

ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE April 11, 2008

The Robert Holland Faculty Senate of Mississippi State University held its regular meeting in the Coskrey Auditorium of Memorial Hall at 2:01 p.m. on Friday, April 11, 2008.

Excused: John Byrd, Pat Donohoe, Stephen Foster, Marita Gootee, Terry Hanson, Joe Massey, Barry Stewart, Shu Wu

Unexcused: none

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. Wolverton welcomed the new senators and had all senators and observing guests introduce themselves.

President Wolverton referred to the minutes of the March 7, 2008 and March 18, 2008, regular meeting as distributed. Senator D'Abramo moved, Senator Bailey seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate approve the minutes. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

GUESTS

President Wolverton introduced guests: Dr. Peter Rabideau, Provost; Mr. Butch Stokes, Registrar, Mr. Mike Rackley, ITS Director, and Maridith Geuder, University Relations. Dr. Vance Watson, Interim President, joined the meeting shortly after it commenced.

PETER RABIDEAU, PROVOST

Provost Rabideau provided the following information:

- The IHL will have its monthly board meeting next week. Anticipated topics at the Provosts' meeting include the request permission to plan three new programs at MSU (Earth and Atmospheric Science, Criminology and Veterinary Medical Technology).
- With regard to dean searches:
 - Both candidates in Engineering have been invited back for interviews.
 - Graduate Studies search has about six candidates identified and Rabideau anticipates that three will be brought in for campus visits in the next few weeks.
- Al Rankins will be leaving soon for a position with IHL.
- There has been discussion concerning the need for additional classrooms with the increase in enrollment. The goal is to plan for 20,000 students with 80% usage with occupancy at 80% with class use from 8 am to 5 pm five days per week. He plans to request a new classroom building.

- Questions posed to Rabideau:
 - In response to a question as to who had authorized the mandatory campus residence and meal plan for freshmen, Rabideau responded that Interim MSU President, Dr. Watson had authorized the requirement.

VANCE WATSON, INTERIM PRESIDENT

Interim President Watson arrived and reported he had been delayed as he was in a meeting. Watson acknowledged that he is a tenured faculty member and has served as a senator. He also acknowledged the importance of the work of the Faculty Senate. He provided the following information:

- He outlined four agenda items: (a) to have the University engaged as a top notch land grant university; (b) to address faculty pay; (c) to have the flexibility to address problems as they arise; and (d) faculty retention.
- He expects rapid movement in the search for the new President.
- His personal goals: (a) to listen and consider opinions; (b) make decisions effectively; (c) acknowledge mistakes; (d) have patience; and (e) learn to think in terms of the life of the university (versus just one day).
- The national search underway for the baseball coach is in progress.
- He noted requests: (a) a faculty mentoring program; (b) an examination of the annual performance evaluation (identify strengths & improvement, use in salary allocation) and to education department heads in the process; (c) to have a social in the afternoon before graduation (~ 5:30 pm); and (d) the role of the senate. He noted that university policy is addressed at meetings such as Executive Council in which various representatives vote on issues. Watson proposed the possibility of a checkbox to document individuals' vote on issues decided at the meetings.
- Questions posed to Watson:
 - In response to a question about the requirement for freshman to live on campus and purchase a meal plan, Watson responded that he was aware that it was a concern. Issues discussed included prohibitive cost of housing and meal plans for some, concern for healthy selections of food.
 - In response to a question about whether he had been contacted by IHL for input on the search process, Watson responded that he had not and noted that others had been contacted. He stated that there are two searches underway (Valley State and MSU). He stated IHL had reconfirmed the search process with more dialogue. He added that another priority of the IHL is the formula for legislative funding across universities in the state. It is based on average enrollment and the model will account for differences in universities.
 - In response to a comment that MSU was identified in a *Chronicle* article as #1 in earmark funds and whether it was something to worry about, Watson stated that earmarks are a double edged sword (all have externally reviewed projects there is \$185 million in research dollars. He noted that the Provost had submitted a request for 13 to 15 new faculty.

- In response to a question about the energy utilization program, Watson indicated that the program will be examined. He stated that safety is a priority, but energy efficiency is important.
- When asked about acknowledgement of individuals who had recently passed, Watson stated those individuals will be noted in the campus alumni newsletter.
- Watson was thanked for bringing FFA back to campus.
- In response to a question about the Office of Graduate Studies, Dr. Watson indicated that the committee, headed by Dean Hopper, had six to eight candidates recommended for a campus visit for the Dean of the Graduate School and Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs.

