

Minutes
Faculty Senate Meeting
University of Louisiana at Monroe
October 18, 2007

Members Present: Brett Bennett, Monica Bontty, Sally Davidson, Joseph Feldhaus, Stephen Fox, David Hare, Cecil Hutto, Megan Lowe, Lance Nickelson, Mona Oliver, Shirlee Owens, Donna Rhorer, Jeff Rush, Pamela Saulsberry, Dorothy Schween, C. Turner Steckline, John Sutherlin, and Holly Wilson.

Members Excused: Cecil Hutto, Kitty Kervin, and Bruce Walker

I. President Steckline called the meeting to order at 12:30 P. M.
Secretary Rhorer called the roll.

II. The minutes of September 20, 2007, were approved as amended.
Senator Reid moved to accept the minutes. Senator Davidson provided the second.

III. Committee Reports

A. Executive Board

Senator Rhorer reported on the Executive Board's meeting with President Cofer and Provost Richters on October 8, 2007.

B. Academic Standards had no report.

C. Constitution and Bylaws

The Constitution and Bylaws Committee met on October 4, 2007, to discuss how to define those eligible to serve on Faculty Senate and particularly how to define Budget Unit Head. Members looked for clarification on this point from the President and the Provost.

The committee will present later in today's meeting a resolution that only tenured faculty should be eligible to serve on Faculty Senate.

This was the conclusion of the committee. Senator Owens asked for the reasoning behind the conclusion, and Senator Sutherlin said it was because the committee felt it is difficult for non-tenured persons to serve because of pressure. Senator Schween noted that when non-tenured faculty are eliminated from serving, the pool available for leadership is narrowed and those who might bring innovative ideas to the Senate cannot; however, she said that in her tenure as FS President, she had experienced the pressure described.

Furthermore, she added that there is always the perception that one is not able to stand up to the pressure applied if untenured.

D. Faculty Welfare Committee

Next, Faculty Welfare reported that it had met on Tuesday, October 10th and that the appointed members were those who had volunteered to serve on the committee. Senator Wilson was elected chair. She reported that the committee had decided it would serve as a steering committee to

which sub-committees would present findings. The Steering Committee would then bring important issues to the full Senate.

E. SGA/STAP

Senator Sutherlin reported there is money available to encourage technology. He strongly urged everyone to write a student-focused grant, and he added that in the Fall of 2008 there will be no Blackboard.

Students have requested that the library stay open late on Fridays and that it open early on Saturday mornings. If changes were made to services such as these, then auxiliary services would also have to be open as well. We also need technical support at night and early in the mornings.

F. Enrollment Management Council

The EMC met for first time. Currently, it is working on initiatives for recruitment and retention and on workshops for developmental advising.

The push is to be more in contact with students, and we really are moving toward reaching out to non-traditional students who would take online courses. Senator Schween noted that teaching online courses poses a predicament for faculty who are encouraged to offer more online courses at a time when retention requires that we have more face-to-face time with our students.

In the future, SGA/STAP and Enrollment Management Council will be added to the list of committee reports.

G. President Steckline noted that the Faculty Senate Web site is in the process of being redesigned by Lindsey Wilkerson and Josh Barham.

IV. New Business

Senator Owens presented a draft (approved by the Faculty Welfare Committee at its last meeting held on Tuesday, October 16th) of the Faculty Career and Personal Satisfaction Survey, an instrument researched, developed, and considered by Senators during various and numerous meetings since March 2007. Members discussed, amended, and voted to approve and distribute a finalized document.

President Steckline also presented a draft of the letter she planned to distribute to faculty requesting their participation. The original period for completing the survey was to have been from October 24th to November 7th, but since Senator Reid noted that the Nursing faculty required more time from receipt of the survey to its completion, President Steckline changed the dates.

She also wanted to discuss whether or not to include random control numbers on the survey for security purposes; the body thought it was a good idea to do so. The survey (postponed last Spring until this Fall) will be available online securely at SurveyMonkey.com. No record of IP numbers of computers used will be available to the Senate or anyone except SurveyMonkey.

The Senate postponed a vote on an amendment to Constitution and Bylaws until next meeting.

In addition, the presentation on the Re-organization Report might be given by President Cofer and Dr. Ruth Smith or by Deans Berry and Cass.

V. Informal Discussion

Items for consideration at next meeting include a smoke-free campus, mid-term grade policies, and the FAD.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 P.M.

Next regularly scheduled meeting is November 8,2007.

Respectfully Submitted,

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