



ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE

Uncorrected Minutes of March 10, 2017

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, March 10, 2017.

Members absent and excused were: Noel Addy, Lelia Kelly, Patty Lathan, Natasha Randle, Lindon Ratliff, Lesley Strawderman, Byron Williams, and Joe Wilmoth.

Members absent were: Aaron Kiess and Edward Potter.

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

President Coyne asked for any changes to the February 10, 2017 minutes. Senator Carskadon said that there was an incomplete sentence on page 10 of the minutes under the President's Report. President Coyne replied that the sentence would be completed. Senator Carskadon moved that the minutes be accepted as amended. Senator Elder seconded the motion. The motion to approve the February minutes passed by unanimous voice vote.

GUESTS

Dr. Steve Turner, Faculty Athletic Representative

Dr. Turner began by discussing student-athlete grades for the fall 2016 semester. Overall student-athletes had a 3.01 GPA. This is the third highest GPA recorded for all sports since 1993 when record keeping began. The football GPA jumped from 2.55 to 2.67. Dr. Turner said that our football team was able to attend a bowl game with a losing record due to the fact that we had the highest Academic Progress Rate of all of the other teams with a similar record. The Academic Progress Rate is an NCAA measurement that takes into account retention and eligibility.

Dr. Turner said that student-athletes are monitored with regards to their chosen majors. This is done to ensure that there is not a clustering of athletes in certain majors. Dr. Turner said that he has not seen this occur in his 12 years as the Faculty Athletic Representative. He said that the three major colleges that house student-athlete's majors are Arts & Sciences, Business, and Education. Dr. Turner added that he pays particular attention to Interdisciplinary Studies. He said that there has not been a significant change in the percentage of student-athletes that are enrolled in this major over the last few years.

Senator Williams asked if Interdisciplinary Studies fell under the College of Arts & Science. Dr. Turner replied that it did. Dr. Turner added that the biggest difference between the student-athlete's majors and the general student body is that there are less College of Engineering students and more College of Education students. He said that Kinesiology is the biggest major on campus and is also the biggest major for student-athletes.

Senator Elder asked if there are guidelines set out by the NCAA regarding the number of classes that can be missed due to athletic travel schedules. Dr. Turner replied that there is no NCAA regulation concerning that, but it is monitored by the University. He added that there are instances when student-athletes are invited to certain tournaments that would add to the absences. Predominantly golf and tennis do the most traveling. Senator Elder asked if the University has any guidelines to limit absences. Dr. Turner replied that 20% is the general guideline that is used. Dr. Turner added that not all students are as diligent in regards to informing the instructors of their travel schedules. The athletic Department gives the student-athletes travel letters to provide to their instructors and encourages them to remind instructors prior to travel dates of their upcoming absence.

Senator Larson asked if the 20% absence rule included both excused and unexcused absences. Dr. Turner replied that the 20% was only for absences due to athletic activities. He added that the 20% rule was not set in stone, but is more of a guideline.

Mr. George Bennett, General Manager, Barnes & Noble

Mr. Bennett said that he wanted to speak with the senators about adoptions that he has been working with Dr. Bonner and Dr. Ryan for IHL. He thanked the senators for the adoptions for last semester. By the first day of pre-registration the adoption percentages were up by 80%. Faculty Enlight use almost doubled. IHL wants 100% adoption by the first day of pre-registration. Mr. Bennett said that this was not possible. He cited the example of an adjunct professor coming to the University and choosing a different book than the student has potentially bought and cannot return. Faculty Enlight accounted for 72% of adoptions for the fall semester. Prior to Faculty Enlight, an email would be sent to each bookstore informing them of the adoption and there was an assumption that the outside entities would communicate with each other. With Faculty Enlight once an adoption is entered an email is sent automatically to all parties.

Senator Barefield asked what Faculty Enlight was. Mr. Bennett replied that it is an adoption tool for faculty and departments to use. Inside the tool you can research books and request an ebook or desk copy to review. There are also reviews that are provided by other faculty from across the country that teach the same course. Faculty Enlight is currently linked into both Banner and Blackboard. Once you have logged into Faculty Enlight once your login information will be stored and the system can be accessed after that by just clicking the link. Faculty Enlight provides pricing information which allows the instructor to select an affordable book to use for their class.

Mr. Bennett said that the First Day program will allow Barnes & Noble to put the force of their company behind an effort to reduce costs from publishers. Currently three major publishers are in the process of providing the potential savings the students could experience through the First Day program. Once this information is received, it will be presented to the Provost's Office and the Business Office to be adopted. This could save the students a considerable amount of money for their materials.

Mr. Bennett said that Courseware is an OER solution that allows instructors to integrate their own materials and re-arrange the content to suit their course using curated books. All of the materials such as videos and test banks are pre-loaded. Student analytics are also included. There is no cost to the University, but there is a \$50 fee to the student. Courseware integrates into Blackboard and faculty gradebooks. In the long run, this will save students money on all of their course materials.

Senator Clary said that the link for Faculty Enlight is not working. Mr. Bennett replied that he would contact ITS to resolve the issue.

Senator Grace said that she went through the bookstore to adopt her textbooks and none of the courses were loaded for summer or fall. Mr. Bennett replied that the Registrar's Office just released the course skeleton to them two days prior. He said that they need that information earlier and can make updates as need be. This issue is being addressed.

Senator Thompson asked if it was true that the bookstore has a 30% markup on textbooks. Mr. Bennett replied that the bookstore makes more money on the sale of a \$15 shirt than they do on a \$300 textbook. He added that the prices are set by contract and the University picks the margins. The University also gets a percentage of textbook sales. This is why price matching was introduced.

Senator Clary said that from her previous experience she did not think that publishers could negotiate price with individual Universities. Mr. Bennett replied that things like market share and sell-through rate are now being examined. Senator Clary asked what regulations have changed. Mr. Bennett replied that he was not aware of a regulation change, but this process was only occurring with digital components.

Mr. Bennett added that if a print version of the book is requested from Courseware there is a \$15 fee. This is the cost of binding with no mark-up.

