



## **ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE**

### **Uncorrected Minutes of September 9, 2016**

The Robert Holland Faculty Senate of Mississippi State University held its regular monthly meeting in the Grisham Room of Mitchell Memorial Library at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, September 9, 2016.

Members absent and excused were: Stephanie Bennett, Joey Burt, Mary Ann Jones, and Patty Lathan.

Members absent were: Jenny Du.

The meeting was called to order by the Senate President Cody Coyne.

President Coyne asked for any changes for the August 19, 2016 minutes. Senator Larson asked that the minutes reflect the location to be the Templeton Room and not the Grisham Room. Senator Wilmoth made a motion to approve the minutes. Senator Herd seconded the motion. The motion to approve the August minutes passed by majority voice vote.

### **GUESTS**

#### **Judy Bonner, Provost and Executive Vice President**

Dr. Bonner began by saying that IHL will be announcing enrollment numbers for the state Universities later today. Mississippi State has had a banner year for enrollment. For the first time ever MSU has a total enrollment over 21,000. The official enrollment number is 21,622. Of the total enrollment 19% are African American and 23% are minorities. The freshman class

is the largest and most academically gifted class in the history of the University. There are over 3,600 freshman this year. Over the last five years the percentage of freshman with a 30 or above on the ACT's has increased by 70%. An ACT score of 30 represents the top 3% of students in the state of Mississippi. This year, 16% of freshman have an ACT score of 30 or above. 25% of freshman are African American. Dr. Bonner said that the preliminary data which she was provided did not reflect other minorities. Pell grant information was also not available. Dr. Bonner said that she uses the Pell grant information to distinguish those students with the greatest economic challenge. Last year, MSU led the SEC with 36% of undergraduate students receiving Pell grants. This shows that MSU is truly the people's University. Dr. Bonner said that she is proud to see the many initiatives across campus to ensure student success. Dr. Bonner thanked the Senators for what they do to ensure the recruitment of the best and brightest students, as well as the work that ensures student success.

Dr. Bonner said that her review of the enrollment data revealed several areas for improvement. Enrollment is up at the graduate level, but there is an opportunity and a responsibility for MSU, as a research powerhouse, to grow graduate enrollment. Distance enrollment is down slightly at 1640 students. There is an opportunity to grow through distance education. Meridian enrollment is up as well, now at over 500 students. There is an opportunity to grow the Meridian enrollment as well.

Senator Lemus asked if the strategic plan included growing distance education for masters level students as some other noteworthy Universities have already done. Dr. Bonner replied that the University is at the end of a strategic plan and a new one will be formulated. She said that Dr. Lemus' question should be answered collectively. She added that her role will be to facilitate growth where faculty desires to see it until the new strategic plan is finalized.

Senator Prince asked if the University has had any success increasing the representation of African American faculty. Dr. Bonner replied that she only has preliminary numbers for this year, but last year 5% of tenured/tenure track faculty were African American. This equals the national average. Dr. Bonner said that she believes that increasing the number of African American students in doctoral programs would help increase the number of African Americans to take faculty positions. Mississippi State has led the initiative to achieve this through the SREB doctoral fellowship program. There is still a lot of work to do in that area. Of the new tenure track faculty that we have this year, 12% are African American.

Senator Wilmoth asked if there has been any discussion regarding keeping degree earning Mississippians in the state of Mississippi. Dr. Bonner replied that to attract industry to the state, there must be a significant pool of degree holding people. Unfortunately, to keep degree holding Mississippians in the state, there must be industry to create positions for the graduates. David Shaw and Mac Portera are reaching out to companies to get them to locate in the state of Mississippi. The Entrepreneurial Center in the College of Business is just getting started but will be helpful for creating jobs for students across campus.

Senator Williams said that he has taught online classes for the last ten years. He said that he sees a marked gap in the writing skills of the online students versus the face-to-face students. He cautioned that as Mississippi State pursues the expansion of distance education, we maintain the high standards for all students. Dr. Bonner replied that she completely agreed. She said that some programs lend themselves better than others to distance learning.

