

ULM Faculty Senate
16 September 2010, 12:30 PM, Admin 2-91

- I. Call to order and roll call (12:31pm)
 - A. Present – President Hill, Past-President Walker, Senator Anderson, , Senator Cummings-Strunk, Senator Einsenstedt, Senator Feldhaus, Senator Grinnell, Senator Hutto, Senator Lowe, Senator Matusiak, Senator Owens, Senator Reid, , Senator Steckline, Senator Sylvester
 - i. Quorum present
 - B. Absent – Senator Andrews*, Senator Bontty*, Senator Clark *, Senator Rhorer* (* indicates excused absence)
- II. Approval of 19 August 2010 minutes

Motion to approve minutes as written (Sylvester/Reid). Motion passed and minutes were accepted and approved as written.
- III. Recommendations for/approval of new senators
 - A. Arts and Sciences (Jim Casey – Agriculture, 1 vacancy remaining)
 - B. Health Sciences (Karen Arrant – Nursing)
 - C. Business (1 vacancy remaining)

DISCUSSION: None

MOTION: Motion to vote on acceptance of introduced faculty (Walker/Steckline). Motion passed and new senators were accepted.

- IV. Officer Elections
 - A. President-elect

Nomination for President-elect – Donna Rhorer was recommended for President-elect (Steckline/Feldhaus). Senator Rhorer was not present to accept nomination; but had presented President Hill with a written request to accept the nomination. Motion was made to close nominations for Present-elect (Feldhaus/Walker). Senator Rhorer was elected as President-Elect by acclamation.
 - B. Secretary-elect

Nomination for Secretary-elect – Turner Steckline was recommended for Secretary-elect (Einstadt/Sylvester). Senator Steckine accepted nomination. Motion was made to close nominations for Secretary-elect (Feldhaus/Lowe). Senator Steckline was elected as Secretary-elect by acclamation.

V. Committee Reports

A. Executive Board

DISCUSSION/REPORT:

- Next board meeting on 10/07/2010 @ 12:30pm.
- President Hill discussed with the University Administration the Faculty Senate's concern about the closure of buildings in the summer and maintenance problems (e.g. burst pipes, bugs, etc.) occurring over the summer session. Dr. Richter's informed the executive committee that maintenance was not being performed regularly in all instances, causing some issues. Administration was not aware of pest problem caused by closure of building. A recommendation of pest control before summer was discussed. Dr. Richters asked faculty to let administration know about other issues.
- President Hill discussed with the University Administration Senator Steckline's recruiting ideas of targeting states which have closed college and programs. Discussed the idea that foreign students are unable to take online classes due to their residency requirements. Some of these ideas (foreign student) have been implemented and are beginning to show positive progress.
- President Hill discussed with the University Administration about the delay in processing final paychecks to workforce development for those faculty and staff laid off. Administration was just made aware and looking into problems. Another issue discussed was the delay in paying salaries and bills over the summer (to include grants). Administration will look into this concern.
- President Hill discussed with the University Administration how the University can create a culture for faculty senate service. Although the concept might be in tenure/promotion, it might not actually be implemented or taken into consideration as service. Dr. Richters suggested a review of tenure/promotion procedures in across University.
- President Hill discussed with the University Administration the online class size issue. Dr. Richters said the class size target is 30 students. If the size of the class exceeds 30, should have adjunct ready. If >30 and no adjunct, faculty should be paid prorated overload. Last minute increases and lack of adjuncts were identified as issues.
- Dr. Richters discussed the University's plan to deal with mid-year budget cuts. Dr. Richters feels ULM is in a good position with the unspent salaries on unfilled positions and carry over from last year.
- Dr. Richters met with local legislative members to discuss next year's budget process. Local legislative members expect cut will not exceed 7-14 million for ULM. Talks of across the board cut or closure of campuses have been discussed. Dr. Richters reported that ULM will not be targeted for closure.

- ULM enrollment is slightly down slightly (2%) from last year. However, retention rate from freshmen to sophomore has increased.
- Dr. Richters met with Louisiana Tech University Development to help formula ideas for ULM to get more community support. Dr. Richters commented about how Louisiana Tech University often invites the community to campus activities and thanks the community's efforts. This is something ULM does not do enough of.
- President Hill attending President's Cabinet on 09/22/2010 and meeting with other ULM constituents on 09/23/2010.
- President Hill reported on the Presidential search committee – 4 online applications have been received. The search committee will meet on 10/05/2010 to narrow pool. Final selected candidates will meet at ULM the following week.

B. Faculty Advisory Committee

Report given by President Hill in Senator Rhorer's absence.

FAC representatives, including Dr. Rhorer, will meet with Dr. Randy Moffett and others Thursday, September 23 to continue discussing proposed revisions to UL Board policy. We need to provide the FAC with tools for that discussion. One possible point of leverage in those negotiations might be a willingness of faculty to accept the concept of furloughs to ward off faculty layoffs in exchange for removing some of the proposed revisions that most threaten the protections of tenure, such as program reduction.

MOTION: Motion to allow the Faculty Advisory Council to offer furlough for faculty to prevent layoff (e.g. imminent loss of employment) if the language of program reduction (adopted by the System Board in 12/2009) is removed from the Systems policies and procedures, a sunset timeline of 1 year is used, a sliding scale for the furloughs is used, and the institution is in a position of immediate financial exigency. (Feldhaus/Walker). Favor – 9, Opposed – 0, Abstaining – 6. Motion Passed by majority.

C. Academic Standards – No report.

D. Constitution and By-laws – (Senator Lowe – Chair)

REPORT: Committee continues to discuss changes to allow past presidents to continue to serve on the faculty senate if their term has expired.

E. Elections – No report

- F. Faculty Welfare (Senator Sylvester – Chair)
 - 1. Faculty Handbook (Senator Reid)
 - i. Reviewed policies on FMLA. Some corrections needed for faculty handbook for paternal leave.
 - 2. ORP (Senate Walker)
 - i. Forwarding ORP to social security office to determine if it meets the definition of a federally qualified plan

- G. Fiscal Affairs (Senator Anderson - Chair) – No report

VI. Unfinished business

- A. Louisiana State University Faculty Senate is working on recommending a policy/motion similar to ULMs motion (introduced, debated and approved - listed above)

VII. New Business – no other new business

VIII. Adjournment (Walker Motion) 13:41

SCHEDULED FALL MEETINGS:

Thursday, October 14, 12:30 – 2:00

Thursday, November 18, 12:30 -2:00

There is the potential for called meetings. Called meetings are generally held during the same time slot.