REPORT OF THE FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT

Robert Holland Faculty Senate President Committee Reports

Athletic Council	Diversity Council
Executive Council	Information Technology Council
Executive Enrollment Management Council	
Faculty Research Advisory Committee	Master Planning Design Review Committee
Anti-Bullying Policy Development Committee	Design Review Committee
	Sustainability Committee
Alumni Board	Game Day and Special Events Committee
Maroon and Write QEP Advisory Board	Parking and Traffic Regulations Committee
Freshman Convocation Review Committee	Campus Access Committee
	Faculty Housing Appeals Committee
	Annual Faculty Review Form (ad hoc)
	Text Book Adoption Committee

Spring 2017 General Faculty Meeting: Colvard Union / Foster Ball Room February 14, 2017

University President and Faculty Chairman.....	Dr. Mark Keenum
Executive Vice President and Provost.....	Dr. Judy Bonner
Vice President for Research and Economic Development.....	Dr. David Shaw
Vice President for Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine.....	Dr. Greg Bohach

Spring 2017 General Faculty Meeting: Colvard Union / Foster Ballroom February 14, 2017

University President and Faculty Chair: Dr. Mark Keenum

- The Mississippi State Legislature convened last month and projected revenue is below estimates
- Fiscal Year July 2016 began with a \$14 million deficit for estimated revenue that month
- Every month since then has had a downward decline and in January 2017 there was a \$18 million deficit
- Cumulative state deficits for the past 7 months equals \$116 million (4% below projected estimates)
- Governor Bryant was forced to enact budget reductions
- MSU last month experienced a 1.5% budget reduction equivalent to \$3 million dollars
- MSU however is blessed because the reductions have been absorbed within the central administration
- During this process there have been no hiring freezes and no reductions in departmental budgets.
- Budget reductions have cumulatively amounted to a total of 5.5% or \$10.5 million
- Ultimately very soon it will be difficult to continue absorbing budget reductions (quality will suffer)
- MSU is a leading research university so continual sequential budget reductions will be detrimental
- Impact is marked for the DAFVM since no flexibility exists and accounting rules prevent fund transfer
- Budget reductions are likely before the end of FY2017 / Ouster budget prediction exist for FY2018

- Despite all budget reductions, the number one priority is to invest in faculty and faculty salaries
- Although university-wide salary increases have not occurred, 2017 represents the 5th consecutive year faculty salary compression adjustments have been implemented (effect again January 2017)
- Across faculty ranks the gap is closing between MSU and SUG average faculty salary levels
- Between 2012-2015 the salary gap was significantly reduced
- SUG averages have increased but MSU averages have increased at a more rapid rate
- Assistant Professor salaries are very very competitive
- Faculty support has been enhanced \$4.5 million for just the salary compression adjustment initiative
- Faculty salaries allocations have increased \$11.6 million and the total investment in salary increases is equivalent to \$16.1 million
- Advances in faculty salary have occurred without increased funding but have been aided by growth
- Critically important for MSU will be achievement of continued growth in student enrollment
- Enrollment is a key mission of MSU for Mississippi which desperately needs more graduates
- The state economy will grow due to the clear link between higher education and per-capital income.
- President Keenum recognizes that it requires additional work and effort on the part of the faculty to teach/instruct/train more undergraduate and graduate students
- Increased enrollment allows MSU to do things not previously possible on campus and in the state
- It is critically important that our MSU story be communicated to the state legislature
- President Keenum spends a great amount of time in Jackson interacting with the state legislature during the spring of each year
- President Keenum has met with leaders of the state house and senate; frequently meets with the chairman of the State Appropriations Committee; and has testified before the senate committee for state appropriations about higher education and MSU as a leading research university.
- President Keenum has also had long conversations with Speaker Phillip Gunn and Lt. Governor Tate Reeves regarding MSU role in enhancing higher education in the state of Mississippi
- When presented with the facts its important for them to know that Mississippi is getting a great deal and MSU is an outstanding investment with a tremendous and important returns.
- Approximately 66% of the enrollment at MSU is attributable to in-state students that in turn are much more likely to remain within the state and make vital contributions to the state economy, through enhancements to community, education, industry, research, and agriculture. Extension services work to assure that our largest economic sectors of agriculture and forestry are well served.
- No other private or public university does more to move Mississippi forward than Mississippi State University and it is important to emphasize that MSU is much more than a line item budget entry.
- Mississippi can ill afford to reduce the budget for MSU
- The Mississippi Economic Commission (MEC) has communicated around the state that roads and bridges need to be improved. Given this perspective, there is a direct parallel with investing in the institutions of higher learning to prevent their further deterioration.
- Restoration of the YMCA will return the building to its original grandeur of 100 years ago.
- Rula Engineering Building will house Civil and Environmental Engineering which now has 3600 square feet that include an increase in space for the addition chemistry teaching laboratories for a \$34 million building project. Bids to be issued by the end of the calendar year.
- Construction of the Meat Science Laboratory is progressing at a rapid rate. Bond funds received 2 years ago included construction budgets for the Poultry Science and Animal and Dairy Science buildings.
- The Mitchell Memorial Library 4th floor addition is near completion (\$10 million building project)
- Old Main Academic Center (new classroom building) will be completed by Fall 2017 for class scheduling

- Music Building near Band Hall building is in the planning stage and design professionals have been utilized to establish the architectural structure
- MSU will continue to embrace the enrollment and education of international students

Executive Vice President and Provost: Dr. Judy Bonner

Appreciation was extended to the Academic Colleges and Faculty Senate for their collaboration and assistance provide to date. President Keenum was acknowledge and appreciation extended for his many accomplishments and contributions.

Many universities and colleges are in a state of decline across the nation while MSU is experiencing grown without sacrificing quality.

In 2016, MSU had more than 600 (16%) in the freshman student body with ACT scores ≥ 30 which corresponds with the top 3% of all graduating high school students.

The freshman class in recent years has increased by 25% but the number of freshman students with ACT score ≥ 30 has increased 71%.

Graduate enrollment has experienced continual declines (14%) over the past 5 years.

Assuming that it remains an objective for MSU to remain a major research university then it will be critically important to expand graduate student enrollment

Multiple programs and initiatives have been implemented to expand graduate student enrollment Meridian-MSU has established agreements with East Mississippi Community College, Meridian Community College, East Central Community College, with degree-specific course plans to enhance transfer student involvement.

In Fall 2016 89% of faculty reported progress grades and 86% reported course absentees

The information from these reporting mechanisms is critically important for the student and university

The Center for Distance Education now offers 34 degree programs and 4 certificate programs

US News and World Report has ranked the MBA and graduate Engineer distance education courses in the Top 25 nationally in addition to being ranked in the Top 11 graduate programs for military veterans.

