

**Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**Thursday, February 17, 2011**  
**Rm 2-105, Ad.Min. ULM Campus**  
**12:31-2:15 p.m.**

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

**Senators Present:** President Hill, Past-President Walker, President-Elect Rhorer, Senator Anderson, Senator Andrews, Senator Bonnty, Senartor Arrant, Senator Casey, Senator Cummings-Strunk, Senator Eisenstadt, Senator Feldhaus, Senator Hutto, Senator Lowe, Senator Owens, Senator Reid, Senator Steckline, Senator Sylvester.

**Senators Absent:** Senator Grinnell.\*

**Temporary Replacement Senator:** Marietta Maroun.

**Handouts available:** Agenda; Draft of Minutes from January 20, 2011; Amendment to FS Constitution proposal with 4 options of rephrasing for Temporary Leave situations; Faculty Career and Personal Satisfaction Survey draft for voting on prior to release; Draft of the Presidents Awards for Excellence document.

President Hill **called the meeting to order**, at 12:31 p.m.

Secretary Steckline **called the roll**.

The **Minutes of the January 20, 2011** meeting were **accepted** with correction in item H (Fiscal Affairs Report) to read "Senator Anderson" rather than "Senator Andrews." (Reid/Feldhaus).

**Committee Reports:**

**A. Executive Board—(1)** BoR will announce cuts of low completer programs in April. Universities must provide proposed plans to BoR staff for review before Feb. 28. Equate program closure with saving money, but this is not necessarily the case. Many proponents of these cuts have no higher education degree. ULM can address many "low completer" issues by combining programs (.e.g. Mass Comm and Comm Studies, all Secondary Education programs). **(2)** Scholarship programs being revised to improve retention. Raising minimum ACT for eligibility—low ACT "scholars" not retained any better than regular students. Use more money to recruit those less likely to come here without a scholarship. Also want to make scholarships available to departments. {It was noted by a senator that the timing of spring scholarship awarding is off and needs to be examined}. **(3)** Jindal's "people" – claim cuts have been reduced to 10% of state appropriations, but "state appropriations" may include tuition generated. **(4)** Dr. Bruno is reinforcing chain of command and defining roles—too many "backdoors" and people working outside of their job description (e.g. 17 people showed up to a meeting to discuss the ice storm Feb. 3). Came up in the context of a question about campus strategies to improve retention. The ULM point person is Barbara Michaelides. Student retention is to be the focus of her job. **(5)** Non-traditional students are frustrated by poor customer service in offices around campus—they get very vocal if they get the run around and get treated poorly--Bad PR. The administration is working to improve service (e.g. defining duties, constructing routing charts that will be available online, etc.). **(6)** Department Heads Meeting focused on –**a.** requesting updated cv's from all faculty; so why do we do both with the FAD? -**b.** Black Arts Festival (Black History Month) Feb. 22, SUB Ballroom A & B, noon); -**c.** plagiarism—to give a student an F for plagiarism requires filing a plagiarism report, major inconsistencies in how offense is treated among faculty (factors to consider: "degree of plagiarism," student classification/experience)-> President Hill charged Academic Standards with task of exploring/developing guidelines for dealing with plagiarism (is student conduct statement sufficient?). **(7)** TLRC Teaching Academy—it's been suggested by more than one faculty member that in recent years, it is a less than productive use of time: "expected attendance to get tenure/looks good in portfolio," but no real pedagogy taught. Is this true? Several senators responded that the Teaching Academy was very useful for less experienced faculty. **(8)** Do

we want to establish an *ad hoc position* of a regular Faculty Senate representative to the Staff Senate meeting (second Tuesday of every month, 1:30 p.m.) with a reciprocating Staff Senate representative to the Faculty Senate meetings? (Pamela Saulsberry has volunteered from Staff Senate—a senator asked how it is that a Department Head is on the Staff Senate, and the response was that Saulsberry has a dual appointment). The consensus of the Senate was that minutes and communications between Executive Boards should suffice for now. (9) Anyone willing to review the latest draft of the President’s Awards for Excellence? A recent draft was distributed to everyone. (10) A reminder, Faculty Senate is not just a line in your P/T portfolio and a FAD entry. Participation in regular meetings and committee work is not something you do when you feel like it. Participation is a senatorial responsibility. If you cannot meet your obligations as a Senator, please suggest someone suitable to serve out the remainder of your term. {At this juncture Dr. Marietta Maroon was introduced as the replacement senator for Senator Cummings-Strunk who goes on FMLA leave before our next meeting}.

