

**Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**Thursday, March 15, 2012**  
**12:30-2:00 p.m. Room 3-94, Walker Hall**

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

**Senators Present:** Anderson, Casey, Durkee, Eisenstadt, Feldhaus, Hill, Hutto, Junk, Lanham, Niemla, Owens, Steckline, Strunk, Sylvester, Walker, and Wiggins.

**Senators Absent:** Andrews\*, Arrant\*, Frye\*, Stockley\*, Sutton\*

**Handouts circulated electronically:** Draft of Minutes of FS Meeting of February 16, 2012; Agenda for FS March 15, 2012 meeting. **Handouts circulated during the meeting:** Draft of Resolution opposing the proposed formula funding changes involving on-line, non-resident students and Draft of Resolution opposing the Governor's (2012 Legislative Session) proposed changes to Louisiana State Retirement Plans (LASERS, TRSL).

President Sylvester **called the meeting to order**, at 12:32 p.m.

Secretary Steckline **called the roll**.

**The Minutes of the FS February 16, 2012 meeting were approved** with three corrections: Under Committee Reports, line 10 "discussion" was changed to "discussed;" under New Business, B. the spelling of recipients was corrected, and C. the spelling of "Governor" was corrected. (Hill/Hutto).

**Committee Reports** were given by Paul Sylvester speaking for the Executive Board about the EB meeting with the Deans and Eric Pani on March 8, 2012, by Anna Hill speaking as the Faculty Advisory Council Representative and Chair, by Jim Casey speaking for Academic Standards, by John Anderson speaking for Fiscal Affairs, Turner Steckline speaking for both Elections and Faculty Handbook (a subcommittee of Faculty Welfare).

Shortly after **the EB report** began, the Senate went into Executive Session (Walker/Anderson). When the FS came out of executive session (Walker/Lanham) the following topics were presented for discussion: a summary of what the Deans of the five colleges said they were looking at in terms of restructurings/reorganizations; that the final grade schedule for Fall 2012 will be different from recent requirements of grades in by 3:00 on the Monday following exam week, to a required reporting of grades on the Friday of what has been known as "Finals Week." This provoked recommendations regarding how long the registrar and computing center offices are open on Fridays, as closure at noon, will no longer suffice particularly if grades are due that Friday. Concerns about awareness of FS and Senators surfaced, with a flurry of ideas about what/how new(er) constituents can better access their representatives, and come to know what FS can do for them. Request for policy regarding availability of student photos on Moodle was made, as larger classes can have difficulty knowing a student by name, and with no photo, record keeping can be challenging. Senators were reminded that SACS has a website

with a direct link for communication with them to ask questions, raise concerns, if and when an assessment and accreditation issue is not being satisfactorily addressed by a program, department, college or university. **Faculty Advisory Council** is scheduled to meet in April and will have a full report then. **Academic Standards** indicated they had explored implementations of + and – grading systems (transcript grades that reflect an earned B+, B, B-, distinctions), finding many satisfactions on both faculty and student levels at many schools throughout the country, but advised not rushing to implement the change that LSU-BR is adopting, as a bandwagon response, to wait and see the challenges they face and then evaluate. **Fiscal Affairs** remains a mystery to all and every as we know cuts are coming, but the depth and breadth of those cuts are not clear to anyone at the moment. **Elections** reported that voting will take place before the end of March. **Faculty Handbook** reported that revisions are completed on the first and last thirds of the Handbook, that the middle is murky on several fronts, but that the Handbook will preserve the separation of promotion from tenure, tenure from promotion, and will not reflect the Vice President of Academic Affairs “powerpoint” claim that there is no tenure without promotion.

**New Business:**

A. The **resolution** from the University of Louisiana at Monroe’s Faculty Senate to the State of Louisiana Board of Regents **Opposing Formula Funding Changes Involving On-Line Out-of-State Students**, was proposed, and approved unanimously with recommendations for minor tweaking, notably the required change of “out-of-state” to read, “non-resident” throughout the document (Hill/Eisenstadt)

B. The **resolution** from the University of Louisiana at Monroe’s Faculty Senate to the State of Louisiana Board of Regents **Opposing the Governor’s (2012 Legislative Session) Proposed Changes to Louisiana Higher Education Retirement Plans (LASERS, TRSL)** , was proposed and approved unanimously with recommendations for selected extractions of potentially “inflammatory language” (Hill/Feldhaus). {A “passion extraction squad” was appointed, revisions made, and let the record show that our resolution was picked up, modified by individual state schools, the Faculty Advisory Council, and the Faculty Summit Council}.

C. The Faculty Senate requested a **called meeting** with the University President, Nick Bruno.

The meeting adjourned at 1:55.

Respectfully submitted,

C. Turner Steckline, Faculty Senate Secretary