Get-Educated.com nationally ranked MSIS and the masters in Engineering in the Top 11 for affordability

Vice President for Research and Economic Development: Dr. David Shaw

- The 43-acre Aiken Village site has been cleared for a new building project for residence for students
- Request for proposals have been issued and a number of accomplished professional development groups from around the nation have responded with design and construction plans for mixed-use development that will include retail space. Several hundred bids have been received.
- A contractual agreement will be signed tonight between the Starkville Oktibbeha School District and MSU which will then be forwarded to IHL for final approval of the partnership school. Most of the funding for the proposal is in place. Every 6th and 7th grade student in the school district will be on the campus of Mississippi State University and will impact the way teachers instruct students.
- MSU will be the first SEC university on March 27th and 28th to have the opportunity to host the SEC Academic Conference on the topic of Water Resources which was a subject submitted 2 years ago. President Keenum had proposed that the conferences begin rotating among the SEC universities.
- MSU is moving forward with leadership on major research initiatives
 - MSU has won the FAA Center of Excellence for Unmanned Aircraft
 - Opportunity exists to develop a similar center for Homeland Security which is pending
 - A Global Aquatic Health Initiative has involved discussions with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and USAID.

- A partnership has been established with the Engineering Research Development Center and Army Corp of Engineers in Vicksburg that focuses on high performance computing and how to capitalize on the digital age to aid and understand how the government make decisions.
- The Research Park is functioning at full capacity and all available space in the incubator facilities is occupied so ways are being sought on how to expand this segment of the university in order to enhance and expedite transfer of technology into the private sector.
- The Office of Research and Economic Development is devoted to enhancing the ability of research faculty to succeed.
- Outlook for research funding is quite good and 2016 was the second best year to date.

Vice President for Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine

Mississippi farmers has another record year (agriculture business employs 30% of all state citizens)
 Prices down but large increase in yields for cotton, soybean sweet potatoes and poultry
 Agriculture generates \$7.6 billion or 30% of the state economy and is the large employment sector.
 MSU had a record year for agriculture research expenditures at \$107 million and ranked in the Top 10 universities by NSF for the 18th consecutive year where MSU was ranked 6th in 2016
 The only other SEC universities with a higher ranking were the University of Florida and Texas A&M
 Primary Objectives: attracting excellent faculty / invest in grant writing workshops which are expensive
 Division 2016 enrollment was 3558 students which is a record high where CALS increased the greatest.

University Committee Reports

Executive Enrollment Management Committee

February 13th, 2017

Applications and Admissions for First-Time Freshman for 2017 Spring Semester

2015	Applications = 10,668	Admissions = 7225	
2016	Applications = 11,946	Admissions = 7834	
2017	Applications = 12,218	Admissions = 8248	Total Enrollment: 21,622

Applications and Admissions for First-Time Freshman for 2017 Fall Semester:

			<u>In-State</u>	<u>Out-of-State</u>
2015	Applications = 11,396	Admissions = 8082	→ 3761	4267
2016	Applications = 12,792	Admissions = 8827	→ 4103	4652
2017	Applications = 12,888	Admissions = 8987	→ 4275	4692

A collection of strategies have been reviewed to identify how to improve the processing and management of submitted applications

ACT Score Performance for 2017 First-Time Freshman

Applicant ACT Score Average = 23.7

Admitted ACT Score Average = 24.53 (reconstituted)

<u>Applicants</u>	Florida +29%	Michigan +22%	Ohio +17%	Kentucky = +89%
	Louisiana +21%	California +11%	Arkansas +14%	Total = 6551
	Alabama = 1620	Arkansas = 239	Georgia = 671	Tennessee = 1414
	Louisiana = 503	Texas = 583		

<u>ACT Score</u>	35	32	29	
Increase (%)	20%	9%	7%	Total = 6551

Asian +22% increase African American +1% and 29% of total

Forest Resources +26%	Accountancy +20%	
Arts and Sciences = 3593	Engineering = 2393	Ag & Life = 1665

Admissions

Florida +26%	Michigan +25%	Ohio +43%	Kentucky = +150%
Louisiana +27%	Arkansas +36%	Indiana 25%	Total = 4506

Alabama = 1191	Arkansas = 169	Florida = 308	Georgia = 474
Tennessee = 1067	Louisiana = 290	Texas = 384	

<u>ACT Score</u>	35	32	29	
Increase (%)	17%	12%	7%	Total = 4506

Asian +23% increase African American +3% and 20% of total
American Indian +4%

Forest Resources +32%	Business +5%	Acad Affairs 6%
Arts and Sciences = 2281	Engineering = 1804	Ag & Life = 1107
Acad Affair = 1360		

Transfers

2015 = 463	2016 = 519	2017 = 687 (+32% increases)
		In-State = 561
		Non-Res = 106

Mississippi Community Colleges (student origin):	2016 = 424	2017 = 528
American Indian +150%	Hispanic/Latino +156%	Asian +10%

Center for Student Success Responsibilities

- One-On-One meetings
- College Ready
- Freshman Year Navigators
- First Year Experience Class
- True Maroon Classes
- Living/Learning Communities
- Freshman Success Strategies Class
- Supplemental Instruction
- Learning Center
- University Academic Advising Center
- Pathfinders
- Summer Developmental Programs
- Service Learning

2017 Spring Retention Rates

<u>2016 Fall Academic Risk Classification</u>	<u>Freshman</u>	<u>Retention</u>	<u>Non-Return</u>	<u>Historic Retention</u>
Group 5 (very low risk)	723	98%	20%*/ 4%**	98%
Group 4 (low risk)	833	95%	23%*/ 12%**	96%
Group 3 (intermediate risk)	705	90%	19%*/ 19%**	93%
Group 2 (high risk)	697	86%	19%*/ 28%**	91%
Group 1 (very high risk)	666	80%	18%*/ 38%**	84%
Totals	N = 3624*		N = 356**	

Non-Returning Student Profile

<u>2017 Fall Academic Performance</u>	<u>Freshman</u>	<u>Ret (% of 3624)</u>	<u>Ret (% of 356)</u>
Group 5 (GPA 3.00 to 4.00)	1943	54%	17%
Group 4 (GPA 2.50 to 2.99)	554	15%	13%
Group 3 (GPA 2.00 to 2.49)	422	12%	9%
Group 2 (GPA 1.50 to 1.99)	235	6%	8%
Group 1 (GPA 0.00 to 1.49)	422	12%	41%
Totals	N = 3624 returning		N = 356 non-returning

Group 1 (GPA 0.00 to 1.49) and >\$2000 debt = 43% of the 356 non-returning students

<u>Academic Intervention Programs</u>	<u>Students</u>	<u>Spring Retention</u>	<u>Group-1 Students</u>	<u>Historic Spring Retention</u>
True Maroon	308	89%	93	→ 82%
First Year Experience	542	95%	57	→ 83%
Day One	201	94%	45	→ 87%
Promise	94	96%	7	→ 100%
CASP	83	81%	83	→ 81%
LLC				
FSS	254	81%	249	→ 82%
SI ≥ 1	1195	93%	159	→ 86%