**B. Faculty Advisory Council**—Senator Rhorer essentially observed that the proposed changes to the tenure documents by the BoR, that the FAC had worked to alter and resist, were going forward without regard for the input offered or caveats inserted by the FAC during late fall semester. With the four new board appointments by Jindal’s selection process, the summary statement was that the policies will probably be approved and ignore the changes requested by the FAC {Subsequent to these minutes the Board did indeed pass their own version of what tenure and program discontinuance should look like in the UL System, disregarding the prepared statements of the FAC; the Chronicle has featured the struggle in their Feb. 28,2011 issue, and the AAUP issued a statement on March 4, 2011 that intimates “censure” of all UL System schools that implement these policies and procedures}.

**C. Academic Standards**— a sub-committee of Faculty Welfare chaired by Jim Casey, reported on the meeting that occurred with Robyn Jordan and Paula Thornhill December 1, 2010 in the Dean’s Conference room, Admin. In this meeting Robyn Jordan (1) invited all faculty to look at the GOLD Website. (2) She noted that there are currently 97 online adjuncts in the pool of approved applicants, and said they’ve used approximately 9. (3) She said class size for online classes is capped at 30, but noted that Julia Barnhill (who teaches an online health communication class) had 70 enrolled in her section. HOW DID THAT HAPPEN? Caps in some classes remain an issue. (4) She distributed and explained a flow chart of how the process of hiring adjuncts is supposed to work. Some approach ULM, some are solicited via professional contacts, and once they are vetted by department heads they are put through a two week Moodle training class. Paula spoke to the excellence of these adjuncts, that they LOVE online teaching, that from the Moodle class you see how they enliven the classes they teach, and have a great sense of best practices. (5) They both noted that they would be willing to speak to the faculty senate to clarify any questions senators might have about the process. (We might consider scheduling them in a Stubbs 100 venue and making this an open meeting for all faculty/department heads/ etc. as many have questions about the logistics of oversight and evaluation of these adjuncts.) (6) Academic Standards noted something Faculty Senate might do is pose a resolution in support of all faculty who teach an online class going through the 2 week training. We might also consider recommending to all faculty that they enroll in the classes of online teachers as this boosts one’s own learning and perceptions of learning online. (7) There are some concerns expressed regarding the process flow, that not everyone who is affected was involved in establishing the process, and evaluation of these classes remains difficult. The process seems to work, but glitches exist in that the instructor doesn’t get evaluated in familiar ways, nor is that instructor able to meet the other people in the department.

**D. Constitution and By-laws**—Megan Lowe distributed an amendment to the by-laws positing 5 options for Faculty Senate to vote on with regard to Temporary Leave measures. The first part of the proposed change reads the same in each option, stating:

*Any Faculty Senator who finds it necessary to miss more than two (2) meetings in a semester due to health concerns (in compliance with FMLA), military service, or academic considerations (e.g. teaching abroad for a semester or sabbatical)*

The options vary from this point on with **Option #1 proposing:**

. . . may remain a Faculty Senator. The Senator may name a replacement representative for the duration of that semester who will not be allowed to vote but will be able to communicate the needs and concerns of the Senator’s constituency to the Senate.

**Option #2 proposing:**

. . . may remain a Faculty Senator. The Senator may name a replacement representative for the duration of that semester who will be allowed to function as a regular senator, including voting.

