

Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, March 20, 2014
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, Bray, Craighead, Dagley, Giles, Gissendanner, R. Hill, Niemla, Stockley, Cumming Strunk, Sylvester, Vangelisti, White, Wiedemeier

Senators Absent: Caldwell, Frye, A. Hill*, Lasiter, Wilson*

Handouts circulated: Electronically circulated documents included the Agenda for FS March 20 meeting, the Draft of the FS Minutes for February 20, 2014 meeting, the FS Minutes for the March 6, 2014 special meeting, scans of the handouts from the March 6, 2014 special meeting (including the Annual SCH production by FT-faculty and the Percentage of FT-faculty producing over 780 SCH/year), and 2 slightly different financial analyses of the MLS program.

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

Secretary Cumming Strunk **called the roll**. There was a motion to accept Dr. Ronald Hill as an appointed senator for the College of Pharmacy (Giles/Sylvester). The motion passed.

The **Minutes from the FS meeting on February 20, 2014** needed only a few revisions. The motion to accept the minutes passed (Gissendanner/Sylvester). The **Minutes from the Special FS meeting on March 6, 2014** do not need approval and will be posted.

Agenda Items:

- The **Executive Committee** reported on their meeting with VPAA Dr. Pani and the Deans Council.
 - VPAA Dr. Pani has requested the FS and the deans with making **changes to the tenure and promotion procedures** to reflect the new college reorganization. The previous process was to conduct reviews of the candidate's portfolio at each level: (1) department committee, (2) department head, (3) college committee, (4) college dean, (5) VPAA, and then (6) president. VPAA Dr. Pani requested that the FS look into decreasing the number of levels, perhaps by combining the department and college committees into a school committee at the first level. President Anderson charged the Faculty Welfare Committee to look into this.
 - Efforts to **save the MLS program** are not going well. A majority of the companies have pulled out of discussions with ULM regarding funding. The administration is currently working on other plans. Pressure still needs to be applied to the companies to keep this program. This seems like a contradiction to the WISE Plan that is supposed to increase funding to such a high-demand major.

- The administration is looking to **increase the SCH production** starting in Fall 2014. They will be looking to increase class sizes in online courses, create more efficient class offerings, and reduce DFW rates in certain classes. Senators raised questions about these issues.
 1. Are there national SCH standards that are the basis of these goals?
 2. What about the SCH rates for LSU or LSUAM?
 3. When are SCHs counted? Day 1, Day 15, or the last day of classes?
 4. How do we keep DFW rates and retention rates up while dealing with larger class sizes?
 5. The Minority Retention Committee suggested a more centralized tutoring center where students can get help with all subjects that is always open. What work has been done on that?
 6. Student Success Center is only collecting anecdotal data on tutoring sessions. How do we find out what techniques are helping the students?
 7. Do certain areas like mathematics and chemistry need to be allowed to have higher DFW rates?
- There was some discussion about looking at **DFW rates by faculty member**. There are no nuances considered, e.g. time of day, level of class, or subject matter. Questions were raised if these statistics were in fact correct. Others saw this as an opportunity to help these faculty members improve their pedagogical techniques. It was noted that considering we were given aggregate DFW rate data by VPAA Dr. Pani, it appears that there is an issue on the student side with some of these classes.
- President Anderson stated that a letter to VPAA Dr. Pani will be written to address these questions regarding the SCH rates, the DFW rates, and the impact of tutoring on campus.
- No reports from the Faculty Advisory Committee, the Academic Standards Committee, the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, the Faculty Welfare Committee, and the Fiscal Affairs Committee.
- The **Elections Committee** reported that only the College of Business & Social Sciences will have an election. The election will be open on March 24 and be open for one week. The other colleges had no extra nominees so will not have elections. There are still openings in those colleges.
 - This begs the question. Does the FS have a PR problem? What can FS do to encourage general faculty members to run?
 - A suggestion was given that may improve nominations. When nominations are requested, the names of sitting senators of his or her college should be listed along with the number of open seats, instead of providing a webpage with the information.
- **Unfinished business**
 - VPAA Dr. Pani is still working on the **Faculty Workload Policy**.
 - In Interfaith business:
 - On March 22 from 8:00am to 10:00am, there will be a \$5 **Pancake Fundraiser** for Interfaith at Applebee's, 4911 Pecanland Mall Dr., Monroe, LA. See Senator

Niemla or Dr. Bette Kaufmann for tickets and/or flyers. President Anderson will be busing tables.

- On April 4, Interfaith leaders, Dr. Bette Kaufmann, and President Anderson will be in Baton Rouge attending the new legislative session.
- Senator Niemla pleaded for web presence (or at least flyers) to inform the community about the need in higher education.

- **New business**

- The city of Monroe is considering ULM as a site for a new convention center. Both Fant-Ewing Coliseum and another site by the tennis courts and the track are being considered.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:43 pm (Stockley).

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Cumming Strunk, Faculty Senate Secretary

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