



ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE

Uncorrected Minutes of October 15, 2021

The Robert Holland Faculty Senate of Mississippi State University held its regular monthly meeting in the Bettersworth Auditorium at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, October 15, 2021.

Members absent and excused were Todd Archer, Mike Breazeale, Charles Freeman, Gnaneswar Gude, Alicia Hall, Erdogan Memili, Amanda Stone, and Chinling Wang.

Members absent were Sol Pelaez, Sorina Popescu, and Paul Spurlin.

The meeting was called to order by Senate President Rebecca Robichaux-Davis.

President Robichaux-Davis asked for any corrections to the minutes of the September 10, 2021, meeting. She said she has received one update regarding the spelling of Senator Kelly's name. Hearing no additional corrections, President Robichaux-Davis accepted the minutes as amended.

GUESTS

Dr. Thomas Bourgeois, Interim Associate Vice President for Student Success & Dean of Students

Dr. Bourgeois said one of the first steps to address student success was the listening sessions that were held to determine what student success means to Mississippi State. The obvious metrics are retention and graduation rates, but there are other things that play a role in student success such as earnings to debt ratio, the financial literacy of students, and interpersonal skills. Dr. Bourgeois said mental health issues are off of the charts right now. He said our student counseling center is seeing twice as many students as they did prior to Covid. There are currently 180 students on the waiting list. Dr. Bourgeois said we are hearing from employers that students don't lack academic ability, they lack the interpersonal and conflict resolution skills to be able to sit in a cubicle next to a person who they do not agree with. Dr.

Bourgeois said student success encompasses not only academic prowess, but also what is happening outside the classroom in their personal lives, what is happening in their family structure, and most importantly, are they able to get a job. Dr. Bourgeois said one of the things being looked at by not only Mississippi State, but in the student affairs profession in general, is resiliency. He said when he was 12 years old, he would leave his house on his bicycle and did not have a cell phone or someone tracking him. He said he would be unsupervised on a playground and push a friend and get pushed back. This taught him that he should not push people. He said if he did not like something about someone and wanted to tell them he had to tell them to their face and deal with the feedback from that person. This is not the case for the generation of our students. He said he could drone on about resiliency, but in the end, it is something that all higher education institutions are going to have to face. Dr. Bourgeois said this is not a condemnation of the generation, but a fact of where we are. He said our students are coming to campus having never been in an environment where there was nobody to supervise them. He said they are having to learn how to live with someone. This is a life skill many have not been exposed to up to this point. We need to figure out how we bake resiliency into the classroom. Dr. Bourgeois said when he says resiliency, he does not mean handholding. He said he has been a Dean of Students for over 20 years and the motto in his office is not to get students out of situations, but to get students through situations. We know absences are a key indicator of student engagement. He said whether or not it counts for the courses, it is valuable to be able to collect the data. He said he would like to see the Senate take up this issue at some point.

Dr. Bourgeois said one of the key items that came out of the Task Force report was taking a look at advising. He said this does not mean that advising is terrible at Mississippi State, but it is all over the board. Some colleges have the resources to employ professional advisors, while others utilize new assistant professors who may not know the caveats that could adversely affect students such as losing aid if they drop below a certain number of hours. Dr. Bourgeois said several semesters ago he had a student come to his office with an issue with a staff member. He said he began by asking the student about themselves as he always does when a student comes for help. The student said that he just needed his degree. He already had a job lined up and needed the degree to move forward. Dr. Bourgeois said when he looked at the student's CAPP report he had 140 hours, so he sent the student to the BSIS department. An hour later the student came back to the office and said that he just graduated. Dr. Bourgeois said it wasn't that the advisor was advising poorly. The advisor was advising for the degree program the student was in.

