, January 17, 2012 from 12:30-2:00 in ULIB 622. The primary focus of this meeting was the request issued by the Commissioner of Higher Education, Jim Purcell, to all State Universities to draft Role, Scope and Mission Statements in direct response to the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems (NCHEMS) report, which was commissioned by the Board of Regents, and which appears to have upset every school in the state. The due date for School responses was Friday, January 20, 2012. The FS Executive Board (FSEB) was largely informed of **1)** the Administration's planned responses to the report. Other items presented to the FSEB included **2)** how the midyear cut of 1.8 million dollars had been absorbed by the university (via attrition, capital investments & repairs, Travel, supplies, and two 500,000 amounts out of the College of Pharmacy); **3)** the potential for additional cuts should the lawsuit currently assessing the use of Rainy-Day Funds by the State, two years in a row, be decided in terms of restoring the fund; **4)** what and how program assessments and/or eliminations would occur procedurally in worse case scenarios; and **5)** our (ULM's) passing of the GRAD ACT benchmarks that allow us to raise tuition by 10% in the Fall 2012.

At this juncture, Dr. Rhorer re-entered the room, to indicate that President Bruno and Dr. Pani were on their way in to address the Senate. Once they were in place, she left again.

President Bruno addressed the FS from 1:05 to 1:50, describing reactions to Commissioner Purcell's **Role, Scope and Missions Memo**, and the Administrative response. He urged faculty to preserve the integrity of their classroom work, and requirements in these challenging times of "do everything with nothing." He went on to focus on the issues of: **1)** student cheating, alerting faculty to the selling of instructor materials by online book markets, that often include test-bank questions for courses; **2)** declining SCH's; **3)** changes in how students are "counted" in this administration, from the previous methods of counting; **4)** the specter of "incompletes" and how these are possibly never counted into an institutions total SCH's, and the additional research into this "new wrinkle" that needs to take place; **5)** the discontinuance of 8 week classes after this semester; **6)** indirect cost return remains located in the general fund, with commitment to eventually work a system of pay-back to departments; **7)** visions of creative partnering with research corporations and examples of where and how this is happening. Both Bruno and Pani fielded questions and concerns from Senators as these topics were discussed and particular problems for students were identified (i.e. loans being split between Fall and Spring, students documenting appeals for help, etc.). SCH counting generated many questions regarding how online degree students are counted, and variations in student fees/costs—in-state, out-of-state.

New Business:

The items of a new grading schedule option, and the Tenure and Promotion Survey, were delayed for consideration at our next meeting. The Faculty Handbook is in need of revisions submitted before the end of March, and is a subcommittee of Faculty Welfare. Shirley Owens, Turner Steckline, and Laurel Andrews will divide and revise parts of the document to accommodate significant changes in policies and procedures, organizational structure, and other details, to bring for consideration to the FS prior to the March deadlines.

The **meeting adjourned at 2:09** (Feldhaus)

Reminder of **next FS meeting on February 16, 2012, 12:30** in this same room (Walker 3-94).

Respectfully submitted,

C. Turner Steckline, Faculty Senate Secretary

*indicates excused absence.

(Name/Name) indicates Moved/Seconded

**indicates available in hard copy at meeting

