Minutes

ULM Faculty Senate

November 17, 2016

12:30 pm to 2:00 pm

Hemphill Hall Room 124

1. \* indicates excused absence;
2. Name/Name indicates Moved/Seconded

**Senators Present:** Jeffrey Anderson, Roger Carpenter, Melanie Chapman, Emad El-Giar, Chris Gissendanner, Lyle Marty Holin, Cecil Hutto, Kioh Kim, Connie Lewis, Adam Pate, Heather Pilcher, Will Rogers, Joshua Stockley, Vonny Thornton, Claire Vangelisti

**Senators Absent:** Sandy Bailey (resigned), David McGraw, \*Tina Mullone, Savannah Posey, \*Paul Wiedemeier

1. Call to Order - 12:32 pm
2. Roll Call
3. Special Guest-Executive Vice President Steve Richters
   1. University moving to bi-weekly paychecks, with checks coming every other Friday
      1. Going electronic and avoiding paper, as well
      2. It will affect budgeting somewhat because there will periodically be three paychecks a month
         1. Ultimately, the yearly amounts will be the same
      3. This will probably happen in February or March
      4. Questions from senators
         1. Why the change?
            1. Richters – The change will simplify the payroll significantly

Timesheets must be in on time, or they will miss a cycle

* + - 1. Checks for summer pay?
         1. Richters – Will be issued on a Friday
      2. Student workers?
         1. Richters – Will be every other Friday
      3. Will there be reminders for faculty?
         1. Richters – Yes

Electronic timesheets will make it easier

1. Special Guest-Vice President for Academic Affairs Eric Pani
   1. New University Strategic Plan
      1. See handout entitled “Summary on Update of 2013-2018 Strategic Plan”
      2. This year, some quantitative measures have been added to its measures of implementation
         1. The older plan indicated the university strove to be recognized as one of the best performing regional universities in the South
            1. Measures of enrollment, expenditures on students, research expenditures, and the like were examined by Pani

We were right at the median or slightly above on all but expenditures per student

* + - * 1. Because the university has been ranked by *U.S. News* as a national university for the last two years and having earned a designation as a Carnegie research institution, made the old plan seem less aspirational

Change seemed necessary to express new aspirations

* + 1. Proposed new vision statement states: “The University of Louisiana at Monroe will be recognized among the top 200 universities in the nation for excellence in teaching, for excellence in research, for excellence in innovation, with an emphasis on the health sciences.”
       1. ULM can certainly compete with institutions in the top 200, but moving up will require significant steps
       2. ULM stands out because it cares for its students, meaning that teaching should remain a key component of the vision
       3. To become a doctoral institution, research will be advanced
       4. We should be ahead of the pack, hence the emphasis on innovation
          1. Designed to show recognition of the need to change
       5. Emphasis on health sciences is a response to the Elevate Louisiana initiative in Baton Rouge, allowing us to stake a claim to a particular niche
          1. The wording includes *emphasis*, which is to indicate that we are not trying to exclude other areas of excellence
    2. There are three new objectives as well
    3. Discussion with Pani
       1. Will there be more online classes in biology and chemistry?
          1. Pani – Yes there will

Some online programs may be deemphasized, however

* + - 1. Has there been much consideration of what ULM can target to improve national rankings, as those indicated in *U.S. News and World Report*? (See “Summary on Update of 2013-2018 Strategic Plan” for areas)
         1. Pani – There has been some

Our class sizes conflict between the national classification system and the state funding system

Salary issues must be considered but is currently impeded by the governor’s refusal to allow raises

* + - 1. Is the *U.S. News and World Report* ranking the most important?
         1. Pani – There are others, none of which seems better than the others
      2. Why is there an emphasis on ULM getting online students from within one hundred miles?
         1. Pani – Research indicates that most students in these programs live within one hundred miles

This applies mainly to common programs, but those that are less common will seek a national appeal

