



## **ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE**

### **Uncorrected Minutes of August 19, 2022**

The Robert Holland Faculty Senate of Mississippi State University held its regular monthly meeting in Bost Auditorium South at 2:02 p.m. on Friday, August 19, 2022.

Members absent and excused were James Chamberlain, Alicia Hall, Missy Hopper, Andrew Jarosz, Eric Vivier, Kevin Williams, Kimberly Wood, and Molly Zuckerman.

Members absent were Santanu Kundu.

The meeting was called to order by Senate President Jason Barrett.

President Barrett asked for any corrections to the minutes of the April 8, 2022 meeting. Hearing no corrections, President Barrett accepted the minutes as presented.

President Barrett asked for any corrections to the minutes of the May 6, 2022 special meeting. Hearing no corrections, President Barrett accepted the minutes as presented.

### **GUESTS**

#### **Dr. Mark Keenum, University President**

Dr. Keenum said this is the first Faculty Senate meeting of the academic year. He welcomed and congratulated the incoming Senate officers to their positions for the year. Welcoming the new senators, he remarked that the Senate has some senators who have served for quite some time and some senators who are new to the Senate. He thanked all the senators for their willingness to serve and to make the university a better place. He observed that the Faculty Senate is a very important body on our campus and he always looks forward to working with and being a partner with the Senate.

Dr. Keenum reported on the most recent legislative session from January through March of 2022, remarking that it was the most contentious session he has ever seen. He said his experiences with the state legislature go back to the time when he was a young faculty member in the early 1980s. Dr. Keenum remarked on the difficulties experienced with collaborative work throughout state leadership, noting the difference of opinions on how we should manage our state income tax. House leadership and Speaker Philip Gunn strongly advocated to eliminate the state income tax over a period of years. The Senate leadership and Lt. Governor Delbert Hoseman did not want to phase out our state income tax. Therefore, all decision-making regarding appropriations, bond bills, and other items were set to the side until the income tax issue was resolved. Another issue that consumed a lot of the legislature's time was debating the medical marijuana use bill. This was ultimately passed and the rules concerning its implementation are being written now by the State Department of Public Health. It is anticipated that by the end of the year those who have need of medical marijuana will be able to have access to it. Another item that was passed and did affect our budget was a large K-12 teacher pay raise. Dr. Keenum said he believes our teachers deserve every penny they got. The pay raise was a greater than \$200 million obligation by the state for every year moving forward.

Dr. Keenum said he testified before the legislature on three different occasions and talked about the relevance and importance of the work that we all do, and the impact that we have on our state. He said he explained that we are not an expenditure on their balance sheet, but an investment that pays back way more than they give us. What MSU faculty do is tremendous for our state and our economy. Dr. Keenum said the State of Mississippi does not have a chance without Mississippi State University. The other universities are important and play a role, but if MSU is not strong, vibrant, and growing our state does not have a chance, expressing his firmly held belief in the significance of Mississippi State University. Dr. Keenum said it was not until the last weekend before the legislature went sine die that the budget was passed. It was anticipated that the legislature may go *sine die* without having passed a budget even though there is a constitutional requirement that we have a balanced budget. Dr. Keenum said the result of the income tax discussion was that the largest tax cut in state history was passed. Because of the length of time taken with this single issue, the legislature had to go into overdrive to finalize the budget for the IHL system and all state expenditures, in the closing days of the legislative session.

Dr. Keenum said the state of Mississippi had a great year and had a large amount of funding available to them. Despite all the anxiety and angst over the budget approval process, this year turned out to be the best year from a funding standpoint that the university has ever seen. Our Education & General operating funds had a significant increase. Our Agriculture units, which are separately funded and appropriated, saw substantial increases. The subsidiary budgets that MSU is responsible for such as CAVS, the Chem Lab, and the Stennis Institute all saw significant

