Faculty Senate
University of Louisiana at Lafayette
Minutes of meeting January 14, 2013
Leslie Bary, Secretary

3:30 PM Rap Session with Dr. Carolyn Bruder, Interim Provost & Vice President of Academic Affairs

News included the following:
→ We have met our current GRAD Act goals, and we have new benchmarks for next year.
→ These include higher goals for externally funded research.
→ Sandra Woodley, the new UL System President, visited our campus 15 January. The midyear budget cut was $1.43M and it has been taken from budgets of research centers and similar projects.
→ The University has contracted with a different search firm to find us a new Provost.

3:47 PM Presentation by Dr. Fabrice Leroy, Professor of French and Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts

Leroy co-chaired a task force initiated January 2012 to assess our international initiatives. We do not offer nearly as many international options as we would like to or as institutions of our size and stature typically do.

The committee studied the experience of international students as well as offerings in study abroad for our students. They also considered ways of integrating international issues into the general curriculum, and recommend that we label courses that would qualify as International Studies courses.

The committee’s primary, and very strong recommendation is that we establish and staff a study abroad and international study office. We now have an office for international students and a small office for our export programs (e.g. UL in Italy). Needed is a consolidated office that would also handle our many exchanges and cooperative agreements. These are now managed in a fragmentary way by individual faculty members who often do not know of all the exchanges available on campus, and who lack both advertising budgets and staff to process paperwork.

There will be office space for such an office in the new Union but at this time we do not have a budget to staff it. The committee hopes the University will find a way to staff it since the development of this office is crucial to our future success.

Dr. Leroy had a Power Point presentation he can make available to anyone interested, and he welcomes questions and comments; he can be reached at fleroy@louisiana.edu.

4:15 Regular Senate Meeting

I. The regular meeting of the Senate was called to order by EO Charity Bryan at 4:15 PM.

II. Bill Ferguson moved, seconded by Aeve Pitre, that the minutes for the November 14, 2012 meeting be approved. There was no discussion and the question was called; minutes were approved unanimously.
III. Report of Executive Officer is on Web, thanks to Webmaster Jeff Lush.

IV. Reports of Senate Committees:

a. Committee on Committees: Dr. Melinda Oberleitner, Chair (report on web)

b. Ways and Means: Dr. Denise Linton, Chair. The committee is working on editing the Constitution for clarity and including in it the changes the Senate has voted upon in recent years.

c. Academic Planning and Development: Dr. Suzanne Ward, Chair (report on web)

d. Governmental Concerns: Dr. Robert Slater, Chair. The Committee will prepare a report on how our peer institutions are faring in context of budget cuts.

e. Faculty Advisory Council Representative: Dr. David Yarborough, Chair; Dr. Jeff Lush, Alternate Representative (no meeting, so no report)

V. Reports of Senate Committees: Ad-Hoc Committees

a. Status of Underrepresented Faculty Groups: Aeve Pitre, Chair. The committee is unclear on its charge and seeks advice. Is their work overlapping with that of any other committee in an inconvenient way? After a brief discussion it was determined that the committee could define its own charge and other committees were not concerned about possible overlap.

VI. Reports of University Committees

a. Curriculum: Kay Riedel, Chair. More courses are being approved.

b. Faculty Grievance: Dr. Jack Damico, Chair. Submitted a written report.

c. Faculty Benefits and Welfare: Mr. Brian Powell, Chair. Submitted a written report. Question from George Wooddell: The new version of drug and alcohol policy for faculty refers to an appendix D, what is appendix D and where can it be found? After a brief discussion it was decided this would be verified and clarified.

d. Library: Dr. Bruce Turner, Chair. No report.

e. Academic Affairs and Standards: Dr. Suzanne Ward, Chair. No report.


g. Student Evaluation of Instruction: Dr. Jonathan Kulp, Chair. Submitted a written report.

h. Distance Learning Committee: Dr. Luke Dowden, Chair. Submitted a written report; summarized this report at the meeting by saying we are growing.
i. Campus Planning Committee: Mr. Tom Sammons, Chair. Submitted a written report.

j. Strategic Program Review Committee: Dr. Carolyn Bruder, Chair. Report is under New Business, below.

k. General Education Committee: Dr. Carolyn Bruder, Chair. Report is under New Business, below.

VII. Unfinished Business

a. EO Bryan: The proposal from the Executive Committee to move Senate elections to Spring has been removed from the agenda because the same committee decided that the plan was impractical.

b. EO Bryan: The update on University Media Policy has been deferred to the February meeting, when new information and revised documents will be available. Senator Judy Gentry reported that she had met with two staff members on concerns about academic freedom. The conversation ended with a commitment to make some changes in the language of the policy. Gentry recommended that we in the Senate wait to see if the changes are sufficient.

c. Carolyn Bruder: Update on pooled sick leave. Payroll needs a programmer to write the program; when we have our new HR director, in about 6 months, it may become easier to hire such a person.

d. EO Bryan: Election of additional person to serve on the Faculty Senate Executive Committee. There were three nominees; Senator Kay Reidel was elected by paper ballot.

VIII. New Business

a. Motion to approve the Nominations Committee for 2013 (election of Senate officers): by Shelton Houston, seconded by Jeff Lush, approved unanimously by voice vote.

b. Program Review Committee – Dr. Bruder. Programs are to be reviewed internally every 7-8 years. This is not with a view to termination but to updating and improvement. There is also BoR program review, including a detailed financial review (that we went through 2-3 years ago, as we vividly remember), but internal review really is undertaken for purposes of improvement / directing attention to needs. Documents on the review will be posted to the AA website.

IX. Announcements.

a. Edits to the Faculty Senate Constitution will be presented at the February Senate meeting. Voting on this issue will be in March.

X. Adjournment — the meeting was adjourned by EO Charity Bryan at 5:04 PM.

Upcoming meetings: Wednesday, February 20th, Wednesday, March 20th, Wednesday, April 17th.