

Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting
Thursday, March 24, 2016 (Rescheduled)
Hemphill 124, ULM Campus
12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

* indicates excused absence; Name/Name indicates Moved/Seconded
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Senators Present: Jeff Anderson, Robert Eisenstadt, Karen Frye, Chris Gissendanner, Cecil Hutto, Kioh Kim, Heather Pilcher, Josh Stockley, Claire Vangelisti

Senators Absent: Sandy Bailey, Debra Craighead, Gene Eller, David Hare, Faisal Kaleem, Jessica Lassiter, *Matt Lovett, Savannah Posey

I. Welcome

II. Roll call

III. Regular business suspended as we had a guest: Dr. Nick Bruno, President ULM

A. Dr. Bruno outlined reflections on the state budget and what it means for ULM. At the time of this meeting, the outcome was not clear on results for the Special Session. The deficit for the State range was 800-900 million and the Governor was holding a press conference today at 3 pm to discuss outcome of Session. 80 million has been found, but higher ed will have to absorb 1.4 million or 20% of TOPS, but final numbers are unclear. Dr. Bruno provided an article by the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana entitled, “Commentary: Out of chaos comes change” 3/14/16. Dr. Bruno noted that there are a number of bills dealing with management system, e.g., Regents. As long as ULM has voice in the management structure, that is the important thing. Dr. Bruno noted they should come to campus. Out of the \$24 million received from the State, \$19 million is returned via state retirement, healthcare, etc. That leaves ULM \$5 million from State. There has been talk among legislators of mergers, closures, etc., but Dr. Bruno noted they are looking at it from a business perspective. The problem would be that if an institution was closed, how could a neighboring institution absorb staff and students without additional state funds following the closed institution? More complex challenge than initially thought. He also noted that he thinks the message sent has not been clear. He will email Chris the power point with facts, etc. used for the Special Session to educate the community. Dr. Bruno urged all to email from their personal emails about how important ULM and higher ed is to this region. He encouraged us to mobilize our communities to see the value of higher ed; it would be particularly helpful if community folks spoke up in support of ULM. Dr. Bruno noted there are about 1200 staff and faculty and 8900 students. When he took an informal poll, only 30% of students sent a letter to their legislators. A staff guest mentioned they had questions on how to approach sending letter. Dr. Bruno encouraged them to look up their district legislators on la.gov and express their concern. Secretary of State Shelter at one point noted, if we cannot get monies, we need to prioritize our priorities. For example, close a museum or discontinue offering a given child service? The decision is clear.

The problems began 8 years ago when higher ed and healthcare were pitted against k-12 and highways; higher ed lost. While the Governor wants to restore budget stability, is he able to do this in 4 years? The \$800 million dollar shortfall is very brutal situation for all of us—nothing is safe. Dr. Bruno has been meeting with the VPs and going over scenarios of different levels of cuts. If we had to absorb 3 million 20% TOPS for 2016, it would be very hard to do on top of cuts. We have a \$1.5 million dollar cut now, which we can absorb. On a positive note, Dr. Bruno shared that enrollment was up 400 students this year, our new designation as Carnegie doctoral granting institution elevated our image equal to La Tech, and preserved our reputation as “a school of value”. Senator El-Giar noted that he listens to KEDM on way in and as a faculty member and concerned parent, he did not hear about budget or see many good ads for ULM. The budget problems have brought a greater unification across universities. Senator Eisenstadt inquired about Medicaid expansion and its effect on St. Francis. The Board of St. Francis noted that if Conway folded, St. Francis would be in a grave predicament. Dr. Bruno was asked if the State has authority to cut tuition. We were charged \$1.40 for every \$1 received leading up to 2009; monies which paid for civil service raises, etc. So, not directly, but we have experienced a significant resource decline.

Dr. Bruno reminded us—who is our champion? When asked about funding next year, he indicated he is optimistic, but guarded. He noted that this is a different legislature this time. He again encouraged us to share the information on the power point & Advocate! If what was happening on campus was happening at the State, there would be a revolt! External factors affect the situation.

- IV. Approval for January 21, 2016 minutes and February 18, 2016 minutes were relegated to Moodle.
- V. There were no committee reports in the service of time.
- VI. **Unfinished Business**
 - A. Faculty Survey—posted and by eyeballing responses, it appeared we received a great response rate (n=225). The data will be analyzed over break, with a report given first to Ex Comm administration, then verbal report to Faculty Senate. Senator Eisenstadt, Chair of Faculty Welfare Committee, requested and was approved to attend presentation for FS survey results to administration at Ex Comm meeting.
 - B. Senators Anderson and Frye gave a brief report of General Education Assessment Committee meeting held morning of 3/24/16. The GE core curriculum working plan was distributed to FS. Senator Anderson is on the Committee and noted that so far they are developing core curriculum objectives based on open meeting feedback and are currently drafting the structure of the core—restricted eligible classes on a list or creating hybrid interdisciplinary courses in 5 areas, e.g., Social Science. A blended model with both options noted above is also possible—still a work in progress. Assoc. Dean Camille noted that any comments or feedback should be emailed to him.

C. Foundation Awards- no report.

VII. New Business

A. Updating Faculty Handbook-tabled, no report for the sake of time.

B. Other business- Had nominations and all open seats were filled. Only Humanities will have election with 5 nominations for 2 open seats.

April 6th will be the election.

No Ex Comm meeting to report on.

VIII. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,
Senator Karen Frye
Faculty Senate Secretary