

Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, September 19, 2013
Student Center 160, ULM Campus
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

* indicates excused absence; Name/Name indicates Moved/Seconded
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Senators Present: Anderson, Caldwell, Craighead, Cumming Strunk, Dagley, Frye, Giles, Gissendanner, Hill, Jackson, Lasiter, Niemla, Pope, Stockley, Sylvester, Vangelisti, Wiedemeier, White

Senators Absent: Bray*, Wilson*

Handouts circulated: Electronically circulated documents included the Agenda for FS September 19 meeting, the Draft of FS Minutes for the August 29, 2013 meeting, and the Draft of ULM FS Memorandum.

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

Secretary Cumming Strunk **called the roll**.

The **Minutes of the FS August 29** meeting were **reviewed**. Minor changes were noted. The motion to accept the minutes with minor changes was passed and with one abstention (Craighead/Jackson).

Agenda Items:

- The motion to **accept the appointed senators** passed (Sylvester/Giles).
- The **Executive Committee** members reported on their meeting with VPAA Dr. Pani and the Deans Council. Much discussion ensued.
 - Alternate reorganization plans were mentioned. The intention of this reorganization is to cut administrative structure instead of faculty or programs.
 - The committee lobbied for the Graduate School to be independent of the Colleges.
 - The figure of cutting \$1.5 million from the budget is a goal set by Dr. Bruno.
 - The reorganization is set to begin on January 1, 2014 to realize the savings as soon as possible. The first year there will be \$300,000 in savings. In recurring years, it will be as much as \$900,000.
- No reports from the Faculty Advisory Committee, the Academic Standards Committee, the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, and the Elections Committee.
- Faculty Welfare Committee is still working on the **Faculty Survey** from March 2013.
 - A majority of the answers presented no conclusion to a specific question. The spread of answers from “strongly agree” to “strongly disagree” was evenly spread. In other words, this is “it presented a large uncertainty.” The committee has been charged to analyze the data further. The faculty should be presented with the results.
- The Faculty Handbook Subcommittee is still **updating the Faculty Handbook**.

- The **ad Hoc Committee Selection Committee** has filled all the open seats on requested committees.
- Unfinished business
 - The **Faculty Workload Ad Hoc Committee** members discussed their recent meeting.
 - The committee is working from a report created in 2009. Many of the items were unfinished in this report. The charge of the current committee is to rewrite the Faculty Handbook policy on Faculty Workload to make it more accurate and effective.
 - President Anderson discussed the state of Science labs citing Physics labs as . For example, some Physics labs run 3 hours long. The set-up per lab takes 3 faculty members 90 minutes. Then there is grading that takes place afterward. The students receive 1 credit hour. Currently, the faculty member receives 3 credit hours. Suggestions were made to give the faculty member 1.5 credit hours. This would effectively increase that faculty member's workload by 25% and effectively decrease the quality of the labs.
 - Senator Vangelisti is collecting data in VAPA. For accreditation, Music faculty members are supposed to receive 2/3 hour credit per lesson. Suggestions were made to give 1/3 hours credit per lesson. Also in Art, studio Art classes involve 1 hour of lecture and 3 hours in the studio for 3 credits for the faculty member.
 - Senator Craighead is collecting accreditation issues in Health Sciences.
 - Concerns were raised that those without strict accreditation standards will bear the brunt of the workload increases.
 - The **Administrative Structure Ad Hoc Committee** members discussed their recent meeting. The draft is in a state of flux.
- New business
 - The **Academic Affairs Talk** on September 5 was discussed.
 - Senators questioned if such a massive overhaul of the administrative structure involving changes to Banner, moving costs, changing stationery, and many more "forgotten costs" is worth less than 1% of the budget. Clearly, these extra costs have not been fully considered.
 - **Interfaith**, a Community Action Group, is willing to work with us help explain the impact of the budget cuts on Higher Education and on ULM, in particular, to the community.
 - President Anderson plans to invite them to present at the October meeting.
 - **Community Involvement**
 - Note classified staff have restrictions on their 1st Amendment rights due to their employment.
 - The issue of faculty freedom of speech is very complicated. The Supreme Court ruled that any public employee may not protected by 1st Amendment rights, but Federal Courts have recognized faculty members' "academic freedom."¹

- A motion was made to consider taking action (such as a Town Hall Meeting) in our own favor (Giles/Frye). This passed.
- A motion was made to make a friendly amendment to advocate for Higher Ed in Louisiana as in all the institutions, not just ULM (Hill/Dagley). This passed.
- Louisiana has cut Higher Education by 17% in the last year while almost every other state has increased their funding.² The ULS Board has lobbied the legislature on Higher Education's behalf.
- The community is unaware of the connection between the local economy and ULM or CenturyLink and ULM. We need to educate the community more about these connections.
- Perhaps, we should have an external website to house resolutions and other information called SaveLAHigherEd, like the SaveLouis website.
- The **ULM Faculty Senate Memorandum**³
 - The motion to vote on a memo similar to the one presented via Moodle passed (Hill/Gissendanner). President Anderson noted he would make the minor changes suggested and post the "final form" on Moodle by the end of Friday, September 20. Then the vote on Moodle would be open until Monday, September 23.⁴

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Cumming Strunk, Faculty Senate Secretary

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¹ See the Supreme Court ruling *Garcetti v. Ceballos* 2006 and <http://www.lcwlegal.com/85463> for more information.

² See page 4 of <http://www.aascu.org/policy/publications/aascu-special-reports/StateOutlookJuly2013.pdf>.

³ During our special online meeting on September 6-8, 2013 conducted via Moodle, senators decided to favor the Memorandum over the Resolution posted. Many edits followed on the wiki on Moodle. The Memorandum presented as an electronic handout for this meeting had been worked on by many of the senators.

⁴ As of Monday, September 23 at 8:30pm, 17 of the 20 senators marked that they had read the memo and were participating in the vote on the memo (establishing quorum). The vote to accept the memo in final form passed. President Anderson emailed the memo to Dr. Pani on Monday, September 23 at 9:20pm and mailed a hard copy to Dr. Pani also. This memo can be found at <http://www.ulm.edu/facultysenate/documents/2013-2014/ulm-faculty-senate-memorandum09-23-2013.pdf>