

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: 4/17/25; 12:30 pm, Chemistry and Natural Sciences Building (CNSB), Room 343 and Zoom

Roster									
Guests: senators elect: James Boldin, Megan Broadway, Nancy Carey, Holley Perry; CNSB faculty: Josh Chase, Emad El-Giar, Janna Giles, Jaleesa Harris, Pamela Martin, Meredith McKinnie, Amy Weems.									
CAES		CBSS		CHS		COP		Library	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Anderson, Jeff*	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ashworth, Burton*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Glaze, Donna	<input type="checkbox"/>	Comeau, Jill -excused	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Pilcher, Heather
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ji, Jane	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Bruce, Paul Robert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hardy, Tyesha??	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackson, Keith		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Koers, Gregory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	David, Blair	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jones, Ashanti	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tice, Hilary*		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	McGuire, Pat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Johnson, Mark	<input type="checkbox"/>	Richardson, Amanda				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Murru, Siva	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	McDaniel, Janelle*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Showers, Jo Ellen				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rowley, Brendan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tolleson, Josh	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traxler, Karen				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tresner, Clifford	<input type="checkbox"/>	Traweek, Adam						
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Wiedemeier, Paul						

X=Present; *Indicates member at large

Agenda

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of 3/20/25 FS & 3/28 Foundation Awards minutes Presidential search updates 2025-26 Committee assignments Committee reports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of a University Budget Advisory Committee Housekeeping items: 1) determine senator interest in continuing location rotation of senate meetings 2) interest in having a senate group photo taken during first fall meeting; 3) potential to rename senate president communications (Undertakings of the faculty senate)
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Call to order	Time: 12:31 Presiding: Dr. Jeffrey Anderson Recording: Dr. Hilary Tice		
Announcements	No additional information on the status of the University is known beyond what was shared by President Bruno during the University address.		
Approval of Minutes	3/20/25 FS minutes review 3/28/25 Foundation Awards Minutes review	Senate minutes: A motion to approve the senate minutes was made by Senator Tolleson & seconded by Senator David; minutes were approved unanimously. Foundation awards minutes: A request to add Senator Johnson to the attendees was made and accepted. A motion to approve the awards minutes was made by Senator Glaze & seconded by Senator McGuire; minutes were approved by a unanimous vote.	Senator Anderson or Tice will send approved minutes to Robert Glaze to post on the ULM Faculty Senate website.
Unfinished Business	NA		
New Business			
Item Description	Action		Follow Up Plan
Update on presidential search	Twenty-four total applications have been submitted. Most likely, four candidates will be on campus the week after spring break. 4/29 = opportunities to talk with the candidates will be made available, 4/30 = interviews by the search committee will be conducted. There is uncertainty whether the applications for the semi-finalists will be available for review by the university community.		
2025-26 Committee assignments -Academic Standards (AS) -Constitution and By-Laws (CBL) -Elections (E) -Faculty Welfare (FW) -Fiscal Affairs (FA) -Ad Hoc Committees: **Faculty Handbook (FH) **P&T (PT)	Senator Anderson shared a posted committee list, explained the color coding and then reviewed each committee’s membership to determine removals and additions. The following changes were suggested: AS-delete Courtney Harris, Senator McDaniel nominated senator elect Broadway as a replacement, in which she accepted. Senator-elect Broadway also previously requested to serve on the faculty welfare committee. CBL-Senator Wiedemeier was removed since his term is ending. Senator Tresner previously requested to remain on the committee. Other individuals volunteering to serve were senators Bruce and Hardy, and senator-elect Holley Perry. E-no changes made		Senator Anderson and Tice will re-review the membership list in the fall and reach out to senators for involvement if needed.

