

Minutes
Faculty Senate
University of Louisiana at Monroe
November 29, 2007

Members Present: Brett Bennett, Sally Davidson, Joseph Feldhaus, David Hare, Anna Hill, Cecil Hutto, Megan Lowe, Lance Nickelson, Mona Oliver, Shirlee Owens, Jack Palmer, Linda Reid, Donna Rhorer, Pamela Saulsberry, C. Turner Steckline, John Sutherlin, Bruce Walker, and Holly Wilson

Members Absent: Monica Bontty (excused), Stephen Fox, Dorothy Schween, Kitty Kervin (excused), and Jeff Rush (excused).

President Steckline called the meeting to order. Donna Rhorer called the roll. Minutes were approved as amended.

Next, President Steckline introduced Dr. Harry Hale who read a memorial for Dr. Frank Forwood into the record.

Committee reports:

1. Academic Standards—Mona Oliver noted that she had informed English about a discrepancy between a policy in its First-Year English handbook and the catalog. The English handbook states that students must make a “C” in English 101 and 102 before going on to take a sophomore level English course. The catalog does not state this. The requirement of the catalog should match the requirements of First Year English, and the department should clarify this with the committee working on the catalog.
2. Executive Board—Donna Rhorer reported on the meeting of November 28, 2007, with President Cofer in which both the administration and Senators updated one another on recent and upcoming matters.
3. Consitution and Bylaw—The report was presented later in the meeting under new business. The proposal under consideration concerned a change in governing rules which would mandate that Faculty Senator officers should have been tenured before serving in that capacity. The use of a roll call vote in the Senate was also discussed. Megan Lowe will research the roll call vote in Roberts’ Rules of Order and report to Senators by email.
4. Elections—President Steckline charged the committee to put elections online. Senator Feldhaus noted that the committee had already voted in committee not to hold the vote online. Brief discussion followed. The vote will not be done online.

5. Faculty Welfare—the committee met on November 15, 2007, to review data from the April 2007 Survey about how faculty members view the Faculty Senate. Members covered all concerns and developed action plans, notified each FS committee about special issues and asked the committee to deal with those, assigned itself some topics, and generated a list of topics the committee has covered.
6. Melissa Melancon has asked for a follow-up on the Faculty Friends Program and has volunteered to send us a draft of an instrument we might use to survey participants. She suggested we continue the program and perhaps secure funds to do so.
7. Fiscal Affairs—several Senators involved with fiscal affairs are on the Strategic Planning Committee.
8. Committee on Committees—still in the formative stage.
9. EMC—no report.
10. SGA/STAP—Thirty-six proposals were submitted. In total, \$480, 000.00 was requested; however, there was only \$110, 000.00 to spend. One out of four requests got something. Award letters will go out soon, and preference was given to student-oriented projects.
11. Faculty Advisory Council—President Steckline will attend another meeting soon.
12. Strategic Planning—Senators Reid, Lowe, Wilson, and Sutherlin reported on progress made by respective committees working on goals.

Constitution and Bylaws Proposal—Faculty Senate Officers shall have attained tenure.

Discussion returned to the proposal regarding the tenured status of elected officers of the Faculty Senate. New senators asked for background on the issue. Colleagues responded and described the situation last spring when Senators were asked to vote on whether or not to conduct the annual Faculty Senate Survey. At the time, the Senate President was not tenured. The administration was not in favor of a survey and had already made its position known. Immediately before the vote, Senator Rettenmayer asked for a roll call vote. Each senator's vote would be recorded next to his or her name in the minutes. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion to conduct the FS survey in Spring 2007 failed. A vote by show of hands following immediately promised faculty that the Senate would conduct its annual survey in Fall 2007.

Some senators voiced their and their constituents' concerns that using a roll call vote applies pressure on non-tenured faculty to vote a certain way. To cast a vote publicly

supporting the opposing view, could perhaps harm the non-tenured senator's chances of securing tenure.

Senator Wilson asked if there was another way to do this. For example, could we simply end the use of the roll call vote in the Senate? Debate in support of and against this idea followed. Senator Hill suggested we as a body could agree in principle not to use the roll call. Such action would avoid having to change the Constitution and Bylaws.

Senator Wilson called the question. The vote was as follows:

Yes 9
No 7
Abstaining 1
Motion carried.

The body then moved on to the issue of a roll call vote. Discussion followed. Senator Wilson asked the committee to go back and study the issue more thoroughly. Senator Hill suggested we call the question next time after the committee has presented some options.

Other Business: Faculty Senate Career and Job Satisfaction Survey, Fall 2007

President Steckline will share results in their entirety with the Senate during the February 7, 2008 meeting. We may have to call a meeting as well probably on February 14, 2008. She will also present an executive summary of the major issues since she has to compile the results. Senator Walker suggested we go into executive session on the fourteenth. President Steckline agreed.

We will hear about the Reorganization Report when we return on January 17th. President Steckline will send Senators a copy of the report a week before that meeting. Dr. Ruth Smith, Dean Ron Berry, and Dean Jeff Cass will join us for the meeting on the 17th.

Also, two constituents have asked the President to look at having something in our bylaws about academic freedom and intellectual property.

Senator Rhorer reported 2 questions from students: what does the Academic Excellence Fee cover and will parking fees increase now that we have a new parking garage?

Senator Walker moved to adjourn at 1:54.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna A. Rhorer, Ph. D.
Secretary, ULM Faculty Senate