

ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE October 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, October 12, 2007.

Members absent and excused were David Bridges, Dave Dampier, Pat Donohoe, Gary Ervin, June Garner, Terry Hanson, Randy Little, Jerry Mathews, Vince McGrath, David Nagel, Rudy Rogers, Juan Silva, and Ray Vaughn

Unexcused: Joe Massey, Peter Wood, Shu Wu, and Jeremy Johnson

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 and welcomed four new members who replaced members who had either left campus or accepted campus administrative positions. Each new member introduced themselves.

President Wolverton referred to the minutes of the September 15, 2007, Regular Meeting as distributed. Senator D'Abramo moved, Senator Bentley seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate approve the minutes with no changes. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

GUESTS

President Wolverton introduced guests: Dr. Peter Rabideau, Provost; and Dr. Steve Turner, Faculty Athletic Representative and Chair of Athletic Council.

PETER RABIDEAU, PROVOST

Provost Rabideau provided the following information:

- Several university representatives attended the recent MAC (Mississippi Association of Colleges and Universities) conference. Issues discussed included the freshman experience.
- An update on campus activities:
 - First Year Experience and the Learning Community have been funded for the year.
 - The most recent State Gram provided information on SACS accreditation. The next site visit will be in 2014. Dr. Tim Chamblee will be the faculty representative leader on the committee. The Quality Equivalent Plan (QEP) is a new aspect of SACS accreditation and will be major effort on campus.

- The Tuition Incentive Plan will provide ~\$1M to units. Rabideau noted that all the costs of added students is not covered, but new faculty have been added.
- Several workshops will be provided this semester:
 - Promotion and Tenure Committee workshop in the near future
 - Distance Learning workshop last week, with another possible next semester
 - Center for Teaching and Learning will provide two workshops: (a) Classroom and Information Security and (b) the MSU Honor Code.
- Questions posed to Rabideau:
 - Regarding the addition of new faculty, as some units (i.e., Psychology) have lost faculty in recent years and added large numbers of students, will student credit hours (not just change) be considered in the hiring of new faculty and other resources such as space allocation. Rabideau stated that some units (e.g., Kinesiology and Communications) have been recognized as having grown with a need and faculty were added; however, other units such as Psychology also may have a need with past growth in enrollments. He stated he has the information about which classes students are taking. He stated he hopes for continued growth and that this issue should be carefully examined.

STEVE TURNER, ATHLETIC COUNCIL CHAIR

Dr. Turner provided the following information with handouts:

- In response to the SEC requirement for universities to have a student-athlete class attendance policy with game suspensions, MSU has developed a policy relative to other universities that is approximately center on a continuum (~3 to 6 unexcused absences before action is imposed). MSU athletes with four unexcused absences will be suspended for the next competition/game and those with eight unexcused absences will be suspended from competition for the remainder of the semester (coaches can impose more severe penalties/restriction). This policy is in effect this semester; no students have missed a competition to-date.
 - Online class attendance, mechanisms of tracking of attendance, and unexcused and excused absence posting through banner were discussed; Turner acknowledged that clarifications will be needed.
- The results of a survey of faculty perceptions (not administered to MSU faculty) were summarized. Turner indicated the perceptions were likely to be consistent with those of MSU faculty. Turner stated that there may be issues that MSU faculty may wish to look into.
 - Questions/issues posed to Turner, included:
 - Whether MSU was taking proactive steps to prevent events such as those at other universities in recent months (e.g., accidental deaths through alcohol abuse). Turner responded that MSU has implemented an Alcohol Awareness program, and other actions such as providing taxi coupons to students through faculty advisors. Turner stated that the current policy regarding enforcement of alcohol policy on campus is set by President Foglesong. He stated that individuals who are perceived to be creating a disturbance are those who are most likely to be scrutinized by police.

- The need for additional port-a-potties provided in the junction area following incidents in Dorman Hall. Discussion also included who would pay for the added facilities and who receives the fees for parking.
- Plans for additional Thursday night games are evolving with critical issues such as parking and a consistent plan as key components. Senators reported to Turner that some lots were closed earlier than the posted time. Turner acknowledged that the plan for the August Thursday night game was not consistently implemented.
- Academic Progress Rate (APR) of athletes was explained. MSU must maintain \geq 925 (composed of athlete retention to graduation and eligibility offering a possible score of 2 for each athlete). No MSU team will be penalized this year. Turner stated that universities vary on which of the two aspects is an issue, but that retention is an issue at MSU. He stated that the required number guarantees a athlete graduation rate of 50% (lower than the current Athlete or University rate).
- Misperceptions about the athletic budget need to be cleared up and transparency is desired.
 - Relative to the University budget (~ \$500 M), the athletic budget is a small portion (~ \$30 M)
 - 25% of the budget is salaries, considerably less than that of academic departments where up to 90% is in salaries
 - 24% of spending stays at MSU and ~ 20% is paid scholarships.
 - The athletic budget is the smallest in the SEC, MSU and Ole Miss (\$34 M) have the smallest, with \$80M in Florida's budget as the largest (but with more sports).
 - Questions/discussion included:
 - Sources of revenue - Turner stated that being a member of the SEC provides approximately \$10M (e.g., bowl and TV revenues) for a membership fee of \$50. Other sources are ticket sales, royalties, and donations. MSU does not subsidize the Athletic Department.
 - Retention - Turner clarified that retention credit is given when an athlete graduates somewhere, not just at MSU.
 - GPR/GPA - Turner stated that MSU's athletes have high GPAs relative to those at other universities. MSU had the highest GPA average at the 2007 Baseball College World Series, and is 6th or 7th in the SEC

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Wolverton referred to his report and asked for questions regarding the contents; none were asked.

