



STAFF SENATE MINUTES

MINUTES

DECEMBER 16, 2015

10:00AM

**UNIVERSITY LIBRARY,
ROOM 622**

ATTENDEES	Jarrold Breithaupt, Arely Castillo, Kelli Cole, Kristi Davis, Michael Davis, Katie Dawson, Jason Dunavant, Richard Duran, Chance Eppinette, Treina Landrum, Sabrina McClain, Mary Schmeer
ABSENT (EXCUSED)	Amy Estes, Russell Hollis

Agenda topics

CALL TO ORDER	A regular meeting of the Staff Senate was held on December 16, 2015 in the University Library, Room 622 and called to order at 10:00 am by Kelli Cole, President. A quorum was present.
MINUTES	<p>Minutes of the November 2015 meeting were reviewed by the committee.</p> <p>Senator Richard Duran moved to approve the minutes; seconded by Senator Mary Schmeer. Motion passed.</p>

DISCUSSIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Roll Call ❖ Guest Speaker: Dr. Bruno, ULM President <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <u>Coach Matt Viator</u> – Dr. Bruno feels that Coach Viator is a good man who brings a lot of positive energy, especially with the alums. He spent a lot of time interacting with the faculty and staff at McNeese. The bayou can sometimes serve as a wall between the coaches and others on campus. President Bruno looks forward to Coach Viator bridging the gap between the coaches and others employees on campus. Coach Viator will be making trips around the state to visit our big alum bases. - <u>State of the Campus</u> – Our enrollment numbers are up, as is the quality of the students that we are gaining. Dr. Bruno wants us to continue to be student and parent friendly. He is proud of all of the excellence awards that ULM has been recognized for. - <u>Smoking Violations</u> – President Bruno does not know the best way to handle those who violate the smoking policy. He feels that
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giving tickets is a negative thing, but strongly encourages warning. He has asked Camile Currier to ask the ULM police to give warnings to those smoking on campus. Things that he feels that will help are peer policing and more signage. It would also be a good idea for the Staff Senate, Faculty Senate, and SGA to work together to send out a campus-wide email at the beginning of each semester to reiterate the smoking policy. He received a complaint of someone smoking at an athletic event. The event staff will be informed of the policy.

- **Clarification of "Work Until You Are Done"** – Exempt employees do not have a schedule, however, they must work a minimum of 40 hours a week. It brings up an issue of an honor system as leave reports must show the actual hours worked. The VPs have been told to work as best as they can with employees. Laws are made for violators, not for those that follow the rules. There has to be an understanding between the employee and the supervisor. If the employee feels that the supervisor is being unfair in their work demands, the employee should speak up. If you have a problem with someone you should go to them to discuss the problem. Dr. Bruno supports this course of action as it builds respect.
- **Josh Brooks** – Mr. Brooks is the new Special Assistant to the President. His role is similar to the role that Dr. Hood had. Mr. Brooks brings a lot of experience in the Athletics area, and he will pay a big part in helping Dr. Bruno in that area. Mr. Brooks role and duties will be constantly changing depending on the needs of the President.
- **Opinion on John Edwards** - Dr. Bruno is optimistic about the new governor who has always expressed a commitment to higher education and healthcare. Dr. Bruno feels that Senator Edwards is very genuine and down to earth. The Edwards family has a history of working with higher education. Dr. Bruno feels that changes will have to come through taxes. Right now, we are financially sound and in a good place. He feels that this is the time to assess campus needs and add new positions. The VPs have been asked to assess where the greatest needs on campus are at this time.
- **Dr. Josh Stockley** – Dr. Stockley has been chosen to serve on the Higher Ed Transition Team. He is at the forefront of discussions regarding in which direction higher education should go.
- **New System President Search** – Dr. Bruno has no idea where the new system president may come from. Currently, there are 7 staff members for the system. Board members are appointed by the governor and cannot be removed.
- **Wintersession and Maymester** – The question was asked if ULM plans to continue to offer Maymester and Wintersession. These intersessions are positive in that they allow students options to complete their degrees quicker, however, some departments (such as the Computing Center) run into issues when it comes to

scheduling system upgrades, etc. Dr. Bruno has proposed a trimester system in the past. He feels that the key to handling issues is communication across the campus.

- **Decreased Media Exposure** - It was mentioned that although the Office of Public Information does a great job, it has been noticed that we don't have as much of a presence as before in media outlets. Dr. Bruno noted a couple of points: 1) OPI is swamped. We currently have one writer and two graphic designers. 2) ULM's reputation is better than it was in the past, so we don't have to advertise as much locally. He is proud that students are actually choosing ULM as a first choice instead of as a choice of last resort now. 3) Social media plays a huge part in getting information out. It works in that not only can we share stories to get more exposure, but social media also gives us an idea of how others feel about certain issues, both good and bad. Whenever Dr. Bruno notices that someone has an issue, he attempts to contact them personally. 4) We should not only highlight professional activities of the ULM community. For example, he feels that Dr. Pamela Saulsberry's work with the MLK program and collecting goods for the community is newsworthy.
- Dr. Bruno is very excited about the future of ULM.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- ❖ Approval of November 2015 meeting minutes
 - Corrections: None

- ❖ Committee Reports

- Staff Welfare Committee – The committee has not met yet, but they are planning to have a meeting in January to review the memo points for President Cole to review. The committee will come up with an annual date to review the handbook.
- Communications – No report.
- Elections – No report.
- Constitution and Bylaws – No report.

NEW BUSINESS

- ❖ Tuition and Fee policy is now updated.
 - There are a few more adjustments that will need to be made to the policy later. The UL System gives universities a lot of leeway when it comes to the policy. The fact that ULM employees can use the waiver to take courses at other universities in the system will be made clearer. The current policy is very wordy and has a lot of legal language. At some point, the policy will be rewritten in more laymen terms.

- ❖ Open floor discussion
 - None

CONCLUSIONS

There being no further business Senator K. Davis made a motion to adjourn; Senator Duran seconded. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.