

ULM Faculty Senate
18 November 2010, 12:30 PM, Admin 2-91

1. Call to order and roll call (Called to order 12:31pm)
 - a. Present – President Hill, Past-President Walker, President-Elect Rhorer, Senator Anderson, Senator Andrews, Senator Arrant, Senator Bontty, Senator Casey, Senator Clark, Senator Cummings-Strunk, Senator Eisenstadt, Senator Feldhaus, Senator Grinnell, Senator Hutto, Senator Lowe, Senator Matusiak, Senator Owens, Senator Reid, Secretary-elect Steckline, Senator Sylvester
 - i. Quorum present
 - b.
(* indicates excused absence)
2. Approval of 14 October 2010 minutes. (Lowe/Feldhaus) – Minutes were approved with corrections.
3. Committee Reports
 - a. Executive Board met Tuesday, Nov. 9 with President Bruno, Provost Richters, and the College Deans.
 - i. Dr. Bruno is studying the budget and will soon activate university budget committees. College committees are already meeting to address possible shortfalls.
 - ii. Administration hopes to offer incentivized retirement. Administration is evaluating budget to determine what incentive can happen. Notice to faculty and acceptance of incentive will be quick. Faculty must decide in December to not come back in the spring. Incentive may be very limited in scale due to funding.

DISCUSSION: Faculty Senate may need to get clarification on how years of service for retirement is calculated with incentive program. Faculty Senators expressed some confusion exists and faculty need clarification to make an informed decision
 - iii. President Hill asked about how UL System is responding to Governor and legislature “challenge” to higher education. Executive Committee made the point that we need to make the public/voters aware of how political comments about higher education are incorrect. Executive Board felt presenting data to just Governor and legislative committees would not be enough.
 - iv. Dr. Bruno and administration are working on ways to improve graduation/program success rates. Because of the restriction on adding degrees, can programs add concentrations to existing degree programs to increase enrollment and graduation rates?

DISCUSSION – Senators Walker and Hill talked about how students graduating are not being counted due to the outdated parameters used to calculate graduation rates (e.g. ignores non-traditional students). An example was that 40% of students at 3 UL System Universities were not counted in graduation rates, but those Universities had record numbers of graduating students.

DISCUSSION: A charge was given Academic Standards to look into how calculation of graduation rates might be being modified.

- v. Motion to move into Executive Session (Reid/Feldhaus). Motion to resume normal business (Reid/Feldhaus)
 - vi. Dr. Richters discussed exploring the "Lamar Initiative". Private corporations are partnering with universities for online instruction. The corporation handles marketing, hiring of "coaches" (adjuncts to assist with large class size), book orders, etc. to assist students completing the degree program. The University provides primary instructor for course. The private corporation gets approximately 70% of tuition for their efforts.
 - vii. President Hill discussed with the Administration about backing for faculty on classroom discipline issues. Currently, no standard procedures in place to address student behavior. Problems arise when faculty members are expected to be the front line person dealing with chronic student behavior issues. Dr. Richters has agreed that the process must be standardized, and that though students have rights, faculty need to also be protected.
 - viii. Dr. Richters introduced the idea of possible conversion to quarter system. Administration is just now starting the process of weighing pros and cons versus semester system. Faculty should give input when asked about the pros and cons of the system.
- b. Other Executive Issues:
- i. Senator Cummings-Strunk will be going on maternity leave mid-spring semester. What are the options for substitute-senator for Senator Cummings-Strunk?
- DISCUSSION: A charge was given to Constitution and By Laws Committee to research amendments to the Constitution and By Laws to allow a temporary replacement for University approved absences (e.g. Family Medical Leave Act, Unformed Services Leave, Sabbaticals, etc.).
- ii. President Hill asked the senate to vote for a meeting date on April 14 or 21 due to University calendar. Senate voted by show of hands for April 21, 2011 meeting date.
- c. Faculty Advisory Council – met 10/26/2010
- i. FAC has not been informed of additional meetings by Dr. Moffett on UL System policies and procedures changes. FAC is planning a public statement if the policy changes appear on the December meeting agenda without any notification to the FAC.
- d. Academic Standards – met Monday 11/15/2010
- i. Committee is polling Deans regarding adjuncts for both online and on campus courses. Questions being presented are how many adjuncts are being used, how are adjunct's qualifications being assessed, who is monitoring adjuncts, etc. Committee will have a report to full senate in the near future.

- ii. Committee would like to ask Executive Committee to discuss new 120 hour requirements [30 hours in the major, 42 hours of core and the remaining credits (48) are non-restricted] and how the requirements are to be implemented, what restrictions exist, etc.
- e. Constitution and By-laws – No report
- f. Elections – No report
- g. Faculty Welfare – No Report
- h. Faculty Handbook – No report
- i. Fiscal Affairs
 - i. Discussion about the LSU Faculty Senate abbreviated slide show (adapted from Bob Keaton PowerPoint www.lsu.edu/senate) presentation about fiscal affairs and Louisiana current budget process, current budget proposals and fiscal issues. Emphasized why higher education and health care are cut so heavily.

4. Unfinished business

- a. Amendments to the Constitution and By-laws
 - i. Article VII, Section 1, of the By-laws of the Faculty Senate

Members of the Faculty Senate shall be elected during the first half of March of each academic year. The Election Committee shall be responsible for conducting the election of Faculty Senators as provided for in the By-Laws.

DISCUSSION: None

Senator Feldhaus called the question. Changes passed unanimously

- b. Article II, Section 2, of the By-laws of the Faculty Senate – addition of item C

Option 1 - If a President's term in the Senate is expiring at the end of the year of service as the President, and he/she choose not to run for re-election or are not re-elected to the Senate, he/she may continue to serve as a Senator-at-Large in order to fulfill the one year term of service on the Executive Board as Past-President.

Option 2 - If a President's term in the Senate is expiring at the end of the year of service as the President, and he/she either choose not to run for re-election to the Senate or are not re-elected to the Senate, the outgoing President may continue to serve in the Senate in an advisory capacity as a non-voting at-large member. This will permit the individual to complete their one year service on the Executive Board as Past-President.

*Motion to accept Option 1 changes to the Constitution and By Laws (Reid/Walker).
Motion passed (17 approved, 1 opposed, 2 abstentions)*

5. Other

- a. New Business

President Bruno will be invited to the regular faculty senate meeting in January.

6. Adjournment (Feldhaus 1:56pm)

SCHEDULED SPRING MEETINGS:

Thursday, January 20, 12:30 -2:00

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

Thursday, February 17, 12:30 -2:00

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

There may be called meetings during the same time slot.