Dr. Bourgeois said the University received a generous, anonymous gift to explore the concept of advising. A new Executive Director of Advising has been hired and will start on October 16th. This individual will be working with the constituent groups to determine what advising should

be. The concept currently being discussed is to have a pilot program which involves professional advisors who are also trained in other areas such as financial aid, career services, and available resources across campus. Dr. Bourgeois said the gen ed committee is currently looking at FYE courses. He said it would be very expensive to have 60 sections of FYE and have 60 professional advisors, but when doing this frees up money in Financial Aid, Career Services, and the lecture schedule it makes it much more economical. He said part of this is trying to figure out how the Career Center fits into this. Much of what Career Services does is reactionary. Some of these conversations need to be proactive such as asking why a student is in their chosen major. Dr. Bourgeois said he was an undergrad who planned on going to med school. He said no one is going to go to med school with a 3.0 GPA. Students have to be engaged in these conversations earlier so they can have realistic expectations. Dr. Bourgeois said we are using pilot programs to determine where we need to utilize our resources moving forward.

Dr. Bourgeois said there are many things being looked at in addition to advising. He said it is going to take all of us to address this. Feedback from the Senate would be helpful to identify anything that affects student success. As an example, Covid has showed us that we can deliver different things in different ways.

Senator Gregory said part of our job is to teach students to be successful adults. She said just like us, they have personal issues and things that impede them from doing things. She said she feels faculty need to do a better job of being empathetic to this. She said she has a student that is taking a course in another area. The student missed an assignment due to personal issues. She said both herself and the student reached out to the professor and the professor just said no. She said we need to find ways to have conversations about students to support them. She said we need to teach students how to deal with these issues so they can be successful when they graduate. Part of this is teaching them how to approach superiors in the workplace and talk about personal issues in a way that helps them succeed but deal with the issues and not break down and completely fail. Dr. Bourgeois said for the last 25 years he has struggled with the same thing in trying to find the correct balance of empathy and tough love. He said he thinks it has to be both and it takes investing time in a student. He said with our fraternities, sororities, and other student groups, if the only time he engages them is when they are in trouble, he has not done a good job. He said you have to lay the groundwork. Dr. Bourgeois said he realizes it is a little different in an academic environment, but on the first day faculty can lay the groundwork by listing expectations, telling the students about the various resources available, and generally saying this is what we need. When a faculty member is engaging a student, they are engaging an individual. Dr. Bourgeois said he always tries to convey to faculty that when a student reaches out outside of the classroom, it is a big commitment by the student. He said he realizes we are all very busy, but when a student is in crisis, being put off

because we are too busy is almost like a punch in the face. He said even just telling the student that they should contact his office is helpful. He said if faculty notice something not quite right with a student, even if it's minor, they should report it to his office. It could be that the student's parents have previously spoken to his office, or other faculty have reported issues. Your report could be what connects the dots and lets him know that there is something bigger going on. Faculty are on the front-line of this mental health crisis. They see the students two or three times a week and are in the best position to notice changes in behavior. Dr. Bourgeois said his office offers to come and speak to these issues with departments and colleges. Senator Gregory said it may be better to proactively address departments instead of waiting for a request. She said they may learn of things that they did not previously know were an issue. She said she has a lot of students who are afraid to talk about things even though she has reached out to them. She said they do not want their faculty to think they have excuses even though they have legitimate reasons they are struggling.

Senator Zuckerman said students in her department find employment through networking. She said the undergraduate advisor in her department is very well connected with almost all professional organizations in the field. She asked if there would be a program developed along with professional advising which would provide the professional mentorship that is key to career placement in the smaller fields and disciplines. Dr. Bourgeois said our Alumni Association is already in the process of purchasing PeopleGro which connects people in the field to students. He said other things like this that relate to student success need to be done in tandem with advising. He said mentorship is a key component of student success. He said we need to figure out how to get the student in front of the people who can not only speak to the academic side, but also can show them the pathway to applying a degree program to the tangible skill they can be doing when they graduate.

