

**Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**Thursday, May 17, 2012**  
**Rm 3-94, Walker Hall, ULM Campus**  
**9:15-10:50 a.m.**

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

**Senators Present:** Andrews, Anderson, Arrant, Casey, Eisenstadt, Feldhaus, Hill, Hutto, Junk, Lanham, Niemla, Owens, Steckline, Stockley, Strunk, Sutton, Sylvester.

**Senators Absent:** Frye, \*Walker, Wiggins  
(due to the unusual time of this meeting, many were unable to attend, and we might assume these absences are largely due to this).

**Guest:** Roger Carpenter

**Newly Elected Senators in Attendance:** Giles, Caldwell, Bray.

**Handouts circulated:** Draft of Minutes of FS April 19, 2012 meeting; Agenda for FS May 17, 2012 meeting. Electronically circulated documents included the IRB Policy and Social Media Policy.

President Sylvester **called the meeting to order**, at 9:16 a.m.

Secretary Steckline **called the roll**.

The **Minutes of the FS April 19, 2012** meeting were **accepted** with minor corrections to spacing, an indefinite pronoun, and an unnecessary hyphen. (Arrant/Owens)

**FS President Sylvester recapped** the direness of the pending budget cuts, concluding by urging Senators to keep their faculty informed, stressing that faculty cannot be oblivious to these changes, that we should provide as much information as possible, and do everything we can to help administration find ways to help and support displaced faculty in their transitions.

**Agenda Items:**

- The IRB Policy was unanimously approved. (Feldhaus/Hutto)
- The Social Media Policy was approved with the recommended stipulation that Department Heads will monitor Departmental use of Social Media (Eisenstadt/Feldhaus)
- The proposed changes in grading scale survey observed general support of the use of plus and minus grades, though the specifics of the scale to be used remain in question. The Senate is in support of the spirit of the changes, but await clarifications on scaling and implementation.
- The proposed changes to the General Education Requirements were not approved by the FS, as the diluting effect of many of the proposed changes was observed, as was the impact on degree integrity. (Strunk/Hill)
- The Grade Exclusion Issue was moved to Academic Standards for further consideration. (Feldhaus/Hill).

- Changes to graduation date and time (moved to one week earlier) beginning in the Fall 2012 was approved, with 3 opposing votes.
- Louisiana Retirement Legislation/Reforms were modified from what was originally proposed. Details on those “better” modifications can be found through Legislative Websites.
- The Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) report from Senator Hill noted that there was an emergency Board of Supervisors meeting called for May 21, 2012, with budget cuts as the presumed topic. (This meeting was subsequently cancelled). Senator sought a replacement senator for June 18, 2012 scheduled meeting in Alexandria, and John Anderson volunteered.
- Faculty Unionization was discussed in terms of where and how might faculty resist the changes higher education is faced with, and the success and strategies of such approaches were questioned.
- Two issues the FS requested be brought to the attention of administration ASAP were 1) the premature cancellation of summer classes (counterintuitive); and 2) the catch-22 created in students being dropped for non-payment in online classes, due to how they are enrolled and initial contact with instructors is made.
- The Faculty Handbook revision update was given including that all changes made had been sent to Senator Andrews. The addition of counseling services information was requested, and Senator Sutton volunteered to provide clarification of the available services.
- Senators Feldhaus, Lanham and Steckline were thanked for their service to the Faculty Senate as their terms end June 30, 2012.

The first FS meeting of the Fall will take place the first week of classes, August 23, 2012 at 12:30, in a new location (due to subsequent dislocation required from Walker Hall fire).

The meeting was adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
C. Turner Steckline, Faculty Senate Secretary

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