

**Draft of Minutes of  
Faculty Senate Meeting  
August 25, 2011 (Thursday)  
12:30-1:58 p.m. Admin. 3-84**

- \*indicates excused absence
- (Name/Name) indicates Moved/Seconded

**Senators Present:** Andrews, Arrant, Eisenstadt, Feldhaus, Frye, Junk, Stockley, Hill, Hutto, Niemela, Owens, Rhorer, Sutton, Steckline, Strunk, Sylvester, Towns, Walker, Wiggins,

**Senators Absent:** Anderson\*, Casey

**Handouts available:** Agenda; Draft of Minutes of April 21, 2011 Meeting; Copy of Resolutions passed via email after last meeting of Spring 2011 (Opposing Privatization of Group Benefits; Supporting Quality Chemistry Instruction); Faculty Senate Roster for 2011-2012. Catalogue pages from sister institutions requiring a Literature class; ULM Faculty Handbook pages, with printed content of links as suggested for full inclusion in the handbook.

Meeting was **called to order** at 12:32. Secretary Steckline called the roll. The **minutes of the April 21, 2011** FS Meeting were **approved with corrections** to include an asterisk to indicate excused absence for an absent senator (Feldhaus/Eisenstadt).

A. **Executive Board**—President Rhorer noted the work of the Senate in the duration of time since our last meeting of the Spring. She noted the two resolutions—one opposing the privatization of group benefits, and the other, supporting quality chemistry instruction. The Executive Board met with President Bruno during the summer to review the organizational chart, and to learn about the fate of the Natatorium. President Hill met with President Bruno, and later with Dr. Richters to share faculty comments from 2011 FS Survey about the Deans. Discussion followed regarding the President’s Excellence Awards and the faculty convocation.

Over the summer, President Bruno appointed the FS President to represent the Faculty on two committees: 1) the search committee to select the Executive VP position (to replace the VP of Business Affairs and the VP of External Affairs under the newly organized administrative structure), and 2) the Investiture Committee planning the week celebrating Dr. Bruno’s investiture and focusing on the “Discover ULM,” theme. FS President Rhorer is the chair of the Academic Programming subcommittee and has arranged for speakers from the faculty including Drs. Terry Jones (CAS), Brad Keehey (EDHD), and Paul Sylvester (Pharmacy). CAS will sponsor a sculptor’s art exhibit, a master class the sculptor is conducting, and a concert at the end of the week; Health Sciences, with its Dental Hygiene Clinic will offer free dental screenings. The FS EB represented FS at the reception for new faculty held during University Week, and the EB and other senators represented the FS at the Constituents’ and Public meetings held Aug. 22, and 23, and hosted by the EVP Search Committee when candidates were interviewed during the Executive Vice President search. Senators reported questions from constituents concerning particulars of the search including announcement date, number of candidates who applied, and time period for the search. Members of the EB pointed out that President Bruno e-mailed the campus in early July with information about the organizational change with an attached organizational chart that included the Executive VP position. A question was asked about the Executive VP’s salary given that faculty have not had raises for a long time. The EB pointed out that Dr. Bruno said that the two VP’s positions would be eliminated. Savings from the consolidation and reorganization would be put back into the academic budget.

**B. Faculty Advisory Council**—1) Anna Hill filled in for Donna Rhorer at the June FAC meeting; she also attended the summit meeting of state university faculty senates in Alexandria. Hill noted that Penny Ferguson, (an American Federation of Teachers employee who attends the Board of Supervisor meetings and is kind enough to keep the FAC “in the loop”), warned FAC members that tenure and the TRSL are in the post-election political crosshairs and that State Group Benefits continues to be a target for privatization. Similar topics were discussed at the Alexandria summit and strategies to address them are being planned. 2) Rhorer observed that both she and Hill will attend the next FAC meeting in Baton Rouge. While Rhorer will continue to attend a few FAC meetings (to report on ORP issues), Rhorer completes her term as the Chair of the FAC, and will not seek re-election to that position. She asked the FS if Anna Hill can be our alternative FAC representative. The Senate agreed to this. The next summit meeting of LCSS/ALFS will take place in Alexandria on September 24, 2011. 3) Rhorer researched a question from FAC about the open meetings law. Northwestern State University was concerned that committees on campus considering faculty cuts are not being held openly. There are not many rulings on this. Also, if a group wants a ruling, only an elected or appointed state official may request an opinion. The one ruling on record had to do with animal experiments, and the outcome was that the meeting was not subject to the open meetings law. There is excellent information on open meetings available at the Attorney General’s website. 4) An ORP update was made—Kevin Cope, Roger Laine (both of LSU faculty senate) and Donna Rhorer met with an attorney in Baton Rouge in April. An update from the attorney revealed that she has researched documents and will continue to work on the issue. Rhorer expressed “cautious optimism” and hope for a good outcome.

