

Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, November 14, 2013
Student Center 160, ULM Campus
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

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

Senators Present: Anderson, Caldwell, Craighead, Cumming Strunk, Frye, Giles, Gissendanner, Hill, Lasiter, Loeb, Niemla, Stockley, Sylvester, Vangelisti, Wiedemeier

Senators Absent: Bray, Dagley*, Jackson, Pope, White

Handouts circulated: Electronically circulated documents included the Agenda for FS November 14 meeting, the Draft of FS Minutes for the October 17, 2013 meeting, and a Revised Copy of the Faculty Handbook as of 11/6/13.

President Anderson **called the meeting to order**, at 12:32 p.m.

Secretary Cumming Strunk **called the roll**.

The **Minutes of the FS October 17** meeting were **reviewed and changes noted**. The motion to accept the minutes with minor changes passed (Sylvester/Hill).

Agenda Items:

- The **Executive Committee** reported on their meeting with VPAA Dr. Pani and the Deans Council.
 - The possible effects of sequestration were discussed. Sequestration, if implemented, would mean cuts in federal funding which may lead to state budget cuts. There was some discussion of overcollection tax concerns.
 - The deans requested an increase in Public Relations. The deans discussed the merits of positive PR such as *“these are the things we can (still) do”* and negative PR such as *“these are the things that will leave if ULM closes.”*
 - Updates on building projects were given. Sandal Hall is caught up in the state building backlog. With regard to Walker Hall, the state is being meticulous disputing some of the insurance claims on clean-up charges.
- No reports from the Faculty Advisory Committee and the Academic Standards Committee.
- The **Constitution and By-Laws Committee** circulated a report about their meeting to discuss what changes are required to the Constitution and By-Laws to better accommodate the use of electronic media/technology in the work of the Faculty Senate. Most senators believed that policy decisions should be done in an open meeting instead of on Moodle. Executive Committee can call a meeting in the summer if something is urgent. Dedicated senators will come in over breaks for meetings. Some senators felt that online meetings were acceptable. Discussions will continue at the next meeting.

- The **Elections Committee** has been assigned the task to determine who is a general faculty member.
- The **Faculty Welfare Committee** will revisit the 10 hours minimum of office hours at the next meeting.
- The Faculty Handbook Subcommittee has finished **updating the Faculty Handbook**. It has not yet be approved by the whole Faculty Senate.
- The **Fiscal Affairs Committee** gave their report.
 - In mid-December, the state should get an idea where ULM is financially. On January 15, the budget numbers must be in. Half or our state funds come from federal funding.
 - Senators want to know where the notice was for this round of cuts and how much notice will be given for the next round of cuts.
 - We need to get some accountability for the cutting of the **Medical Laboratory Science (MLS)** major.
 - 100% of their majors are hired. 70-80% of the area's Medical Laboratory Scientists come from ULM. The administration argued that the closing of MLS would produce \$300,000 in savings. However, the members of the FS view this amount of savings skeptically.
 - Decisions to cut programs were made to have a minimal impact on the university's revenue and a minimal number of students lost.
 - President Anderson asked for this issue to be deferred to the Faculty Welfare Committee. The FS needs to ask well-crafted questions to the administration to look at the programs that were cut, specifically looking at faculty and student impact.
- Unfinished business
 - A motion was passed to thank Senator Niemla for a job well done organizing the ULM Faculty Senate 40th Anniversary Celebration (Anderson/Sylvester). Senator Niemla gave each senator a bundle of 40th Anniversary pencils to distribute to his/her constituents.
 - The Faculty Workload Ad Hoc Committee finished their document by folding in the one from Texas State University.
 - Administrative Structure Ad Hoc Committee was not shown the final reorganization document before it was distributed to the faculty.
 - The presentation by President Anderson, Staff Senate President Wilkerson, and SGA President Jana Robinson at the Interfaith Session on November 7 went very well.
- New business
 - Senator Frye has volunteered to work with Marilyn McIntosh to train the faculty on the Tenure and Promotion procedures.
 - Graduate Admissions:
 - Undergraduate admissions is now handling graduate admissions.

- Senator Frye was just given 3 names of accepted Gerontology graduate students just instead of in June. A similar situation happened in History, resulting in lost applicants.
- President Anderson requested that they contact Dr. Leonard Clark as new Director of the Graduate School.
- Grant Processing:
 - Senator Frye is having trouble finding out information on her grants.
 - The advice given was to contact Cynthia Rodriguez in OSPR. When emailing Dr. Richters, cc Sheila McMahon on your request.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:45 pm (Loeb).

Respectfully submitted,
Christine Cumming Strunk, Faculty Senate Secretary

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