Graduate School

Enrollment Funnel: Applications drastically increase in January and February

<u>Final Data for Each Fall</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>
Submitted Applications	3220	2976	2484	2529	2372
Completed Applications	2425	2224	2005	2124	2087
Rate (%)	75%	75%	81%	84%	88%
Admissions	1638	1551	1430	1412	1198
Enrolled	796	719	662	666	801
Enrollment Rate Admit to Enroll	49%	46%	46%	47%	67%
Submitted App to Enroll	25%	24%	27%	26%	34%

	<u>Engineering</u>	<u>Ag&Life</u>	<u>Arts&Sci</u>	<u>Bus</u>	<u>Edu</u>	<u>Forest Res</u>	<u>Vet Med</u>	<u>Total</u>
Submitted	219	88	328	82	96	16	6	843
Completed*	128	48	233	66	58	10	1	546
Admissions	60	12	54	9	8	3	0	
Rate (Comp*)	47%	25%	23%	14%	14%	30%	--	

Rate (Submit)	27%	14%	16%	11%	8%	19%	--
Applications (16-17)	-28%	+4%	+8%	+15%	+16%	+60%	0%

Graduate Enrollment Advisory Committee

Early Admission for accomplished Freshman and transfers	←	UG Enrollment in Grad Courses
Graduate Policy review		Accelerated programs
Doctoral production		Early admissions
		Early admission with early enrollment

2017 Spring Semester Student Retention

	Spring Return (Freshman)	Fall Cumm. GPA	Below 2.5 (%)	ACT	High School GPA
2001	92%	2.7	34%	23.5	3.2
2016	90%	2.9	27%	24.4	3.4

Executive Enrollment Management Committee

March 8th, 2017

Center for Student Success: Grade and Absence Reporting.....Rodney Pearson

Freshman grade reporting (day 30) was 84% (70% overall)	highest ever for progress grades
Freshman attendance reporting was 83% and 56% overall	highest ever for attendance
Senior Student Reporting	61% (grades) 42% (attendance)
Freshman Absences: 0-1 (Mean GPA 2.91)	10-11 (Mean GPA 1.15)
Senior Absences: 0-1 (Mean GPA 3.00)	10-11 (Mean GPA 1.77)

Absences	(0-1)	(2-3)
Freshman Class	71%	17%
Sophomore Class	70%	17%
Junior Class	74%	14%
Senior Class	80%	11%

Freshman GPA /Progress Grades

	Students	Percent	Historic Retention
Group 5	1647	51%	→ 95%
Group 4	538	17%	→ 92%
Group 3	452	14%	→ 88%
Group 2	263	8%	→ 79%
Group 1	360	11%	→ 36%

81% of Spring Freshman have progress grades ≥ 2.00 who historically have an 88% retention rate
 GPA Calculator at freshman.msstate.edu is available to any MSU student allowing them to set goals.

Assistant Vice President for Enrollment: John Dickerson

Fall 2017 Applications for First-Time Freshman (March 3rd)

<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>
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11,622 13,170 13,119 (-55 by same date last year)

Engineering (-188), Ag-Life (+113), Forest Res (+57), Arts & Sci (-44)

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	
Non-Resident	6072	7053	6977	(-76)
Resident In-State	5315	5827	5944	(+117)
Foreign	235	296	199	(-97)

Engineering (-188) Business (-25) Arts & Sci (-44) Forest Res (+57) Ag & Life up (+113)

Fall 2017: First-Time Freshman

Alabama (1641/-73), Tennessee (1428/-110), Florida (473/+105), Louisiana (515/+78)

Kentucky (+75%)

Freshman students with an ACT 35 increased 19% while ACT scores of 33 and 34 declined 14% & 15%

Fall 2017 Admissions for First-Time Freshman (March 3rd)

<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	
8324	9178	9293	(+115 by same date last year)

Engineering (-150), Business (+51), Ag-Life (+44), Forest Res (+44), Arts & Sci (+33)

	<u>2015</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2017</u>	
Resident	3867	4290	4445	(+155)
Non-Resident	4368	4803	4823	(+20)
Foreign	71	85	24	(-61)

Alabama (1207/-43), Tennessee (1087/-39), Florida (320/+59), Louisiana (299/+52), Georgia (494/-35)

Kentucky (+150%)

Freshman students with an ACT 35 increased 16% while ACT scores of 33 and 34 declined 14% & 16%

Observations

The application decline in Engineering has essentially been attributed to one very specific demographic within two specific states. The reason for the change in this narrow specific demographic is unknown.

The Engineering College at Auburn has had to select farther into their student applicant pool.

University of Alabama Huntsville has aggressively recruited for STEM programs and their enrollment has significantly increased.

Orientation registration is up 109

Academic Insight attendance is up slightly

Housing applications are flat

Transfers Applications

2015	2016	2017	Increase
1436	1557	1835	278/18%

Admissions

624	714	981	267/37%
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Housing applications up for transfers
 Academic Insight attendance is up slightly
 Orientation registration is up 143

Meridian-MSU: Terry Dale Cruz

Applications and Admissions have both increased
 Education experienced much needed growth (+17 largely in Fall 2016 from Assist. Teacher enrollment)
 Division of Business has experienced improved growth (admissions up substantially)
 Confirmation of signed agreement with Jones Community College is pending (completed by Fall 2017)
 Meetings with Division Heads have emphasized enhancing existing strengths due to budget restrictions
 Technicians Heathcare Education
 Kinesiology: enrollment is in mid 30s to 40s and probably will reach a maximum at 70 students

Center for Distance Education: Susan Seal

Market Sectors and Enrollment: 4 Bachelors / 23 Masters / 7 Doctoral
 Morocco represents an opportunity for expansion of enrollment
 Arrangements with Development/Foundation is an option not entertained previously
 Growth of Distance Education can be achieved through addition of new programs
 Removing barriers for potential students will be critical

- Masters of Agri-Business: many corporations support tuition/ Agri-Bus is a perfect option
- Early Childhood Intervention Masters (Human Sciences)
- Child Development undergraduate degree
- Education Specialists (leadership)
- Masters in School Administration (leadership)
- BAT (CAS) technology student
- Certificate TESOL
- Certificate programs have issues with scholarships

