

Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, November 19, 2015
Hemphill 124, ULM Campus
12:30 – 1:59 p.m.

<p>* indicates excused absence; Name/Name indicates Moved/Seconded</p>
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Senators Present: Jeffrey Anderson, Emad El-Giar, Christopher Gissendanner, David Hare, Cecil Hutto, Faisal Kaleem, Kioh Kim, Matt Lovett, Sami Nazzal, Heather Pilcher, Savannah Posey, Claire Vangelisti, Paul Wiedemeier

Senators Absent: * Debra Craighead, * Robert Eisenstadt, * Karen Frye, Edward Eller, *Jessica Lasiter, John-Nelson Pope, *Joshua Stockley

- I. Welcome
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of 9/24/2015 and 10/22/15 minutes – Approved without discussion (Hare/Kaleem)
- IV. Committee Reports
 - A. Executive Committee Meeting (11/17/2015) – Chris Gissendanner
 - i. Faculty Handbook
 - 1. Faculty Handbook changes discussed with Dr. Pani. Basically, all changes were approved, and there was one recommendation for additional change. A handbook should be up for faculty soon.
 - 2. In spring, Dr. Dolechek will be the new fellow working for the VPAA and with the senate. There will be work on revising the handbook with the senate at that time.
 - 3. The importance of shared governance has been communicated with the VPAA.
 - ii. Athletic Counselors in Moodle
 - 1. The policy of allowing athletic counselors access to Moodle classes has been cancelled. Counselors will now contact professors directly. There may be a course-specific allowance of counselor access later in time.
 - 2. Situation should be monitored.
 - iii. Faculty Workload Policy
 - 1. 2013 committee's recommendation appears to have been scrapped.
 - 2. New committee will be discussed later.
 - 3. Discussion
 - a. Hare asked whether eULM and dual enrollment would be overload classes.
 - i. Gissendanner stated that we do not yet know but recognized the importance of the answer.
 - iv. Research Corporation

1. Would be independent entity acting as research office of university.
 - a. Research and grants would go through it.
 - b. Would be self-funded while using existing staff with the exception of a new director.
2. Administration is moving forward with it.
 - a. Director's job description has been crafted.
3. Issues will be how it will impact policy relating to indirect costs of grants (negotiated indirect cost rates are strict for some grants) and the person who will serve as director (entrepreneurial rather than researcher).
 - a. Research Council is working on this as well
4. Discussion
 - a. Vangelisti brought up the administration using Georgia Tech as a model.
 - i. Gissendanner sees potential improvements as well as problems.
 - b. El-Giar asked about benefits of a Research Corporation.
 - i. Gissendanner pointed out the need for a Research Director, which ULM has not had for a long time.
 - ii. Gissendanner summarized other benefits as provided by the VPAA
- v. Budget
 1. Nothing known for sure
- vi. New Overload Policy
 1. Emphasizes faculty have more jobs than teaching.
 - a. Limits instructors to two overloads per year and professors to one per year.
- B. Academic Standards – Jeffrey Anderson
 - i. Humanities Interdisciplinary Course
 1. Jeffrey Anderson read the following into the record: “On the afternoon of November 3, 2015, the School of Humanities met with the Vice President for Academic affairs. The major topic of discussion was the proposed interdisciplinary Humanities class scheduled to run as a pilot in spring 2016. During the discussion, Dean Lemoine and Dr. Pani stated that the possibility of making the course a Core Curriculum requirement is no longer being considered. Dean Lemoine elaborated in a conversation with me later that changes like that would need to be decided by a General Education Committee and should not happen otherwise. Also, during the meeting with the VPAA, Dean Lemoine mentioned that the Literature requirement currently in place would not be removed.”
 - a. The committee recommends plans for the course be monitored but that no resolution be passed.
 - ii. Discussion

1. Expressed concern with the course.
 2. Wiedemeier asked whether the General Education Committee that would approve changes to the Core Curriculum would be at the university level or college.
 - a. Anderson did not know but understood it would be newly created for the university level.
 3. Questions were raised about the unclear nature of how the course will be run in regard to number of professors/instructors involved, graduate assistant numbers, and other aspects of the course.
- C. Constitution and By-Laws – None
- D. Faculty Welfare – None
- E. Fiscal Affairs – None
- F. Elections Committee – None
- V. Unfinished Business
- A. Faculty Handbook
- i. Changes approved by VPAA Pani
 - ii. Pani requests change stating that “the Faculty Senate and Academic Affairs share responsibility for maintaining and overseeing” the contents of the handbook rather than the current version that places the responsibility only with the Faculty Senate
 1. Discussion
 - a. Gissendanner believes that the change in wording is consistent with the rest of the handbook
 - b. Nazzal asked whether the VPAA could make changes without the approval of the Faculty Senate.
 - i. Gissendanner did not think so and added that a detailed procedure for changing policy would be added.
 - c. Hare asked if one would trump the other in cases of disagreement.
 - i. Ultimately, VPAA has policy control, per Gissendanner.
 - d. Wiedemeier asked about the wording of other sections of the handbook that the Senate and VPAA approved.
 - i. Gissendanner stated the need for a process for policy change and review. A future procedure would allow proposals for change to come from the VPAA or Senate, subject to approval by the other. New change was to keep consistency with an earlier section.
 - e. Kim asked that the wording be altered to specify the “Vice President of Academic Affairs” would share responsibility with the Faculty Senate.
 2. Approved (Wiedemeier/Hutto)
- VI. New Business
- A. Workload Policy Committee

- i. In Fall 2003, an *ad hoc* committee developed a faculty workload policy draft for the VPAA
 - 1. The committee's recommendations were not adopted
 - 2. Discussion
 - a. Lovett asked about whether it was before or after restructuring.
 - i. Per Gissendanner and Vangelisti, it was before.
 - ii. Lovett stated that he was on a similar but different committee.
 - ii. The Faculty Senate was asked to develop a new committee structure.
 - 1. Gissendanner recommends faculty representatives from CAES, CBSS, CHPS, and VAPA; a representative of the Faculty Senate (if no faculty representative is already a senator); the deans of CAES, CBSS, and CHPS; and the Vice President of Academic Affairs for a total of 8 or 9 members. There would be a statement that the Faculty Senate would be responsible for selecting faculty members for the committee, but if none are found, then the responsibility would return to the VPAA.
 - a. Wiedemeier asked who would select the Faculty Senate member and whether there would be a separate Faculty Senate representative if one of the other faculty was already a senator.
 - i. Per Gissendanner, in regard to the latter, there would not.
 - 2. Approved – (Anderson/El-Giar)

B. Foundation Awards

- i. Per Gissendanner, there was a proposal for a new award for the awards in order to make the research award more available to non-science faculty.
 - 1. Wiedemeier prefers having a single research award with broader criteria for inclusivity.
 - 2. Vangelisti was pleased to have a separate creative activity award.
 - 3. Nazzal questioned who could apply and how the scholarship and research would be quantified.
- ii. Academic Standards Committee proposal was not approved
- iii. Gissendanner proposes that the criteria be reworked for the research award.
 - 1. He proposes we query our colleagues on possibilities.

C. University Week

- i. Recommendations for improving University Week were requested, especially attendance at workshops.
 - 1. Wiedemeier expressed that faculty are very busy.
 - 2. Vangelisti stated that there should be very interesting or innovative pedagogical sessions.
 - 3. Hare suggested periodic Fridays as alternatives.
 - a. Wiedemeier concurred.

VII. Adjournment – 1:59 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Senators Karen Frye & Jeffrey Anderson