

Minutes of Faculty Senate (FS) Meeting
Thursday, March 4, 2010
Admin Rm 2-91, ULM Campus
12:30-2:10 p.m.

Call to Order and Roll Call: President Walker called the meeting to order and Secretary Reid called the roll.

Senators Present: J. Anderson, M. Bontty, Y. Dupre, C. Grinnell, J. Feldhaus, A. Hill, M. Matusiak, M. Parker, S. Owens, L. Reid, D. Rhorer, C. Steckline, P. Sylvester, H. Wilson

Senators Absent: W. Campbell*, D. Chandler*, C. Hutto*, K. Kervin*, M. Lowe*, L. Nicholson

Approval of minutes: The minutes of the January 21, 2010 were reviewed and accepted with corrections (Steckline/Parker).

Committee Reports:

Executive Board: President Walker gave a report from the President's Cabinet which met on February 10, and March 3, 2010. Items discussed from the Feb 10th meeting included: Guns on Campus legislation (joint resolutions will be from the FS, Staff Senate, and SGA), PERC recommendations, discussion of LSU's letter to the US Dept of Education encouraging no exceptions be made for LA since the LA funding level anticipated drop would fall below the floor established by the Feds in providing stimulus money, and the Board of Supervisor's progress on retirement fund inequities. Items discussed from the March 3rd meeting included budget cuts, admission standard changes, and modifications to *ad hoc* committees of the University Planning Council.

Although the FY 2010/11 budget was cut \$2.6 – 3.2M, the unofficial budget cuts for 2011/12 are anticipated at a substantial amount. ULM's current budget is approximately \$80M, of which approximately 71% is total salary/benefits. Faculty salaries/benefits represent 55% of this. Admission standard changes are uncertain as to what they will be and when they will occur (possibly in 2012 to 2014). It is anticipated that it will cost ULM about 500 students in the first year, 750 in second, and maybe 1,000 after that. This will result in a \$2M funding loss. Admission ACT scores are expected to increase each year. The graduate school dean will not be replaced.

The *Academic Affairs Budget Committee* (AABC) is being reformed to have greater faculty presence and less Dean presence. The FS president will serve on the AABC but will abstain from faculty reduction votes. There will be fewer course offerings, programs eliminated, and teaching loads changed. FS President Walker stated the Provost does not want teaching loads to change. Curriculum changes include the reduction of hours in the major to 30-36 of the 120-hour program.

The state legislature has proposed the LA Graduate Act which will move funding from the public to private sector. As reported in the NewsStar, raising graduation rates will allow universities to raise tuition. The *Administrative Budget Committee* (AdmBC) is proposing cuts to be covered by an increase in tuition/fees, increase in enrollment, and a decrease/elimination/combination of functions (i.e., Purchasing-HR). ABC is going through the process of defining essential vs. non-essential functions and determining the impact on students, impact on physical assets, and the impact on intellectual assets.

Senator Anderson commented that with the anticipated loss of students, we can expect losses of approximately \$30M bringing our budget to \$71M. Senator Owens questioned how graduation rates are being calculated. If a student transfers to ULM and graduates, are they counted or do we only count first-time freshmen who graduate? ULM has approximately 40-42% non-traditional students enrolled and the majority of these students graduate. ULM has many transfer students who also graduate, but are not counted in ULM's graduate rates. Transfer and non-traditional students need to be counted in ULM's graduation rates. Future goals for graduation rates will be as follows for the 3 tiers of universities: Tier 1) LSU - 75%, Tier 2) ULL and Tech - 60%, and Tier 3) Other universities - 50%.

In regards to cutting programs to 120 hours, the State will not interfere with accreditation standards that require a certain number of hours.

Faculty Advisory Council (FAC): An FAC meeting was held on February 26, 2010. FAC Chair Rhorer reported that the following topics were considered at the meeting: Tucker Commission findings, budget issues, the FAC Resolution of December 16, 2009, Financial Exigency Policy, changes in notification policy of employees receiving terminal contracts, new Retirement Policy, guns on campus bill in the State legislature, and reports for the 8 universities in the System.

She reported that new budget cuts will be forthcoming. Changes in the UL System's financial exigency policy are similar to LSU's policy which was revised May 2006 following Hurricane Katrina (Section 5.13). LSU's Faculty Senate made some recommended changes to that policy in July, 2006 but no changes were made. Recommendations from FAC were that changes in the financial exigency policy should be handed off to the faculty welfare committees within each Faculty Senate. No monies are available for the new retirement policies. Faculty receiving terminal contracts will be given a 12-month notice, not 6 months as previously stated. President Walker remarked that there are only 116 days until the end of this academic year.

