

Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, February 16, 2012
Rm 3-94, Walker Hall, ULM Campus
12:30-1:50 p.m.

- * indicates excused absence;
- Name/Name indicates Moved/Seconded
- **hard copy provided as well

Senators Present: Andrews, Anderson, Arrant, Casey, Durkee, Feldhaus, Hill, Hutto, Junk, Lanham, Niemela, Steckline, Stockley, Strunk, Sutton, Sylvester, Walker,

Senators Absent: Eisenstadt, Owens*, Frye*, Wiggins*

Handouts circulated electronically: Draft of Minutes of FS January 19, 2012 meeting; Agenda for FS Feb. 16, 2012 meeting; Draft document of “Tenure and Promotion Questionnaire to Dept. Heads, Preliminary Results,” emailed by Senator Junk; Draft of Louisiana Board of Regents Response to HCR 30 of the 2011 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, January 2012; ULM Administration’s “Program Prioritization Criteria” (Draft for review and discussion, Academic Affairs, 2/8/2012); UL System “Academic Credit for Prior Learning” policy draft; Announcement of UL System Inaugural Academic Summit to be hosted at Lake Charles, LA (McNeese) April 19-20, 2012; Jordan Blum article “LSU Eyes Grading Change;” and UL System “Intellectual Property and Shared Royalties policy draft.

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

Secretary Steckline **called the roll**. The Senate followed the protocol required to have Senator Vicki Durkee step into the replacement senator role for Senator Towns, through a nomination motion (Feldhaus/Casey), voting, and formal welcome to the Senate. While the welcome occurred at the January meeting, the formality of the first two steps had been overlooked.

The **Minutes of the FS January 19, 2012** meeting were **accepted** with no corrections. (Walker/Feldhaus).

Committee Reports:

President Sylvester reported on the **Executive Board** meeting of February 9, 2012 with the Deans, and Eric Pani. A draft of the ULM Response to HCR 30 (Role, Scope and Mission statements of Louisiana State Schools) was distributed with the request that FS comment on questions or issues with the document. [Discussion observed that 2b should not have an “s” on communications; that 2c seems contradictory to information given recently about the Ph.D. in Criminal Justice; that 3 reflected an emphasis on business, with nothing mentioned about Education.]. The FS was asked to respond to the proposed template for prioritizing academic programs, with the notation that Department Heads were being asked to run it by their own faculty, and feedback is requested prior to mid-march. Intellectual Property Rights Policy has been redrafted by the system, from its 2006, 1999 versions. Each institution drafts its own, which is typically much more specific than the general one of the system. President Sylvester noted he would send ULM’s policy out to senators. The possibility of revising the grading system used **was discussed**. At the EB meeting faculty were characterized as being against grade distinctions of A, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, D+, D, D-, F. [The FS response was highly in favor of such distinctions on transcripts, with the questions being located in what scale would be used. The Academic Standards Committee of FS was charged with researching this more thoroughly for a report at next meeting]. The results of the Tenure/Promotion Committee Survey’s were presented and discussed. [Discussion produced policies already established in faculty handbook; the apparent slippage of these policies within the CAS, and the need for follow-up with the respective Dean, and College Tenure and Promotion Committee Chair.] The implementation of “academic credit for prior learning,” was discussed as under consideration through portfolio evaluation, specific course possibilities. The student “drop” policy is being re-examined, with the latest idea being to limit the total number of withdrawals allowed over a student’s academic career. The impact of this is being studied, with the differences between allowing 6 vs 5 receiving the most scrutiny. The System-wide Undergraduate Research Symposium, to be hosted at McNeese University April 19-20, requires that submissions be made by March 20 from competing institutions. All are encouraged to promote student service learning, posters, research, and art as competitive arenas from which student work should be identified and encouraged for submission. Two student issues were brought up: the first was the red-tape involved in organizing field trips in the name of risk management, and the second was duplication of efforts regarding waiver of rights to publish photographs taken of the student while at ULM in a ULM activity.

Senator Anna Hill noted concerns the **Faculty Advisory Council** had over how the Intellectual Property Rights draft policy document was not directly circulated to Faculty Senates. Instead, one school received it, and circulated it to the others, and this is a disregard for how such information should be received and shared. The fact remains that the FAC itself was bypassed in the process, and it wasn't given to the FAC when it was distributed, coming over a month later, from one school.

Senator Jim Casey noted that **Academic Standards** is currently investigating general institutional response to "course redesign" the focus of the QEP, and now has the additional charge of investigating grade reporting scales that include plusses and minuses in GPA calculation.

Senator Feldhaus observed that **Elections** is working to prepare for March elections.

Faculty Welfare's subcommittee on the *Faculty Handbook* is at work on current revisions reflective of the new organizational chart, and expects to meet its March deadline, as per Senator Andrews.

Both **Ad Hoc Committees** [on Customer Service, and on Advising] have not been initialized by Barbara Michealeides, thus the need for maintaining the committees was questioned by Senators Walker and Stockley, respectively.

New Business:

- A. Senator Walker was authorized to write a resolution noting that the exclusion of Out-of-State Students to Online Programs in the formula, and/or counting schemes of the Board, is impractical, not logical and ill-considered.
- B. President Sylvester suggested that the past winners of the President's Excellence Awards be the nominations from the Faculty Senate to serve on this year's Foundation of Excellence Committee selecting this year's recipients.
- C. Senator Steckline distributed hard copies of two emails from the human resources offices of other state-employee offices that routinely supply their employee's with posts on the legislature's latest. The first was an explanation of Governor Jindal's proposed bills that could affect LASERS members, specifically highlighting what these changes will mean for current employees if these bills pass. The second was an opinion piece examining Jindal's promise of no million dollar cuts to higher education in an effort to gain support for the changes to state retirement and benefits package.
- D. Senator Niemla reported that the STAP Committee had met and approved 10 proposals, though was not at liberty to say what those were, though it should become common knowledge soon.

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 (Feldhaus)

Reminder of next FS meeting on March 15, 2012, 12:30 in this same room (Walker 3-94).

Respectfully submitted,

C. Turner Steckline, Faculty Senate Secretary

*indicates excused absence.

(Name/Name) indicates Moved/Seconded

**indicates available in hard copy at meeting