

Minutes of Faculty Senate Called Meeting
Thursday, March 6, 2014
Chemistry & Natural Science Building 101, ULM Campus
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

* indicates excused absence; Name/Name indicates Moved/Seconded
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Senators Present: Anderson, Craighead, Frye, Hill, Lasiter, Niemla, Stockley, Cumming Strunk, Sylvester, Vangelisti, Wiedemeier

Senators Absent: Bray*, Caldwell*, Dagley*, Giles*, Gissendanner*, White*, Wilson*

Handouts circulated: Electronically circulated documents included the Agenda for FS March 6 meeting and SCH Data.

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

Secretary Cumming Strunk **called the roll**.

Agenda Items:

• **Report on Activities with Interfaith**

- On March 22 from 8:00am to 10:00am, there will be a \$5 Pancake Fundraiser at Applebee's, 4911 Pecanland Mall Dr., Monroe, LA. See Senator Niemla or Dr. Bette Kaufmann for tickets and/or flyers.
- On April 4, Interfaith leaders and President Anderson will be in Baton Rouge attending the new legislative session.
- On April 24 from 7:00pm to 8:30pm, the Interfaith Strategic Team has scheduled a Higher Education Funding Civic Academy at St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Monroe.

• **Special Guest: VPAA Dr. Pani**

- Dr. Pani complimented President Anderson on his guest column about the state of higher education in Louisiana in the News Star which can be found here.
http://www.thenewsstar.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2014303020018&nlick_check=1
- Nearly an hour was spent talking about the decision to close the Medical Laboratory Sciences program (MLS).
 - Dr. Pani said that the decision to close this program has never been about the quality of the program. The administration is looking to decrease its reliance on reserves. The administration saw cutting this program as a way to save some money without losing a large number of students.
 - The Board of Supervisors approved the program termination. Advocates came to the Board of Regents meeting and the request for program termination was tabled and requested if we could come up with partnerships with local companies to keep the program.

- After talking to local companies who employ MLS graduates, the MLS program coordinator found that the demand for Medical Laboratory Scientists is for 40 new hires per year looking the number of positions filled in the last 3 years and expected retirements. Currently, there are 9 seniors and 13 juniors in the program. So there is room for growth.
- In discussions with the faculty, they are confident that they can handle 20 students per class with their 3 full-time faculty members. So a total of 40 students in the professional program. If they get a fourth full-time faculty member, they are confident that they can handle 40 students per class, yielding a total of 80 students in the professional program. This will not present an accreditation issue.
- Considering the revenue from tuition, course fees, laboratory fees, and the 38% of the formula funding from the state, and the costs of faculty salaries, their health care, and laboratory costs, after the program is closed in 2015-2016 the university will save \$280,000.
- Question: One of the sources of anxiety was that the net cost of this program included support for “indirect costs” such as the computing center, the campus police, the lights, the physical plant, the janitorial staff, etc. Are these truly necessary in the program costs? Is it fair to charge the “indirect costs” to the program costs? Without MLS, will ULM decrease janitors for example?
Answer: Dr. Pani replied that typically, 55% of the tuition money is dedicated to running the program and 45% of the tuition money is dedicated to running the university (the “indirect costs”).
- The administration looked into how many students would leave ULM without this program. The consensus was that about half of the pre-MLS students would leave. So the only lost revenue would about half the current tuition that is brought in. MLS faculty explain that at least half of the students have a previous degree or a Master’s degree. So a majority of their students may not be a typical pre-MLS student before they apply for the professional program. In other words, these students would simply not come here.
- The MLS faculty displayed their version of these budget numbers. There are clearly some discrepancies between Dr. Pani’s budget numbers and the MLS faculty’s budget numbers.
- Question: Is it possible to increase the fees on the MLS classes?
Answer: Increasing student fees goes through the same process as increasing tuition. Care must be taken to not price the students out of the program.
- The administration has asked local businesses to support the program up to \$280,000 per year with a possible revision of the request after the 14th day rosters are in.
- Question: Isn’t our mission from the state that we produce high demand graduates? Why isn’t MLS being expanded?

Answer: If this model to partner with local businesses works, perhaps it will be used for other programs.

- Since our program has a highly integrated laboratory component to their lectures (e.g. 1/3 lab and 2/3 lecture or vice versa), collaborating with other programs at the other state university such as Louisiana Tech University or McNeese University would be difficult. The state can produce enough graduates to cover the need.

- Question: What are the possible outcomes?

Answer: If the community does not support this program, it could possibly be cut. Dr. Pani has directed the deans to continue to look at programs with low enrollments and low SCH production.

- The discussion shifted to Dr. Pani's goal of increasing average SCH production by 20% per faculty member.

- Dr. Pani has gathered information from IPEDS (<http://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/>) which is a post-secondary educational database to find the average SCH production per faculty member on the 8 other UL universities.

- In 2012-2013, ULM had the second lowest average SCH production per faculty member of the 9 universities at 606. The State Formula Funding is based on 780 SCHs per faculty member. An increase of 20% average SCH production per faculty member will bring our average up to 727.

- In 2012-2013, \$750,000 was paid in Part-Time/Overload.

- ULM has 350 FTEs (full-time employees) in 2012-2013. Taking the total SCH production dividing by 780, the state expects us to have 272 FTEs. Increasing the SCH production should help us to decrease Part-Time/Overload and serve more students.

- Question: How can we increase SCH production numbers when some of our programs have tight restrictions on class size?

Answer: The burden will not be equitable. Perhaps, new ways and new models to teach courses will allow for larger class sizes. The scheduling of the large classrooms has not always been done efficiently. Online course will likely grow to at least 50 students.

- Question: When will the Faculty Workload Policy be finished?

Answer: Dr. Pani is working on this. He has not yet looked at the Collaboration and the Program Review documents. He needs the deans and the school directors to work on what is possible.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 2:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Cumming Strunk, Faculty Senate Secretary

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