## **REPORT OF THE FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT**

### **Faculty Senate President Committee Reports**

Athletic Council  
Executive Council  
Executive Enrollment Management Council

Diversity Council  
Information Technology Council

Faculty Research Advisory Committee  
Anti-Bullying Policy Development Committee  
Assistant Vice President for Multicultural Affairs

Master Planning and Design Committee  
Design Review Committee  
Sustainability Committee  
Special Events and Game Day Committee  
Traffic Committee  
University Access Committee  
Faculty Housing Appeals Committee

### **Fall Convocation 2016 Review**

3200 attending students in 2016

2900 attending students in 2015

2000 students attended convocation at Ole Miss

### **Retained Attributes**

- Presentation of invocation / band and singer performances
- Note: Approximately 60 to 70 faculty participated which was higher than for commencement

### **Possible Revision**

- Student decorum/dress during convocation (Ole Miss students attended in casual business attire).
- Issue recommendation to avoid scheduling of other events on the same afternoon.
- Present the convocation coin and explain its significance at the end of the ceremony (attendance)
- Merits of having original author attend and present at the ceremony was discussed.
- When an original author attends it may be beneficial to recommend they address certain aspects or topics that correlate with the reasons why MSU selected them as a speaker/author.
- Students may need guidance regarding when they should leave at the end of the ceremony.

### **Convocation Scheduling**

- August Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> will tentatively be the date for the 2017 Convocation
- Move-in-Day is scheduled for Saturday August 12, 2017 of that week

**Design Review Committee**

**September 2, 2016**

- Parking Garage Sites (4 levels for 500 spaces)
  - Coliseum Blvd
  - Herbert Street and Morrill Road
  - Bully Blvd
- Partnership School: architecture, orientation, traffic flow, building site
- Engineering and Science Building Site

**Game Day and Special Events: August 31<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

- Important Points of Contact List
- Golf Cart: Requests and Parking
- Research Park clean-up plan
- Game Day Management of Outside Restrooms
- Sustainability Management Efforts
- Game Day Fly Over

**Robert Holland Faculty Senate**

-1- Executive Committee

- i- AOP 13.15 – Evaluation of Teaching Performance: Deans Letter of Request
  - Comments and recommendations have been received from chairs and some senate members
  - Joint meeting with Assistant Vice President for Institutional Research and Effectiveness
  - Joint meetings will be scheduled in the near future with committees that review and approve questions included in student course evaluations.
  - A letter of response is being drafted for the University College Deans
  - Inclusion in course syllabus of notice to encourage reporting infractions of language and behavior
- ii- Requirement for online course certification without a Faculty Senate approved AOP
- iii- Lack of rotating the test schedule for course final examinations during Finals Week
- iv- Final Exam Week: Scheduling of student tests on Friday which is also Graduation Day
- v- Undergraduate Research Initiative: support of faculty for implementation
- vi- Research Intellectual Property: faculty participation/T&P/support/tech protection/opportunities for increased self-generated revenue.

-2- Chairman of committees have been approached to select a Vice Chair that can automatically serve as

- a substitute at meetings and provide assistance in the revision of AOP assignments and their presentation on the floor of Faculty Senate.
- Faculty Senate Committee Membership: one committee transfer inquiry has been received
- Election of a Faculty Senate representative for the College of Arts and Sciences is still pending.

**Faculty Senate Committee Resolutions/Revisions/Reports**

**September 9<sup>th</sup> 2016**

<u>Academic Affairs</u> (Committee Chair: Senator Noel Addy) .....	
<u>AOP 12.17</u> – Undergraduate Academic Fresh Start (September).....	Pending
<u>AOP 12.19</u> – Undergraduate Academic Amnesty (September).....	Pending
<u>AOP 12.20</u> - Undergraduate Academic Forgiveness (September).....	Pending
<u>Student Affairs</u> (Committee Chair: Senator Stacy Haynes).....	None Pending
<u>Ancillary Affairs</u> (Committee Chair: Senator Mary Ann Jones) .....	None Pending
<u>Faculty Affairs</u> (Committee Chair: Senator Brian Baldwin).....	

- AOP 13.03 - Responsibilities in Instruction and Curriculum, Attendance at Classes...(August)..Pending
- AOP 13.04 - Attendance at Classes: Teaching and Faculty (August).....Rescind
- Charter & Bylaws (Committee Chair: Senator Anastasia Elder).....
- Senate Bylaws Revision: College Senator Election Completion Date (April).....Pending
- University Resources (Committee Chair: Senator Laurie Grace).....None Pending
- Executive Committee (Committee Chair: Senator C.P. Coyne)
- AOP 13.15 - Evaluation of Teaching Performance: Deans Letter of Request (August).....Pending
  - College Deans are requesting access to written text provided by students
  - Alternatively, survey questions could be crafted to provide all necessary information
  - AOP 13.15 pertains to student evaluation of only the delivery of a course
  - Content is to be determined and reviewed by departments and colleges

AOP Explanation Brief

AOP 13.03 - Responsibilities in Instruction and Curriculum, and Attendance at Classes has been revised several times in Associate Deans Council and Deans Council and will now be forwarded back to Faculty Senate for review and approval. One important revision is the addition of Section B Modification of Teaching Responsibilities which addresses the need for tenured/tenure track faculty to have their teaching load re-adjusted. In addition, AOP 13.04 has been merged into AOP 13.03 as Section A (sub-section 2) which will be accompanied by rescinding AOP 13.04. The title of AOP 13.03 was changed to better reflect the purpose of the policy to Responsibilities in Instruction and Curriculum, and Attendance at Classes.

