

ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE January 12, 2007

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, January 12, 2007.

Members absent and excused were Hart Bailey, Michael Berk, Troy Blanchard, Gary Bradshaw, David Bridges, June Garner, Mark Goodman, Jerry Mathews, Julia Porter, Dan Reynolds, Juan Silva, and J.R. Love.

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 November 10, 2006, Regular Meeting as distributed. Senator Hogue moved, Senator Nagel seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate approve the minutes as modified. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

GUESTS

President Wolverton introduced guests: Dr. Robert Foglesong, President and Dr. Peter Rabideau, Provost.

PETER RABIDEAU, PROVOST

Provost Rabideau provided the following information:

- Two candidates have been announced for the Dean of College of Business and Industry: Lynn Richardson from Ball State and Sharon Lynn Oswald from Auburn.
- There will be an internal search for Vice President for Research and Economic Development.
 - Rabideau stated the reason for the internal search is that there are serious situations to be dealt with given current earmark situations and the vacancy cannot remain open for an extended time.
 - There will be one faculty representative from each academic college to form a majority of the search committee.
 - The Interim Dean for Engineering will be Dr. Glen Steele who replaces Dr. Shultz, Interim V.P. for Research and Economic Development.
- Dean for the Graduate Studies search has an end date of February 1 for submission of applications. A number of applications have already been submitted.

- At the upcoming IHL meeting the bachelor's degree in Building Construction Sciences should be approved. The Earth Sciences doctorate has been withdrawn, but will be put forward later after issues of concern are addressed.
- February 8th, Simon Estes, opera singer, will be coming. He is a faculty member at Boston University and the University of Iowa, and travels as a visiting professor. MSU is hoping to establish an ongoing relationship with him.
- At a previous faculty meeting, Rabideau was asked to determine the number of instructors relative to tenure-track at MSU. He stated an optimal ratio is hard to determine. He has reviewed a recent study by AAUP. MSU has 19.2% of faculty who are instructors, Old Miss has 28.3%, and USM 25.9%. The mean for all schools reviewed is 18.4%. MSU has 19% part time tenured faculty (a term not well defined); the mean for all schools is 18.8%.
 - Rabideau stated the university average is not necessarily representative of all departments.
 - He does not want to ignore the recent trend of increasing instructors.
- No questions were posed to Dr. Rabideau.

ROBERT FOGLESONG, PRESIDENT

President Foglesong provided the following information:

- The concern for earmarks this year is a common one for universities.
 - The funding this year is anticipated to be same as last year. We will need to bridge this year to the next when things will likely be better. However, future earmarks will need to withstand scrutiny and have a sponsor's name attached to all proposals.
 - It is likely we will go to the funding agencies for the needed bridging funds, but this should not be difficult for MSU.
 - We should have a better knowledge of where we stand in the coming weeks.
- The Mississippi House has passed appropriations to provide \$100 million more for higher education than last year (1/2 of which is to go for a 3-5% raise). However, this is uncertain as there few line items in the bill, so all dollars will go to IHL to decide desiprsement (line items are better for MSU).
 - This figure is \$2 million short of the requested amount. Foglesong anticipates a 1% utility increase this year and a likely request for a tuition increase, even if we are fully funded.
 - Foglesong stated we do not want to agree to less than what is needed. There will be more discussions regarding funding.
- The legal position for alcohol on campuses around the state, according to IHL legal staff, is ambiguous (similar to MSU legal staff's opinion).
 - It is not illegal to have and consume alcohol, but it cannot be sold.
 - The Board will discuss this issue. Abuse is the problem.
 - We need to follow the city, county, and state laws and reinforce awareness of abuse. We need to use awareness tools to address abuse.
- Reach for Excellence
 - Money is being raised through two streams, but no processes exists to allocate those funds.