There were no reports from any other committees.

**Unfinished Business**—Discussion of Core Curriculum changes were initiated at the end of the semester over email, regarding the possible requirement of 3 hours of Literature within the 6 hour humanities electives. Since some new senators did not have the opportunity to participate in the summer’s informal Moodle poll (though they could comment during the summer email exchange about the issue), the issue was discussed. The suggestion was that ULM do what its sister institutions do and support the recommendation that three hours from the Humanities be literature. The ULM Deans have approved the recommendation. The motion to accept the core curriculum as outlined by the Board of Regents and the University Curriculum Committee, as proposed by the Deans, to require three hours of literature in the humanities electives. (Hill/Feldhaus). Discussion noted that Literature functions in a variety of humanities classes (history, languages, communication, theatre as the performance of literature, as non-canonical, as non-fiction, as biography, etc.). The motion carried with 13 in favor, 3 opposed, and 1 abstention.

### **New Business**

**A. Customer Service Issues** were raised by Senator Walker, who noted the University’s focus on a positive attitude in all dealings with all people. He questioned what FS’s role in this should be as there are several customer service process issues to work out from who substitutes for you when you’re gone during the summer as an advisor, to the impact of the re-installment of secretaries in some areas, to determining what information is crucial on websites, to putting students/faculty in touch with the right person to resolve their situations, to registering students in classes already capped and full by raising the cap or by an override. These issues were referred to an ad hoc committee, which should meet prior to our next FS meeting and report. Bruce Walker will chair the committee and senators were instructed to let him know of your interest in serving on the ad hoc committee.

**B. Changes to the Faculty Handbook** were introduced by Senator Hill who noted that the current links in the handbook that appear on page 11, regarding human resources policies need to be restored to the faculty handbook in their entirety, as familiarity with the specifics of anti-discrimination and harassment offenses, romantic relationships involving individuals with power differentials, other forms of discrimination and harassment, as well as complaint procedures, and their protocols need to be featured statements guiding faculty behaviors. The Handbook committee, a subcommittee of

Faculty Welfare was charged with identifying why or when a link is not sufficient or adequate, in this location of the Handbook, and to look for other areas where a link may not suffice. The request is for a report by our next meeting.

**C. Professionalism Across Campus** was introduced by Donna Rhorer as in need of review, as annual review policies and deadlines need to be re-examined, letting people know about construction plans, program changes, and other things that impact their lives in ways that are inclusive, timely, and ahead of more general announcements. {This was not charged to a committee, but will be an item for faculty welfare}.

**Representative to the Honor's Council** approved by the FS was requested by Senator Stockley. Senator Feldhaus was selected unanimously (Walker/Hill).

President Rhorer reminded Senators that we have **one vacant seat in Arts and Sciences**, and to present names for consideration in filling that vacancy and that we elect a **President-elect and Secretary-elect at our next meeting**.

Secretary Steckline requested that all excused **absence notifications** be sent to her and/or President Rhorer, or the absence is not recorded as excused.

Clarification on the **cost of the new organization chart/positions** was asked for, and continued search for a **better meeting room** was promised.

The meeting concluded with the announcement that Dean Cass was giving Admin (now Walker) 3-67 to the Faculty Senate to use as the official Senate Office, complete with shelves, file cabinets, desk, phone, computer, office hours, and a graduate assistant. (Something the Senate has sought to have for over 20 years).

The meeting adjourned at 1:58. (Walker).

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. C. Turner Steckline, Faculty Senate Secretary