

**Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 21, 2016**  
**Hemphill 208, ULM Campus**  
**12:30 – 2:00 p.m.**

* indicates excused absence; Name/Name indicates Moved/Seconded
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**Senators Present:** Jeffrey Anderson, Debra Craighead, Robert Eisenstadt, Emad El-Giar, Karen Frye, Christopher Gissendanner, David Hare, Faisal Kaleem, Kioh Kim, Jessica Lassiter, Sami Nazzal, Heather Pilcher, Savannah Posey, Joshua Stockley, Paul Wiedemeier

**Senators Absent:** \* Edward Eller, \* Cecil Hutto, \* Matt Lovett, \* John-Nelson Pope, \* Claire Vangelisti, \*Anthony Walker

- I. Welcome
- II. Roll Call
- III. Regular business was suspended as we had 3 guests: Eric Pani, VPAA, Paula Thornhill, eULM, Jessica Dolecheck, Acad. Affairs Fellow, and Kelli Cole, Pres., Staff Senate.
  - A. Dr. Pani described the upcoming legislative session to begin 2/14/16 and scenarios for budget cuts. There would be greater concern if the cuts fell into the 3.75 million level as compared to 1.25 million. Governor called all presidents of universities to work with legislature. He urged us to contact our legislators because those with the loudest voices will fare better as compared to those with weaker communications. It was brought up by FS about early finals, Dr. Pani indicated calendar was fixed for this Fall, however, he encouraged sharing ideas with him for the Fall 2017 term on early finals. He mentioned 2 options: 1) students can walk, but not graduate unless meet requirements; or 2) optional finals may be available for graduating students. Senator Eisenstadt, Co-Chair of Faculty Welfare Committee, noted the possibility of finals running Thurs & Fri, and Mon, and Tues which would allow for Wed as Dead Day. Certification is still done by hand at ULM. Dr. Pani also noted Graduate Student enrollment has declined markedly and there are several issues surrounding this: 1) Image Now confusion about processing the apps forward; 2) our GRA stipends are not competitive; and 3) pipeline issue in that the credentials are lost somewhere in process and not reaching coordinator's desk. Dr. Pani indicated this last point was addressed in a training in Grad School last week. Our goal is 1300 students. Senator Eisenstadt shared that the 25 year honorees employees never received their engraved watches last year. Dr. Pani noted there was an issue with engraving so it was suggested to forego the engraving and distribute the watches.
  - B. Paula Thornhill reported on eULM. She passed out a table displaying online enrollments from Fall 2013 through Spring 2016 (not final numbers on this last term). In summary, eULM has not grown as much as expected so there are new procedures in place to increase enrollments. By next Fall 2016, it is anticipated that enrollment will be increased. A consultant from Aslanian Market Research, Carol Aslanian, will be coming in to help eULM develop a strategic plan, examine strengths and weaknesses, and advise on how to increase online enrollment and systematize the process for students with a particular focus on marketing our programs to students outside

Louisiana. On the faculty/adjunct issue for courses needing adjuncts, eULM facilitates paperwork, advertises if the program does not have anyone in mind, will collect CVs, credentials of applicants and forward to program coordinator for review. The program should then advise eULM if they will hire one of the candidates or not. Senator Kim noted that no matter what the credential level, \$2000 pay, especially for summer courses, is too low; this makes it hard to recruit adjuncts to teach online for us. Paula noted the consultant will examine the pay scale and advise. A question arose whether online versus traditional format degrees are viewed differently by employers—Paula noted the employers often cannot tell the difference.

- C. Kelli Cole was present to describe the Pacesetter program for United Way in that you can pledge now for Jan 2017-Dec. 2017 and pay later. There were no objections to Kelli staying as a guest for remainder of FS meeting.
- IV. Dr. Anthony Walker resigned as Senator, so a replacement was needed from CHPS. Chris nominated Sandy Bailey, who accepted nomination as replacement Senator. This nomination was voted and she is a new Senator. (Bob Eisenstadt/ Savannah Posey)
- V. Approval of 11/19/15 minutes with no corrections (Paul Wiedemeier/ David Hare).
- VI. Committee Reports
  - A. Executive Committee Meeting of 1/19/16 summary involved Faculty Workload policy in the hands of the FS committee.
  - B. Academic Standards – No report.
  - C. Constitution and By-Laws – Changes for proposed by-laws were described by Chris. A major change is that the reorganization changed the representation of seats in FS elections. Chris noted the numbers of seats changed from school to college configuration. The number of FT faculty will dictate number of available seats. So for every 1-20 FT faculty in a given school, 1 seat for a Senator will be available. Table 2 was proposed to quantify available seats and spread representation across schools. Article VI, Section 1 notes the President appoints 3 senators to serve on standing committees. Article I, 4a noted change is change “college” to “program/dept” recommendation. Article VI, Section 1, change “Chairman” to “Chair”. Article VI, Section 2 section F, not 3. Ask Karen Niemla (former Elections Chair) what getting 75% and above teaching load/appointment means for suitable candidates.
  - D. Faculty Welfare
    - i. Faculty Handbook prior changes approved by Dr. Pani. A committee has been formed, Chaired by Dr. Jessica Dolecheck, with members Chris Gissendanner, Karen Frye, Kelli Cole, Frances Gregory, and Melissa Ducote, who is working on revisions to the Faculty Handbook to be implemented by Fall 2016. Senator Frye mentioned there is an older document drafted called ULM Shared Governance which will be examined for inclusion in FH.
  - E. Fiscal Affairs
    - i. No report
  - F. Elections Committee
    - i. See above for revised school eligibility criteria for FS representation.
- VII. Unfinished Business- Faculty Handbook
  - A. See above.
- VIII. New Business

- A. Faculty Survey-Senators Eisenstadt and Lovett Co-chair this effort. Senator Eisenstadt described the current draft with goals of brevity, addition of No Opinion for forced choice responses to increase variability, content including: work description, morale, campus climate perceptions, how faculty's work is viewed by administrators, research support, and healthcare satisfaction. The primary goal is "to own our own feelings" with a projected distribution timeframe of mid Feb and 2 weeks given for responding via Survey Monkey platform. Senators Lovett and Eisenstadt will follow up with Chris and discuss implications. Allison Thompson told the Council of Deans that the Chronicle of Higher Education is doing another survey, so should FS distribute the survey? All agreed yes, and Chris charged the Faculty Welfare Committee to proceed. Suggested edits/comments were solicited and asked to be sent to Senator Eisenstadt and Senator Stockley for incorporation into survey.
  - B. An invite will be sent to faculty to come to Feb meeting and discuss anything they would like. They will be asked to indicate what they would like to discuss and to RSVP.
  - C. Proposed by-law changes-see above.
  - D. New Faculty Welfare charge-see above for discussion of Faculty Survey
- IX. Adjournment – 2:00 pm  
(Jeffrey Anderson/Savannah Posey)

Respectfully submitted,  
Senator Karen Frye  
Faculty Senate Secretary