Teaching / Instruction / Faculty / Instructors / Lecturers / Students

<u>Year</u>	<u>Under-Grad</u>	<u>Graduate</u>	<u>Total</u>
2001	13,081	2984	16,066
2002	12,873	2979	15,852
2003	12,308	3108	15,416
2004	11,990	3127	15,117
2005	11,644	2751	14,395
2006	11,697	2725	14,422
2007	12,660	3578	16,238
2008	13,490	3637	17,127
2009	14,135	3857	17,922
2010	15,073	3962	19,035
2011	15,845	3985	19,830
2012	15,944	3866	19,810
2013	15,993	3643	19,363
2014	16,178	3507	19,635

2015	17,053	3376	20,429	
2016	18,090	3186	21,622	(21,622-16,238)/16,238 = 33% increase

<u>Instructional Faculty / Instructors / Lecturers</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2007(%)</u>	<u>2016</u>	<u>2016 (%)</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Professors/Associate Professors/ Assistant Professors	707	(67% / 55%)	759	(68% / 55%)	7.4%
Instructors	106	(10% / 8%)	155	(14% / 11%)	46%
Lecturers	235	(22% / 18%)	196	(18% / 14%)	-17%
Total Instructional Faculty	1053		1122	= ↑69	6.5%
Total Faculty	1296		1384	= ↑88	6.8%
Student/Faculty Ratio (Instructional Faculty):	15.42		19.27		
Student/Faculty Ratio (Total Faculty):	12.53		15.62		

Important Note: professional college faculty by federal regulations are excluded from calculations

Important Note: many Research Professors, Clinical Professors and Extension Professors teach.....

Alabama	24 to 1
Arkansas	19 to 1
Auburn	19 to 1
Florida	20 to 1
Georgia	18 to 1
Kentucky	17 to 1
LSU	23 to 1
Mississippi State	19 to 1
Missouri	20 to 1
Ole Miss	18 to 1
South Carolina	19 to 1
Tennessee	17 to 1
Texas A&M	20 to 1
Vanderbilt	8 to 1

Senator Ridner said that faculty salaries should be considered with this as well in terms of workload and morale. She added that something should be done with this information. Senator Elder added that the information is useful to have if faculty want to pursue this in the future. Senator Clary asked if students in professional colleges are included. President Coyne replied that they were not. Senator Krishnan said that the ratio provided was not homogenous. It would be better to compare departments across SEC schools. Senator Spain said that it would be interesting to see the ratios between different faculty ranks and students.

ITS Security / Emergency Policies

Text Messaging for Non-Emergency Communication: Center for Student Success/Office of the Registrar

OP 91.126 – Electronic Communication Student

OP 91.130 – Contacting Students

Associate Deans Council

February 8th, 2017

Financial Aid Attribute on Student's Banner Account

Accelerated Programs Registration

Learning Communities

International Institute

Sustainability Committee

March 29, 2017

Pending

Campus Access Committee

February 27, 2017

Pace Seed Lab/Computational Biology Institute visitor parking arrangement

Athletic Council

February 15, 2017

Chairman Stephen Turner has assembled a team composed of Athletic Council members (n = 5 total) that will review the Athletic Academic Department. Each member will be assigned a specific responsibility during the review process which is scheduled to be completed by May 1, 2017.

Student Athletic NCAA Academic Metrics

A total of three football teams with 5/7 records (including MSU) were selected to play in bowl games because of the total number of bowl opportunities available. Final approval and the receipt of invitations was dependent NCAA's allowance for losing university teams that have the most competitive Academic Progress Rates (APR).

The SEC Network Distribution Report has been issued and described during the meeting

In FY2015 there was a \$10 million increase to due network related allocations

FY2012 = \$20 million

FY2017 = \$39.9 million (SEC Network = \$13.8 million) / Supplemental revenue = \$939,000

Salaries = \$21,982,000 which is the lowest salary pool in SEC by far

The highest salary for a university employee is \$250,000

Scholarships = \$10 million

Travel = \$5.9 million

Facilities and Operations = \$4.9 million

Total \$63,401,571

Transfer of more than \$2.79 million in FY17 back to the MSU campus

FY17 SEC distribution is expected to only increase between \$911J and \$1.5 million from FY2016

Homecoming Football game day has been determined along with identification of the visiting team

The MSU Women's Basketball team is now 25-1 overall (ranked #3 nationally)

The MSU Mens Basketball team is the youngest in the nation out of 351 Division 1 teams

The MSU Womens' Track team is ranked in the Top 25 nationally
Womens' Golf: Ms. Peng won a golf tournament and the MSU Women's Golf team won 3rd place
Both Womens' and Mens' Tennis teams are ranked nationally
Bully Pulpit radio program produced by Matt Wyatt will feature Dak Prescott

University Anti-Bullying Ad Hoc Committee: Policy and Procedure **February 21, 2017**

Sub-Committee1: Training and Communications.....Judy Spencer
Sub-Committee 2: Position Statement and Policy/Procedure.....C.P. Coyne

- o Reference university anti-bullying notice statements have been assembled for committee review
- o Definitions of the wide spectrum of different types of bullying behavior have been assembled
- o Reference university policy and procedures has been assembled for design of the review process
- o Recent recommendations have proposed drafting an independent policy and procedure document
- o Related existing policy and procedure include the following
 - OP 03.03 - Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy
 - OP 03.02 - Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action
 - OP 60.401 - Guidelines for Employee Conduct

A draft document has been composed that described the procedure and process for informal resolution, reporting, and investigation of persistent infractions. Additional revisions are currently being sought from committee members and the OP XX.XXX will be presented of Executive Council for review, revision and ultimately approval for adoption and implementation.

Senator Spain asked if hate speech is being handled under the anti-bullying policy. President Coyne replied that speech is included in the policy. He added that the language could potentially be strengthened. Senator Williams said that the policy is being written to pertain to two University parties. He said that includes outside parties would have to be explored for legal issues.

SEC Faculty Achievement Awards Selection Timeline

- Tuesday, March 14, 2017 – Completed ranking ballots due to SEC office from Provosts [Approximately two weeks for Provosts to evaluate packets]
- Tuesday, March 14, 2017 – Top three ranked recipients provided to Provosts
- Wednesday, March 15, 2017 – SEC Professor of the Year Award selection teleconference
- Faculty applicants will have their dossiers entered into a database pool for automatic consideration in subsequent years.

