

ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE November 10, 2006

The Robert Holland Faculty Senate of Mississippi State University held its regular meeting in the Coskrey Auditorium of Memorial Hall at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, November 10, 2006.

Members absent and excused were Benjamin Blair, Kent Coffey, Terry Hanson, Homes Hogue, Jerry Matthews, Vince McGrath, Julia Porter, and Ray Vaughan.

No members were absent and unexcused.

The meeting was broadcast real-time over the World Wide Web. The file will be left active for a few weeks and can be reviewed by clicking on the Senate homepage at <http://www.facultysenate.msstate.edu>.

President Robert Wolverton called the meeting to order.

President Wolverton referred to the minutes of the October 13, 2006, Regular Meeting as distributed. Senator Walter Diehl moved, Senator Bridges seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate approve the minutes of October 10, 2006. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

GUESTS

President Wolverton introduced guests: Dr. Peter Rabideau, Provost, and Dr. Colin Scanes, Vice President for Research.

PETER RABIDEAU, PROVOST

Provost Rabideau provided the following information:

- An update on the Dean of the Graduate School search.
 - The paperwork for advertising the position for the Dean of the Graduate School has been filed with Human Resource Management and a notice has gone out to faculty via email.
 - The committee “tweaked” the job description. An issue has come up in that there has been an interchange between the two names: Graduate Studies and Graduate School. The original name appears to have been Graduate School and there has been no official move to change name. Rabideau’s preference would be to have the name Graduate School. Discussion will need to occur.
- IHL Board will meet next week.
 - MSU has submitted several new programs and two or three will likely be on hold until December or after. The Earth and Atmosphere Science and the Building Construction are being challenged due to possible duplication with programs at University of Southern Mississippi. The status of the online Master’s in Engineering is unknown and might be duplicative of other programs in the state.

The duplication of online programs has not previously been a concern in the state. Rabideau explained the arguments that will be presented for each program and hopes for success for the proposals.

- The budget for Maymester and Summer School will be taken “collectively” (i.e., together). The units will share 75% of net gains (from enrollment tuition gains) over last summer. Rabideau indicated he would also like to examine all revenue gains due to the differences between fall and spring, and summer semesters.
- Questions posed to Dr. Rabideau:
 - Senator Wood asked if last summer would be the base, with the addition of maymester the gain for summer 2007 would be much greater than it will be for summer 2008. Will it always be the previous summer’s base? Rabideau responded that he did not know the answer; fall 2005 would always be the base year for future fall and spring semesters. He was uncertain for summer and maymester base; but he hopes summer 2006 would always be the base.
 - Senator Goodman asked about Rabideau’s promise to research into the teaching load for faculty in other research universities (e.g., 2-2 loads versus our 3-2 load). Rabideau responded that he did not remember the promise and stated it make more sense to look at the workload by discipline based on competition with peer institutions. He stated the colleges and departments should be the ones to gather this data. Goodman asked if the Institution Research could gather that information. Rabideau responded that it is unlikely that this would be effective (e.g., better from department head to department head).
 - Senator Walter Diehl asked about the status of the review of the 25 accounts. Rabideau stated the data will be available in the next day or two. He stated that he guesses that Academic Affairs will receive about a 10% reduction. With regard to rumors that the accounts will be swept or significantly reduced, Rabideau stated that accounts under his purview will be individually evaluated. Senator Wood asked if there would be notification concerning account status or if there would just be a sudden drop in account balance. Rabideau stated he expected that is a possibility.
 - Senator Brown asked about the procedure for the challenge of the proposed degree programs. Rabideau stated he did not know, but had stated for planning and recruitment purposes he had informed IHL that the October meeting deadline is important. He stated he was lead to believe IHL staff supported the proposals, but that they had wanted to be thorough in their investigation of the implications and consequences of the proposals.
 - Senator D’Abramo asked who would be making the decision on the 25 accounts. Rabideau stated the President’s office would be making the decision. When queried about specific individuals who will make decisions, he agreed the Chief of Staff would be involved in the President’s decision. D’Abramo asked how much input had been given. Rabideau stated he could only speak for himself and he had given no input. He stated one of the issues is the President is interested in establishing excellence in academics, scholarships, the honors program, and endowments and is endeavoring to establish these from within the university rather than to wait for other funding.