Dr. David Shaw, Provost and Executive Vice President

Dr. Shaw said a number of task forces were formed with some having already delivered their reports and some still working. He said one thing that we need to make sure we are not doing is taking a report from a task force and posting it on the website and declaring success. He said Dr. Bourgeois is a perfect example of this. The task force report shows that student success is not just a student affairs or academic affairs issue, it is a university issue. He said bringing Dr. Bourgeois in to serve as the bridge between these two units has been invaluable for himself and the institution. He said there are a lot of ideas being floated and a lot of differences in opinion still. Dr. Shaw said Dr. Bourgeois is doing a great job turning these ideas into actionable plans. While Dr. Bourgeois was speaking, Dr. Shaw said he quickly jotted down a couple of things that are tied to what he is doing and how what he is doing is tied to other things. He said the Faculty Evaluation and Faculty Development Task Forces directly relate to student success. The Instructional Faculty Task Force directly relates to student success. The task

forces for gen ed reevaluation, the financial model, teaching evaluation, strategic plan implementation, online education, graduate education, and the strategic planning effort for student recruitment all have ties to student success and vice-versa. He said we are not ignoring the fact that these reports have been filed but are taking these reports and seeing how they touch each other to develop actionable plans.

Senator Zuckerman asked what the plans are for a campus-wide museum. Dr. Shaw replied there is a lot of discussion which is still in the early phases about a campus-wide museum. Dr. Shaw said he personally has long believed we have some phenomenal resources on this campus which are not visible. He said as he has worked with Sasaki, the firm hired to revise our master plan, and has been a strong advocate for a facility or group of facilities that pulls together the opportunities we have with our galleries and museums. Sasaki is taking this into account and creatively thinking about how we can address this as they work on the master plan. Dr. Shaw said the second question is where does the money come from, but we are not constraining the master planning process by whether or not we have funding. Dr. Shaw said we are still early in this process and there will be town hall meetings later this fall with faculty to present the preliminary plans. Dr. Shaw said he is looking forward to sharing the creativity of Sasaki with campus and for Sasaki to receive feedback from campus as we decide what the next master plan will look like. Dr. Shaw said if we are not able to have a central location for the various galleries and museums, we still must do a better job of promoting them. He said he really wants the senators and all faculty to engage in the Town Hall meetings. He said feedback on this topic and many more is needed as we think about the future plans and changes on campus.

Senator Gregory said the College of Architecture, Art, and Design recently did a 2-week design project with the Cobb Museum to redesign their space. She said the college is happy to provide student design services to help brainstorm ideas. Dr. Shaw thanked Senator Gregory and said we will be utilizing those services as we move forward.

REPORT OF THE FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT

Over the last month, I have attended meetings of most of the university standing committees on which I serve. Additionally, I have attended meetings of the Faculty Development Task Force and have continued to attend weekly COVID-19 meetings. I also have remained in contact with MSU administrators concerning various issues brought forward to me. In response to concerns regarding the street lighting in the area of the Music buildings, the Music Building design has been reviewed and the lighting plan is being revised to provide additional lighting along the new sidewalk that is under construction. Additionally, the Pedestrian/Bike Safety Task Force will meet on Friday, October 15th to specifically discuss skateboards and scooters on campus. Results of this meeting will be forthcoming.

I have worked with Dr. Brent Fountain, Faculty Athletics Representative, and members of the Athletics Department to plan and announce events throughout the month of October which has been designated as Faculty Athletics Month. Various events have been planned to show appreciation to the faculty and staff for their role as a part of winning the national championship. Specifically, on Monday, October 4, 2021, a photo-op for faculty/staff and their families with the National Championship Trophy was held at the home plate entrance to Dudy Noble Field. About sixty members of the faculty or staff and their families participated in this event. On Tuesday, October 19, 2021, faculty/staff and their families are invited to an open football practice which will include a tour of the Leo Seal Football Complex. Registration for this event is required. On Sunday, October 24, 2021, faculty and staff will be recognized at the MSU volleyball game against Texas A & M. On Thursday, October 28, 2021, faculty and staff will be recognized at the MSU soccer game against Ole Miss. Finally, faculty and staff can get discounted tickets for the Homecoming football game against the University of Kentucky on Saturday, October 30, 2021.

As in previous years, the Robert Holland Faculty Senate will host the nominations for the SEC Faculty Achievement Award. You should have received an email this past Tuesday asking for nominations. Please consider nominating colleagues who are Full Professors and have taught predominantly undergraduates. Details of the nomination requirements were included in the email and are posted on the Faculty Senate website, as well.

