

**Minutes of Faculty Senate (FS) Meeting**  
**Thursday, January 21, 2010**  
**Admin Rm 2-91, ULM Campus**  
**12:30-2:20 p.m.**

**Call to Order and Roll Call:** President- Elect Hill called the meeting to order and Secretary Reid called the roll.

**Senators Present:** M. Bontty, D. Chandler, Y. Dupre, J. Feldhaus, A. Hill, M. Lowe, L. Nicholson, M. Parker, S. Owens L. Reid, D. Rhorer, C. Steckline, P. Sylvester, H. Wilson

**Senators Absent:** B. Walker\*, J. Anderson, W. Campbell\*, C. Grinnell, C. Hutto\*, K. Kervin\*, M. Matusiak\*.

**Guest Speakers:**

Dave Theil, AraMark Corporation's Regional Sustainability Champion, discussed their focus on making universities more sustainable and "greener". National programs include recycling, litter prevention, energy and water conservation, and sustainable foods. Efforts for ULM are to bring in foods produced locally while maintaining food safety criteria, energy conservation in dining halls and residence halls, and to increase vegetarian meals served at Shultz dining hall. When asked about the safety of water quality, Theil responded that AraMark deals more with energy audits and assessments. He asked if students were concerned about sustainability, noting that in some areas of the country students are asking about sustainability when choosing which university to attend. Senator Steckline stated that some efforts for recycling plastics and ink cartridges are made by individual campus groups, but there is no organized effort across campus. AraMark is exploring creating a market for recyclable materials through pooling what comes out of all of the universities along I-20.

Chris Ringo, Assistant Director of Physical Plant Services, discussed ULM's initiatives (e.g., cardboard recycling, composting, conversion of mowing machines to bio-diesel, and metal products recycling. Senator Wilson asked if Chris would send an email to let faculty know the location of ULM dumpsters for recycling and what materials would be appropriate for depositing in those dumpsters.

**Approval of minutes:** The minutes of the November 19, 2009 were reviewed and accepted with corrections (Rhorer/ Feldhaus).

**Committee Reports:**

**Faculty Advisory Council (FAC):** FAC Chair Rhorer reported that a meeting was held on December 4, 2009, immediately following the Board of Supervisors' (BOS) meeting in Baton Rouge. At the BOS meeting, the Board approved a change in the financial exigency policy and approved an incentivized retirement policy. After obtaining copies of the two new policies, members of FAC discussed the details

on each. In addition, members wrote a resolution opposing the changes in ORP distributions. The resolution has been sent to Dr. Moffett.

After returning to Monroe, FAC Chair Rhorer called FS members of the University Planning Council (UPC) to discuss the policies. President Walker called a meeting and Provost Richters was invited to join the discussion. After the meeting Dr. Richters said he was going to bring this up with other provosts across the State for policy clarification. Before the next FAC meeting, which will be on February 26<sup>th</sup> in Baton Rouge, members will ask their senates and faculty members to voice opinion about the two new policies and report findings.

FS members discussed the changes between the old and new financial exigency policies such as the 90 day notice for termination of tenured faculty rather than the 12 months in the previous plan and that now financial exigency can be declared at the university, program or budgetary unit levels. Senator Wilson asked that we make a resolution to address the undermining of tenured faculty rights. It was noted that potential motivations for the revised exigency policy might include avoiding jeopardizing the State's bond rating and public relations if a university declares exigency. Senator Chandler expressed concern over program viability if programs are being required to only look at graduation numbers for program sustainability.

