

Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, March 17, 2011
Rm 2-105, Ad.Min. ULM Campus
12:31-2:05 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 Bontty, Senator Arrant, Senator Casey, Senator Eisenstadt, Senator Feldhaus, Senator Hutto, Senator Lowe, Senator Mariette Maroun, Senator Owens, Senator Steckline, Senator Sylvester. {Senator Cummings-Strunk via SKYPE for voting}.

Senators Absent: Senator Anderson*, Senator Casey*, Senator Grinnell*, Senator Reid*

Guest: Athletic Director, Bobby Staub

Handouts available: Agenda; Draft of Minutes from February 17, 2011; “Save LOUIS, the Louisiana Library Network—Save Education—Funded Databases,” Resolution handout; 2011/2012 Faculty Senator Election-Term Roster

President Hill **called the meeting to order**, at 12:30 p.m.

Secretary Steckline **called the roll**.

The **Minutes of the February 17, 2011** meeting were **accepted** with clarifying reinterpretation of the two numbers Senator Anderson had cited in item H (Fiscal Affairs Report) by other senators as Senator Anderson was not present to make a direct restatement; with rephrasing of two words in the FAC summary statement (Item B) to read “the policies will probably be approved ignoring the recommended revisions submitted by the FAC.” (Walker/Lowe).

In Memorium:

ULM Athletic Director Bobby Staub presented the following statements about Coach Benny Hollis who passed away on Saturday, March 12, at the age of 71.

“A legendary basketball coach and administrator, Benny Hollis served the ULM community with great pride and was an outstanding ambassador of not only the ULM athletic department, but also the entire University. We grieve his passing on Saturday, March 12, 2011 at the age of 71. Benny began his career at ULM as an assistant basketball coach for nine years before the program was turned over to his control beginning with the 1980-81 season. In his first season, Benny led the Warhawks (then Indians) to the Trans-America Athletic Conference championship. He parleyed his successes on the basketball court to the everyday oversight over the athletic department when he began a 13-year term as ULM’s athletic director in 1982. Under his direction, ULM began arguably the single-most important move in the school’s athletic history—the jump to Division I-A football. Described by his peers as a “well-loved man” and a man who “loved the University and dedicated his life to ULM,” Hollis was inducted into the ULM Hall of Fame in 2003. Thank you for allowing us this opportunity to remember this outstanding colleague.”

Having shared these statements, our guest left the meeting.

General Announcements:

Loree Towns from the School of Nursing was approved to fill the Faculty Senate seat left open by the departure of Matthew Matusiak. The requirement imposed on faculty to call potential students for recruiting purposes during a short time frame (not everyone is cut out for telephone chit chat, at best only partial scripts were provided, no other contact options were offered, information provided was incomplete and/or inaccurate) was ineffective and far too late.

Committee Reports:

A. Executive Board—President Hill reported: **1)** The survey is underway. There was an initial dispute with the IRB about whether it qualified under “Use of Human Subjects” regulations, but Dr. Richters helped the EB resolve the issue. **2)** There are now 6 listservs, one for each college and 1 for the Library, of exclusively non-administrative faculty for Faculty Senate use (current moderators: Hill, Steckline, Rhorer). **3)** ALFS will meet again April 16 in Alexandria. **4)** Legislative Audit no major findings noted in the summary; most attributable to switch to Banner. **5)** The governor’s budget is out. University will go through the budget process to deal with proposed cuts: Dr. Bruno’s emphasis is on preserving faculty to preserve the mission of the University. **6)** Talk of conversion to the quarter system is dead for now. **7)** Reformatted Directed Studies course numbers in the catalog (for Banner conversion) has created problems. Turner has been put in charge of recommending people to look at the issue (not Senate). **8)** SGA passed a Smoke Free Campus resolution at their Tuesday meeting (which creates a united front for all campus Senates) **9)** Turner Steckline is not seeking re-election. Needs a break from FS. Will generously serve 1 more year as secretary as is allowed in our constitution. She was Senate President in 2008 and took us through three faculty senate surveys, beginning with the 2006 Survey administered under John Rettenmeyer; the survey that targeted just the workings of the faculty senate, and the Purdue University based “Faculty Career and Satisfaction Survey” in 2008. These were very difficult and stressful times and she handled these and other events that have led to improved shared governance extremely well, putting the Senate firmly on the road to “making” the administration listen to faculty. **10)** The question of term limits surfaces every time there is an election of senators. The reasons we don’t have term limits are connected to willingness-to-serve issues, as it is chronically difficult to get and keep a full slate of senators; if people are still willing to serve after a term on the senate the senate is grateful for this as it is time consuming, and a lot of work if you take your duties seriously. Also, in years where there are larger numbers of new senators, some sense of continuity is maintained with and through experienced senators. If people are unhappy with the slate of senators they should seek to replace senators by throwing their own hat into the election ring—if one has complaints, what are you doing to change situations for the better? Put your complaint energy to work in and through the Faculty Senate. Until such time as the university is willing to grant all senators release time for their service (beyond the FS president and secretary) term limits would not serve the faculty or faculty senate in any positive way, and at that juncture people might actually campaign to be representatives.

