

**Minutes of Faculty Senate Meeting**  
**Thursday, November 6, 2008**  
**Rm 2-91, Ad.Min. ULM Campus**  
**12:30-1:50 p.m.**

- \* indicates excused absence;
- Name/Name indicates Moved/Seconded

**Senators Present:** Y. Dupre, J. Feldhaus, A. Hill, C. Hutto, M. Lowe, M. Matusiak, L. Nickelson , S. Owens, L. Reid, D. Rhorer, C. Steckline, J. Taylor, B. Walker, H. Wilson.

**Senators Absent:** M. Bontty \*, D. Chandler\*, A. Case Hanks, D. Hare, C. Johnson, S. Jois, K. Kervin\*, M. Parker\*.

**Handouts available:** Agenda, Minutes last meeting, 3<sup>rd</sup> Draft of Governance Committee's Model, and Exhibits A & B of Powerpoint, Academic Workload Policy from Faculty Handbook, A ULM Policies and Procedures Memorandum entitled "Assessment and Certification of Faculty English Proficiency," effective October 22, 2008 on the ULM campus.

President Rhorer **called the meeting to order**, at 12:35 p.m.

Secretary Steckline **called the roll**.

The **Minutes of the October 16, 2008** meeting were **accepted** with no corrections. (Owens/Nickelson). The October 23, 2008 meeting was never called to order though 15 senators met. 14 voted, with one abstention to abort the meeting as there was confusion from the Office of Academic Affairs regarding the agreement reached in September between the Senate and Provost's Office about alternatives to the use of executive session. Today's meeting (11/6/2008) was called to accommodate for having not met on October 23, 2008.

**Committee Reports:** Of existing FS Committees seven reports were expected.

**A. The ULM Governance Committee**, a sub-committee of the Faculty Welfare Committee, presented the final draft of the Governance Model. It was unanimously approved (Wilson/Reid). Two different powerpoint slide-sets were then discussed, with preference for Exhibit B expressed, as was the empowerment of President Rhorer to present the model to the President at her Friday, November 7, 2008 meeting with President Cofer. She was also encouraged to indicate that the President could certainly talk about the model with the Full Senate if he had any questions.

**B. Faculty Welfare Committee (FWC)** met twice since last meeting, on Tuesday Oct. 30, 2008, and again on Nov. 5, 2008. The Faculty Handbook workload policy was examined; samples of workload policies from different departments and/or colleges (if they existed) were examined; the workload policies generated by the Provost's "Policies and Procedures" Committee, chaired three years ago by Bob Cage were examined. Two primary issues of (in)consistency and confusion were identified with the FWC noting that "12 contact hours" morphs in several documents, that at base the handbook should be rewritten, or departments/colleges should follow the stated workload policy. In the Senate discussion that followed many comments were made, histories tracked, and questions raised. The recommendations that emerged from this discussion included: **a)** seeking clarification on all levels (Board, FAC, University, Colleges) on interpretation of 12 contact hours; **b)** recommending that all colleges follow the handbook once interpretations and clarifications of 12 contact hours are formally articulated; and/or **c)** possibly rewriting this section of the Faculty Handbook. Much discussion focused on the need to recognize the SCHs (Student Contact Hours) involved in teaching on-line courses, which are not currently factored into

workload; the impact of this on strategic plan objective 1.2; the possible need for a survey devoted to on-line course issues and time demands. A motion was made and carried to bring this up in the Nov. 13, 2008 Executive Board meeting. (Hill/Steckline).

**C. University-House Committee**, a sub-committee of Faculty Welfare reported on the meeting that occurred with Provost Richters on Oct. 16, 2008 where suggestions from the Senate were presented. The Provost indicated two future directions to be pursued after ULM's Homecoming—with Aramark and with Architects.

**D. Executive Board** met with Deans and Provost, 12:30-2:00 Tuesday, October 21, 2008. Report of discussion topics included: Needs of School of Nursing faculty/student ratio and limitations of clinical simulators; SGA President Micah Pulliam's and the Provost's problematic interpretation of the SGA Handbook's statement regarding STAP funding/advising and the overlooked phrased "in consultation with the faculty senate" and their insistence that the current faculty advisor be retained rather than Senator Linda Reid, the Senate's approved representative.

**E. Fiscal Affairs:** The question this committee was asked to investigate was to what extent has faculty been impacted by the downturn in the markets. Senator Walker reported that under the teacher retirement, a faculty member has not been impacted since the payout is defined by average high salary and years of experience (not market). ORP members probably have been impacted anywhere from 15-50% (guess) depending on how the employee has had the monies invested. The larger state issue was discussed: disparity of different ORP plans and state retirement plan, as an earlier 10 year vesting period made many faculty select ORP plans. Also questioned the payment of fees taken to send faculty retirement plan dollars to faculty retirement accounts.

**F. Faculty Advisory Council** met Friday, Oct. 24, 2008 in Baton Rouge. Senator Rhorer observed that the FAC is working with Penny Ferguson to find a Legislator to draft and back a bill that addresses whether ORP selectors can move into the state retirement system, and was requested to charge FAC with a consideration of disability benefits as well.

**G. Conference Committee with the Deans** scheduled with Deans LeMoine, Cass, and Ryman, and Senators Rhorer, Steckline, and Walker for November 4, at 3:30 was cancelled with 45 minutes notification beforehand. Dismay for this type of cancellation was expressed as others noted instances of hastily called meetings with assorted parties that assume easy rescheduling, when such is not the case.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

- 1. The Colleges of Education (1) , and Arts and Sciences (2) need replacement senators—**
2. Should actively recruit replacements. Check your Departments for willingness and availability to serve and nominate at next meeting.

#### **New Business:**

- A.** Provost asked President Rhorer to discuss Summer Commencement with Faculty. Prior to the discussion, it was noted that this is not in reference to Summer 2009 graduation. The pros and cons of the tradition were discussed as senators observed that the ceremony means a great deal to family members of those graduating, if not to the graduates themselves; that it's a very expensive and work intensive ceremony; that far fewer people graduate during the summer; that letters from the registrar's office function in similar ways. It was approved by the Senate (13 in favor/ 1 opposed/ no abstentions) to eliminate summer commencement ceremonies yet allow for

alternative methods for the conferring of degrees in the summer. After degree conference a student can participate in subsequent graduation ceremonies (in Fall/Spring) should they so desire. (Wilson/Reid)

- B.** A Policies and Procedures memorandum for ULM was distributed, effective October 22, 2008 addressing assessment and certification of faculty English proficiency for all faculty hires, full-time and part-time instructional personnel (including graduate assistants) employed by ULM to teach undergraduate-level courses. Essentially the policy explicates the processes practiced by most programs of assessing and certifying language proficiency of instructional agents.

Meeting adjourned at 1:53 p.m.

**Next and Last Regularly Scheduled Faculty Senate Meeting:** November 20, 2008 12:30-2:00, in Admin. 2-91.

**Reminder of Meeting with President Cofer: November 11, 2008 3:00 in Admin. 2-91.**

Respectfully submitted,

C. Turner Steckline, Faculty Senate Secretary

\*indicates excused absence.

(Name/Name) indicates Moved/Seconded