

Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, April 17, 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, Caldwell, Craighead, Dagley, Gissendanner, A. Hill, R. Hill, Lasiter, Niemi, Stockley, Cumming Strunk, Sylvester, Vangelisti, White, Wiedemeier

Senators Absent: Bray, Frye*, Giles, Wilson*

Handouts circulated: Electronically circulated documents included the Agenda for FS April 17 meeting, the Draft of the FS Minutes for March 20, 2014 meeting, and a report from the Elections Committee. Documents circulated as a handout by ULM President Nick Bruno included ULS Implementation Rates for FY 2015, NE Louisiana Demographic Comparison Table, and an article from US News titled “Education Leaders Say It’s Time to Rethink What a College Degree Promises.”

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

Faculty Senate Secretary Cumming Strunk **called the roll**.

President Anderson **recognized the contributions** this year of Secretary Cumming Strunk.

The agenda was suspended to allow **special guest, ULM President Bruno** to address the FS.

- He discussed the **WISE Plan** and its implications for the University.
- The **budget** may be stable for 2014/2015. We are looking to be funded more equitably by the state. There may be some money for one-time awards, but not for recurring raises.
- **Recruitment** numbers look good. In Fall 2013, we tripled the number of students with a 30 or more ACT. The Fall 2014 numbers look a little higher.
 - The System Dashboard has all the data on recruitment and graduation rates.
 - Go to www.ulsystem.net/sas .
- ULM is working on **Retention** including (1) improving processes (e.g. paying bills, registering for classes), (2) academics (e.g. looking at pedagogy and student preparation), and (3) admission standards.
- It looks as though the **Medical Laboratory Sciences program will continue**. A group of companies has decided to fund them for 2 years. The program still needs to increase their student numbers. The MLS faculty are going to have to go into the high schools to recruit future majors.

The **Minutes from the March 20 FS meeting** were reviewed. The motion to accept the minutes with a few adjustments passed with one abstention (Stockley/Sylvester).

Agenda Items:

- No reports from the Executive Committee, the Faculty Advisory Council, the Academic Standards Committee, the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, the Faculty Welfare Committee, and the Fiscal Affairs Committee.
- The **Elections Committee** reported on the results of the election.
 - Senator Niemla explained there are two senators from the Department of Mathematics since the interest for nominations was low. This led to concerns of why there are a low number of nominees. There are still 2 seats open in the College of Arts, Education, and Sciences and 2 in the College of Health and Pharmaceutical Sciences.
 - Senator A. Hill remarked that the FS used to publish a regular publication with major issues concerning the faculty and that the administration used to request senators not have to teach during FS meeting time slots or to allow them to change their schedule if elected. There is currently no evidence of administrative encouragement of Faculty Senate service.
- **Unfinished business**
 - In Interfaith business:
 - President Anderson is going to Baton Rouge on Monday, April 21 to observe the legislative session. He made the trip on Thursday, April 10 and there were no legislators there.
 - The FS is still allies with Interfaith, but we are not members. Kim Golden is no longer the facilitator of this group.
 - A review of the tenure and promotion process was tabled until the next meeting.
- **New business**
 - Senators were upset about the small set of offerings of summer classes. A call was made to ask for data from the last 2-3 summers to find out the true profitability of these summer classes.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm (Wiedemeier).

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Cumming Strunk, Faculty Senate Secretary

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