

**Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**Thursday, October 16, 2008**  
**Rm 2-91, Ad.Min. ULM Campus**  
**12:30-1:35 p.m.**

- \* indicates excused absence;
- Name/Name indicates Moved/Seconded

**Senators Present:** M. Bontty, D. Hare, A. Hill, C. Hutto, M. Lowe, M. Matusiak, L. Nicholson , S. Owens, M. Parker, L. Reid, D. Rhorer, C. Steckline, H. Wilson.

**Senators Absent:** D. Chandler\*, Y. Dupre\*, J. Feldhaus\*, A. Case Hanks, C. Johnson, S. Jois\*, K. Kervin\*, J. Taylor, B. Walker\*.

**Handouts available:** Agenda, Minutes last meeting, University House Project floorplan/blueprint, Draft of Governance Committee's Model.

President Rhorer **called the meeting to order**, at 12:33 p.m.

Secretary Steckline **called the roll**.

The **Minutes of the September 18, 2008** meeting were **accepted** with one correction of the spelling of a Senator's name, and a capitalization correction (Reid/Wilson).

**Committee Reports:** Of existing FS Committees three reports were expected, with announcements of upcoming meetings noted for the record, by other committees.

**A. Executive Board** is scheduled to meet with Deans and Provost, 12:30-2:00 Tuesday, October 21, 2008.

**B. The ULM Governance Committee**, a sub-committee of the Faculty Welfare Committee met two additional times since last FS meeting to tweak the first draft in the manner requested by the full Senate at the September 18, meeting. These meetings occurred Sept. 30, and October 2. Requests were made for tweaking of the 2<sup>nd</sup> draft in two areas<sup>1</sup> with the expectation that these changes will complete the charge, with a final review authorizing forwarding to President Cofer.

**C. Faculty Advisory Council** meets Friday, Oct. 24, 2008 in Baton Rouge.

**D. University-House Committee**, a sub-committee of Faculty Welfare sought input from FS to take to a scheduled meeting with Provost Richters following this Senate meeting. Senator Wilson detailed the 1999 Senate and University Plans for University House, reading excerpts from the Minutes of Nov. 1999 meeting and previous agreements. With this background, she directed Senate attention to the University House first floor plan, noting that the removal of four walls would enable approximately 1,050 square feet for Faculty Club/Faculty Senate. Senator Parker offered specific suggestions for reconfiguring the space that do not compromise the integrity of load-bearing walls, that create space and address traffic flow concerns, that allow for multi-purposeful use of the space, and that are much

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<sup>1</sup> Tweaking recommendations were for two things: 1) Differentiate between how the Shared Governance Committee conceptualized and described the "Committee On Committees" and the existing Provost's Committee on Committee, which decides who to put on what committees. These are not the same and should not be confused. 2) Note existing workload of University Media Relations office and concerns for adequate staffing.

less expensive. Senator Rhorer suggested staffing support in the form of a Senate based Hospitality Committee.

**E. Conference Committee with the Deans** occurred Monday, Sept. 22, 2008, with Deans LeMoine, Cass, and Ryman, and Senators Rhorer, Steckline, and Reid present. Issues for Nursing were identified.

**F. Smoking Committee**, formulated by President Cofer in response to the FS resolution to make ULM a smoke-free campus, worked last Spring to formulate suggestions for the enactment of this policy. Anna Hill, as FS representative, and chair of this committee indicated that public awareness and education processes regarding the policy are slated to be rolled out over the next two weeks, and that this is the focus of the next quarterly safety meetings required by all departments and all colleges.

### **Unfinished Business:**

**1. The College of Education is down a senator**—should actively recruit replacement Senator for Jack Palmer. Check your Departments for willingness and availability to serve and nominate at next meeting.

**2. All FS Committee Chairs were asked to e-mail President Rhorer.**

### **New Business:**

**A. Faculty Welfare Committee was charged with determining Faculty workload policy.** Efforts toward this end exist from assorted University efforts—from Colleges, from the Provost appointed “Policies and Procedures” Committee chaired by Dr. Bob Cage, in 2005-2006. Discussion focused on range of issues surrounding this charge: class sizes, role of student contact hours, online classes, 8 week on-line classes, labs, teaching resources, committee work...The discussion produced perceived examples of curriculum changes that have been made without moving up through the curriculum committee, without faculty education, and with challenges to academic freedom. The Executive Board was charged with bringing these issues up in their next meeting with the Provost and Deans.

**B. President Rhorer was charged with conveying to SGA President**, that Senator Reid will be the FS representative for SGA’s considerations of STAP funding. Former Senator, John Sutherlin serves as advisor to SGA, a relationship SGA enjoys, but it is the will of the Senate to have a current Senator involved, though reports from SGA President to the FS will be scheduled. President Rhorer’s charge includes time-table details on SGA’s Blackboard mandate, as this impacts faculty wrangling with the Moodle/Blackboard shift.

**C. Fiscal Affairs Committee was charged** with formulating a report on holdings affecting faculty such as state retirement and ORP accounts.

Meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

**Next Faculty Senate Meeting:** October 23, 2008 12:30-2:00, in Admin. 2-91. Depending on issues discussed at Executive Board meeting, this meeting may be cancelled, to be determined with Senators to be notified on October 21 by e-mail.

**Reminder of Meeting with President Cofer: November 11, 2008 3:00 in Admin. 2-91.**

**Last Meeting of Semester: November 20, 2008 12:30 in Admin. 2-91.]**

Respectfully submitted,

C. Turner Steckline, Faculty Senate Secretary

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