

**Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**Thursday, November 20, 2008**  
**Rm 2-91, Ad.Min. ULM Campus**  
**12:35-1:15 p.m.**

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

**Senators Present:** M. Bontty, Y. Dupre, J. Feldhaus, D. Hare, A. Hill, M. Lowe, M. Matusiak, L. Nicholson, L. Reid, D. Rhorer, C. Steckline, B. Walker, H. Wilson.

**Senators Absent:** D. Chandler\*, A. Case Hanks, C. Hutto, C. Johnson, S. Jois\*, K. Kervin\*, S. Owens, M. Parker, J. Taylor.

**Handouts available:** Agenda, Minutes last meeting.

President Rhorer **called the meeting to order**, at 12:34 p.m.

Secretary Steckline **called the roll**.

The **Minutes of the November 6, 2008** meeting were **accepted** with **the following corrections**: one comma was added, two apostrophes were deleted; SCH as an abbreviation was spelled out to represent STUDENT CONTACT HOURS; the motion to discontinue Summer Graduation ceremonies **did not receive a unanimous vote**, as one senator voted against this change; **the motion regarding** the discontinuance of Summer Graduation **ceremonies was put forth by** Senator Wilson and seconded by Senator Reid. (Reid/Wilson).

**Committee Reports:** From existing FS Committees two reports were presented.

- A. Executive Board** met with Deans and Provost, 12:30-2:00 Tuesday, October 21, 2008. President Rhorer presented a narrative on the different structure of this meeting, which did not move through an agenda, but at the Provost's request took the form of a brainstorming discussion on enrollment and retention, and the performance based funding formula introduced last Spring by Sally Clausen. The initial qualifier was that this was clearly not a problem with faculty, but a problem faculty would have to all address. The Senate's discussion of the report raised many of the same issues addressed in the EB meeting by all present: how to graduate more students without compromising grading standards; expanding the core curriculum electives and/or reforming expectations of core sequencing issues; examining the "roadblock" classes that dampen student enthusiasm/progress; resource centers; advising (professional &/or initial, assigned, departmental); changing culture and perceptions of student learners; learning challenges for faculty. Specific concerns for the record include care to not equate computers and technology with panacea solution thinking; to incorporate different learning styles and use of term millennial/digital learner's in the discourse. Senator Walker put forth a statement, that was morphed into a motion by Senator Wilson which was unanimously passed by the Senate. "The Faculty Senate recognizes that possible future state funding to the University will have student recruitment, retention and graduation as significant factors. The Faculty Senate looks forward to working directly with the Administration and respective college Deans in discussing possible options available and for developing effective programs and solutions designed to improve student retention and graduation rates." (Wilson/Reid).
- B. Academic Standards Committee** met November 7, 2008. Senator Hare, chair of the committee, reported on the meeting, and the determination of the need for information from several fronts: system, sister institutions, FAC, institutional. The Senate responded to the preliminary

identification of issues to be pursued: curriculum committee redesign to better accommodate disparate forms and procedures applied to undergraduate, graduate, pre-professional, 8week {trailer} and dual enrollment course development and design; disparate interpretations of “dual enrollment” courses—those classes with student enrollments where the high school student gets credit for high school and college enrollment; and/or those 400 level courses that have undergraduate and graduate students enrolled.

**Unfinished Business:**

1. Senators were charged with bringing nominations for replacement Senators for the Colleges of Arts and Sciences (2) and Education (1) for presentation at the January 15, 2009 meeting.
2. President Rhorer indicated that she had called the Provost after the EB meeting of November 11, 2008 to discuss the few agenda items that were not addressed—projections for Spring 2009 issues. He noted Faculty workload, SAC’s comments (which will come in as initial review responses are completed) and he indicated that it has been a pleasure working with the Senate this year.

**New Business:**

- A. President Rhorer expects to attend the FAC meeting in Thibodaux, LA on Friday, December 5, and may attend the December 6, 2008 meeting of the ALFS--the Association of Louisiana Faculty Senates, meeting at Southern on Saturday, Dec. 6th.
- B. Inquiry about “Professor of the Year” awards was expressed. Observed no such awards have occurred in two-three years, that the pictures of the “last” recipients are hanging in the library and should either be taken down, or replaced. Noted the recommendations that were put forth by a committee headed by Dean Denny Ryman identifying parameters for a “Distinguished Professor” award, and curiosity about any plans for such distinctions to be made.
- C. Senator Feldhaus noted that Charles Prior, a former Faculty Senate President, announced his retirement in the Spring. Senator Feldhaus also requested that the elections committee meet immediately following the January 15, 2009 FS meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

**Next Faculty Senate Meeting:** January 15, 2009, 12:30 p.m. Ad. Min. 2-91.

**FYI:** Meetings of Spring Semester 2009 are scheduled for Jan. 15, Feb. 5, Feb. 19, March 19, and April 23—all at 12:30 in Ad. Min. 2-91.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Turner Steckline, Faculty Senate Secretary

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