- Wolverton provided an update on the Deans' Council in lieu of a Vice President's report.
 - The recent survey which sought input on a variety of issues indicated that faculty objected to the proposed tiered evaluation system.
 - Many of the announcements have been sent out through email, but Wolverton noted that all Level 1 faculty need to be reappointed.
 - The Information Security committee will meet in the near future.

- Questions/Issues discussed included:
 - The recent survey results - Faculty urged that President should release the results of the recent survey; Wolverton indicated this was uncertain. The importance that the faculty should retain their annual survey, regardless of other surveys in the future.
 - The importance of President Foglesong's attendance of Senate meetings and of the meetings between Foglesong and Wolverton. Wolverton stated that the Senate is on Foglesong's calendar and that his attendance was expected at this meeting. Upon questions from senators, Wolverton acknowledged that Foglesong does cancel some of their scheduled monthly meetings. It was reiterated that the Faculty Senate is the voice of the MSU faculty and that he is not getting faculty input if he does not attend Senate meetings.
 - A request to invite Jim Jones from Physical Plant was made. Wolverton stated that anticipated guests for this year include Kirk Shulz (ORED), Michael Cervantes (Dining Services), Cade Smith (Leadership), and Stephen Middleton (Director of Multicultural Studies).

ELECTION OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Two nominations for Vice President of the Robert Holland Faculty Senate to replace Walter Diehl, who has taken an administrative position in the College of Arts and Sciences, for the 2007-2008 term were received by the designated date (Senators Mark Goodman and David Nagel); therefore, no nominations were taken from the floor. President Wolverton referred to information on the candidates provided in the agenda.

Following several inconclusive votes, Senator Goodman withdrew and Senator Deeds accepted her nomination and provided information on her service at MSU. Following additional inconclusive votes, Senator Deeds moved, seconded by Senator D'Abramo, to suspend the rule for the required one-half of the senate vote for election. Discussion involved the concern for a small group of individuals to decide the election (only 16 of the senators, given current attendance, would be needed for election). The motion was defeated 8-20-4.

Senator Deeds withdrew and the floor was again opened. Senator Adebisi moved, seconded by Senator Byrd, to close the nominations. The motion passed 27-0-4.

Senator Nagel was elected by a Senate vote of 28-0-5.

REPORT FROM FACULTY SENATE DESIGNATES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

Employees' Benefits Committee – No report

Broadcast Board 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

Campus Planning and Development Committee – No report

BUSINESS SENT TO COMMITTEES

None.

BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEES

Letter from M. Goodman regarding Server and Banner Problems – Senator Adebisi moved, Senator Bradshaw seconded, to refer this issue to committee. Following discussion of related issues and the appropriateness of the discussion in the current Senate meeting versus following the committee's report at a future meeting, the motion passed on a voice vote. President Wolverton assigned this issue to Academic Affairs.

Letter from J. Byrd regarding parking fines – Senator Wood moved, Senator Millea seconded, to refer this issue to committee. Discussion included the need to let the faculty representative to the Traffic Committee present the issue at that committee prior to action by the Senate. The motion was defeated on a 0-31-0 hand vote.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

No report.

ANCILLARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Senator Ryan reported that his committee was charged to examine the Harassment Policy on September 14, but that the policy had been signed into policy on September 17, 2007 (just days later). Although the intent of the policy is appropriate, concerns cited at the September 14, 2007 Senate meeting included the language and approach to how the policy has been presented. Ryan stated that it may be suggested that the University form a committee to pursue this policy and should include three appointed from Faculty Senator, three from the Student Association, three from Staff Council, and individuals from the administration. Ryan stated that the surrounding issues are not the only sexual harassment, but other forms of harassment. He referred to a recent survey administered in Arts and

Sciences and Engineering about status on campus of women and minorities, stating that the related issues may be appropriate for inclusion in the discussion of the issues.

Wolverton provided information on AOP, OP, HRM policy implementation.

Discussion involved:

- A number of recent policies in which (a) tenure is undermined and (b) governance has been ignored.
- The recent policies directly affect faculty and should be consider through AOP processes.
- Some of the policies involve more than faculty (e.g., criminal background screening) and need input from all the units across campus to have input.
- The need for greater communication between faculty and administration and the need to voice Faculty Senate's concern for a number of actions such as has happened with this policy and formation of task forces outside of the purview of established avenues for communication between all stakeholders.

Wolverton stated that the problem is that the harassment policy has already been approved and is being implemented. Wolverton stated he has drafted a resolution for the Senate to consider for endorsement about these concerns and a request for the Senate President's signature on policies.

Concern was voiced that the formation of various task forces that appear to circumvent the Faculty Senate. The importance of accounting of these task forces and for faculty representation on such committees was also discussed. Several standing committees are no longer meeting (e.g., the Planning Committee). A list of the standing committees is posted on the Senate website. Wolverton stated that he had sent a letter regarding the Planning Committee, but had received no response.

CHARTER AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

No report.

FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

No report.

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

No report.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

No report.

SUPPLEMENTAL

The materials regarding the Fall Round Table were presented and Senators were urged to read the documents.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

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

Submitted for correction and approval.

Carlen Henington, Secretary