COLIN SCANES, VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH

Dr. Scanes provided the following good news items:

- Funding for the Northern Gulf Institute, a consortium with 5 universities and institutes, was announced by NOAA and Senator Cochran yesterday. The grant was competitively awarded and will support a total of 60 faculty and 40 graduate in research of the gulf eco-system and interaction with society.
- For first 4 months of the year, grants and awards are in and the news is still good - \$37 million above this time last year with \$15 million in the last month.
- Outside funding from the Small Business Administration for a position in his office to assist in finding funding from companies.
- With regard to success stories:
 - Scanes anticipates announcements from companies who will be coming to the Golden Triangle (e.g., software, portable power, electronics, aerospace) or Starkville with great potential to impact MSU students/graduates and area development.
 - Mark McGee will play assist in the promotion of the Research Park with a half time appointment.
- Questions posed to Scanes:
 - Senator Walter Diehl asked, with a concern about the reduction in the 25 accounts, asked how much the university underwrites research by not collecting the appropriate overhead on the research that is done. Scanes responded that the number is at or above 95% which are at rate that funding agencies allow; as a reminder, he stated the Department of Education, state agencies, and USDA restrict this funding (e.g., fund below 10%). Diehl asked if the funding is funneled through the development foundation and not through his office and in which overhead is not paid. Scanes responded that contracts are moved as much as possible through Sponsored Programs with the exception in cases where there is a liability issue for the university. In those cases, they go through the University Research and Technical Corporation. Diehl asked how much overhead will be lost through those funded through the foundation. Scanes responded “not much” because often those agencies do not fund overhead.
 - He wanted to respond to previous questions about the 25 accounts. Drs. Scanes and Watson, and Kent Hoblet (Vet Med) and the business offices of agriculture and research met with Mr. McGreavy to argue their case. Arguments posed included issues related to: bridging funds, equipment funds, graduate assistantships, fixed price contracts and over cost. Scanes stated both he and Dr. Watson were assertive, but the effectiveness of their arguments is unknown. Also, he stated he tried to make the case that 25 and other accounts are similar to accumulation of wealth versus income, in that wealth is not taxed. The Office of Research will ask for as much flexibility as possible.
 - Senator Goodman asked about the status of the Office of Regulatory Compliance staffing and facilities. Scanes stated with regard to staffing, the position has recently been filled in IRB based on recommendations of the search committee and he has asked that individual to work extra hours to alleviate any backlog and issues related to expedited reviews. Goodman asked if the number of staff members in the office is down. Scanes responded, yes the number is

down, but the university is now moving to fill Del Rendon's position, the position in Bio-safety position, and an interim regulatory compliance officer. That person and Terry Coggins did a great job in handling the recent Dorman fire. Scanes stated the office building will not be moving based on staff input. The Office of Research will pay for an office in a new building in the Research Park at the design of the staff which follows university guidelines. This will be a savings and preferable to the house that had been proposed. This should be accomplished by the end of 2007. Hazardous Waste building is also of concern. Renovation costs are estimated in excess of \$2 million. There is an immediate move and monetary investment to examine personnel and materials safety issues. He stated a tribute to IACOC and IRB is necessary – IACOC has been recently accredited and IRB is doing more and more in their positions.

- A question was asked about bridging funds for those endeavors that in limbo state as they move toward commercialization. Funding from the corporate world is difficult to find in recent time, given that companies are less willing to fund technology and proof of concept. They wait for ideas to get patented/published. Companies would rather buy a small company rather than support an individual investigator in their laboratory research. Scanes stated that this is a correct perception. Scanes indicated that there are efforts to subcontract with companies, and to form mirror companies to legally address the conflict of interest policies. The state conflict of interest requires an individual to get federal funds. This is also being done with regard to small companies being bought by large companies.
- Senator Susan Diehl voiced concern about Sponsored Programs. She state many are frustrated with too few services in grant writing relative to other universities, specifically with the current/pending status and data-base modernization of services. Scanes indicated he agreed with the idea with regard to establishing a data-base for current-and-pending, the issue of budget, and the vulnerability in the submission process. He stated that the personnel have tried to do a good job in their service. Senator Diehl indicated that software and other assistance in service provision. Scanes responded that the office is trying to increase some of the services (e.g., the newsletter). He stated that money is very tight with recent changes in his office.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Wolverton gave the following report:

- The Executive Committee has been talking to the Provost about several large issues with an emergency meeting just this afternoon that will be discussed in the meeting following a introduction by Senator Goodman.
- Nominations are open for the Dean of the Graduate School. Dean Hopper is head of that search committee.
- A large number of AOPs are about to expire; he has signed 28 signed to avoid their expiration by a lack of review. These had minor changes (e.g., change the review to every 4 years, to reflect unit name changes). There are also five that have been signed

but which will be or are currently under review with the full intent they will be reviewed within committee.

