

Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, September 15, 2011
Rm 3-84, ADMN, ULM Campus
12:30-1:50 p.m.

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

Senators Present: Andrews, Anderson, Arrant, Casey, Eisenstadt, Feldhaus, Hill, Hutto, Junk, Lanham, Owens, Rhorer, Frye, Steckline, Stockley, Strunk, Sutton, Sylvester, Towns, Walker, Wiggins

Senators Absent: Niemla* (Lila Jefferson replaced Senator Niemla as an observer.)

Invited Guest: President Nick Bruno

Handouts circulated: Draft of Minutes of FS August 25, 2011 meeting; Agenda for FS Sept. 15, 2011 meeting; and Draft document which details Advising Issues identified by a FS Sub-Committee Group Meeting on Sept. 12, 2011 with Barbara Michaeliedes of the student success center, and Senators Bruce Walker and Karen Frye.

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

Secretary Steckline **called the roll**. As Parliamentarian Senator Hill reminded us to discuss salient issues, to refrain from cross-talking, and recommended we suspend business items as they appear on the Agenda to accommodate President Bruno's arrival to speak with the FS, whereby after his presentation, he would be free to leave, and FS would resume where it had stopped once we'd responded to President Bruno.

The **Minutes of the FS August 25, 2011** meeting were **accepted** with corrections to a senator's excused absence, one misspelling due to missing "ed" ending, incorrect spacings between E B to EB (Executive Board), addition of word "in" to B 1) "... filled in..." , and change from "5)" to "4)" as incorrect numbering; omission of "by" in notation of Feldhaus' unanimous selection to represent FS on Honor's council; and finally, inclusion of a dash between Walker Hall room number to read 3-67.

President Bruno addressed the FS from 12:45 to 1:14, describing what could be expected of Commissioner Purcell's "Listening Tour," which is scheduled on Monday September 19, 2011 from 8:00-10:00 a.m. on the 7th floor of the library. He described the powerpoint Purcell was using, his stated goal of data gathering, the emphasis on economic development in programs, and the need for ULM information to inundate Purcell and Regents. He noted that a master plan is out. He also noted that 8 week classes are being re-examined; that ULM is looking closely at the Regents masterplan, and the strategy of ULM advocacy of its many uniquenesses—hence the Discover ULM campaign to disclose the unknown excellence of a regional secret. He noted that overall enrollment was down slightly, but targeted areas in the recruiting plan were up.

Committee Reports:

- A. Executive Committee:** Rhorer reported that the EB met with administration on Tuesday, September 13, 2011. The following **faculty issues were identified** for administrators: **1)** Funding for Xerox costs, research retrieval costs, for Graduate Research Assistants when they are doing research for a faculty member, as such costs should not be incurred by the graduate assistant. Response was that it's not a problem when copying takes place at the main copy center, but doesn't work at the satellites, and Dr. Pani will work to solve this problem, getting them cards with charges to be made to the departments as a possible starting point; **2)** Grants, Professorships, Endowed positions are something of a double-edged sword—being an honor certainly, but a bit of a nightmare due to the acquisition of money, because of disputes regarding the validity of signatures, wording, etc. The Grad. School Office and Business Office need to be more customer friendly in dealing with these issues. Dr. Pani noted that there have been problems with this, that clarification on the exact problems remains needed; **3)** Reports of disputes concerning the sponsored program office were discussed. We need better process guidelines. Pani made it clear that the Graduate School is no longer in that line of authority, and appeared quite surprised by the level of difficulty involved in every interaction with sponsored programs; **4)** The Commissioner's visit on the 19th of Sept provides us with an opportunity to say this is a great institution with good stuff going on. Our engaging in research helps not only the area but everyone—Pharmacy research for example. We need to show that we drive the economy in the area, and direct links to workforce development. Other issues reported on during this meeting included the following: A) An ORP update was given—an attorney in Baton Rouge is working on this, and a quotation from Kevin Cope's and Roger Laine's emails was shared detailing concerns about ORP. B) Administrators were told that the FS approved the Deans' recommendation that 3 hours of humanities be literature...that word of this was officially sent to the Office of Academic Affairs after our August 25th, 2011 meeting. C) A very broad discussion of Professionalism Across Campus occurred with observations that included handling some things privately, questioning what is collegiality and how a definition of this varies among people. D) Our most delicate topic pertained to how to get complaints about administrators on the record? Inappropriate and/or aggressive behavior in particular was targeted for discussion with the caveat that we don't want to not follow channels or not be collegial. Response noted filing complaints with the EEOC (Larry Estes to be specific), and we were told we would get a list of questions, that most people do not fill out or respond to the questions. ANSWER them. Provide the data. Follow through, we were urged. We will also open the FS office so faculty can come in to talk about concerns. E) Dean Cass was thanked for providing the FS with a permanent office. F) We went over how to report on-line absences efficiently, and as each college handles this differently, understanding the practices of one's own college is at the root of this issue. G) Anna Hill gave a report on AAUP and American Federation of Teachers incentives, noting that interested faculty will meet off campus, on Thursday Sept. 22, in the afternoon, and will not rely on university methods of communication, as neither organization is formally sponsored or endorsed by the Faculty Senate. H) The Student Policy Manual needs to be referred to on every syllabus and students need to sign that they have read it. I) Dr. Pani was hoping the FS would endorse 1) a request made by the Investiture Committee of the Office of Academic Affairs that it would be okay for faculty to give extra credit for attendance at faculty lectures, etc. during the week of Investiture; and 2) presentations made by Dr. Pani and Barbara Michaeleides about the GRAD Act.

