

Minutes  
 ULM Faculty Senate  
 October 13, 2016  
 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm  
 Hemphill Hall Room 124

\* indicates excused absence;  
 Name/Name indicates Moved/Seconded

**Senators Present:** Jeffrey Anderson, Roger Carpenter, Melanie Chapman, Chris Gissendanner, Cecil Hutto, Kioh Kim, Tina Mullone, Heather Pilcher, Will Rogers, Vonny Thornton, Claire Vangelisti

**Senators Absent:** \*Sandy Bailey, \*Emad El-Giar, Lyle Marty Holin, David McGraw, \*Adam Pate, Savannah Posey, \*Joshua Stockley, \*Paul Wiedemeier

- I. Call to Order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes-September 15, 2016
  - A. Approved – Kim/Pilcher
- IV. Committee reports
  - A. Academic Standards – No official report
    - i. Carpenter – Plan to discussion Foundation Award plans
  - B. Constitution and By-Laws
  - C. Faculty Welfare
  - D. Fiscal Affairs
  - E. Elections Committee
  - F. Ad hoc handbook committee
- V. Unfinished Business
  - A. Faculty Senate Communications – Gissendanner
    - i. Planned to put together newsletter, but ongoing tasks prevented him
      1. Plan is to have it ready for November
    - ii. Will invite faculty and Stephen Richters in to prevent on new initiatives associated with the strategic plan
- VI. New Business
  - A. Report on deselection plan – Rogers
    - i. Plan for repurposing of library space is being reconsidered because of inadequate funds
      1. Removing up to 5,000 books per month but a bit behind schedule
    - ii. Three or four online sources being piloted
  - B. Report on Student Technology Access Committee - Kim
    - i. No competition for STAP money this year
    - ii. Plan is to introduce fourteen more smart classrooms this year

- C. AVPAA/EDRCL Position – Gissendanner
  - i. It is a 50/50 position for an Associate Vice President of Academic Affairs and Executive Director of the Research Corporation of Louisiana
    - 1. There is a board of trustees in place
    - 2. There are four applicants for the position, three internal and one external but with ULM ties
  - ii. Potential Problems
    - 1. Only three of those in attendance in the Senate had heard of the Research Corporation of Louisiana
    - 2. Specifics of organization are hazy
      - a. Interviewees are also unclear about exact purpose of organization
        - i. One interviewee emphasized getting private funds, while another emphasized federal funds
      - b. There is a need to make the organization and directors' purposes clearer to the faculty
    - 3. AVPAA will deal with SACS accreditation
      - a. This will require so much time that he or she might not be able to do the job of the EDRCL as well
        - i. Gissendanner and search committee will make an additional push for the positions to be divided with AVPAA an immediate hire and EDRCL coming later
          - 1. Recommendation will be to have an outside search for EDRCL
  - iii. Reasons for position
    - 1. Research Council and Faculty Senate have desired a contact person in charge of research, which is the purpose of the Executive Director of the Research Corporation of Louisiana
    - 2. It will facilitate the university receiving grants and other research money and helping outside organizations make contact with professors for contracting purposes
  - iv. Hiring process
    - 1. Faculty Senate Executive Committee, Research Council, RCL Board of Trustees, and groups that answer to the AVPAA/EDRCL are all interviewing
      - a. A list of pros and cons will be developed and presented to VPAA, who will make the decision
    - 2. Each person is evaluated only on application materials, not personal knowledge of applicants
    - 3. Announcement of hire to be made in November
  - v. Questions and concerns
    - 1. Will Research Fellowship be impacted?
      - a. It will not
    - 2. How will the EDRCL be explained to applicants?

- a. Idea seems to be that the ED will define it
  - i. The bylaws are very limited
3. How much money will go through the organization?
  - a. We do not know
    - i. Also do not know how university and faculty will fulfill private donations
  - b. Idea is to use it to acquire funds to support research focus – See Subpoint D
    - i. For example, land acquisition in Calhoun and plans to develop it for environmental testing will go through RCL
4. What is the model?
  - a. It is based on other institutions, such as Georgia Tech, that have research corporations
5. Is the pay for the position going to be divided between the RCL and ULM?
  - a. No, at this point, because the RCL has no money
6. Where will clerical and administrative support come from?
  - a. Assumption is from the VPAA's office
    - i. Grant writer, who will also be hired, will likely help as well
    - ii. He will check on the specifics of the plan
7. The person is likely to spend all of his or her time on administration, especially SACS accreditation
8. Emphasis on focused support is problematic for those who currently receive little or no support
  - a. Arts, humanities, and the like are not considered workforce related, per administration
    - i. Investment will be in areas that can pay back the investment
  - b. Sounds like focus on generating revenue directly and by improving ratings and thereby state funding
  - c. Should remain cautious because it will be easy to fall out of the research rating
    - i. Remaining a research institution for some time could be valuable before trying to develop a focus by which to be known
  - d. Development has catalyzed a change in thinking
9. Humanities have funding organizations as well, but it sounds as if there will be no interest in promoting grant applications in it
  - a. We are the second-to-last rank in the UL system for federal fund acquisition
10. Vangelisti – Quality support is necessary for advancement of research

D. ULM Strategic Planning – Gissendanner

- i. We are now a Carnegie Doctoral Institution
    - 1. To maintain it, more emphasis must be put on research and grants
    - 2. Also desire to move toward SREB 4-Year 2 rating
      - a. There has been a sudden shift toward research and away from teaching in the administration
  - ii. The strategic plan is being worked on again
    - 1. Changes
      - a. The vision will change to emphasize ULM being a national, not regional university
      - b. Change in focus to emphasize research
    - 2. Idea is that the university has changed and needs to change its vision
      - a. Plan will include the EDRCL position
  - iii. Focus of new research emphasis will be specific programs, not the university as a whole
    - 1. Idea of new Ph.D. programs is to make ULM unique by finding niches
      - a. Considered in light of Elevate Louisiana Initiative, which includes elimination of duplicated graduate programs
    - 2. Can mean teaching reductions, pay raises, hiring, and the like
- E. Elevate Louisiana Update from previous Academic Affairs Talk
- i. Emphasis on more-or-less the same information shared by Gissendanner in Subpoints C and D
- F. Thornton and Gissendanner – There are two vacancies in the senate that need to be filled
- VII. Adjournment – 1:28 pm