

Faculty Senate Meeting Minutes

Date: 11/21/24; 12:30 pm, Walker 3-63 and Zoom

Roster									
Guests:									
CAES		CBSS		CHS		COP		Library	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Anderson, Jeff*	<input type="checkbox"/>	Ashworth, Burton*	<input type="checkbox"/>	Glaze, Donna	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Comeau, Jill	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Deuber, Melissa
<input type="checkbox"/>	Ji, Jane	<input type="checkbox"/>	Bruce, Paul Robert	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hardy, Tyesha	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jackson, Keith		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Koers, Gregory	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	David, Blair	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jones, Ashanti	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tice, Hilary*		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	McGuire, Pat	<input type="checkbox"/>	Harris, Courtney -resigned	<input type="checkbox"/>	Richardson, Amanda				
<input type="checkbox"/>	Murru, Siva	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Johnson, Mark	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Showers, Jo Ellen				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rowley, Brendan	<input type="checkbox"/>	McDaniel, Janelle*	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traxler, Karen				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tresner, Clifford	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Tolleson, Josh						
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traweek, Adam						
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Wiedemeier, Paul						

X=Present; *Indicates member at large

Agenda

- 10/24/24 FS minutes approval
- Potential Turnitin.com loss
- Football practices prevented students from completing degrees
- Committee reports
- Policy considerations (posted in the CANVAS course)

Business Type	Item Description	Action	Follow Up Plan
Call to order	Time: ~1235 Presiding: Dr. Jeffrey Anderson Recording: Hilary Tice		
Announcements			
Approval of Minutes	10/24/24 minutes review	A motion to approve minutes was made by Senator Comeau; seconded by Senator McGuire; minutes approved 14 in favor, 1 abstention.	Senator Anderson or Tice will send approved minutes to Robert Glaze to post on the ULM Faculty Senate website.
Unfinished Business			
New Business			
	Potential Turnitin.com Loss	A new contract submitted to ULM for the next cycle has wording that may make ULM liable if issues arise with the use of TurnItIn.com; therefore, ULM was advised to not sign the contract by University Council. ULM will have access to Turnitin.com until Jun 2025. The antiplagiarism service may change after the contract expires. President Berry strongly supports maintaining access to an antiplagiarism service and having the cost covered by the University and not individual faculty.	
	Football practices prevented students from completing degrees	With football practices moved to the mornings daily, players are not able to attend classes until after 12:30 pm. This is disruptive to lectures when individuals arrive late but can hold up degree attainment by student athletes. A question was asked if this only affected football athletes or if other sports were included. Senator Anderson responded saying his personal experience in his courses indicate that it is only affecting football athletes but he is unsure if other athletes are affected in other programs.	Senators were asked to see if any faculty in their areas are impacted by this and whether athletes from various sports are affected. Senators were also asked to send feedback to Senator Anderson so that it can be forwarded to Provost Arant in hopes solutions can be found.
	University council Meeting	The University council is composed of the University President, Provost, Vice Presidents & other high-ranking on campus administrators. The Council suggested that the staff and faculty senates look at the possibility of forming a University Senate. However, there is no pressure to create this and very little discussion on this has occurred. Both the staff senate president, Dana Mejia, and faculty senate	Dr. Arant to look into various models and how University Senates are implemented at other Institutions.

		<p>president, Jeff Anderson, expressed concerns that voices of their constituents may be diluted if a University Senate was formed and that items important for one group may never be addressed due to a need to have common ground amongst the different constituents of a University Senate. Dr. Arant will look into various models and how this is implemented at other Institutions.</p>	
	<p>Committee Reports -Academic Standards (AS) -Constitution and By-Laws (CBL) -Elections (E) -Faculty Welfare (FW) -Fiscal Affairs (FA) -Ad Hoc Committees: **Faculty Handbook (FH) **P&T (PT)</p>	<p>-FH: Senator Tice reviewed the changes made to the faculty handbook that address requests made by the Deans and pending items from the 10/24 faculty senate meeting. Senators were asked for feedback on each item of discussion. Most of the items did not receive comment from the senators, except the following.</p> <p>The item on pages 29/30 addressing the composition of the promotion committees, in which senators asked for more detail on how the candidate suggestions would be implemented. Senator Anderson mentioned that the wording was suggested by Dr. Arant and has his backing. Senator Anderson also provided some scenarios of how the committee may be formed in different circumstances. Once explained, senators supported the format proposed.</p> <p>Another area discussed was the performance adjustment raises, in which a question was asked if faculty would need to meet expectations in all individual areas or if there was an overall component that faculty would be held accountable to. Senator Anderson shared what is being done in the CAES and the scale used. Both Senator Anderson and Tice felt that the expectation level stated in the handbook would apply an overall score, not individual scores.</p> <p>The next item generating discussion was the class attendance & excused absence proposals on page 42. Senator Tice shared the University catalog website covering attendance and mentioned that the wording relating to excused absences was pulled from the College of Pharmacy</p>	<p>The next faculty handbook review committee was tasked with addressing any needed changes when it meets in Feb. to undergo the annual review process.</p> <p>Senator Anderson will clarify with Dr. Arant how attendance and excused absences apply to the 75% rule in the University catalog, suggesting that maybe the University catalog could be adjusted that would then be reflected in the faculty handbook. Any adjustments made should uphold the minimum needed by SACSCOC, financial aid requirements and other pertinent areas.</p> <p>The handbook committee was asked to determine whether the VPAA/Provost is part of the handbook committee.</p>