Status of AOPs:

The following AOPs are not under review to the best of my knowledge, but are past the four-year review cycle:

AOP	Title	Date
10.05	Nepotism	12/5/2012
10.08	Classroom Regulations	4/26/2016
11.11	Auditing a Class	11/3/2016
12.02	Withdrawal from the University	3/23/2017
13.06	Sabbatical Leave for Faculty Members of State IHL	6/9/2014
31.02	Legal Resident Status	2/5/2013

Reports from Committees on which I Serve:

Athletic Council – This committee met on September 15, 2021. Leah Beasley, Mike Richey and Eric George gave a presentation on the impacts of winning the NCAA Baseball National Championship in terms of branding and licensing and the unprecedented sales of merchandise that occurred within the days immediately following the national championship game. In the first 6 hours, MSU set the record for the highest amount of CWS Champs hot market sales in Fanatics’ history. Maroon shirts were sold out across the United States for a period of time. In

one month, 2,100 of the CWS panoramas were sold which is three times more than the number sold within the first month of the most recent Super Bowl. Within two weeks of the National Championship win, \$115,000 was raised through the Bulldog Club which included 175 new donors. Christine Jackson gave a report from Athletic Academics. She shared that the departmental grade point average for spring 2021 was 3.20. This was the eighth consecutive semester that the department grade point average was at least 3.0. Also in spring 2021, 66 student athletes earned a 4.0 grade point average and were awarded “top dawgs.” For the entire academic year, student athletes had a grade point average of 3.18. Currently, two student athletes are Stephen D. Lee Scholars. During the 2020-21 academic year, 126 current and former student athletes graduated. John Cohen reported that new policies allow transfer students to be immediately eligible to play.

COVID-19 Future Planning Task Force – The COVID-19 Task Force continues to meet weekly on Tuesday afternoons. Information from each of these meetings is provided primarily through weekly Cowbell Well updates that are provided on Fridays. COVID-19 Vaccine and Flu Shots continue to be available at the Health Center and at various pop-up clinics. MSU is trying to make it as easy as possible for anyone to get vaccinated and get the flu shot. See www.msstate.edu/covid19 for more information.

Design Review Committee – This committee has not met since my last report.

Inclusive Excellence Leadership Council – This council has not met since my last report.

Executive Council – This council has not met since my last report.

Executive Enrollment Management Committee – The Strategic Enrollment Planning Prioritization Summit was held on September 22-23, 2021. The EEMC spent two days attending this summit. The overall goal of the summit was to determine which enrollment strategies we would adopt as a university. We spent the first day listening to presentations of over 20 strategies. The second day we prioritized those strategies and their accompanying action plans based on specific criteria and then selected the strategies that we would adopt. We adopted the follow 11 recruitment and retention strategies: Comprehensive, university-wide marketing plan; University-wide undergraduate communications plan; Expand and increase market reach; Comprehensive, university-wide international recruitment and partnerships; Comprehensive and holistic review of undergraduate financial aid awarding; Graduate assistant funding; Graduate student pathways expansion including stackable coursework; Coordinated graduate student recruitment communications plan; Enhance and execute an incoming student onboarding experience; Develop broad academic support strategies; and Further develop student success strategies for Campuses 2 and 5.

Fall Convocation Group – This committee has not met since my last report.

Game Day and Special Events – This committee met on September 15th, September 29th, and October 6th to discuss and approve various Game Day requests. The committee approved a request to allow Step Shows in the Amphitheater and at the Coliseum on the Friday and Saturday of Homecoming Week. On Game Days at Davis Wade, we are very short-staffed. The Athletics Dept is continuing to look for volunteers and/or hourly workers to work on Game Days. The committee approved a request from Southern Traditions Tailgating which asked if they could send their current customers a renewal letter for the 2022 season. The committee also approved a Golf Cart All Access Pass for the ROTC on Game Days. In the most recent meeting, the committee approved of requests to set up tents/tailgates/displays for the Alabama home game. These tailgates/tents/displays will be for National Chemistry Week, a Former Football Player Reunion, and the EcoCar Team, which will have its Camaro on display at the corner of Creelman and Hail State Blvd.

