

Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting
February 18, 2016
Hemphill 124, ULM Campus
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

* indicates excused absence; Name/Name indicates Moved/Seconded
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Senators Present: Jeff Anderson, Sandy Bailey, Debra Craighead, Robert Eisenstadt, Gene Eller, Karen Frye, Chris Gissendanner, David Hare, Cecil Hutto, Faisal Kaleem, Kioh Kim, Jessica Lasiter, Heather Pilcher, Savannah Posey, Josh Stockley, Claire Vangelisti

Senators Absent: *Emad El-Giar, *Matt Lovett, *Sami Nazzal, John Nelson Pope, *Paul Weidemeier

I. Welcome

II. Roll call

III. Regular business suspended as we had 1 guest: Sheau Yun Choo

A. Ms. Choo described changing the hosting company for moodlerooms to ethink. No cost to ULM but they provide 24/7 customer support. This will be seamless and gradual, nothing different on basic layout or functions. Two weeks prior to May semester the courses will be accessible to instructors. Site backups to occur at the end of April.

Senator Bailey inquired as to how smooth the transition will occur as Nursing has computerized testing May 2nd. The migration date of end of April has been proposed to administration, not approved yet. Until the final migration occurs, both versions will be running concurrently, so this will not disrupt nursing testing final.

Two others guests appeared at the open forum FS meeting: Kelli Cole-English Department and with Assessment Office and Richard Seiler, from Staff Senate.

B. Approval of minutes from 1/21/16 was tabled (Frye/Anderson).

IV. Committee Reports:

A. Senator Frye recapped Ex Comm meeting. Lunch was eliminated due to budgetary concern. The Faculty Survey was distributed to the Deans with a request for endorsement. Lots of discussion ensued involving pros and cons of survey and its questions and the Survey was brought back to Faculty Welfare Committee, Senator Eisenstadt Chair, for modification.

B. Academic Standards: No ongoing activity. Discussion of Gen Ed Core Curriculum.

C. Constitution and By-Laws: By laws- discussed later in meeting

D. Faculty Welfare: Made minor changes to Faculty Survey involving 2 questions: 1) Confidence about leadership/administration given budgetary climate; and 2) not using word “confidence” as it could imply as no confidence vote, so other word to be used like “faith”, ‘Trust’. The Committee will keep FS informed on progress.

E. Fiscal Affairs: Senate approved 200 million in Rainy Day funds

F. Elections Committee: Later

V. Unfinished Business

A. Foundation Awards- new award, Research Award, for Research/Scholarship is being discussed to allow faculty from diverse disciplines, e.g., Humanities, to compete with basic science proposals which often come from Pharmacy. The FS committee of Academic Standards or an Ad Hoc committee will develop criteria. It was decided the Ad Hoc committee will proceed now through rest of semester, meeting by email.

B. By laws- The change involved moving from a college-based structure to school-based left some schools unrepresented. 1 Senator per 20 faculty in school is in effect. (Frye/Lasiter). Passed. It was motioned the FS President can appoint at least 3 Senators to a Standing Committee. Article VI, Section 1. (Anderson/Vangelisti). Passed.

“College” should be changed to “School”.

“Chairman” changed to “Chair” (Anderson/Kim). Passed.

VI. New Business

A. Consultant was brought into visit with program coordinators and administration to recommend how to better market ULM programs, especially graduated programs online. Stackable 8 week semesters were brought up as a best practices approach. Questions as to what will be in the report and what steps will be taken by administration to address are current. Cost is unknown and it is believed this is part of an ongoing strategic plan.

B. General Education Assessment Committee- Senator Anderson was informed by VPAA office that Several Senators need to be involved or Alma will find a replacement for 1 on leave. Email Chris if interested, as we all agreed representation is important.

C. Open Floor to 2 guests-Staff Senator Seiler inquired us to where to copy room from Stubbs 107 was now located. He was informed it moved to Rm 266 Strauss.

Kelli Cole reported on a staff senate budget meeting yesterday. 4.1 million deficit, 1.4 in hiring freezes and TOPS reduction. Revenue bills must be considered in Special Session; not after Session ends in March, unless another Special Session is called. The focus of our communications on the importance of higher education should be on House. FS encourages all faculty to reach out to their legislators, tell your story on why higher education is critical for this area, and use your own personal email as a constituent. A Resolution was drafted and sent to Raollo, Reneau, Hoffman, Riser, Thompson which notes acknowledgement by Staff and Faculty Senates of ULM.

VII. Adjournment 1:55 pm (Frye/Anderson)

Respectfully submitted,
Senator Karen Frye
Faculty Senate Secretary