BUTCH STOKES, REGISTRAR

Mr. Stokes stated he was present to respond to issues brought up at the last Senate meeting. He provided the following information:

- Banner links require extra clicks to get to some sites. Mr. Stokes stated that the links are in the process of being “unstacked” and other links are being examined.
- Elimination of the need to see advisor before getting RAC number when students have applied for graduation for the past semester, but did not graduate.
- Issue RAC number for graduate students and make them “undecided” so that they can immediately enroll in graduate courses. However, they will need to complete a change of major eventually.
- Concerns for class usage for expected growth on master schedule was addressed. There has been a 933 student increase over the past year; at this pace, the anticipated growth by 2015 will be exceeded. New software will assist in planning. There is a need to adjust for building renovations. The plan is currently to have greater than 95% capacity for prime time (23 hours during the week) during which 63% of classes are offered. This creates difficulty and plans are in place to address these issues. There is a critical need for auditoriums. Moving to a 45 hour prime time week will assist in placing anticipated growth students in classrooms. Another option is to move from a historically-based master schedule to a demand-based schedule in which the system will identify a completion plan for each student in advance (a side effect is ease for advising).
- Questions/discussion included: minors, consideration of students’ schedules / preferences for class times, separate class times and learning center times taking up two time slots, honors orientation, advisor training, prerequisite checking, CAPP process to inform the master schedule, distance technology, closed classes, evening classes.

MIKE RACKLEY, ITS DIRECTOR

Mr. Rackley provided the following information:

- Identified issues that ITS is working on:
 - The system crashed during peak times (e.g., registration and advising); Rackley stated this does not occur as often as assumed. If happens, call immediately.

- The need for a user friendly, Rackley stated there is a need for balance between support and functionality. A Banner upgrade has occurred.
- Focus groups will be implemented for feedback to ITS.
- Training for faculty on systems through the Teaching and Learning Center.
- Funding to maintain and upgrade classrooms has allowed PC replacement, document cameras on the list, pod casting package in all ~ 65 technology classrooms.
- Upcoming events: Banner 8 in spring 2009, migration from WebCT to Blackboard Vista, Sunguard's enrollment management package for tracking interaction with students (for Student Affairs) will be in place over summer, and a new environment with added capabilities (i.e., template for layout based on faculty activity) in navigation (e.g., channels, portals) will be put in place in the near future.
- Questions posed:
 - Degree audit system (CAPP) only in use in some colleges. It is imperative to get all colleges up across campus.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Wolverton gave the following report:

- The President search has been announced. Members include Scott Ross from West Point (Chair), Ed Blakesley, Aubrey Patterson, Robin Robinson, CD Smith. The committee will meet April 28 on campus to request input from university community on qualities of the new president. There will be one week between the announcement of the preferred candidate and the campus visit.
- Wolverton thanked Delores Hudson, the television crew, guests and the Executive Committee for service.
- The Executive Committee met Monday with Dr. Watson to discuss the role of the Executive Committee and to provide an open forum for discussion of policy, in particular the need for the Senate President signatory line for all policies (not only for AOPs).
- The Search Advisory Committee is to be composed of 20 members with 7 to 9 teaching faculty with no administrative responsibilities with diversity and no more than two senators. He has asked the Deans to select from a provided list that meets the parameters.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President Wolverton clarified the election rules (e.g., majority of all senators are needed – 26- to be elected).

Two nominations for President of the Robert Holland Faculty Senate for the 2008-2009 term were received by the designated date, Senators Michael Brashier and David Nagel; therefore, no nominations taken from the floor. After four rounds of voting, Senator Nagel was elected by a Senate vote of 28 - 10.

Two nominations for Vice-President of the Robert Holland Faculty Senate for the 2008-2009 term were received by the designated date: Senators Hart Bailey and David Nagel.

Nagel withdrew; therefore, nominations were opened. Senators Deeds and Brashier were nominated. Following two rounds of voting, Senator Bailey was elected by a Senate vote of 28 - 10.

One nomination for Secretary of the Robert Holland Faculty Senate for the 2008-2009 term was received by the designated date, Senator Jacque Deeds. President Wolverton opened the floor for nominations. Senator Hamil was nominated. Following four rounds of voting, Senator Deeds was elected by a Senate vote of 26 – 8.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Vice President David Nagel referred senators to his report as submitted in the agenda and asked for questions.

REPORT FROM FACULTY SENATE DESIGNATES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

Wolverton referred to Senator Garner's report on Employee Benefits Committee.

No other reports.

BUSINESS SENT TO COMMITTEES

None

BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEES

Letter from Jeff Krans regarding Intellectual Property Policy– Senator Bridges moved, Senator Bailey seconded, to refer this issue to committee. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. President Wolverton assigned this issue to University Resources.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

No report.

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

No report.

ANCILLARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

President Wolverton referred to this Committee's report on the Harassment Training Policy. Senator J. Bailey moved, Senator Palmer seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate accept this committee's report.

The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of the Senate.

CHARTER AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

No report.

FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

No report.

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

No report.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

Senator Bailey, of the Faculty Affairs Committee, referred to this Committee's report on Aramark Dining Services. Senator Bailey moved, Senator Nagel seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate accept the recommendations of this committee and send a copy to Michael Cervantez, director of campus Aramark services.

The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of the Senate.

Senator H. Bailey, of the Faculty Affairs Committee, referred to this Committee's report on AOP 30.05 – Internet Domain Names. Senator Bailey, Senator Nagel seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate accept this committee's report.

The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of the Senate.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Adebisi moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 5:24 pm. President Wolverton was provided a round of applause as outgoing President.

Submitted for correction and approval.

Carlen Henington, Secretary