The strategy is to take the area nearby and then expand

We have contracted with Education Dynamics to market, and we are about to contract with Academic Partnerships as well

* + - 1. What is the timeframe for getting into the top 200?
         1. Pani – Ten years would be a good timeframe

It is a difficult task

* + - 1. Was there much discussion of using “top 200” rather than something broader or vaguer? It seems arbitrary. Is language like this common as opposed to “nationally recognized?”
         1. Pani – “Top 200” did not initially sound impressive until he examined what it meant

This was meant to indicate we would be above the median, and it seems concrete

* + - * 1. Stockley – Suggests a vaguer statement in vision statement but keeping “top 200” as a benchmark

Pani – Encourages e-mails with feedback

Wants it fully updated by Christmas break

* + - 1. Could there be unintended consequences from “emphasis on the health sciences?”
         1. Pani – There is a risk

So far, the regents have done little because new ones will be coming on the board, and they would like to wait until the new board is composed

* + - 1. Will emphasis on health sciences affect recruiting?
         1. Pani – He thinks not

It is important to convince the regents of the need for arts and the like

* + - 1. Will the vision statement be a public document, as in marketing?
         1. Pani – It will be mainly internal but will be a trump card with regents
      2. Question by Pani – Does this excite you?
      3. Would there be more faculty added?
         1. Pani – Yes, and workload will have to be restructured
      4. Could we have broad-based support for research outside of the health sciences?
         1. Pani – The Executive Director of the Research Corportation of Louisiana and grant writer will help with this
    1. Discussion without Pani
       1. Even though the document may not be an external document, we must take steps to ensure that all areas are supported and none are excluded
          1. There is a possibility that other new programs will be excluded
          2. There was a suggestion that “liberal arts” be included somewhere in the vision statement as a way to preserve and advance other programs

1. Approval of Minutes-October13, 2016
   1. Approved – Kim/Rogers
2. Approval of new Senator – Connie Lewis replacing Sandy Bailey
   1. Approved – Thorton/Kim
3. Committee reports
   1. Academic Standards – Carpenter
      1. New rubric developed for ULM Foundation Awards, which incorporates people from outside the hard sciences
         1. See copy of rubric supplied by Carpenter
      2. Per Stockley and Carpenter, the reason for the change was imbalance of awards going to Pharamcy
         1. This is to provide increased balance for those applying
      3. El-Giar suggests giving two awards for half the value because Pharmacy has the advantage of greater time for research
         1. Stockley suggested this is one of other potential approaches
         2. Pate suggests the rubric is a fair way of evaluating the application
         3. Per Anderson, the creation of a second award has been voted down twice by the faculty senate
      4. Per Gissendanner and Stockley, the rubric will not require that all categories be fulfilled
         1. Gissendanner suggests that the criteria better apply to hard sciences and that the rubric might need to become guidelines
      5. Gissendanner will get a copy of the rubric and set up something for comments
         1. There will be an electronic copy available
   2. Constitution and By-Laws
   3. Faculty Welfare
   4. Fiscal Affairs
   5. Elections Committee
   6. Ad hoc handbook committee
4. Updates
   1. Executive Committee meeting took place
   2. Jay Dardenne suggested that there will be a mid-year budget cut, but ULM should be able to absorb it
   3. There will be a new logo that incorporates elements of the old NLU logo
5. Item for future discussion
   1. Thornton suggested that we look into the issue of dual enrollment and plans to alter it and asks if we can proactively work to improve it
      1. As Gissendanner noted, ULM more stringently enforces dual enrollment qualifications than others
      2. Per Gissendanner, perhaps we can bring in Marilyn McIntosh next semester to discuss it
   2. Rogers asked on behalf of the School of Humanities why we have schedules so far in advance
   3. Pate asked at the request of colleagues why the university is paying for OneDrive but faculty are not able to use it
6. Unfinished Business
   1. ULM Strategic Plan – See Dr. Pani’s discussion, above
7. Adjournment