

**ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE
APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING ON OCTOBER 12, 2001**

The Robert Holland Faculty Senate of Mississippi State University held its regular meeting in Coskrey Auditorium of Memorial Hall at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, October 12, 2001.

Members absent and excused were Alan Blaine, Sylvia Byrd, Marita Gootee, and Evan Nebeker.

Members absent and unexcused were Susan Bridges, Mike Goatley, Stanly Godbold, and Nancy McCarley.

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.msstate.edu/Org/FS/faculty_senate.html.

Chair Dan Embree called the meeting to order.

Chair Embree referred to the minutes of the September 14, 2001, Regular Meeting as distributed. Senator Montgomery asked about the University Research Council report and clarification was made. Chair Embree corrected the percentage listed in the Benefits Committee report from 0.2% to 2.0%. Three grammatical errors were corrected on page two of the minutes. Senator Reichert's absence was changed from unexcused to excused. Senator Thaxton moved, Senator Crowell seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate approve the minutes of September 14, 2001, as corrected. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of the Senate.

Chair Embree introduced the newly elected member of the Senate: Don Jackson, College of Forest Resources.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Embree began his Chair's Report by sharing the following remarks:

- < Chair Embree asked the Senate to note the two letters distributed to the Senate not requesting action.
- < The Faculty Senate Office Secretary position has been raised to a Staff Assistant level 8. No one has yet been hired.
- < A letter was received from Linda Couvillion asking the status of her request pertaining to tuition wavers for surviving spouses of MSU faculty. Chair Embree has checked on the status and has reported back to Ms. Couvillion that progress is being made but final decision is pending.

- < The Roundtable is two weeks away and the list of participants is firming up.
- < The Governor has asked to meet with the nine Senate Chairs later this month in response to a letter written to him by the Senate Chairs pertaining to faculty salaries and how IHL Board members should be chosen. Chair Embree will not be able to attend so Vice Chair Diehl will attend.
- < Senator Diehl mentioned that most staff are hired into their positions with exceptions made to the quoted salary figure and that the Senate should try to make the Senate Office Secretary one of those exceptions.
- < Senator Crowell asked about President Portera's recent remarks about reducing staff and the RIF document. Chair Embree responded that he and Portera talked about this issue and Embree was told to refer to the RIF document.
- < Senator Williams asked if Portera had responded about the lead content around Lee Hall. Chair Embree responded that Portera's response was that to keep this issue above suspension and to follow procedures dictated by the State Department of Environmental Quality, an external firm was hired to do this work.
- < Senator Williams asked if Chair Embree would ask Provost Cole about why certain staff in the Provost's Office have received raises in the last few years when the majority of staff across campus have not. He noted that when viewing the MSU Budget from year to year, salary amounts have changed with no explanation given.
- < Senator Thomas remarked that when the University changed from a monthly pay period to a bi-monthly pay period, the rounding off of certain items changed the final amount of salary received. Senator Williams noted that this was partially due to the change from 24 to 25 pay periods annually.
- < Senator Morse asked about Discovery Day and its possible location. Chair Embree stated that he would respond to her individually.

REPORT OF THE VICE CHAIR

Vice Chair Diehl referred to the Robert Holland Faculty Senate Vice Chair's Report as distributed.

- < Senator Crowell asked about Provost Cole's remark on limiting enrollment. Vice Chair Diehl responded that this was not a question of limiting enrollment but one of a registration deadline.
- < Senator Crowell asked about the term "take down" and Vice Chair Diehl responded that this was Portera's exact term.
- < Senator Embree asked how the raises versus new positions would be handled and Vice Chair Diehl responded that there was no additional information.
- < Senator Huddleston asked about the time line for raises versus new positions and Vice Chair Diehl responded that he was not aware of one.
- < Senator Cinnella asked about the 5% reduction in the state budget and Vice Chair Diehl responded that the information stated in his report was the latest that he had.

REPORT FROM FACULTY SENATE DESIGNATES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

University Research Council -- Senator Cinnella stated that he had attended two meetings recently and shared the following comments:

- < MSU is hoping to reach the ranking of 50th in terms of research expenditures as reported to the NSF during this fiscal year.
- < The actual number of awards is between stable and decreasing.
- < The ranking of these research expenditures shows that more than half of the money is associated with about forty individuals.
- < Senator Diehl noted that most grants are attributed to one individual even though several colleagues contribute to the grant's success making the number "forty" grossly understated.

BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEES

Letter from Lorenzo Crowell re: Phi Beta Kappa searches -- Senator McCann moved, Senator Goodman seconded, to refer this issue to committee. The motion passed on a majority voice vote of the Senate. Chair Embree assigned this issue to the Faculty Affairs Committee.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

No report.

ANCILLARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

No report.

CHARTER AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Senator Pote, Chair of the Charter and Bylaws Committee, referred to this Committee's report on the amending the Senate bylaws to allow members of the faculty not on the Senate to serve on special committees. Senator Pote moved, Senator Crowell seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate endorse the following recommendation:

That the Faculty Senate bylaws be amended as follows: Change the following sentence in the Senate bylaws: "Only members of the Senate shall serve on special committees" (Faculty Handbook, 1997; Special Committees, p. 24) to "The majority of the members of a special committee shall be from the Faculty Senate."

The motion passed on a Senate vote of 37-3-0.

Senator Pote, Chair of the Charter and Bylaws Committee, referred to this Committee's report on the amending the Senate bylaws to determine the voting rights of retiring chairs and vice-chairs. Senator Pote moved, Senator Rogers seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate endorse the following recommendation:

That the Faculty Senate bylaws be amended as follows: In addition to the sentence in the Senate bylaws which states: "I. The terms of office of the Senate's officers shall begin July 1 and end June 30 for the following year" (Faculty Handbook, 1997; Section 5. Terms), add the following sentence: "These officers retain full voting rights in the Faculty Senate until the completion of their terms as officers."

The motion passed on a Senate vote of 40-1-0.

FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

No report.

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

No report.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

No report.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Submitted for correction and approval.

LaDonne Delgado, Secretary