



# STAFF SENATE MINUTES

## MINUTES

AUGUST 28, 2013

9:00 AM

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY, ROOM 640

<b>ATTENDEES</b>	Kristal Anzalone, Christi Bailey, Robin Barton, Katrina Branson, Kelli Cole, Kristi Davis, Michael Davis, Jason Dunavant, Seth Hall, Jeff Hendrix, Russell Hollis, Shelley Johnston, Kyle O'Neal, Patricia Pate, Cyndy Robertson, Whitney Sutherland, Lindsey Wilkerson
<b>ABSENT (EXCUSED)</b>	

### Agenda topics

<b>CALL TO ORDER</b>	A regular meeting of the Staff Senate was held on August 28, 2013 in the 6th floor Library Conference Room - LIB 622 and called to order at 9:00 am by Lindsey Wilkerson, Staff Senate President. A quorum was present.
<b>MINUTES</b>	Minutes of the previous meeting held May 14, 2013 were reviewed by the committee. A change was proposed and noted. Kristal Anzalone moved to approve the amended minutes; Whitney Sutherland seconded. Motion passed.
<b>DISCUSSIONS</b>	<p><b>Guest Speaker:</b> University President Bruno was a guest speaker. Bruno welcomed everyone to new academic year and praised everyone for such a good start. He went on to say that students are choosing to come here more now than in they did in the past. It is important for us to be good to our students; more than 50% are coming from outside of northeast Louisiana. As most people already do, we need to make them feel at home. We need to drill down into the retention process. If we can move retention from 70% to 80%, we won't have to recruit so hard.</p> <p>President Bruno stated that the worst phone call that he can receive is a report that an employee has been rude. We need to be able to prove that we are the best campus in the state. The year 2012 was ULM's highest graduation rate so far, and it is going up. Next year admission standards go up. Attitude and helpfulness will make us better. Our motto here at ULM is that a student is a person and not a number.</p>

The "State of the University" address given by President Bruno can be found on the ULM website. We will be looking at organization and staffing in Academic Affairs and Business Affairs to help meet some of the upcoming budget reductions.

The Student Health Center is going to be outsourced. President Bruno expressed that he will try to do everything he can to minimize the burden on staff and faculty. He also advised that ULM staff and faculty need to make sure our neighbors know how important ULM is to the community.

Lindsey Wilkerson said that he had met with some of the new athletic people who say that everyone they've met at ULM has been nice and helpful and that they are not accustomed to that attitude.

One of the staff senators asked if the only two departments to be restructured were Academic Affairs and Business Affairs. The answer was yes because Student Affairs is funded mostly by the students and the Executive Vice President's office has already been reduced by \$400,000 this year and house several critical areas like the computing center and the police department. President Bruno stated that we have to get ourselves scaled down to survive and that none of this would be discussed if the state had kept our funding on track.

One of the staff senators reminded everyone that ULM staff and faculty need to remember that everything that gets posted to any social media by a ULM employee needs to be given great thought; we need to think about how these negative comments could affect students and parents. President Bruno agreed and referred to the social media policy that ULM currently has in place. He just reminded us to use common sense and support each other.

President Bruno ended by saying that the community feels good about ULM and he does too.

**President's Report:** Lindsey Wilkerson reported that the new strategic plan would be posted online next week. He also gave out a handout that outlined the new principles for Academic Affairs.

### **Committee Reports**

**Communication:** None.

**Constitution and By-Laws:** None.

**Staff Welfare:** None.

**Elections:** None.

**Unfinished Business:** Michael Davis made sure that everyone understood that the \$50 gift card that was talked about for staff completing a staff satisfaction survey is a one-time drawing. Lindsey informed the staff senate that there would be a customer service

initiative on the new strategic plan.

**New Business:** Kelli Cole and Shelley Johnston are the two staff senate representatives on the Academic Affairs Structure Ad Hoc Committee. The floor was open to the staff senators to ask questions and/or express any concerns that they might have regarding potential restructuring ideas. The following were some of the concerns discussed:

- ❖ Where do general studies students fall into the proposed reorganization?
- ❖ There is concern about rewriting much of the Banner codes and payroll codes under such a time crunch. It was asked if these changes could happen more gradually.
- ❖ Some staff are concerned that a lot of these new ad hoc committees don't have enough staff representation. It was brought up that it was probably because these committees are Academic Affairs committees, but some of the staff feel that these changes will greatly affect many staff members and thus they should be more represented. Everyone did like that these committees have been formed.
- ❖ It was suggested that it would be a good idea for Dr. Pani to send an email to all staff letting them know who their two representatives are so that they will know who to contact if they have any questions, concerns, or suggestions.
- ❖ A simple but big question that was asked is if we are only saving around \$300,000, why make these big changes?
- ❖ Recruitment has already printed information under the current organizational chart.
- ❖ The spring schedule will be distributed in October with current organizational chart information.

The last item discussed at this meeting was that Athletics would soon need to replace Robin Barton as their staff senate representative. It was discussed that because so many of the athletic staff are new to the university the requirement to be employed at ULM for one year before being able to serve on the staff senate should be waived. Jason Dunavant made a motion to waive the one year requirement. Kyle O'Neal seconded the motion.

**Next Regular Meeting** – Wednesday, September 11, 2013 @ 9:30 a.m. in 6th floor conference Room – LIB 622.

**CONCLUSIONS** There being no further business Kristal Anzalone made a motion to adjourn; Cyndy Robertson seconded. Motion passed. The meeting adjourned at 10:06 a.m.