

Minutes of ULM Faculty Senate Meeting of October 20, 2011

The Faculty Senate met at 12:30 in George T. Walker Hall 3-84.

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

Senators Present: Arrant, Casey, Feldhaus, Frye, Junk, Stockley, Hill, Hutto, Niemela, Rhorer, Sutton, Strunk, Sylvester, Towns, Walker, Wiggins,

Senators Absent: Anderson, Andrews*, Owens, Steckline*, Eisenstadt*

The meeting was called to order, and the roll was called. The minutes of the September 15th meeting were approved with corrections. (Feldhaus/Walker)

Committee Reports and/or Issues Referred to Committees were presented.

Executive Board

Rhorer provided the report from the Executive Board's October 13th meeting. Items discussed included the following:

--UL System concerns

AAUP's Jordan E. Kurland sent a letter to Dr. Bruno regarding how ULL and ULM had avoided the "layoffs of tenured professors following the mandated review of 'low completer' programs." He wrote to Dr. Bruno requesting "a couple of paragraphs from you and/or Provost Richters explaining how, in the last analysis, you managed to avoid issuing notices of layoff." Dr. Pani indicated he had a copy of the letter and was considering how to respond.

--AAUP's Burstein, President of the Louisiana State Conference and writing for the Executive Committee has also written to Dr. Belle Wheelan, President of SACS, regarding how the transfer of UNO to the UL System might affect the tenure rights of UNO faculty members given the change in tenure policy recently approved by the Board of Supervisors of the UL System. Burstein noted "We are urging that any approval by the Commission for UNO's transfer to the University of Louisiana system stipulate that UNO's recently adopted policies regarding financial exigency and termination procedures must remain in place."

--AAUP also noted that an investigative committee will visit SELU on November 14-15 to investigate the university's dismissal of the 3 foreign language faculty members in 2010.

--GRAD Act Presentations

Faculty Senate sponsored two presentations by Barbara Michaelides and Dr. Pani. Approximately 70 faculty members attended the two sessions. Staff Senate will sponsor sessions, and faculty may attend those as well.

--Concern was voiced that non-tenured faculty have sometimes been appointed as Interim department heads, a practice seen as unwise for various reasons. (President Rhorer excused herself from leading this discussion; Secretary Steckline presented the concerns.)

--Reimbursement of graduate research assistants for their Xeroxing costs when doing work for faculty has been an issue. Senator Karen Niemla (Library) offered a solution for this problem in the FS meeting. Professors can have these costs covered through their Iliad accounts. Contact Karen if you require more information.

--Search for Vice President of Academic Affairs will begin with posting of the job description. The position will be filled by July 2012.

Faculty Advisory Council

--Meeting was changed from 10/28 to 10/27; December meeting date has also been changed.

Academic Standards Committee

--The committee discussed FRYS and the possibility of adding a seminar for sophomores. Senators noted that Barbara Michaelides and her staff are always open to feedback, so suggestions coming from the committee should be forwarded to her. Committee was asked to formulate a list of issues which could be taken to the Deans and the Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs at the next EB meeting. There was also a discussion about how credits might be banked for those serving on thesis committees.

Constitution & Bylaws, Elections, Fiscal Affairs, and Faculty Handbook Committees

--no reports

Faculty Welfare

-- Senator Sylvester reported that he has called Human Resources Director Larry Estess about HR offering a workshop for faculty on professional behavior (ethics and harassment). Motion was made that FS should sponsor this workshop. (Walker/Casey) FS voted unanimously to sponsor this workshop. Senator Sylvester will arrange a meeting with Mr. Estess.

--President Rhorer asked for volunteers to serve on an Ad Hoc committee on Advising Issues given the need to meet the GRAD Act targets. Jim Casey, Josh Stockley, and Bruce Walker volunteered.

Unfinished Business

--Some discussion coming out of Ad Hoc Committee on Customer Service focused on possibly proposing a Bill of Rights for Students and Faculty. There are questions about how this would work and about whether or not these documents would be considered contracts.

New Business

--STAP Committee

Karen Niemla and Thomas Junk (if time allows) volunteered to serve.

--GRAD Act

Request has been made to reconfigure the targets.

--Statewide Governance Collaborative

Kevin Cope (LSU & ALFS) noted that Commissioner Purcell will speak to the group at LSU-A on November 19th. Cope also sent a summary of Louisiana constitutional amendments 1, 2, 3, and 4, all having to do with higher education. Senator Stockley elaborated on the amendments. Both Cope and Senator Stockley provided clarifications rather than endorsements.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 P. M. (Feldhaus/Walker)

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna A. Rhorer, President
ULM Faculty Senate, 2011-2012