B. Faculty Advisory Council—Senator Rhorer observed: **1)** that the Board did indeed pass their own version of what tenure and program discontinuance should look like in the UL System on Feb. 25, 2011, 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. Other coverage has included the *Advocate*, Gannett papers, and the *LSU newsletter*. Rhorer described the measured statements of the 11 faculty speakers before the board, which included Kevin Cope from the LSU system, and a representative from the Teacher’s Federation. The Board’s responses were “canned”—prepared before even hearing what the 11 faculty speakers had to say—and were summarily dismissed by Jimmy Faircloth’s assessment of their statements as “wasted anger” and his expressed confidence in those running the Universities, describing these decisions as “business decisions.” **2)** Rhorer noted ORP issues to be addressed in Baton Rouge during the week of March 21-25, observing that FAC believes the teacher’s retirement system board (TRSL) needs a separate board comprised of teacher’s rather than

having these decisions made by a board with no faculty representation on it whatsoever. **3)** Questions were raised about the proposed merger of the New Orleans Universities, UNO and Southern, and the cautionary observation was that all that needs to officially happen for such consolidation of universities from the Board's perspective is "a study." Once such a study happens, regardless of its findings, the board can proceed as it prefers. **4)** Questions regarding consolidation of Grambling, Tech and ULM seem relegated to consolidating "back office responsibilities" as state system schools, where purchasing, payroll, travel, etc. could be consolidated.

C. Academic Standards— a sub-committee of Faculty Welfare chaired by Jim Casey, was charged with interviewing members of the Plagiarism Committee formed in the College of Arts and Sciences chaired by Barbara Michaeliedes, to find out what's been proposed by this committee. A report is expected by next FS meeting.

D. Constitution and By-laws—Of the 5 options for Faculty Senate to vote on with regard to a new amendment to the constitution addressing temporary leave measures Option Two was unanimously approved thus the amendment reads:

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)

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.

E. Elections—The results of FS elections were reported (2011-2013 term of office). **Arts and Sciences:** Karen Frye (Gerontology), Thomas Junk (Chemistry), Joshua Stockley (Political Science), John Anderson (Physics), Anna Hill (Biology), Shirlee Owens (Sociology), Donna Rhorer (English). **Business Administration:** Robert Eisenstadt (Economics), Bruce Walker (Management). **Education and Human Development:** Jana Sutton (Education Leadership and Counseling). **Health Sciences:** Linda Reid (Nursing). **Library:** Karen Niemla (Reference). **Pharmacy:** Paul Sylvester (Pharmacology).

F. Faculty Welfare – the survey is in progress, with a 100 people having logged in at this point in time. We can expect results by the next senate meeting.

G. Faculty Handbook reported no changes.

H. Fiscal Affairs—no report was given.

New Business:

Senator Lowe distributed a handout on LOUIS, and presented a detailed description of what happens if we lose this library resource. A resolution was proposed (Feldhaus/Walker) and the vote was emphatically unanimous. The text of the resolution appears below:

**RESOLUTION
FROM THE
ULM FACULTY SENATE
TO THE
LOUISIANA BOARD OF REGENTS
SUPPORTING FULL FUNDING FOR LOUIS**

WHEREAS, LOUIS, the Louisiana Library Network, provides essential information resources and services that contribute to the success of our university and college students and faculty through a consortium of 47 member libraries;

WHEREAS, These essential resources and services include the University of Louisiana at Monroe (ULM) Library automation system and catalog of the library collections, electronic research databases and full-text journals, remote access to library resources 24/7 through authentication of users, Interlibrary loan and reciprocal borrowing among all member libraries, and the Louisiana Digital Library, as well as centralized servers and an expert support staff;

WHEREAS, LOUIS is essential to the functions of each Louisiana public post-secondary education institution because without it, students would no longer be able to conduct research in order to write the papers required for their courses and faculty would no longer have access to the resources they need to continue to produce quality research in their fields;

WHEREAS, LOUIS purchased over \$19 million of resources for member libraries in 2010 for only \$3.1 million, representing a huge savings to each campus and to the state;

WHEREAS, in the past, the Board of Regents provided 70% of the funding, with member institutions contributing 30%, a feasible amount for all;

WHEREAS, LOUIS funding is uncertain for 2011, and ULM and other institutions do not have the funds to cover the Board of Regent's share, especially in the face of current dramatic budget cuts, making library resources and services across the state in peril as of July, 2011;

WHEREAS, Governor Bobby Jindal has repeatedly exhorted institutions of higher education in Louisiana to do "more with less;" and

WHEREAS, LOUIS, the Louisiana Library Network, has been saving the state money by doing more with less since 1992;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Faculty Senate of the University of Louisiana at Monroe urges that the Board of Regents restore full funding for LOUIS as an essential resource for students and faculty.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m. (Andrews)

Remaining Scheduled Spring Meetings (Admin 2-105)

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

Respectfully submitted,

C. Turner Steckline, Faculty Senate Secretary