**Executive Board:** Senator Hill reported that no formal Executive Board meeting has been held since November. President Walker had sent notice to all faculty of the revised exigency policy at the end of last semester. The following links provide access to these policies:

Financial Exigency Policy – <http://www.ulsystem.edu> (Under BOS' Board Bylaws and Rules; Chapter 3, XVI Financial Exigency, dated 12/04/09)

Tenured Faculty-Strategic Reduction Initiative – <http://www.ulsystem.edu> (Under BOS' Policies and Procedures Memoranda; Tenured Faculty-Strategic Reduction Initiative, policy # FS-III.II.G-1)

Senator Hill gave a report from the Presidents Cabinet which met on Jan 13<sup>th</sup>. Future meetings will be held on the second Wednesday of each month with representation from FS, Staff Senate (SS), SGA, alumni, VPs, and deans. The Cabinet's focus will discuss issues and evaluate policies, but not make policies. The primary goal of the Cabinet is lateral communication of issues among all constituencies of the ULM community. Issues discussed included the Post Secondary Education Review Commission (PERC) recommendations under consideration to increase BOR control, stress only one doctoral institution, reduce funding of 100 and 200 level courses to community college level, increase graduation rates and graduation numbers required, and increase admission standards for 2012 (which would reduce enrollments, reduce graduation numbers, reduce tuition income and reduce funding). The PERC report is due February 4<sup>th</sup>. Recommendation to the BOS was to cut their budgets by 30%. The finances were discussed to address mid-year cuts of \$2.6 million, which makes our third cut in 13 months of 9.7 million, for a total reduction of state funding by 17% since 2008-2009. Few staff were let go on this round of cuts. \$170,000 was recouped from tuition increases and intersession and summer classes, \$823,000 came from attrition, \$400,000 from QEP, \$650,000 in new student services fees (which will expire in 2012) with a shortfall of \$350,000. Each VP has been asked to cut \$75,000 out of his budget. ULM may have an additional \$4.5 million if PERC recommendations come through. Extramural

donations broke even last year, but the actual number of donors dropped by 19%. Services such as Graphic Services and the farm may need to be cut or out-sourced. Enrollment is up this Spring putting ULM's enrollment over 9000 students. Progress has been made by the Staff Senate in getting its bylaws in place. SS elections will be held this spring and SS should be in place May 1. SGA is planning the Mardi Gras Ball for February 4 and are concerned about parking lot lighting for night classes.

A question was raised about hiring academic advisors when faculty members are advising and other jobs are being cut. Senator Lowe suggested that SACS may require these advisors to meet SACS standards.

The next UPC meeting will be at 4:00 pm, Tuesday, Jan 26<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> floor Library. The first Faculty Chat for this semester will be 2:00 – 4:00 pm, Thursday, Jan 28<sup>th</sup> at the University House with the Provost, FS President Walker, and President-Elect Hill.

**Elections Committee** – Senator Feldhaus presented concerns with doing elections electronically. He stressed the need for a rapid turnaround with mail ballots. Senator Reid expressed concern about delays with on-campus mail.

#### **Ad Hoc Committees:**

**Program self review:** Senator Chandler reported that departmental reports are back and no meeting has been set. The plan is to summarize these reports to have ready after the PERC report. The committee is creating a formula to create this summary. Additional data is being provided by Dr. Eric Pani's office. FS will request a copy of the summary.

**Faculty Productivity and Performance:** Senator Nickelson reported a meeting was held on Dec 20<sup>th</sup> to finalize the faculty workload policy which will be implemented as a pilot program.

**Administrative Productivity and Performance:** Senator Hill reported that the committee has not met. This was discussed with the President Cofer and a new chair may need to be selected.

**Curriculum Review:** Senator Chandler reported the next meeting will be February 11<sup>th</sup> to address the charge.

#### **Unfinished Business:**

**ORP Resolution** has been sent.

#### **New Business:**

The Smoking Policy Committee will hold a meeting at 2:00 pm, Thursday, Jan 28<sup>th</sup>.

Senator Wilson brought up concerns regarding the University of Louisiana System Program Discontinuance policy of 2004. She expressed her opinion that the policy was used to dismiss faculty and programs and that the procedures described in the policies were not properly followed in the summer of 2009. Discussion followed.

**Other Business:**

Senator Reid presented a letter received from TRSL regarding the current ORP providers. Their contracts will expire in June 30, 2010. New contracts are being negotiated and may or may not be with current providers.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Reid  
Faculty Senate Secretary

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