

Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, April 18, 2013
University House, ULM Campus
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

* indicates excused absence; Name/Name indicates Moved/Seconded
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Senators Present: Anderson, Caldwell, Carpenter, Chenoweth, Cumming Strunk, Eisenstadt, Frye, Giles, Hill, Niemla, Owens, Stockley, Sutton, Sylvester, Tommerdahl, Walker, Wiggins, Wilson

Senators Absent: *Bray, *Lasiter, *Pope, *Sampognaro

Special Guest: President Bruno

Handouts circulated: Electronically circulated documents included the Agenda for FS April 18 meeting, Draft of Minutes of FS March 14, 2013 meeting, 3 Copy/Print/Mail Forms, Information about Moodle upgrades, Draft of Academic Calendar for 2013-2014, Narrative of Proposal for the Calendar for Summer 2014, List of Senators who will attend the Shared Governance webinar (on April 25, 2013), Report on Elections for 2013-2014, List of possible ULM peers.

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

Secretary-Elect Cumming Strunk **called the roll**.

The **Minutes of the FS March 14** meeting were **reviewed**. Minor changes were noted. The minutes were accepted by email vote on May 14, 2013.

Agenda Items:

- President Sylvester provided an Executive Committee Report from the Executive Council meeting held on April 16.
- President Sylvester explained about the new forms for the copy center. They list costs of certain services and a change in mass produced items that used to be handled off-site.
- The academic calendar for 2013-2014 is currently being reviewed to incorporate the desire for the Summer I session to fall within the fiscal year. To accommodate that, the Summer I 2014 must end before the end of June.
 - Three options for 3 credit classes were given all have grades due on June 30:
 - 1) June 2-26 MTWR 140 minutes a class period with the final on June 26.
 - 2) June 2-27 MTWRF 115 minutes a class period with the final on June 27.
 - 3) June 2-27 MTWRF 120 minutes a class period with the final on June 26.
 - A motion passed to accept the 1st option for a 3 credit class meeting 16 MTWR classes 140 minutes each with the final exam on June 26. (Giles/Stockley)
- Moodle will be upgraded to version 2.0 from 1.9
- Senator Niemla provided the Elections Committee Report.
 - Elections are closed. The new roster has been posted.
 - Shirlee Owens was recognized for her 28 years of uninterrupted service to the Faculty Senate. A motion was made and passed to recognize her long service. (Niemla/Sylvester).

- Senator Walker explained that the Academic Standards Committee is currently crunching the numbers on the Faculty Senate Survey.
- President Sylvester and Senator Stockley met with Walsworth and Jay Morris. President Sylvester has written letters to the state representatives. The state representatives understand the cost of the cuts, but they have decreased revenue and a requirement to balance the budget. Senator Sutton noted that the FS webpage listing the Constitution and the Bylaws is in the process of being updated.

No old or new business

Special guest ULM President Bruno arrived at 1:11pm to discuss strategic planning.

Note: Please see the Appendix to the Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting Thursday, April 18, 2013 University House, ULM Campus 12:30 – 2:00 p.m. The appendix is a copy of the discussion included below.

President Sylvester talked a little about their strategy for Strategic Planning.

- "If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there." They are looking for a plan, so we can be successful.
- They met over two day and made a lot of progress. They gathered data to understand ULM and its current status. They gathered external factors on ULM such as funding, Board of Regents, the UL System including the Systems' President, the state legislature that funds ULM, and the community (the region/the state) that looks to ULM for service, culture, and financial impact. Then they updated the mission statement and the guiding principle.
- The next step will be stakeholder meetings. All the different groups of people affected by ULM will each get their say on the strategic plan. Some of these groups are the faculty, the staff, the students, the alumni, and the community. After the stakeholder meetings, the Strategic Planning Committee will revise the vision.

President Bruno addressed the Faculty Senate mentioning strategic planning, current budget cut projections, restructuring, enrollment numbers, and possible personnel cuts.

- President Bruno explained the previous philosophy at ULM was that strategic planning did not accomplish much. There was no monitoring to check if it had been followed. The first rule is to develop a strategic plan that we can use with 2 way communication from the top down and from the bottom up. Now is the time to revise and improve the strategic plan.
- ULM is facing a cut between \$1 million and \$16 million. A cut of \$16 million would cut ULM's budget by 20%. Currently salaries are 75%. ...
- The primary goal is to decide what we can afford. We have to operate with resources given us, or we will cease to exist. The budget cuts are not going to be fun. Programs will be cut. Personnel will be released. Programs that have not grown will be cut to keep programs that student desire. It is not realistic for the state to increase our funding unless the state funding business model changes.
- In the past, part of the issue was to stabilize enrollment numbers. Students were not dropped for non-payment, thus inflating enrollment numbers. In December 2010, President Bruno stopped this process.
- Last year, the number of freshman increased. This year's freshmen class numbers were better. Realistically, the fall 2012 class was the first class that President Bruno had an impact on. He is looking for new ways to impact incoming enrollments (e.g. with fees and etc).