Information Technology Council –This committee met on October 5, 2021. ITS is working on a new procurement web form that goes into detail regarding the service/system/equipment that is being procured. The Network Refresh is 83% complete. Through the 2020 CARES Act Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund, 45 classrooms/teaching spaces have had technology upgrades which are now complete. These classrooms/teaching spaces are as follows: 1 in Agricultural Engineering, 3 in the Band and Choral Rehearsal Hall, 2 in Bowen Hall, 5 in Carpenter Engineering Building, 1 in Cobb Architecture Building, 3 in Dorman Hall, 2 in Etheredge Chemical Engineering Building, 3 in the Franklin Center, 1 in Giles Hall, 2 in Griffis Hall, 5 in Hilbun Hall, 6 in the IED Building, 1 in the Jackson Center, 2 in Lloyd Ricks Hall, 1 in Middleton ROTC Building, 1 in Mitchell Memorial Library, 1 in Moore Hall, 3 in Swalm Chemical Engineering Building, and 2 in Thompson Hall Annex. Faculty who are using Wireless Microphone Belt packs in ITS-Supported classrooms have been leaving their classrooms without turning off their microphones. The microphone stays connected long after the faculty member leaves the classroom and then it connects to other wireless receivers in other classrooms, interfering with the instruction taking place in that other classroom. To avoid this, faculty should turn off their microphones when class is over prior to leaving the classroom. An email explaining this will be sent out to all faculty. A new ID card design has been approved. It has a horizontal design with the person's photo on the left side and a bulldog graphic on the right side. On the back of the ID is a QR Code that can be used with Athletic Department scanners for ticketing and tracking attendance. These new IDs are much more secure and as such are more costly. The new IDs are approximately \$7 more expensive per ID. The new version of DUO Mobile App, Version 4.0, is now available and has a rolling update. An email will be sent out explaining this. For those using iOS, the update window will be Oct. 11 – 18th. For those using Androids, the update window will be Oct 11 – 15th. Changes to the app include improved accessibility, clearer guidance on restoring an account, and an easier way to find and manage accounts through a simpler interface.

Master Plan Development and Advisory Committee – This committee met on September 9, 2021. The committee approved the Design Review Committee’s recommendations for the Engineering Student Center. Greg Havens from Sasaki was on campus with us and gave us a Master Plan update. The draft report reflected the framework of open space and the design principles being used embrace our sense of place through our historic buildings and architecture. Other frameworks reflected include campus life, academic and research sharing spaces, landscape, mobility, sustainability, and infrastructure. The big ideas of the design plan include the Campus Heart/Core, Clusters/Nodes, Smart Growth, Westside Connection (Starkville), Outdoor Environments (Social and Academic), Green Corridor (Connecting people through beautification), and Ecological Stewardship.

Parking and Traffic Regulations Committee – This committee has not met since my last report.

Sustainability Committee - This committee met on September 22nd, but I was not able to attend because I was attending the Strategic Enrollment Planning Prioritization Summit. Vice-President Hopper attended in my place. The Office of Sustainability is sponsoring Green Week during the week of October 11th. This week will feature various events including Yoga on the Drill Field on October 11th; Tie Dye on the Drill Field and Student Leadership Panel on October 12th; a Faculty Climate Panel in Old Main on October 13th; an Environmental Justice Talk and a Sustainability Minor Q&A session on October 14th; and Bikes & Smoothies and Wall-E on the Drill Field on October 15th.

REPORT OF THE FACULTY SENATE VICE PRESIDENT

Academic Deans Council

The Academic Deans Council met at 1:00 on September 15, 2021. The following AOPs were approved:

12.12 Credit and Grades,

13.06: Sabbatical Leave for Faculty Members of State Institutes of Higher Learning,

10.08: Classroom Regulations,

13.15: Evaluation of Teaching Performance,

12.08: Requirements for Degrees, Academic Minors, Certificate Programs, and Academic Consortia/Contractual Agreements.