- Foglesong stated he will look to faculty for assistance in determining how to spend those funds which will go to four areas: (a) Faculty development, (b) academic excellence, (c) scholarships, and (d) buildings.
- Questions posed to Foglesong:
 - Senator Walter Diehl asked about resolution to city and county laws regarding alcohol on campus. Foglesong respond that it is difficult to determine the laws. The university needs to rationalize those laws and maybe have the state come in if needed to assist in the process.
 - Senator Deeds asked about IHL's proposed budget. Will there be line items or will separate items for MSU units be included? Foglesong responded that they were included and there were no line items for the vet school, Extension. He expects that to change. He stated that a more open budgeting process will be seen this year across all of campus.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Wolverton gave the following report:

- Nominations for the search committee for the Vice President for Research and Economic Development will go forward. Each college will have one vote in the search process through an elected representative.
- The proposed Honor Code has generated 60 comments from faculty members and the responses to these are in the revised document.
 - The draft went out 2 days ago and it is hope that a vote will be held at the next meeting.
 - The Student Council accepted the proposal on December 1 and it will go before the Graduate Student Council soon.
- The leadership endeavors have progressed.
 - The following are the efforts: (a) a committee to develop the undergraduate minor in leadership studies, (b) Appalachian Honors Leadership Program with about 37 students, (c) Day One First Year Leadership Community with up to 200 students, (d) Dr. Rabideau chairs another committee to look at various freshman seminars for up to ½ of the entering freshman class, and (e) summer camp for rising seniors (the Young Guns program) with 200 attendees.
 - It is uncertain as to how these programs will come together and who will do so.
- Don Zant from the Auditors' Office is examining policies and procedures revisions.
- It is time for the Spring Round Table.
 - The topic and date are to be decided. The day will need to be coordinated with the President.
 - Potential ideas for the meeting include the leadership programs, but feedback about other potential topics is welcome.
- The Executive Committee has met with Foglesong where, predominately, he expressed concern for earmark monies.
- Dining services will complete the search for the company at the end of January.
 - One of three national companies will be selected.
 - A number of requirements are in place for employees following the change.

- Perry Cafeteria has a new brick oven that will produce 128 pizzas per hour and new food items are being presented daily.
- Questions posed to Wolverton:
 - Senator Walter Diehl asked for specifics on the arrangements for the cafeteria employees. Wolverton stated the employees will receive a 5% raise and all will be retained. He was uncertain about how length of service will be entered into benefits.
 - Senator Diehl also asked about the vote on the extension for elections for representatives to serve on the search for the Vice President for Research and Economic Development beyond the university. Wolverton stated the committee is in place.
 - Senator Wood asked about the situation of those employees who had lost their job due to the closing of the Union. Wolverton responded he was uncertain but there will be food in the Union that will be overseen by the firm that will take over food service. The number one request from students is a Burger King.
 - Senator D'Abramo voiced concern about the internal search for the Vice President for Research and Economic Development. He stated the need for the search to be expeditious is inconsistent with the desire to reach a "new level" in the University's research area. Senator Millea stated that a resolution may be needed to express the faculty's concern. Senator Ryan referred to the need to promote excellence and to be broad minded. He stated leadership is needed to do that and the faculty should send that message forward. Discussion involved past searches and the duration and outcome of each. Further discussion involved both the message that an internal search communicates (e.g., qualified individuals may be on campus, but there is a need for a nation search to attract the best possible individual to the position).

Senator Travis moved, seconded by Senator Ryan, that language for a resolution communicating the Senate's dissatisfaction with an internal search and a need to extend the search to a national level at other institutions would be drafted by the Senate Executive Committee and sent forward in a timely manner.

The motion passed with a unanimous voice vote.

- A question was asked about the budget for the Honor Code Proposal. It was stated that the budget has been removed. Another question was asked as to which version had been endorsed by the students. It was determined that a version other than the current version had been endorsed.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Vice President Swafford gave the following report:

- A Reach for Excellence handout developed by Dennis Prescott and presented at the December 11, 2006 Deans' Council was provided.