Regarding the impact of the new exigency policy on tenure, Chair Rhorer reported that FAC serves as an advisory body, so FAC felt that a declaratory suit would need to come from individuals from multiple universities to avoid retaliation. It was suggested that attorneys from Baton Rouge area be utilized to order to defray travel expenses. Regarding the guns on campus issue, it was decided to reuse FS's previous resolution.

Senator Reid suggested that FS reimburse Senator Rhorer for her travel expenses to Baton Rouge to represent ULM at the FAC meetings. In addition, President Walker should be reimbursed for mileage when he represents FS at meetings in Baton Rouge.

Ad Hoc Committees of the University Planning Council:

Program self review: President Walker discussed that these committees were created to address the Tucker Commission and to have faculty and departments look at funding. The reports created were approximately eight pages; a quantitative report from the Office of Planning and Analysis and a two-page qualitative report from the department head or unit leader. Now that ULM is facing another substantial budget cut in 2011/12, the quantitative data will be used to address the focus of our university for the next few years.

Senator Wilson expressed her concern that these reports are constructed for one purpose and are now being used for another purpose. President Walker stressed the need to have the program review by other members of the department. Senator Hill agreed that if these reports will be used for program elimination, then departments should be allowed to revise their reports appropriately. She also noted that department heads should have asked for input from their faculty for the first report.

In the context of program review, Senator Rhorer asked whether exigency or program elimination will be used to address budget issues. President Walker said it is likely that program review will be used from a planning stand point. President Walker expressed concern that tenure is not being considered in program elimination. Senator Wilson expressed concern that we may lose faculty over conflicting policies (i.e., exigency versus cause) and that exigency conflicts with program review. FS President Walker said that President Cofer expects that faculty who receive terminal contracts will file lawsuits.

Administrative Productivity and Performance (APP): Senator Hill and Senator Matusiak agreed that information from the last APP meeting was reported in the Cabinet report from President Walker. Senator Steckline stated that if the APP Committee was looking for a tool to evaluate productivity, the FS has a tool that could be to evaluate administration productivity and performance.

Unfinished Business:

A. Faculty Senate involvement in ULM recycling efforts: Senator Steckline reported that there is no consolidation of efforts. Senator Hill mentioned the need to create an ad hoc committee. The matter was tabled.

B. BOR Financial Exigency rule changes: President Walker will ask Winston DeCuir to come from Baton Rouge to speak to faculty.

C. Faculty Handbook (FH): Senator Reid received the FH from Julia Barnhill with Dr. Richters' approval. The FH committee will meet to review it. Senator Steckline suggested we get input for the language regarding the Family Medical Leave Act. President Walker suggested that issues need to be identified and we allow lawyers to address those from a legal perspective. Senator Matusiak was asked to take this charge.

New Business:

A. Role of FS in ULM planning: President Walker stated the Executive Board met and needed to know what role the FS will play in the planning of how ULM will "look" in the future. Will we be reactive or proactive? Either way we will be subject to criticism in the processes. In a proactive role, the FS can be involved in helping to direct the process.

Senator Wilson commented that it is important that faculty rights be kept in mind, policies be followed, and information be brought back to FS. Senator Matusiak made the following motion: FS should have representation on the ABC and AdmBC; second by Senator Owens, motion passed. Senator Wilson asked if FS would be voting members. President Walker reminded us that although he will serve on ABC he will abstain from voting regarding program elimination. The ABC is a different committee than the Adhoc Program Review Committee. Senator Wilson added that FS on these committees need to report back information as soon as possible, so that the FS can take action. President Walker stated that although FS was involved on SRAC and ABC in Spring 2009 we (and some deans) did not know until Fall 2009 what the final decisions were in regards to programs. He has and will continue to push that communication be more open. Senator Rhorer reiterated that she had asked for that final list of faculty terminations. She stressed that there are policies that must be followed. There was discussion regarding when the Adhoc committees were organized at the University Planning Council.

Senator Rhorer made a motion that Executive Board members be observers at the AABC and AdmBC. Seconded by Senator Hill. Motion passed.

Senator Feldhaus made the motion that FS continue to be proactive on committees to help influence our university over the next several years. Senator Rhorer seconded the motion. Senator

Sylvester noted that we need to clarify our roles. We have a voice as being advisory, but the administration makes all final decisions. Senator Wilson asked how these representatives will let faculty know. Motion passed with one abstention.

B. Faculty Senate Tobacco Free Campus Resolution: Senator Hill stated the SGA has made their recommendations about the Tobacco Free Campus Resolution. Under the proposed policy, the Grove, Alumni Center, and personal vehicles will be the only places where tobacco use will be allowed. Senator Matusiak suggested we uphold our Smoke Free resolution. Senator Hill asked if we could vote on the Tobacco Free Campus resolution online due to the lack of senators present to meet the quorum. Senator Hill will send out the resolution online to senators.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Reid
Faculty Senate Secretary

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