No action items.

Committee on Campus Access

The Committee on Campus Access met on September 13. Old business: the crosswalk on Stone Blvd. is moving forward and is now in design phase. New business: the Montgomery Building is a historical building so it can only have one accessible entrance. Other buildings discussed for

accessibility were Patterson Engineering and Butler. Many of these buildings were built before ADA compliance was in place. No action items.

Community Engagement Committee

No meetings were held since the last Vice President's report, and no meetings are scheduled to date.

Master Plan Development and Advisory Committee

The Master Plan Development and Advisory Committee met September 9, 2021. The meeting consisted of an overview of the new master plan for the campus. No action items.

Undergraduate Research and Creative Discovery Committee

No meetings were held since the last Vice President's report, and no meetings are scheduled to date.

Sustainability Committee

The Sustainability Committee met on Wednesday, September 22, 2021. The Sustainability motto is "Maroon Goes Green." Items discussed were:

- 1) Working to educate MSU—Sustainability Social, Newsletter, Cowbell Cleanup
- 2) Energy Update—MSU is always working to update efficiency with heaters, etc. that take less energy. Cleaning coils in air handlers on campus has been a priority to reduce energy consumption.
- 3) Solar and wind initiatives were discussed—both are place dependent
- 4) Water bottle filler stations, have 14 installed with 25 more to go
- 5) Enhance Program—MSU was first to enter voluntary program and was the 1st to receive this award
- 6) Green Week October 11-15 with events on campus

No action items.

Updated on October 11, 2021

Respectfully submitted, Missy Hopper

FACULTY DESIGNATES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

Senator Carskadon reported from the Instructional Improvement Committee that the deadline for university teaching awards is November 17th. He said there are 3 Grisham Master Teacher Awards, 4 Early Career Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Awards, and 2 Outstanding Graduate Teaching Awards available this year. He asked the senators to encourage their

colleagues who are doing a great job of teaching to apply. He said the process has been streamlined so the candidate can apply and manage their own application.

BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEE

- 1. AOP 12.08 Requirements for Degrees, Minors, and Certificates (Academic Affairs)**
- 2. AOP 13.15 Evaluation of Teaching Performance (Faculty Affairs)**
- 3. Faculty Performance Evaluation Task Force Report (Faculty Affairs)**

The motion to send the items to the committees indicated passed by unanimous hand vote.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs

- 1. AOP 13.02 Selection of William L. Giles Distinguished Professors**

Senator Follett, on behalf of the Academic Affairs Committee, presented the committee report on AOP 13.02.

Senator Haynes asked if there was a specific number of letters which should be included in the packet. Senator Follett replied there is no specific number of letters required. He said depending on the source, one letter could address multiple areas of teaching, research, and service. Senator Follett said the inclusion of sample packets on the website should convey to candidates the information necessary for a successful packet.

Senator Haynes asked if the area of “motivating others” could be changed to “mentoring.” Senator Follett replied the proposed language was in the original policy and he believed it was vague by design. He said motivating others could include things other than mentoring.

The motion by the Academic Affairs Committee to accept AOP 13.02 Selection of William L. Giles Distinguished Professors passed by unanimous hand vote.

Ancillary Affairs

Senator Barrett said the Ancillary Affairs Committee will be examining the Confidence Survey. He asked the senators to email any feedback they have on the survey.

Charter & Bylaws **No Report**

Faculty Affairs **No Report**

Student Affairs

- 1. Student Survey of Teaching**

Senator Miller, on behalf of the Student Affairs Committee, presented the committee report on the Student Survey of Teaching.

Senator Haynes said she was elected to the Teaching Evaluation Committee. She said the committee has not met. Senator Haynes asked if there was a reason that this committee was not consulted during the formulation of the proposed survey. Senator Miller replied that she looked into the Teaching Evaluation Committee while she was on the Task Force and found that there is no chair for the committee currently. Senator Haynes asked that the survey be reviewed by the Teaching Evaluation Committee prior to the finalization of the instrument. Dr. Shaw said he agrees that the committee needs to be re-activated. He said we have to use an evaluation instrument this fall and if an instrument does not pass today in Senate, the old instrument will have to be used. He said the Senate will have to decide if they would like to continue with the new instrument and rejuvenate the committee for future input or begin the lengthy process of review and discussion with the committee before acceptance of the new instrument. Senator Haynes said she was just elected to the Senate and did not realize that this needed to be voted on at this meeting.

