

**University of Louisiana at Monroe
Research Council
Minutes**

**November 13, 2008
Room 420, ULM Library**

Meeting Began ca. 3:15 p.m.

Members Present

Girish Shah (Chair)	Russ Minton
Stephen Fox	Joe McGahan
Carl Kogut	Keith Jackson
Janet Haedicke	Ren9 Hearnis

Members Not Present

Belinda Morgan	Ann Findley (excused, teaching lab class)
Ivona Jukic	Florencetta Gibson
Don Smith	Ken Clow

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved (JH proposed motion, RM seconded)

The following discussion was held:

GS opened the meeting to discussion of the first agenda item, namely: how to enhance research while dealing with teaching load.

RM commented that his department (Biology) had submitted a “workflow document” that recommended a nine hour teaching load for tenure-track faculty, though currently most of the Biology faculty have a twelve hour load. CK added that faculty in the College of Business had also discussed teaching load, though he did not know of a submitted workflow document. He informed the council that the standard semester teaching load in Business is nine hours.

JM proposed that a significant number of tenured ULM faculty were not doing research, and that many of those were no longer interested in doing so. RH suggested that the teaching load of faculty not producing research could be increased relative to that of research productive faculty. She added that faculty release time for funded grants could be implemented with additional hiring of adjunct or instructor faculty. She also referred to a points-based system for acknowledging various aspects of research productivity that was operating at Cleveland State University while she worked there. RM informed the council that currently faculty receive no credit for supervising undergraduate research,

rather the Department Head does (at least in Arts and Sciences). CK indicated that a model for rewarding teaching might also be developed, and added that ULM is traditionally a “teaching first” institution. KJ acknowledged as much but added that research feeds teaching, and will enhance teaching at an institution. JM pointed out that our charge as a council was to focus on research and that we perhaps should consider how to reward research. RM added that one measure of departmental status *vis B vis* research might be the availability of a research course for undergraduates, and added that he knew of such a course in both Biology and Chemistry departments. RH indicated that greater Research and Scholarship is going to be expected in the UL system as part of an ongoing national paradigm shift and that ULM must adjust. She added that the talent at ULM in the form of endowed chairs and other research funded faculty existed already and that it could help ULM achieve the “100% improvement in research within the next 5 years” criterion stated in its strategic plan. JM added that different colleges evaluate research and scholarship differently, and that we should actually ask the Deans of the colleges to define research and scholarship to the council, as well as to the faculty in general.

SF stated his belief that one way the ULM administration could demonstrate support of research would be through tenure and promotion policies that demand greater research productivity from faculty. In short, new hires should have no doubt that research produced at ULM (in the form of published work, submitted grant proposals, presentations at conferences, etc.) is expected for tenure. CK stated that such expectations are already in place; JH countered that the Deans are sending mixed messages about that. RH added that in some colleges research is not considered possible or is at best an afterthought because of current heavy demands of teaching and service.

Next Meeting

GS recommended that another meeting be scheduled this semester to make up for the fact we did not meet in September, and thereby maintain a monthly meeting average. RM suggested 12/3/08, the Wednesday of Finals week, as a possible date since all faculty should be free of scheduled exams on that day. CK announced that he would be grading on that day, and could not therefore attend. Ultimately, no obvious agreement was reached as to when the next meeting would occur.

Meeting adjourned ca. 4:15 p.m.

Stephen Fox,
Member, Research Council