

Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, February 20, 2014
Student Center 160, ULM Campus
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

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

Senators Present: Anderson, Craighead, Dagley, Frye, Giles, Gissendanner, Niemla, Stockley, Cumming Strunk, Sylvester, Vangelisti, White

Senators Absent: Bray, Caldwell, Hill*, Jackson, Lasiter*, Wiedemeier*, Wilson*

Handouts circulated: Electronically circulated documents included the Agenda for FS February 20 meeting, the Revised Draft of FS Minutes for the November 14, 2013 meeting, the Draft of FS Minutes for the January 16, 2014 meeting, and SCH Data.

President Anderson **called the meeting to order**, at 12:33 p.m.

Secretary Cumming Strunk **called the roll**.

The **Minutes from the FS meeting on November 14, 2013** were reviewed. Minor changes were suggested. The motion to accept these minutes passed (Giles/Stockley). The **Minutes from the FS meeting on January 16, 2014** were reviewed. A few suggestions were noted. Since we did not have quorum on January 16, these minutes do not need to be approved and will be posted after making the corrections.

Agenda Items:

- Most of the discussion of the **Executive Committee** meeting with VPAA Dr. Pani and the Deans Council was deferred to later in the meeting.
 - There are so many laws in the Louisiana state legislature and constitutional changes to be made before an university can become a charter university. This is at least a few years away.
 - The Medical Laboratory Sciences program was supposed to be cut to save \$300,000. The Board of Regents did not approve this termination request. VPAA Dr. Pani said that another program will not be cut to make up the difference. Right now, future staff and faculty eliminations are not being considered.
- No reports from the Faculty Advisory Committee, the Academic Standards Committee, the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, and the Fiscal Affairs Committee.
- The **Elections Committee** has a list of all the people who are considered “general faculty.” With the reorganization, the number of senators has increased to 21 from 20. The Elections need to be concluded by March 17. Nominations must be collected 2 weeks prior to the election.
- The **Faculty Handbook** changes including the previously approved office hour policy and addition of the Foundation Awards for Excellence for Faculty policy was approved (Sylvester/Stockley).

- **New business**

- Information about the Medical Laboratory Sciences program (MLS) was presented.
 - At the January 22nd meeting, the Board of Regents tabled ULM's request to cut the MLS program. The Board requested that ULM work with local companies to join in partnerships to fund the program. ULM administrators may rescind their request to eliminate the MLS program if there is a substantial commitment from the business partners for a five year period.
 - From <http://regents.louisiana.gov/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/Board-Minutes-2014-0122.pdf> page 9, the official motion of the Board of Regents was *"On motion of Regent Levy, seconded by Regent Wiley, the Board voted unanimously to adopt the recommendation of the Academic and Student Affairs Committee to defer the B.S. in Medical Laboratory Sciences at the University of Louisiana at Monroe termination request for 60 days, until the March meeting so that advocates could organize a specific proposal to keep the program viable."*
 - There has been a grass roots movement from the medical laboratory community that has been supported by Board members Mr. Joe Farr and Mr. Robert Levy.
 - Drs. Bruno and Pani requested a meeting with the CEO's of local companies who hire our MLS graduates to ask for monetary commitments. The MLS faculty members were not invited in these discussions. Mr. Farr attended this meeting. The CEO's asked for hard numbers to back up ULM's case.
 - The budget of the MLS program sometimes includes the salaries of the 4 full-time faculty members and 2 part-time adjuncts and indirect costs (including keeping the lights on, paying the campus police, and paying a portion of administrators' salaries). The courses are taught by 3 full-time faculty members and 2 part-time adjuncts.
 - A case was made the cost of the MLS program after salaries minus the tuition revenue and the laboratory fees is \$28,000. If a new proposed fee is approved, the cost would be down to \$14,000.
 - ULM must submit their agenda in 2 weeks to the Board of Regents for their meeting on March 26.
 - The consensus of the FS was that we need to push for the real budget numbers and all the facts. We need more transparency. Facts would be communicated much more clearly if the VPAA, the dean, the assistant dean, and MLS program director met concurrently.
 - Conclusion: the motion to request that VPAA Dr. Pani come to the FS to show us the hard numbers passed with one abstention (Frye/Vangelisti).
- VPAA Dr. Pani has decided to increase the number of SCH by 20% per faculty member per year.
 - This will be done university-wide. ULM's current average SCH production per faculty member per year is 606. The formula funding is based on an average SCH

of 780. With an increase of 20%, our average SCH production will be 727. Since 2008, the highest SCH rate for ULM has been 631.

- It was commented that in the corporate world, an increase of productivity by 3-4% is massive.
- The administration hopes that moving the online courses to adjuncts will increase revenue. eULM will be staffing the online sections. VPAA Dr. Pani estimates that an increase in SCHs of 20% could increase the state funding by 20% which may increase our funding by \$5 million. The administration are also looking to increase face-to-face efficiencies and improving the passing rates.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:59 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Cumming Strunk, Faculty Senate Secretary

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