**Option #3 proposing:**

... may remain a Faculty Senator. The Senator's constituency may name a replacement representative for the duration of that semester who will not be allowed to vote but will be able to communicate the needs and concerns of the Senator's constituency to the Senate.

**Option #4 proposing:**

... may remain a Faculty Senator. The Senator's constituency may name a replacement representative for the duration of that semester who will be allowed to function as a regular senator, including voting.

**Option #5 proposing:**

... should resign from the Senate, and a replacement should be installed.

Senators were instructed to discuss with constituents and vote by e-mail to President Hill.

**E. Elections**—Senator Feldhaus reported that the Elections committee was meeting the next day, Feb. 18, 2011.

**F. Faculty Welfare** requested approval of the Faculty Career and Personal Satisfaction Survey instrument. With slight revisions to three questions the Survey instrument was approved (Walker/Casey). President Hill was charged with coordinating its release to Faculty via Survey Monkey.

**G. Faculty Handbook** reported no changes.

**H. Fiscal Affairs**—Senator Anderson observed numerically, how much the cost of oil per barrel would have to increase to compensate for budget shortfalls, driving home the point that this is an unlikely scenario to count on for resolving state budget woes.

**Unfinished Business:**

- 1. The Colleges of Education (1) , Business Administration (1), and Arts and Sciences (1) need replacement senators—**
2. Should actively recruit replacements. Check your Departments for willingness and availability to serve and nominate at next meeting.

**New Business:**

- A. Senator Walker asked what had happened to the Faculty Chats? Are they still occurring, will they continue? President Hill said she would call for one.
- B. A senator noted that Admissions and Recruitment was getting revamped, but not a lot of specifics were included in what this revamping will include or look like.
- C. Senator Casey asked where and how one acquires retention data, institutional data, and was referred to institutional research, Justin Roy, Human Resources, and the Fact Book online.
- D. Senator Rhorer expressed concern that SGA student members fully understand the effect of abstaining from voting, noting that the student vote on the Board is problematic due to lack of perspective.
- E. Senator Steckline read a resolution which the Faculty Senate unanimously approved, to be distributed in the event that the Board of Supervisors Program Discontinuance and notification Policies are approved(Walker/Owens). The text of the resolution follows:

**RESOLUTION  
FROM THE ULM FACULTY SENATE  
TO THE  
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OPPOSING  
REVISIONS TO PROGRAM DISCONTINUANCE AND NOTIFICATION POLICIES**

*Whereas* the Board of Regents has identified programs for termination across the state, and targeted 212 programs within the UL System with 32 of those programs at the University of Louisiana at Monroe, and

*Whereas* said programs are making appeals that argue the senselessness of such cuts as counterproductive, artificially cost-savings, and undermining of the quality, integrity, and accessibility of higher education to its constituents, and

*Whereas* some programs may be saved by strong appeal arguments, -- through Board or Administrative interventions, and/or the reorganizing, combining, or consolidation of said "low completer programs" with currently "satisfactory completer number" programs, and

*Whereas* curriculum and academic standards oversight falls within the purview and responsibility of the Faculty Senate,

*Let it hereby be resolved* that in keeping with recommendations made to the University of Louisiana Board of Supervisors by the Faculty Advisory Council, such decisions of program discontinuance or restructuring shall be made only after consultation with the faculty in the academic program to be discontinued or re-aligned; that there shall be faculty participation from academic programs considered for possible discontinuance or re-alignment, with documented efforts made to review and discuss proposals with the members in the department or program, students enrolled in the program, the department chair and area coordinators, the dean of the school or college, or schools/colleges directly affected, and vice president for academic affairs.

F. Meeting adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

**Remaining Scheduled Spring Meetings (Admin 2-105)**

Thursday, March 17, 2011, 12:30-2:00

Thursday, April 21, 2011, 12:30-2:00

Respectfully submitted,

C. Turner Steckline, Faculty Senate Secretary

\*indicates excused absence.

(Name/Name) indicates Moved/Seconded