- Due to humanistic issues, they want to talk to those who will be "released" sooner rather than later. He is going to work with HR. He is concerned that if the cuts do not happen in July, that they will happen in December.
- The question was posed [during these strategic planning meetings]. "What can we control?" We can recruit more, and we can retain more. We can't get our own insurance. We can't raise tuition. We can't cut services. We need to change how we do things and how we deliver our service.

Q&A Period

- Will the Program Prioritization Matrix from last fall be used?
Some of that may have changed. Some programs have grown. Some programs cannot accept all the students, e.g. Nursing and Health Sciences.
- What can be done about the 6 month contracts for instructors?
It is true that the instructors carry the load of the SCHs on campus, but the tenure track and the tenured professors are more difficult to release. ULM can continue on as we are currently doing 4-6 months, or we can have the tenured professors teach the intro courses.
- Can we change programs into new programs that are in demand?
ULM has the least number of new programs in the system. The day of "give me more time to show I can build a program" is over.
- Are we in exigency since we are using restricted funds?
The system says we cannot declare exigency yet. Two campuses are on or on the brink of exigency for one more year, not us yet. We need to stabilize. If we keep going like we are, we will perish. The board does not want to let us go into exigency.
The state representatives have a sense of urgency to come up with the contingencies by the end of June so they can let people know to make arrangements for health insurance and other issues. The constitutional close of business is June 6 for the state legislature. But the state budget is not done until the governor signs it or it goes into effect on August 15.
The lowest cut we are facing is \$1.9 million. Considering each employee on campus makes an average of \$70,000 to \$75,000 factoring in salary and benefits, a \$15 million cut divided by \$70,000 is a lot of people. [This is approximately 214 people.]
- What about college consolidation?
College consolidation is on the table. He's asking for input from everyone...
- Can we increase enrollments in the programs that are turning people away? Or fudge a little on accreditation?
Nursing cannot handle any more in a class. They are struggling with the current class sizes.
The Grad Act has not been revised with new numbers to consider the recent financial hardship.
- Is athletics on the table?
Yes.
- If class sizes are drastically increased, we need time to rewrite our lectures and to include new changes to accommodate this change.
We have been operating on hope. We do not want to set false alarms. We also do not want to spook the students. It is frustrating. No business can operate like this. We are living in a false world. We have been looking for local support. He has been seeking a local tax to benefit the university. Chase and CenturyLink understand the impact of ULM on the community. Think if you live in Monroe or West Monroe, would you want to live here without ULM?
Everyone has to be an ambassador for the university. Consider the status as a Charter University. We would have more control over tuition. We could have more community support. Walsworth was very enthusiastic about the idea of a charter university.
- We [the faculty] are our own worst enemy. We are picking up the work and doing more. Do we have advocates in the community?

Stuart met with the governor. Joe Farr understands more about the situation. Everyone has been rallying, but it may be too late.

Baton Rouge has not seen “blood in the streets.” ULM has had a lot of retirements and people leaving to cover the cuts. We have not had “many” firings. This year’s mid-year cut was covered by the positions that were vacated between July and December 2012. We can’t get 20 million dollars from the private sector. Most people want to earmark donations.

- Do they need blood in the streets?
The students should complain that their tuition is not being used to educate them.
- It would be helpful to make a list of what we can and cannot do (when talking to non-university people about the situation at ULM). People are scared to speak out.
President Bruno wants people to be honest with him. He understands frustration and fear. He wants to encourage the faculty to have coffee with him to vent. Please send him, the VPs, the Deans feedback with ideas how to fix things.
- We need to alert the programs that are being cut.
There will be blood. The Gen Ed programs may need to be revisited. There is a fine line between (1) protecting people and making them frustrated and (2) telling people and creating hysteria.
- I want the names of who will be cut. Telling people sooner is better than later.
President Bruno wants to tell those on the list who may be cut to aid them in making arrangements for health insurance.

The budget continued to be discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Cumming Strunk, Faculty Senate Secretary-Elect