Senator Williams asked if this instrument would be used for online courses as well. Senator Miller replied it is her understanding that this instrument will be used for all classes. Senator Williams said, as a faculty member who has taught online for some time, he would encourage the consideration of additional questions which would relate directly to online issues. Senator Miller replied the committee did discuss this and it was the reason for the addition of the three questions the faculty could add on their own.

Senator Gregory asked if the three additional faculty created questions would be subject to review. Senator Miller replied she is not sure if the additional questions would be subject to review. She said she would like to think that faculty would include professional questions. She said she would assume that the students would not hesitate to report any inappropriate or unnecessary questions. Senator Gregory said she assumes the results of the survey would still be shared with the department head and they could identify any inappropriate questions, just after the fact. Senator Miller said the sharing of the results would not change and the department heads would be able to see if any inappropriate questions were asked.

Senator Gregory said that she appreciates that the committee discussed that student evaluations are just one small part of the evaluation of teaching. She said she knows that student evaluations currently carry significant weight in the review for Grisham Master Teachers and Giles Distinguished Professors. She asked if there was discussion about how student evaluations are used in the review for these designations. Senator Miller replied that she brought this to the attention of the committee. She said conversations about this are currently ongoing. Senator Carskadon said he serves as the chair of the committee for teaching

awards. He said he has been involved in this process for many years and some of the award winners have stellar student reviews, while others do not. He said other metrics such as observations factor into the decision when choosing award recipients. Dr. Carskadon said faculty should not worry about student evaluations being too heavily weighted in the awards process.

Dr. Carskadon said the last action taken by the Teaching Evaluation Committee was to recommend to the Provost that we go to electronic administration of the survey instrument. After this recommendation the Task Force to review the evaluation of teaching became active so the standing committee took a step back to wait for the recommendations of the Task Force. Dr. Carskadon said the review process of this instrument has gone on for two years and he believes it is now time to hit the print button on it. He said after the two-year review period for the new survey, the question will go to the standing committee.

Senator Wood asked that the color scale be reviewed for accessibility for color-blindness. Senator Miller said she was not aware that the scale had been reviewed for accessibility and would ask that this be done.

The motion of the Student Affairs Committee to accept the report on the Student Survey of Teaching passed by unanimous hand vote.

University Resources

Senator Stokes said the committee would be reaching out to continue the discussion on the cancellation of journals now that there has been a new dean hired for the University Libraries.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Senator Gregory asked about the status of the request sent to the Charter & Bylaws Committee regarding hybrid meetings. President Robichaux-Davis replied the request is still under review by the Charter & Bylaws Committee.

Senator Gregory said she noticed that President Robichaux-Davis has an office in Howell Hall which is a building that is not the greatest and will one day be renovated, but she is also concerned that the space the Faculty Senate meets in is not distinguished enough for the Faculty Senate. She asked if this is something that could be sent to committee to identify a space that the Faculty Senate and the Student Association could share as a meeting space with more comfortable seating and which allows for more interaction. She said the u-shaped tables

in the Grisham room are temporary, the seating is not comfortable, and it is not conducive to meeting in the way she would hope we would like to meet. She said we are in Bettersworth today due to Covid precautions, but she would like to address how, in the future, we can have a more distinguished place for our President and Vice President to work and for the Senate and the Student Association to meet on a regular basis. President Robichaux-Davis asked Senator Gregory to provide a request in writing so it could appear on the agenda of the November meeting.

Senator Follett made a motion to adjourn. Senator Barrett seconded the motion.

The motion to adjourn passed by unanimous hand vote at 3:28 p.m.

Submitted for correction and approval.

Stephanie King, Secretary

Jason Cory, Administrative Assistant II