

Summer 2008, Faculty Senate Update

April 25, 2008: Last FAC meeting in Baton Rouge. Resolution against guns on ULSystems campuses issued in conjunction with press release of ULSystem's Individual Presidents, Student Government Presidents, and Faculty Senate Presidents unified stance. NewsStar's April 24, 2008 issue ran coordinated statements from ULM President, ULM SGA President, ULM FS President. Discussion then focused on the changes to sick leave proposals, and FAC actions to be taken—Mary Sue Ply was authorized to petition, and did so, with results stated under June 10, below. The Science Bill and draft of ULM's resolution was circulated, but other FSP's felt need to take it back to their Senate's before supporting. In mid-June the LA state senate passed the "Science" Bill.

April 28, 2008: Letter from President Cofer requesting that the Faculty Senate and a Professional Staff committee conduct research on various university shared governance models and report the findings to the faculty and professional staff by December 1, 2008. Request was made in response to Shared Governance Committee's determination (as result of focus group research conducted in April) that additional information is needed on the organizational model for shared governance to be used at ULM. President Cofer indicated that a professional staff committee would work on this research, and that both groups (Staff and Senate groups) examine at least three peer or competitor institutions to ULM be studied.

May 28, 2008: FSP C. Turner Steckline responded informally by email to President Cofer's request of the FS, with indication that a formal letter would be forthcoming.

June 4, 2008: Received this notification from Penny Ferguson of the Louisiana Teacher's Federation: HB1325 passed the House 95-0 and will be heard in Senate Ed. Committee on Thursday June 5th. Steve Monaghan, LFT President, and I {Penny Ferguson} will testify in support of the Bill in Senate Ed. and will let you know the outcome. We need emails sent to the Sen. Ed. Committee members. I've sent you the Senate Ed. members email addresses. If you haven't sent the emails please send them now. An E-mail was sent May 28, 2008 from Mary Sue Ply.

June 10, 2008: HB 199 (guns on campus) was pulled from the agenda (of the House) for this session, but Wooten says that he's going to continue introducing it every session (even during the fiscal session!). [Notice received via email from Mary Sue Ply, FAC Chair]

June 16, 2008: The following comment was sent from Mary Sue Ply regarding the "Science Bill.": This version of the "science" bill made it out of senate??
If you would like to see a copy of the "science bill" our state legislature passed, please email steckline@ulm.edu, if copies are not available at August 21, 2008 meeting.

June 17, 2008: The following was sent from Mary Sue Ply, via Penny Ferguson: HB1325 "Personal Leave" for 9 month Faculty in Colleges and University passed the Senate today 37 yeas 0 nays. It now goes to the Governor for his signature. Thanks for the all the support. I'm attaching the original Bill, it was never amended.
A copy of the original Bill is available should you want to see it. Please request of steckline@ulm.edu if a copy is not available at the August 21, 2008 FS meeting. This information was forwarded to faculty who had contacted FSP Steckline throughout the controversy.

July 31, 2008: Informal Summer Meeting of FS took place at 2:00 in Rm 219 of Stubbs. Present were Senators Bonnty, Chandler, Jois, Lowe, Matusiak, Nicholson, Owens, Palmer, Reid, Rhorer, and Steckline. Nature of President's charge was described, a FS Committee was drafted, purpose, tasks, specific jobs, constituencies and time line were determined. Dates of Fall Semester FS meetings were re-iterated (initially presented at April 24th meeting of Spring 2008 semester.

Other issues for up-coming year were catalogued: performance based funding; course re-design/technology component, QEP, Core Curriculum electives; Faculty Friends program; IRB (Institutional Research Review Board); Senate space and archive holdings. Announcements included notification of Library reorganization of "References" into Information Commons/Instructional Technology, and establishment of a Technology Office on campus with a committee responsible for oversight, coordinating, and emails on technology compatibility. Lowe (representative from the Library) volunteered to see that FS materials are properly archived.

July 31, 2008: A formal letter to President Cofer regarding the President's request from FSP Rhorer and Past FSP Steckline was issued.

August 19, 2008: Executive Board of ULM FS met with Richters, and the Deans of the Colleges. FSP Rhorer has detailed the topics discussed at the EB meeting on the 8/21/08 Agenda under items "A through D of VI. New Business."