

Minutes

ULM Faculty Senate

April 3, 2008

Present: Brett Bennett, Monica Bontty, Joseph Feldhaus, Stephen Fox, David Hare, Anna Hill, Megan Lowe, Mona Oliver, Shirlee Owens, Jack Palmer, Linda Reid, Donna Rhorer, Jeff Rush, Dorothy Schween, C. Turner Steckline, Bruce Walker, and Holly Wilson

Excused: Sally Davidson, Cecil Hutto, Kitty Kervin, Lance Nickelson, Pamela Saulsberry, and John Sutherland

Observer: Vice-Provost Eric Pani

C. Turner Steckline called the meeting to order. Donna Rhorer called the roll. The minutes were approved as amended.

Committee reports followed:

Elections:

Senator Feldhaus provided an election update, answered specific questions regarding representation in all colleges, and added that we have nominees to fill all vacancies except for one in Health Sciences. Senator Reid will inform Health Sciences of this opening.

Senator Wilson moved that we accept the nominees by acclamation. Senator Feldhaus provided the second. Motion passed. Senator Feldhaus will email new Senators and invite them to our last meeting of the semester on April 24, 2008.

Executive Board:

Members met with the deans, the Provost, and the Vice-Provost. The result of the meeting is an agreement for the three new deans to work with three members of the EB to incorporate our action plan/wish list into the university's strategic plan. On March 14, 2008, we met with the three new deans to clarify questions regarding the action plan. Next Executive Board meeting is April 10, 2008.

Academic Standards:

The committee has not met.

Constitution and By-laws:

The committee had no report.

Faculty Welfare:

The committee met on March 17, 2008, to discuss an Academic Program Review Policy. In addition, the group drafted a resolution regarding Shared Governance. The committee is currently working on developing a Faculty Development Remediation Program.

Faculty Handbook:

The committee's work is complete.

Fiscal Affairs:

The committee will meet next week; report to follow.

Enrollment Management Council:

Senator Wilson reported no notification of any meeting; President Steckline will mention this at the Executive Board meeting.

SGA/STAP:

Senator Sutherlin was not present to give a report.

Faculty Advisory Council:

FAC met in Baton Rouge on March 28, 2008, and President Steckline provided the update. The last meeting of the group will occur on April 25, 2008.

Shared Governance Report:

President Steckline encouraged senators to attend the focus group sessions; there should be a Senator in each group. She asked if schedules had gone out to all colleges; they had not. It was suggested that Dr. Paxton Oliver send out a campus wide notice of times of focus groups.

New Business:

Faculty Welfare Business:

1. Academic Program Review

The committee presented a plan for Academic Program Review in response to the Provost's request in February to Senator Rhorer that the Senate design such a program by March 31, 2008. Discussion followed. The plan, which will not apply to accredited programs that have their own guidelines and cycles for review, will be presented to the Provost at

the next Executive Board meeting. The plan follows:

Academic Program Review Policy

Each academic program, which does not already have an accreditation process, will invite a team of two external peer reviewers from peer institutions to review the program once every five years.

The purpose of this review will be to identify and praise strengths and when required to offer suggestions for improvement.

Academic Affairs shall provide a packet to the Dean for use by the peer reviewers, which comprises information pertaining to items 1-6 from existing databases except where departmental expertise is necessary to complete the information.

1. Curriculum
2. Resources, including faculty
3. Operational procedures of the department
4. Department's assessment plan for students
5. Expectations of students and faculty
6. Faculty contributions outside of the classroom

2. Resolution Regarding Shared Governance

Next, the Faculty Welfare Committee offered the following resolution for consideration:

Resolution Regarding Shared Governance

Whereas the ULM Faculty Senate is a constitutionally defined and recognized body,

Whereas the ULM Faculty Senate is the duly elected representative body of the ULM faculty,

Let it be so resolved that the Faculty Senate will continued to serve on this campus as an independent representative body for faculty.

Discussion followed as to the intention of the Shared Governance Committee at ULM regarding the current Faculty Senate and whether or not the committee's intention was to eliminate or replace the Faculty Senate. It was suggested that we wait to read and study the responses

from the focus groups before we moved on any resolution. Senator Rush moved to table the motion. Senator Schween provided the second. Ten voted to table; two were opposed; three abstained.

Higher Education Legislation:

The body discussed a bill to come before the state legislature, which would allow Intelligent Design to be taught as an alternative idea in schools. The item was referred to Academic Standards.

Members discussed pending legislation that could change the current sick leave policy to paid time off policy. Executive Board will discuss the issue at its next meeting with the administration.

Members also discussed the bill under consideration that would allow concealed handguns on campus. Senator Palmer moved that we state that we are not in support of legislation to carry concealed weapons on campus. Senator Hill provided the second. Nine voted for the motion; three were opposed; and one abstained.

First Call:

The Senate discussed First Call and logistics for notifying the campus community in case of an emergency.

Informal Discussion:

Senator Hare noted that after studying the issue and consulting with several statisticians, he was reporting that there was no margin of error in the results of the Senate's Faculty Career and Personal Satisfaction Survey.

Senator Walker moved to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna A. Rhorer, Secretary
ULM Faculty Senate