William L. Giles Distinguished Professors

- Criteria for nomination and selection are contained in AOP 13.02
- Format for recommendation is the same as that used for promotion.
- Submission: Office of the Executive Vice President and Provost
- Receipt Date: January 31, 2017
 - o Established record as scholar
 - o Demonstrated research achievements
 - o National and international prominence
 - o Excellence in teaching
 - o Excellence in service
 - o Established concern for others that motivates students/colleagues
 - o Continuing achievement in research

- Continuing commitment to excellence in teaching
- Continuing commitment to excellence in service
- MSU for 5 years

Preplanning and Design Committee

February 22, 2017

North Parking Garage: Professional Review

Master Plan, Design Advisory Committee

February 9, 2017

Master Plan Design Advisory Committee

- | | |
|--|----------|
| i. Stone Blvd. Traffic Control | Approved |
| Creelman stop sign traffic control at Stone Boulevard and Bost Drive | |
| ii. Giles Bus Shelter | Approved |
| iii. Partnership School Safety Entrance | Approved |
| iv. Engineering/Science Building Site | Approved |
| Renderings approved by Design Review Committee | |
| 60,000 square feet | |
| Addition of two chemistry laboratories | |

University Campus Project Updates:

Campus Services Capital Projects

- i. Classroom Building
 - March 30, 2017 is the current projected completion date
 - Road will be completed in near future
 - Mississippi Bureau of Construction met with the contractors recently
- ii. YMCA Renovation
 - January 28, 2018 is the current projected completion date
 - One change order is in effect (discovered an unknown stairwell)
- iii. Library Addition
 - Construction currently estimated to be 92% complete
 - February 2017 is the projected completion date
 - ADA compliance and concrete work in front of building site is pending
 - Exhibit space by separate contractor will be complete by August 2017
- iv. Partnership School
 - Rendering of building will be forwarded to IHL sometime in February 2017
 - Starkville and Oktibbeha County will be meeting with the contractor
 - Estimated size of 125,000 square feet
- v. Russell Street Improvements
 - A "Notice-to-Proceed" has been issued
 - Projected completion date is August 2017
 - General Contractor is Prairie Construction
- vi. Engineering and Science Building
 - Schematic plans and renderings will be forwarded to IHL for approval
 - Design and Development (DD) will occur in 2017
- vii. Eckies Pond
 - Projected completion date March 18, 2017 barring further additional weather delays
 - Some trees have been removed and water level is being monitors
 - Once weather improves completion will require 4 weeks of modifications
- viii. NSPARC

Initiated September 16, 2016 / projected completion date of July 13, 2017
Cement foundation slab has been poured followed by pillars and roof

ix. Music Building

RFQ has been sent out to the Mississippi Bureau of Construction
Short list of professionals will be assembled soon
Interviews will take place in Jackson
Ground breaking will probably occur in approximately 1 year (April 2018)

x. Dudy Noble Renovation

January 22, 2017 the final CD was reviewed
Advertisement for professional will occur in the near future
June 2017 is the current projected date of initial construction
Scoreboard is already operational

xi. Junction Sidewalk

January 30, 2017 a "Notice-to-Proceed" as issued by April or May

xii. Kress Plaza

Development began December 26, 2016
Projected completion date of April 2017 ("soft cutting" completed)
Plumbing has been or will be installed in near future
Problems with water have been solved

Agriculture, Forestry, & Veterinary Medicine Projects

i. Meat Lab

Building construction is approximately 35% complete

Construction budget is \$8 million

Construction began June 1, 2016 with a completion date of June 1, 2017

Occupancy scheduled for August 2017

ii. South Entrance Road

Construction is 65%-75% complete with good progress made to date

Construction budget is \$18 million

Projected completion date is Fall 2017 which will likely be September 2017

East side of road will have a bike path the full length of the South Entrance Road

iii. Wetland Education Theater

Location will be on corner lot at Stone Blvd and Bully Blvd intersection
(north of Thompson Hall)

Construction budget allocation is \$1.5 million

A 4-foot perimeter fence is projected to be built

Concerns exist that there are "non-defensible" sites within enclosure

Surveillance cameras and additional lighting may become necessary

Renderings have been approved by IHL

A "Notice-to-Proceed" will be issued June 1st, 2017

Structure construction will be completed within an 8-month period

Planting will continue of the following 2-3 year period

iv. Animal and Dairy Science Building

Mississippi Bureau of Construction will open bids February 16, 2017

Projected allocations for the construction budget is \$13 million

Robert Holland Faculty Senate Committee Assignments and Responsibilities

Faculty Senators Completing First 3-Year Term

Brian Baldwin
Robert Boyd
Ben Harvey
Stacy Haynes
Aaron Kiess
Jamie Larson
Judy Ridner
Andrea Spain
Robert Thompson
David Wipf

Faculty Senators Completing Second 3-Year Term

Michael Brashier
Anastasia Elder
Rocky Lemus

Faculty Senators Completing Partial Replacement Term

Mark Crenshaw
Dipankar Dutta
Stephen Middleton
James Sobaskie

Monthly Meeting Schedule for the Month of April

April 20th meeting n = 32 faculty senators are able to attend

April 20th meeting n = 7 faculty senators will not be able to attend

April 20th and April 21st = 3 faculty senators that will not be able to attend either date

Faculty Senators n = 9 non-responders

Note: please be prepared to review dates in the month of April for scheduling a meeting

April Faculty Senate Meeting Election of Officers

Following March college elections of new senators, a detailed description of the “Nominations and Elections Operating Procedures” will be provided to all senators eligible to vote in the April election of senate officers.

-
- Written nominations are to be forwarded to the Faculty Senate Office or election officer (outgoing president) for inclusion on the April ballot (candidates must have served ≥ 1 year as a senator).
 - Candidates submit electronically a 1-page statement-of-qualifications and reasons for seeking election to the specific senate office -and- a vita for distribution no later than 5 p.m. 1 week prior to the date of elections. Statements and vitas will then be electronically forwarded to all senators no later than 5 p.m. the Monday prior to the election (5 working days)
 - Absentee ballots are permitted on the first ballot only, which must be request from the elections officer no later than Tuesday at 12:00 noon (2.5 days) prior to elections and must be submitted no

later than Wednesday at 5:00 p.m. (1.5 days) prior to elections. Absentee ballots may be submitted to Robert Holland Faculty Senate or emailed directly to the elections officer.

- The president's notice of the agenda for the election meeting shall contain an alphabetical list of the names that have been placed in nomination.
- Election of officers will be conducted immediately after the report by the senate president.
- When only one candidate has submitted an application, other candidates may seek election at the April meeting but must provide a qualification-statement and vita for distribution (April meeting).
- All candidates shall have five (5) minutes to speak prior to the first ballot for their position.
- Casting of votes will be conducted by a secret voting process.
- If no person receives a majority vote, a second balloting shall take place between the top two vote receivers of the first balloting, or top three vote receivers should there be a tie for second place.
- After the second ballot candidates will respond to a question formulated by the elections officer, and again will have a maximum of five (5) minutes to respond to the question.
- Balloting shall continue on those names which were on the second ballot until one receives the required vote. Nominations from the floor will be allowed if there is still a deadlock after five ballots.