Note: The FS was unanimously against the first (sponsoring extra-credit, as that is an individual instructor's call to make), and unanimously in support of the second (sponsoring the GRAD Act presentations).

- B. Faculty Advisory Council (FAC).** Anna Hill reported on the meeting that took place in Baton Rouge on August 25, 2011 after the Board of Supervisors meeting. She made the following observations: 1) Anna Hill (ULM) was elected Chair, Robert McKinny (ULL) was elected Vice-Chair. Jack Atherton (NSU) was elected Secretary. Donna Rhorer was asked to continue as the FAC's representative in matters relating to the ORP. 2) The lawsuit by tenured French faculty given terminal contracts at Southeastern just over a year ago is ongoing. The campus appeals committee was apparently ignored. The faculty were dismissed before the changes in tenure policy, though the process for termination mimicked the policy change. 3) There are apparently \$30 billion in unfunded state health and retirement programs that have yet to be addressed. Perhaps that issue will be made public after the fall elections? 4) Again, tenure and TRSL are the hot new political targets after the fall election. 5) Other items were institution-specific (NSU handbook in limbo for 10 years and the "secret" personnel committee will meet again this fall; Number of students up while faculty down at SLU; GSU perpetual audit issues though new administration not so antagonistic). 6) On Sept. 8, Jordan Kirland of the AAUP inquired about an on-site visit by their investigatory committee given how things were handled with the Chemistry program at ULM. Hill responded to the inquiry by telling them to contact the administration, and reported that there has been no report of fallout from that yet. 7) Donna Rhorer reported on the ORP developments.
- C.** There were no reports from most other committees except **Elections**, and B. Dean Lanham from Criminal Justice was elected as representative from the College of Arts and Sciences.
- D.** Faculty Handbook committee said there was no need to change the handbook (link is clear and those in most need of reading probably won't), but there is need to get the word out, which is something that might be done through departmental mentoring, department head/chair orientation of new faculty, human resources power point, etc. Charge will be made to Faculty Welfare as to how to better disseminate information in these links to faculty.
- E.** The ad hoc Committee on Customer Service distributed a "draft document" detailing the issues raised and discussed in a September 12, 2011 meeting with Barbara Michaelides concerning procedures and protocols regarding undergraduate advising. 8 items noted the work of educating faculty advisors coming out of the student success center—noting successes, opportunities, and areas for improvement; and 5 items targeted issues to be further explored and resolved, to which the FS added concern about online-advising policies and procedures. The committee (Walker, Frye, Steckline) will continue the investigation. Senator Junk raised the issue of "who is taking online tests" and this issue of online cheating was referred to Academic Standards.

New Business: Out of concern for full FS participation in elections, New Business was taken up before Unfinished Business. Two senators were nominated for FS President-Elect: Paul Sylvester (Andrews/Eisenstadt) and John Anderson (Feldhaus/Frye). Nominations closed. (Eisenstadt/Frye). Sylvester won by a vote of 12 to 8. Laurel Andrews was nominated for FS Secretary-Elect (Sylvester/Steckline) and won by acclamation. They assume seats on the Executive Board.

Unfinished Business: The need to be professional and collegial was stressed again; The Smoking Committee representative (Anna Hill) reported that the west side of the campus will be tobacco free, and the east side of the campus will have designated smoking areas.

Reminder of **next FS meeting** on **October 20, 12:30** in this same room (Walker 3-84) unless another room can be located.

Meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m. (Feldhaus)

Respectfully submitted,
C. Turner Steckline, Faculty Senate Secretary

<p>*indicates excused absence. (Name/Name) indicates Moved/Seconded</p>