syllabus template. A senator asked how the excused absence policy works with the 75% rule of attendance and whether there should be a statement added in the University catalog to divide excused vs unexcused absences as it applies to the 75% rule. Senator Tice provided an interpretation that excused absences c/would be applied to the attendance policy and count towards absences. A senator mused whether this had been done in the past, whether it should be included now and whether line 3 under the 'students' section in the University catalog should have something added to it? A discussion ensued about how the role of excused absences would interplay with the attendance policy and whether programs or Colleges need to have a delineation. Various senators shared how their Colleges rely heavily on student attendance during practice experiences and to meet curricular obligations for accreditation. They also shared that absences that are excused allow students to make up missed work where that opportunity is not provided to students with unexcused absences. Senator Anderson suggested that a University catalog revision could address this issue which would then be reflected in the faculty handbook. He proposed to have the issue addressed during the next faculty handbook revision. A senator supplemented the proposal by mentioning that SACSCOC minimum requirements should be adhered to for the University body, with the intent to leave it up to programs to add more stringent requirements to this as needed. Another senator mentioned that attendance requirements for financial aid would also need to be considered.

The discussion over the funeral leave section garnered input with a senator praising the inclusion of the wording that supervisors can be contacted to request extended leave.

Senator Anderson called for a vote to approve the Faculty Handbook with the updated changes. Senator McGuire

		<p>motioned to approve with senator Jones seconding the motion. The motion passed with a vote of 15 out of 16, with one abstention. A senator asked where the approved handbook will go next and what additional processes of revision would follow. Senator Anderson provided his interpretation pertaining to both of these matters. An action item was identified to have the handbook committee determine whether the VPAA/Provost is part of the handbook committee.</p> <p>-PT: update provided by Senator Tice regarding the Congratulatory letter. There was a brief review of the contents of the letter with the inclusion of a gift card to each person successfully completing the process. The funds for the gift card would come out of the faculty senate budget. Senator Anderson voiced support for the letter as being able to fill a void that faculty may feel when they have completed the T/P process. Senator Tice shared that many of the T/P ad hoc committee members felt the same way. Options were discussed as to which signatures should be included in the letter, with the senators agreeing by affirmation that the executive officers would sign and then interested senators would provide signatures &/or comments voluntarily. All senators would not be listed in the letter. Senator McGuire motioned to have the letter approved, with Senator Showers seconding. A vote was called and passed unanimously.</p> <p>-AS: no update provided.</p> <p>-CBL: update provided by Senator Tice. Due to time constraints, one item was discussed. The senators were asked if the ratio of senators to general faculty should be changed from the current 20:1 ratio to 15:1 (previous ULM ratio prior to the 2015-16 academic year) or 10:1 (what most sister ULS institutions have). Pros and cons were discussed. Pros mentioned were increasing involvement of faculty, better representation of the programs in the</p>	
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senate, and having a larger pool of senators to fill the standing committees. The major concern voiced in changing back to 15:1 was the ability to fill the extra senate seats. A question was then posed as to what the procedure would be in filling the new seats. Senator Anderson provided that the current process would be used where faculty are asked to run for the available seats. If enough faculty are not generated in this manner, then the senate President could reach out to directors for recommendations and then contact those individuals to determine if they are interested in running. Other thoughts shared were: 1) if the senate doesn't try to get more members then there is no chance of getting a larger body; therefore, trying to increase the body would help determine the level of interest and 2) determining whether there is a need to promote self-nominations vs asking people to join and increasing the level of faculty awareness of the senate, level of involvement needed to be involved and things that it does. Senator Anderson affirmed these comments and shared that he has tried to address these by sending out the 'Undertakings of the Faculty Senate' communication to the faculty after each meeting in addition to talking with individuals about the senate in other environments. By the end of the discussion, attendance dropped below a quorum, to 13 members present, so Senator Anderson decided to take a vote of interest to move to 15:1 by the remaining senators. The vote was called and the tally was 10 to 13 in favor of changing to a 15:1 faculty to senator ratio. Senator Anderson asked that this be placed on the Jan. meeting agenda so a vote with a quorum of senators can be taken.

-E: Senator McGuire stated there was no update for this committee.

-FW: Senator Rowley provided an update, stating that the workload policy will be readdressed in the spring.

-FA: no update provided.

	<p>Policy Review 1-100% online course policy 2024 2-100% online major change policy 3-AA00x.x CourseModalities v02 4-CPL-PLA Policy Draft for submission</p>	<p>Senator Anderson shared that the polices posted were sent to him by Dr. Arant last week. This review will be a second round of review to make sure updates made address issues that were brought forward initially. Senator Anderson shared that he thought the initial issues found had been addressed.</p>	<p>Senators were asked to send Senator Anderson feedback by TU noon to allow him to send them to Dr. Arant by the Thanksgiving break.</p>
Adjourn	Time: ~1357		