Faculty Senate Office

The MSU administration has asked Faculty Senate about the feasibility of moving their office to a different site on campus due to the need to expand the Command Center in the Alumni Center. University Houses / Hunter Henry / Memorial Hall Small Auditorium / Lee Hall / Union / Griffiths Hall / Ruby Hall. The graduate school has an office, four medium sized classrooms and a lecture/presentation room in Griffiths Hall. Another possibility that has been suggested for consideration is the M-Club. Provost Bonner has indicated the Vice President Amy Tuck has reviewed optional locations with her staff and will be providing approximately 5 different office space areas that could potentially be utilized.

Faculty Senate Committee Resolutions/Revisions/Reports Original Assignments

<u>Academic Affairs</u> (Committee Chair: Senator Noel Addy).....	None Pending
<u>Student Affairs</u> (Committee Chair: Senator Stacy Haynes).....	None Pending
<u>Ancillary Affairs</u> (Committee Chair: Senator Mary Ann Jones)	None Pending
Audiovisual lecture recording/uploading onto social media (public access/Copyright).....	Pending
<u>Faculty Affairs</u> (Committee Chair: Senator Brian Baldwin)	
Faculty Handbook: Promotion and Tenure Policy and Procedures section (Feb Assign).....	Pending
<u>Charter & Bylaws</u> (Committee Chair: Senator Anastasia Elder)	
College Faculty Census and Reapportionment.....	Pending
<u>University Resources</u> (Committee Chair: Senator Laurie Grace)	
<u>AOP 13.09</u> – Credential for Teaching (Distance Education Certification Addition: Oct Assign)...	Pending
<u>AOP 10.16</u> – Distance Education (Distance Education Certification Addition: Oct. Assign).....	Pending
<u>AOP 34.01</u> – Special Teaching Programs.....	Pending

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

February 27, 2016

AOP 12.17 - Undergraduate Academic Fresh-Start

AOP 12.19 - Undergraduate Academic Amnesty

rescind and merged into AOP 12.17

AOP 12.02 - Withdrawal from the University
OP 01.15 - Cellular Communication Devices and Plans

Associate Deans Council

College Department Syllabus Posting
 Distance Program Certification
 Redistribution of English Composition: Request to enroll students in Comp II during spring semester for improved balance and use of faculty

AOP 13.03 - Responsibilities in Instruction and Curriculum, Attendance at Classes.....Pending
AOP 13.04 - Attendance at Classes: Teaching and Faculty (Merge/Rescind).....Pending
AOP 13.24 - Faculty Workload (Executive Committee recommendation for text transfer).....Pending
AOP 12.17 - Undergraduate Academic Fresh-Start November 9, 2016
AOP 12.19 - Undergraduate Academic Amnesty November 9, 2016
 Course Syllabus Posting November 9, 2016
 English Composition Redistribution November 9, 2016
AOP 12.17 - Undergraduate Academic Fresh-Start August 10, 2016
AOP 12.19 - Undergraduate Academic Amnesty August 10, 2016
AOP 12.20 - Undergraduate Academic Forgiveness August 10, 2016
AOP 12.09 - Class Attendance and Reporting Absences April 13, 2016
AOP 13.03 - Responsibilities in Instruction and Curriculum, and Attendance at Classes April 13, 2016
 Grief Counseling November 9, 2016

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

Academic Operating Policies (AOP) Extended Beyond 4-year Cycle Review

<u>Number ▲</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Attachment</u>
10.03	Deans Council and Associate Deans Council	04-12-2012	None
10.05	Nepotism	12-05-2012	None
10.15	Substantive Changes	08-13-2013	None
11.05	Requirements for Shortened-Format Courses	11-21-2013	None
11.06	Study Abroad	11-06-2012	None
12.02	Withdrawal from the University	06-01-2010	None
12.08	Requirements for Degrees, Academic Minors, and Certificate Programs	12-05-2012	None
12.12	Credit and Grades	08-12-2013	None
12.23	Cooperative Education Program	09-20-2013	None

<u>Number ▲</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Attachment</u>
12.25	Pass-Fail Option	02-05-2013	None
12.26	Undergraduate Credit by Examination	04-12-2012	None
12.30	Developmental Studies	04-23-2012	None
12.36	Repeat Policy	04-12-2012	None
12.38	Undergraduate Academic Advisement	04-23-2012	None
13.05	Faculty Grievance Procedures	05-18-2012	None
13.07	Academic Promotion and Tenure	08-27-2013	None
13.20	Exit Interviews of Departing Faculty	05-11-2012	None
13.21	Faculty Released Time for Specified Committee Chairs	09-15-2011	None
21.01	Graduate Admission Criteria	04-12-2012	None
32.01	Mississippi State University Library	12-01-2006	None
34.01	Special Teaching Programs	12-01-2006	None

Operating Policies (OP) Extended Beyond 4-year Review Cycle

<u>Number ▲</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Attachment</u>
01.07	Whistleblower Policy	08-04-2009	None
01.09	Principles for University Governance	09-12-2013	None
01.20	Use of Copyrighted Works for Education and Research	02-14-2008	None
60.103	Recruitment and Selection	10-02-2012	None
60.104	Employment Authorization	10-02-2012	Attachment
60.320	Office Hours-Work Schedule	10-02-2012	None
60.401	Guidelines for Employee Conduct	10-22-2012	None
60.501	Workforce Development	10-02-2012	None
91.109	Dissent, Disruption and Academic Freedom	09-26-2011	None
91.150	Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy	01-23-2012	None
91.177	Extended Orientation for International Students	07-16-2012	None
91.178	Policy on University Scholarship Programs and Procedures	05-23-2013	None

Academic Operating Policy Extended Beyond 4-Year Review Cycle (Currently in Review??)

10.02	Academic Administrators and Directors	04-28-2009	None
10.07	Veterans Administration: Students	11-26-2005	None
12.17	Undergraduate Academic Fresh-Start	12-05-2012	None
12.19	Undergraduate Academic Amnesty	12-05-2012	None
12.20	Undergraduate Academic Forgiveness	04-23-2013	None
13.01	Emeritus Appointments	09-15-2011	None

13.02	Selection of William L. Giles Distinguished Professors	07-31-2012	None
13.03	Faculty Responsibilities in Instruction and Curriculum	11-21-2013	None
13.11	Academic Freedom	04-12-2012	None
13.14	Grade Appeal & Academic Review Board	04-28-2009	None
13.15	Evaluation of Teaching Performance	08-02-2006	None
13.24	Annual Faculty Review Process	10-14-2011	Attachment

Academic Operating Policy Revision of Listing

12.21	Veterans Academic Status	09-20-2013	None
13.04	Attendance at Classes: Teaching Faculty	07-15-2011	None

President Coyne polled the Senate to determine the best day to hold the April meeting of the Faculty Senate. The determination was made that April 27th at 2:00 p.m. would be the most accommodating to the senators.

