

UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA AT MONROE

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

DATE

b. Faculty Welfare: the activity of this committee varies between years and will try to address issues more proactively since historically it tends to be a reactive entity; President Berry has indicated that the great places to work survey from last year indicates this is an area needing more attention; the faculty senate is looking at increasing the awards to be more in line with the size of the campus, so FS may start participating

c.

May use for stipends; Dr. McDaniel is open to suggestions on how to spend the money, may submit them to her. The committee will develop a plan for disbursing these funds. VPAA position is currently vacant with an active search being performed. Dr. McDaniel talked with Dean Simpson who stated that applications are being submitted. Assumption is that this position will be filled by an external person.

c. Academic Innovation Center (AIC): committee has been disbanded, but it is being replaced by something like the teaching, learning and service innovation center, to include all things that were in AIC, but also to incorporate more diverse activities geared towards both faculty and staff, it will attempt to make University week more meaningful to faculty & staff, with more meaningful professional development, service and service learning projects; innovation center will have a director and funding has been identified and is already available. Not sure what level of person will be placed in this position. President Berry has offered to help with policies and defining what service learning is.

d. Budget updates: from staff senate meeting Dr. Berry discussed several things including renegotiation of dorm debt for significant savings, a company has been found that will monetize our physical plant for significant savings; enrollment was down 200 students vs last Fall which equals several million dollars, so this will be addressed; ULM to hire a lobbying firm at the state and federal government level. This should help us get earmarked money. ULM field house debt will be retired and should be resolved next week. Process with the raises could be considered as fair as it could be, the state money was not there for ULM which highlights the difference in inequities of funding between the different state programs. The legislature mandated that faculty get a 2% raise but only allotted \$300K for raises which is insufficient to cover all faculty, Dr. Berry attempted to renegotiate and was able to obtain some additional funds but overall funds were still insufficient; classified staff got a civil service raise but this would leave the unclassified staff left out; unclassified staff got a 2% raise. Two percent faculty raises incorporate an equity pool within programs which allows higher ranked individuals making less than lower ranking professors would be brought up to the same pay.

e. Mark Johnson: used to be ULM Associate Chief of Police but has transitioned to a faculty position and is serving as a faculty senator; Dr. Johnson discussed his involvement in starting a community/campus emergency response team which was halted due to COVID; in essence this program is where volunteers come together in times of emergency; it is run by Volunteers of America, Federal government funds are available to cover the cost of these

is covered by these funds since the first 72 is on you. This training is projected to happen 12/13 & 12/14 during working hours which will hopefully increase faculty involvement; free training, equipment and food are being offered; staff seem to be good with these dates. More will be shared later.

f. Random COVID testing: may not happen, University is purchasing software that will allow faculty and staff to upload vaccination status which will mitigate the need for testing; students should already be using a system; there will be mandatory testing for unvaccinated students. The University has posted a COVID communication officer position to help address communication issues related to COVID.

g. Final exam schedule in the academic calendar; the last final ends at 1450 on Tu 12/7 and grades are due 9 am 12/8. This will be very difficult to meet and prohibits some types of finals. Dr. Susie Cox from Calendar Committee has been contacted and verified that this is the correct finals schedule; we will need to ask/write the Deans and ask for advice. Dr. Berry indicated that this causes the academic calendar to be a 10-month calendar rather than 9-months; administration is aware of this and trying to get 9-month academic year back to 9-months. This may be looked at by the academic standards subcommittee. Should be getting software to integrate Banner being able to cover graduation checkout.

	<p>h. COVID money; COVID money will be handed out for students; the Fall money is ~\$5 million while Spring money is ~\$3 million but for the University the monies are projected to be 15 million but earmarked for expenses related to COVID such as supplies; masks, wipes and hand sanitizer.</p> <p>i. Miscellaneous business: Higher turnover on FS mainly due to retirements.</p>
Guest Speaker	<p>Melissa Rhodes, Staff Senate President: Shared her service history with ULM & the staff senate, resides in Sandal Hall, requested that senators contact her for any questions on financial aid or staff issues</p> <p>Seth Hall, Chief Strategy Officer</p> <p>Michael Bruscato, Recreation Services: Director of recreational services</p>
Meeting Adjourned	1351
Submitted By	Hilary Tice
Convener	Janelle McDaniel