- The University Food Service will be contracted out. Dr. Kibler has stated some inaccuracies that have been reported in the news. This change will be in place in March, 2007. All employees will be retained with a 5% increase in salaries and the company will have to have a benefit package equal to MSU's benefits (e.g., insurance). There will be an upgrade of facilities in all venues. It is believed, based on the success of USM's food service, that this plan will be successful. Kibler has requested that anyone with questions should call him at 5-3045.
- The first of what has been referred to as the "dividend checks" has gone out, \$96 thousand, to the various colleges. Another check is anticipated at the end of summer school.
- He referred to a report by John Rush (Director of Major Gifts) in which, from July 1, 2002 – October 31, 2006, the university has had \$ 333,146,700.00 committed. Additionally, the Fund for Excellence, to be kicked off by the President on January 1, has a goal of \$100 million to be split in four areas.
- There may need to be a December meeting called to review the Student Honor Code.
- Wolverton asked Senator Goodman to report on the Teaching Evaluations. Goodman stated 3 years ago faculty was asked by Institutional Research to examine process for teaching evaluations. There are three parts (two of which has been accomplished).
 - A new AOP has been written which significantly changed how the evaluations are to be used. The Provost has been asked on numerous occasions to inform department heads about these changes. However, to Goodman's knowledge, this has not happened.
 - The evaluations will be generated through an electronic system and program has been purchased (Class Climate). This has, so far, been working effectively.
 - New evaluation forms have been developed. There are five prototypes to reflect the different types of classes (i.e., small sections, on-line, large lecture, studio, laboratory). These have been reviewed by faculty last spring and modified. Now, these need to be evaluation for reliability and validity. Due to some delays, these will be distributed for fall semester without those statistical analyses. It has been asked that these not be disseminated because the evaluations have not been validated. The committee will test the validity and reliability. This will take through the spring 2007 and senators are welcome to join the committee. It will be necessary to send an announcement to faculty members show them where the Senate is in the process.
 - Senator Adebisi suggested that the progress report on this issue be posted on the web and that the results of the current survey be kept confidential. Wolverton stated that the scores will not be disseminated to administrators until the forms have been evaluated. Senator Wood referred to faculty going through promotion and tenure in the near future and asked if they would be able to send the evaluation results with their materials. Wolverton stated the faculty would need to individually make their own decision regarding this action.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Vice President Swafford gave the following report:

- After the current and revised workload document was presented and explained based on current and proposed AOP. The changes moved from what was approved by Faculty, to changes by the Associate Deans' Council, and to changes made by the Deans' Council. The Association Deans' Council has accepted the changes proposed by Deans' Council. Swafford stated the Faculty Senate Executive Committee has met and discussed the changes and found them unacceptable. She had stated at the Deans' Council that Faculty Senate was unlikely to accept the changes. Thus, the proposal is stopped at this point and we have gone back to the original. Swafford stated that the discussion at Deans' Council was disturbing in that the load variance for teaching in various degree programs is "bogus" (her word). Thus, when this AOP goes back for review in the future, this issue will be closely scrutinized by the Deans' Council and Provost.
 - In response to Swafford's concerns regarding the Deans' perceptions, Senator Diehl stated (to his memory) the Office of Academic Affairs and Deans wrote the policy as it exists and, basically, it is their own language with which they do not agree. Senator Wood asked if the deans desire more discretion in individual faculty workloads. Swafford replied that the deans believe the department heads should have that flexibility. Senator Deeds stated that with the current statement about assignment relative to productivity and needs of the department allows flexibility. Senator D'Abramo stated flexibility is within the document, this is a method of checks and balance and that abuse is occurring. He urged faculty members to hold to their stance. Senator Travis asked about the issue at hand in that his college has been effective in its implementation of the policy. Swafford explained there are variations in implementation across the university.
- The Graduate Dean position has been announced.
- Faculty Evaluations has already been addressed today.
- President Foglesong has send letters to individuals as to who is responsible for each initiative in the FutureState Plan.

REPORT FROM FACULTY SENATE DESIGNATES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

Employees' Benefits Committee – No report

Information/Technology Committee – No report

Faculty Research Advisory Committee – No report

Instructional Improvement – No report

Calendar Committee – No report

Facilities Use Committee – No report

Campus Planning and Development Committee – No report

BUSINESS SENT TO COMMITTEES

None

BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEES

Letter from Dr. Jerry Gilbert, re: AOP 13.07 – Academic Promotion and Tenure – Senator Walter Diehl moved, Senator Bridges seconded, to refer this issue to committee. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. President Wolverton assigned this issue to Faculty Affairs.