**Academic Operating and Operating Policies In Review and Revision: External to Faculty Senate**

AOP 12.09 - Class Attendance and Reporting Absences final signature in progress

**Executive Council** July 25, 2016

OP 80.02 - Ethics in Research and Other Scholarly Activities

OP 91.300 - Blood Procurement

OP 70.07 - Research Scientist

**Associate Deans Council:** August 10, 2016

AOP 12.17 - Undergraduate Academic Fresh-Start

AOP 12.19 - Undergraduate Academic Amnesty

AOP 12.20 - Undergraduate Academic Forgiveness

Associate Deans Council April 13, 2016

AOP 12.09 - Class Attendance and Reporting Absences

AOP 13.03 - Responsibilities in Instruction and Curriculum, and Attendance at Classes

**Academic Operating Policies and Operating Policies in Review External to Robert Holland Faculty Senate**

AOP 12.09 - Class Attendance and Reporting Policy

OP 91.120 - Possession of Firearms, Explosives, or Other Devices, Substances, or Weapons

OP 95.500 - Faculty/Staff Temporary Housing

AOP 12.29 - Undergraduate Entrance Requirements

Course Load for Readmission

Graduate Provisional Admission Policy and Appeal Process

Senator Elder asked what the new Engineering building would house. President Coyne replied that Civil Engineering would be located in the new building. Senator Williams asked where the new building would be located. President Coyne replied that it would be south of the Health Center.

Senator Krishnan asked what the timeline was for the new buildings at Aiken Village. President Coyne replied that he was unsure of the exact timeline, but he knows that asbestos removal is ongoing.

Senator Elder stated that she believed that having final exams on the same day as graduation was a bad idea.

Senator Ridner said that the Executive Committee should look into how the calendar has gotten extended over the years. She said that she believes that it due to built-in weather days, but there are other schools that handle weather days without extending the calendar. She added that it comes down to a faculty workload issue as well as a pay issue. President Coyne replied that he would look into the matter.

Senator Wilmoth asked what the course of action would be if administration did not resolve an issue that was brought to their attention. President Coyne replied that Senate as a whole could formulate a letter requesting that action be taken.

## **REPORT OF THE FACULTY SENATE VICE PRESIDENT**

### **FACULTY DESIGNATES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES**

#### **BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEES**

1. AOP 12.17 Undergraduate Academic Fresh Start (Academic Affairs)
2. AOP 12.19 Undergraduate Academic Amnesty (Academic Affairs)
3. AOP 12.20 Undergraduate Academic Forgiveness (Academic Affairs)

President Coyne presented the consent agenda to the Senate. The motion to send AOP 12.17, AOP 12.19, and AOP 12.20 to the Academic Affairs Committee passed by unanimous voice vote.

#### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Academic Affairs**

No Report

<b>Ancillary Affairs</b>	No Report
<b>Charter &amp; Bylaws</b>	No Report
<b>Faulty Affairs</b>	No Report
<b>Student Affairs</b>	No Report
<b>University Resources</b>	No Report

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **PENDING BUSINESS**

President Coyne gave an overview of the letter of request by Dean West regarding AOP 13.15 Evaluation of Teaching Performance. The letter of request was sent to the Student Affairs committee for review at the April Faculty Senate meeting. During the August Senate meeting the letter was re-assigned to the Executive Committee for review.

The Executive Committee is in the process of drafting a letter of response to the Deans. President Coyne said that the response would include disadvantages, statistics, and literature that is available on educational research.

President Coyne said that the Executive Committee would be meeting with the Teaching Evaluation Committee. He added that one potential way to satisfy the Dean's concerns would be to include a disclosure in the syllabus which would allow the issue to be addressed immediately and not wait until the end of the semester to be acknowledged.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Senator Lemus made a motion to adjourn. Senator Krishnan seconded the motion.

After a unanimous voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 2:59 p.m.

Submitted for correction and approval.

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Kent Marett, Secretary

Jason Cory, Administrative Assistant II