	<p>FW-additions were shown in green and included senator Traxler, and senators-elect Boldin, Broadway, & Carey. Senator Showers offered to participate if needed and she was added.</p> <p>FA-Senator David was removed as he will not be returning in the fall. Senator Koers offered to participate. It was noted that Jay Lewis has been an expert member of this committee but not listed; therefore, he was added as an expert member. This committee could use more COP and CHS representation. Senator Anderson reviewed the main focus of this committee, which is to meet with the university VP of fiscal affairs on budgetary issues. Senator Anderson stated that a proposal to form a university budget advisory committee will be forwarded to this committee for consideration.</p> <p>PT ad hoc-no adjustments were made.</p> <p>Senator McDaniel mentioned that the senate will probably be asked to form numerous ad hoc committees for the 2025-26 year.</p>	
<p>Housekeeping discussion items:</p> <p>1) determine senator interest in continuing location rotation of senate meetings</p> <p>2) interest in having a senate group photo taken during first fall meeting;</p> <p>3) potential to rename senate president communications (Undertakings of the faculty senate);</p> <p>4) Interest in having the first fall meeting on the day of College/dept. meetings during university week.</p>	<p>1) Several senators verbalized support for continuing to rotate meeting sites during the upcoming academic year. No one verbalized problems.</p> <p>2) The university photographer could be invited to the first fall meeting. No one objected to having a photograph taken.</p> <p>3) Suggestions from the floor included: 'Faculty senate updates' from senator Glaze and 'Deep Thoughts from the Senate' from senator McDaniel</p> <p>4) Pros and cons were discussed. Senator Bruce brought up the potential of having senators pay out of pocket for shirts (~\$25 per person). Uncertainty with the senate budget and personal budgets of members were discussed. The ultimate decision was to put together a poll in the fall to readdress interest.</p>	<p>3) Senator Anderson and Tice will post a survey to allow others to participate in naming the senate president communications.</p> <p>4) Senator Anderson and Tice will review the university calendar, discuss options and post a poll for senator input if needed. A different poll may be sent out in the fall to gather interest in personal payment for senate shirts.</p>

Creation of a University Budget Advisory Committee	Dr. Arant forwarded this to have the senate involved in its creation. He also provided an example from a Texas University. Representation includes faculty and staff. Senator Anderson requested that the fiscal affairs committee determine the senates' role.	FA committee tasked with determining the senates' role in this projected committee and Senator Anderson will forward documents shared by Dr. Arant to the FA committee members.
Open Forum	<p>Senator Rowley asked about the status of the proclamation for President Berry. Senator Anderson provided a brief background of the situation. The issue has been discussed within the senate's executive committee. The executive committee supports holding off on awarding this for a few reasons. One being the elimination of the senate's budget and continued decreases in the academic affairs budget, which makes funding the project no longer feasible. Another being what the faculty culture is in relation to President Berry's role in the current financial status of the university. The consensus by several senators was to hold off on this until more information is made available to the university community.</p> <p>Senator Rowley inquired about whether the executive committee meeting with President Bruno contained any additional information than what was shared during the President's address to the University. Senator Anderson stated the information shared was almost identical but included that a loan from the Facilities Corporation was being used to cover the budget deficit for this year. Both senators Anderson and McDaniel shared that many of the rumors circulating were incorrect.</p> <p>Senator Rowley asked whether the status of the Lumen building was known. Senator Anderson did not have any insight to provide. Senator McDaniel shared that President Bruno mentioned that he favors selling the Lumen building as quickly as possible but where that process stands has not been shared. Senator Tolleson asked for guidance on how best to handle inquiries being made from the faculty about the budget issue, with Senator Anderson suggesting they refer back to the information provided during the President's address to the University. Senator Showers inquired whether someone could be tapped to provide more information into the presidential search and university status, and Senator Anderson stated that he plans to bring this up with Dr. Arant after spring break and he had invited Dr. Bruno to today's meeting but he was unavailable due to a prior commitment. Senator Anderson stated that the next search committee meeting will be 4/23, in which the semi-finalists will be selected. Senator McDaniel mentioned that during the last presidential search there was a time frame where only the board could provide information.</p>	Senator Anderson and Tice will re-evaluate the need to place President Berry's proclamation on the agenda for the first fall meeting of the senate.

	<p>Senator Rowley made apparent that the further away decisions are made regarding cuts to the faculty that decreases the chances of those individuals to find alternative employment elsewhere. He inquired if there was something the senate could do to advocate for these individuals. Senator Anderson responded by reiterating that options being proposed by the Colleges are currently plans only and there is no inclination as to what will be enacted. He suggested a senate special session could be called later if needed. There was discussion from Senator McDaniel that instructor level faculty would be most at risk, with tenure-track faculty employed for >1 year being given a 1-year grace period. A senator asked if this is something that could be addressed in the faculty handbook, with senator McDaniel indicating that it would be unlikely since there is state policy covering the issue. Senator McDaniel also shared that no information has been provided regarding laying off tenured faculty, even with that question being posed to Dr. Bruno. Senator Anderson added that this would be a matter of exigency, which is not being considered for this academic year but could be for the 2025-26 year. Senator McDaniel further stated that Dr. Bruno would try to make layoffs strategic and not cut operational programs just because they were low on faculty.</p> <p>Senator Anderson thanked all senators for their work and welcomed the new members.</p>		
Adjourn	Time: 1324	Motion to adjourn meeting made by senator Johnson & seconded by senator David.	