Letter from Dr. Bill Kibler, re: MSU Honor Code – Senator Bridges moved, Senator Little seconded, to refer this issue to committee. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. President Wolverton assigned this issue to the Executive Committee.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Senator Bridges, Chair of Academic Affairs Committee referred to this committee's report regarding **AOP 12.30 – Developmental Studies**. Senator Bridges moved, Senator D'Abramo seconded to accept changes (change from a D as minimum grade to a C for successful completion) as modified by Associate Deans' Council and Academic Affairs Committee.

Following no discussion, the motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Senator Bridges, Chair of Academic Affairs Committee referred to this committee's report regarding **AOP 12.20 – Academic Forgiveness**. Senator Bridges moved, Senator Byrd seconded, to accept the following changes: (a) by the Associate Deans' Council to have the AOP evaluated every 4 years and to provide an on-line application and (b) the Academic Affairs Committee's change to allow any grade below an A to be retaken.

Discussion included: Senator Diehl provided a Point of Information that the number of allowable credit hours was also changed from 6 to 8 hours to allow laboratory courses to be allowed in the choice. Diehl reminded the Senators of the discussion that had taken place over that change. Other discussion involved the potential for students to do worse in a retaken class, and retakes may not be in the student's best interest.

The motion passed 25-13-2.

ANCILLARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Senator Walter Diehl, Chair of Ancillary Affairs Committee referred to this committee's report regarding the **AOP for the Policies for the Academic Outreach Unit within the Division of Academic Outreach and Continuing Education**. Senator Diehl moved, Senator D'Abramo seconded, to accept the changes recommended by the Associate

Deans' Council and the Ancillary Affairs Committee: (a) add the UCCC to the list of units to ensure programmatic quality, (b) assurance that instructors will receive teaching evaluations from their students, and (c) the students will receive assurance they will receive adequate access to the instructor.

Discussion included: Senator Greenwood asked for clarification about the bullet concerning offerings on the main campus and AOCE in a single semester. Diehl responded this was a "value-added" intent in that since there is an extra charge to students such that a value is added such as students may want to take the course at a convenient time (e.g., as online). Senator Chamblee clarified that a course cannot be offered as a distance only course. Further discussion clarified this issue. Senator Swafford pointed out that the review needed to also be changed to every 4 years, rather than the list 5 years.

The motion passed 37-0-1.

CHARTER AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE - No report

FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE - No report

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE - No report

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES - No report

OLD BUSINESS

President Wolverton referred to Old Business (October 13, 2006 meeting), AOP 12.25 – Nepotism.

Senator Walter Diehl moved, Senator Byrd seconded, to amend the AOP as submitted. Following discussion, it was determined the amendment with changes to the second paragraph under POLICY/PROCEDURE to read: "In cases where such circumstances result in relative being employed in the same unit, the administrative unit must develop a plan to show an alternative reporting structure and the relative being employed shall report to the next higher administrative authority. . ."

The amendment passed 37 – 0-0.

Additionally, it was determined the AOP should be reviewed every four years, rather than the 5 years as listed.

It was also moved by Senator Nagel, seconded by Senator Diehl, to add the word "such" to the first sentence in the same paragraph. It would thus read "In cases where such circumstances . . ."

The motion was passed by a unanimous voice vote.

The motion to accept the AOP 10.05 as presented at the October 13, 2006 meeting by the University Resources Committee and amended today passed 38-0-0.

NEW BUSINESS

A resolution was presented by Senator Goodman regarding concern for (a) course release to the Chair of IRB and IOCUC and summer load, (b) appropriate staff for these offices, and (c) appropriate facility. This resolution will be voted on at the next meeting.

Discussion included: (a) Concern that a copy had been sent to the President, this could be addressed through wording changes such as the resolution should be "Submitted to the Senate", (b) the resolution will need a preamble including the number of hours associated with the work that is done by individuals who fill these positions, (c) the need for release for the Vice President of Faculty Senate. Senator Wood stated the resolution could be strengthened with statements about obstacles to securing external funding and the fact that this is money well spent. Furthermore, funding should not come from the departments and the departments should be provided compensation for these releases (e.g., Office of Research for IOCUC and IRB, Office of the President for Faculty Senate Officers). Goodman asked that changes be sent to him. Wolverson stated that the release is 50% for his position and 25% for the Chair of UCCC; and, that money has been sent to his department.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Walter Diehl moved, Senator Deeds seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of the Senate.

Submitted for correction and approval.

Carlen Henington, Secretary