REPORT OF THE FACULTY SENATE VICE PRESIDENT

Dean’s Council Meeting

February 20

- Meeting cancelled

Master Plan Development and Advisory Committee

March 9

- Cancelled due to lack of agenda items.

Spring Faculty Senate Roundtable

April 21

- Planning for the Spring Faculty Senate Roundtable has begun
 - Date: Friday, April 21, 2017
 - Location: President Keenum’s home
 - Time: TBA
 - Topic: TBA
- Meeting to finalize topic with President Keenum is scheduled for March 21
- The Roundtable will host 24 attendees
 - 8 current Robert Holland Faculty Senators
 - 8 members of the Mississippi State University faculty
 - 8 Mississippi State University administrators
- Next Steps
 - Invitations will be sent to faculty and faculty senators with the Spring roundtable topic and a request to participate.

- Closer to the event, a brainstorming guide regarding the topic will be shared with the confirmed roundtable participants.
- Coordinate with the faculty senate office to prepare necessary supplies and the President’s office to coordinate logistics for the Spring Roundtable.
- If you are interested in participating in the Spring Faculty Senate Roundtable, please let me know. As in the past, we will seek representation from faculty senators and faculty across the campus community. As is the custom, President Keenum will identify and invite the administrators.

Upcoming scheduled meetings

- | | |
|---|----------|
| ● Deans Council Meeting | March 20 |
| ● President Keenum-Spring Faculty Senate Roundtable | March 21 |
| ● Work-Life Balance Meeting | March 22 |
| ● Master Plan Development and Advisory Committee | April 13 |
| ● Deans Council Meeting | April 17 |
| ● Spring Faculty Senate Roundtable | April 21 |

Respectfully submitted,

Brent Fountain

RHFS Vice President

FACULTY DESIGNATES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs

1. Request to Review Athletic Absences

Senator Follett, on behalf of the Academic Affairs Committee presented an update on the request to review athletic absences. He said that the committee is looking to modify AOP 12.09 Class Attendance and Reporting Absences. The modifications would include requirements for those students that know of excused absences to approach the instructor prior to the last day to drop.

Senator Boyd asked if this would be left to the discretion of the faculty member. Senator Follett replied that the intent is to have the student and instructor arrive at a mutually agreed upon path forward.

Senator Grace said that the committee should consider using the last day to add. Senator Spain replied that the drop period ends the day before the last day to add. This would allow the student to add another course to meet any hourly requirements that they have should they have to drop the course. She added that if the student adds the class late, it would have to be handled in some other way. Senator Elder said that athletes have priority registration and should be able to approach the instructor prior to the beginning of the semester. She added that encouraging athletics to minimize the number of travel days would greatly benefit the student. Senator Clary said that students are told to speak with faculty prior to the start of the semester, but some do not.

Senator Bennett said that she would like to have a discussion with athletics about practice schedules as well. She discussed a student that has had an issue with her practice schedule and her required coursework for her major.

Senator Follett said that there has been some activity regarding a policy from the athletic department to address this. He said that the committee wants to have similar language in the AOP. Senator Elder said that this leaves it up to the student to maneuver through the decision on which courses they can take.

Senator Wipf said that he thinks that there needs to be a clear cut policy regarding the absences that are acceptable for student-athletes.

Senator Ridner said that she is unsure what the faculty's rights were in a situation like this. She added that she did not understand why there were excused absences.

Senator Brashier said that being that the excused absences were University approved, it obligates the faculty member to accommodate them.

Senator Lemus said that faculty should include the consequences of missing class in their syllabus.

Senator Barefield said that this issue goes beyond athletics. He provided the example of judging teams.

Senator Krishnan asked if it is against policy if a faculty member says that you could only have a certain number of absences, excused or not, in a course syllabus. Senator Follett replied that he did not believe that the faculty member could say that directly. He added that the policy states that if a significant number of absences accrue, the student should contact the instructor to determine the best course of action. He said that the committee believes that the number of absences that is significant should come from the instructor in the syllabus. Senator Sebba added that UCCC will not allow a grade reduction of more than 10% due to absences.

Senator Brashier said that the policy states that the instructor will provide a comparable evaluation. Senator Follett replied that the committee is trying to determine the best solution to the issue.

Senator Spain said that the scheduling for athletics was noted as an issue in the original letter of request. She said that the committee was unsure how to address that issue due to the fact that scheduling is not necessarily in the hands of the University.

Senator Elder said that she feels that the schedules of some of the athletic teams has shifted. She said that she would like to see data relating to the issue.

Senator Carskadon said that his biggest issue is that a drop grade cannot be used for an exam given during an excused absence.

Ancillary Affairs No Report

Charter & Bylaws No Report

Faculty Affairs No Report

Student Affairs No Report

University Resources

1. Mandatory Certification for Online Instruction

Senator Grace, on behalf of the University Resources Committee, presented the committee report. She explained that the requirement was put in place to comply with SACS accreditation. The committee identified three different policies that could pertain to the subject. She said that the committee recommends the rescinding of AOP 34.01 which is no longer valid. She explained that several edits are recommended in AOP 10.16 to improve the consistency of language used in other policies as well as improve consistency within the policy. The committee also recommends that AOP 13.09 remains the same.

Senator Ridner made a friendly amendment to change revision #3 to “Course instructors of record should use best practices to ensure”. Senator Grace accepted the friendly amendment.

Senator Thompson asked if there was a distinction between online and distance courses. Senator Grace replied that the committee did not discuss this issue.

Senator Spain said that she is concerned about the removal of the words “department and colleges”. She said that she believed that not including these words would make it easier to merge and eliminate departments due to the control of content. Senator Grace said that she looked through the policy regarding intellectual property but cannot recall the details.

Senator Carskadon asked how this addresses SACS requirements when it says “should” and not “must”. Senator Grace replied that SACS requires the University to provide the training, but does not require faculty to have the training.

Senator Williams made a motion to table. Senator Thompson seconded the motion. The motion to table passed by majority hand vote.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Senator Carskadon made a motion to adjourn. Senator Williams seconded the motion.

After a unanimous voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Submitted for correction and approval.

Kent Marett, Secretary

Jason Cory, Administrative Assistant II