- Questions posed to Swafford included:
 - Senator Wood asked about the overhead (4-6%) tax that was to be levied on research endeavors and where the money will go (i.e., to the Reach for Excellence). He stated that the cut will come off all overhead monies and will further reduce dollars coming back to faculty from their research efforts. Discussion from the senators included (a) concerns regarding how the money will be spent (well over half will not go to faculty development, as outlined in the Excellence program); (b) the legality of the taxation (many funding agencies will deny the use of funds for anything not related to general operations of the funded research); (c) whether this was a “budgetary shell game”; and (d) the impact of this plan and the message sent to faculty about incentives for engagement in research.

REPORT FROM FACULTY SENATE DESIGNATES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

Employees’ Benefits Committee – No report

Info-Technology Committee – No report

Faculty Research Advisory Committee – No report

Instructional Improvement – No report

Calendar Committee – No report

Facilities Use Committee – No report

Athletic Council – Faculty Senate representative, Pat Donohoe reported the issue of Thursday night football games will be coming up. He stated the Council is working as a group to minimize the impact on teaching. He stated there will be a committee to make a policy for this issue. Discussion included that fact that in the past monies were negotiated for faculty development or similar activity (e.g., an invited speaker). This was unsuccessful and the game was cancelled. A similar negation may be advised.

Campus Planning and Development Committee – No report

BUSINESS SENT TO COMMITTEES

None

BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEES

Letter from the Faculty in the Department of Geosciences, re: Equality in sharing of University classroom equipment. Senator Walter Diehl moved, seconded by Senator Hogue, to send the issue to committee.

The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. President Wolverton assigned this issue to University Resources.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

No report.

ANCILLARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

No report.

CHARTER AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

No report.

FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Senator Brasher, representing the Chair of Faculty Affairs Committee referred to this committee's report regarding **AOP 13.007 - Academic Promotion and Tenure Policies and Procedures**. Senator Brasher moved, Senator Millea seconded to accept changes as presented and recommended by the Faculty Affairs Committee.

Discussion included: The new language changes the process and does not just eliminate duplication in the language. The Faculty Senate has been excluded from the modification process, as has been the procedure in the past.

It was moved to amend the document to add "or faculty Senate" before the words "and ratified by the Faculty Senate" to the first sentence in the second paragraph on page 2 of the document. The new sentence is to read as follows: "Academic tenure and promotions in rank are subject to the general guidelines as developed by the University Promotion and Tenure Committee or the Faculty Senate and ratified by the Faculty Senate, recommended to and approved by the President."

The motion passed by a unanimous voice of the Senate.

Senator D'Abramo asked as to whether there is reference to the Promotion and Tenure document in the AOP. It was determined there is a reference only to the General Guidelines and Promotion and Tenure procedures.

The motion to accept the AOP as amended passed on a unanimous voice vote.

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

No report.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

No report.

President Wolverton announced that past senator, J. Paul Thaxton, has been diagnosed with cancer and another member's father had recently died.

OLD BUSINESS

President Wolverton referred to Old Business (November 10, 2006 meeting), the Resolution regarding the Office of Regulatory Compliance and IACUC. Senator Deed moved, seconded by Senator Walter Diehl, to bring this item forward.

The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Senator Walter Diehl moved, Senator Hogue seconded, to accept the resolution.

Discussion included: (a) the resolution requires a response from the administration; (b) funds need to be provided to the research support offices (e.g., IRB) and release time should be provided to the faculty representatives; (b) funding for the releases should not be taken from what is already in place for current releases (e.g., funding from the Provost's Office for current releases such as Faculty Senate President) and should come from the Office of Research and Economic Development, rather than the Provost's Office or the department of the individual who is to serve; and (c) that there must be appropriate compensation for extraordinary service.

Senator D'Abramo moved, seconded by Senator Walter Diehl, to delete all "should" and "shall" in various places to make the statements declarative.

The amendment passed on a unanimous voice vote.

The amended motion passed with a majority voice vote (one abstention).

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Adebisi moved, Senator Hogue seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of the Senate.

Submitted for correction and approval.

Carlen Henington, Secretary