

Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, January 16, 2014
Student Center 160, ULM Campus
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

* indicates excused absence; Name/Name indicates Moved/Seconded
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Senators Present: Anderson, Caldwell, Cumming Strunk, Frye, Niemla, Stockley, Sylvester, Vangelisti, Wiedemeier

Senators Absent: Bray, Craighead, Dagley, Giles*, Gissendanner*, Hill*, Jackson, Lasiter, Pope, White, Wilson

Handouts circulated: Electronically circulated documents included the Agenda for FS January 16 meeting, the Draft of FS Minutes for the November 14, 2013 meeting, a Revised Copy of the Faculty Handbook as of 11/6/13, the Suggested Syllabus Template, the Minutes and Recommendations from the Constitution & Bylaws Committee,

President Anderson **called the meeting to order**, at 12:37 p.m.

Secretary Cumming Strunk **called the roll**.

The **Minutes of the FS November 14** meeting were **reviewed and changes noted**. The minutes were not approved, because we **did not have quorum**.

Agenda Items:

- The **Executive Committee** reported on their meeting with VPAA Dr. Pani and the Deans Council.
 - There will be an increased emphasis on online courses. The administration is looking for cheaper ways to provide the online courses and increase funds for the university.
 - Senators raised concerns that adjuncts be vetted and credentialed. The more adjuncts used it will be harder to maintain quality courses. The GRAD Act also includes online courses so they need to be quality courses.
 - eULM is preparing how to guide faculty for online course. The Electronic Learning Committee is also working on policies to ensure quality in the online courses.
 - There are more students in the online classes than they can handle even with the introduction of the new fee structure.
 - The **Higher Education and Workforce Summit** will be on **Thursday, February 13 from 2:30pm to 4:30pm**. This will be sponsored by the North Central Louisiana Interfaith, Louisiana Tech, ULM, Grambling State University, and Louisiana Delta Community College. State representatives and senators will be there. The summit will focus upon supporting higher education.
- No reports from the Faculty Advisory Committee, the Academic Standards Committee, the Constitution and By-Laws Committee, and the Faculty Welfare Committee.

- The **Elections Committee** is working with Ms. Alma Sewell to determine who is a general faculty member.
- The **Faculty Handbook Subcommittee** has finished updating the Faculty Handbook. Since we did not have quorum, it could not be approved.
- The **Fiscal Affairs Committee** Chair Stockley gave us a quick explanation of the current state of the Louisiana state budget. The official budget was released today. The revenues for FY 2013-2014 were \$35 million short. So there will be no mid-year cut. It turns out the tax amnesty revenues were lower than expected. The Louisiana state budget FY 2014-2015 is projected to be \$500 million short going into next year due to collections from the tax revenue and federal money. With our current funding from the state, we will still use the reserves, considering the unfunded mandates.
- **Unfinished business**
 - The Faculty Workload Ad Hoc Committee has submitted their document to Dr. Pani.
 - Interfaith met with Senator Walsworth. He request a single unifying message from the state universities.
 - Interfaith has also be working with the Systems level “incentive program” that highlights requests for Higher Education including (1) a funding floor, (2) a focus on workforce development, (3) allowing institutions to keep tuition increases, and (4) a deferred maintenance fund.
- **New business**
 - President Anderson discussed the need for tenured mentors for pre-tenure faculty members.
 - There was a discussion about the third year review or the mid-probationary review. Each department has a different policy on this. Some have a formal submission of a current tenure & promotion packet, while others have none. Some conduct a yearly review which is compiled into tenure & promotion packet. There are faculty members who have refused to do a third year review even under direction of their department. This review is not required in the Faculty Handbook. The Faculty Welfare Committee will investigate if this needs to be added to the Faculty Handbook.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Cumming Strunk, Faculty Senate Secretary

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