increases. We also received an increase in our Repair & Renovation funds to cover repairs and renovations. Dr. Keenum said we always have a need for R&R funds. He said there is always a roof on this campus somewhere that needs to be replaced. We have over 450 buildings on main campus alone. We also received additional funds to supplement additional construction costs on projects which were previously funded. Dr. Keenum said the legislature also appropriated \$25 million for additional capital expenditures in addition to the supplemental funding, to renovate Ballew Hall and begin construction of a new High Performance Computing Center. The new Kinesiology and autism support academic facility will be supported by the additional one-time funding as well. Most of this will go toward the new College of Architecture, Art, and Design building and some will go toward Dorman Hall renovations. Dr. Keenum said the legislature did not pass a bond bill this year. They decided to appropriate the one-time funds directly instead. The legislature also allocated from the \$2 billion federal dollars received from the American Rescue Plan Act roughly \$1.5 billion in funding with MSU receiving \$5 million. Dr. Keenum said this money must be used for infrastructure projects. He said we also received an additional \$4 million to supplement the \$4 million we had already received to build a research lab for seafood on the coast. Dr. Keenum said Chairman John Read of the House Appropriations Committee and Chairman Trey Lamar of the House Ways and Means Committee were champions for us in the House of Representatives. Speaker Gunn was also very supportive. Senator Briggs Hopson, Chairman of the Appropriations Committee and Senator Josh Harkins, Chairman of the Finance Committee were great champions for us in the Senate. Lieutenant Governor Delbert Hosemann and Governor Tate Reeves were also great supporters of ours. A lot of important decisions had to be made in a short amount of time, but we had done our work to keep them informed and work with our leadership. Representative Mack Huddleston, Chairman of the House College and Universities Committee and Senator Rita Parks, Chairman of the Senate College and Universities Committee are good leaders and good Mississippians who care about our state and our future, and understand and appreciate what we do at MSU. Dr. Keenum said the IHL Board, in June, approved our budget which included a merit pay raise for employees. He said he is very appreciative of the support from both our legislators and the IHL Board of Trustees.

Dr. Keenum said thinking about the session and how we were able to do so well from a financial standpoint reflects on our state economy. Our state revenues have been tremendous for the past 2 ½ to 3 years. When the last fiscal year ended, we had \$1.5 billion in surplus revenues. The estimated budget for FY22 was \$5.9 billion. The estimate for this fiscal year, FY23, is \$6.987 billion. Even with the increased estimates, the reported revenue intake for July 2022 was exceeded by \$45 million. Dr. Keenum said he does not know if we will continue to do this well over the rest of the fiscal year with the issues that our state and country are facing, particularly regarding inflation. He said it is unclear if we are currently in a recession. Dr. Keenum said the latest recession was in 2007 and 2008, and its impact is still being felt to this

day. He said we had a decent funding year last year and a great funding year this year, but prior to this we had over a decade of budget cuts. For some years we experienced multiple budget cuts. Dr. Keenum said we have endured a tremendous amount of financial stress and strain from a state support standpoint which goes back to the effects of the last recession. He said he hopes and prays that if we are in a recession, it is nowhere near as severe as what we dealt with last time. The state of Mississippi tends to lag behind the national economy. When the national economy declines, we tend to stay higher for a period of time before we start to move down. The same is true when the national economy grows. Dr. Keenum said he is watching this very carefully and is hopeful that our state revenue streams continue to be good. He said our state legislators are also closely monitoring inflation and the national economy and entertaining the fact that the state may need to be a bit conservative on expenditures.

Dr. Keenum said that we do not just spend time with our state leaders when the legislature is in session. He said we had some prominent state leaders on campus just last week and he was able to spend some quality time with them. The sentiment is that there is concern about obligating the state through recurring expenditures. They are fine with making one-time expenditures because they are not obligated to provide them in the following years. Dr. Keenum said the legislature just cut state taxes and this will obviously influence revenues moving forward. Dr. Keenum said next year is an election year. We typically do well from a funding standpoint in election years. He said he hopes this is the case next year. Dr. Keenum said he has heard talk of a tax rebate to the citizens of the state. Dr. Keenum said he has been suggesting to legislators that having the excess funds means this is a time to be making strategic investments for the future of our state. Mississippi State University is a big part of the future of our state. Dr. Keenum said MSU sometimes gets taken for granted because we do so much good. Despite the budget challenges and all the things that we deal with and are confronted with, we find a way to overcome and adapt. We continue to produce quality output and do tremendous work in research. He said we are almost at \$300 million a year in research output as an institution. We serve the state with our regional research institutes, extension campuses, academic campuses, diagnostic labs, emergency and referral medical hospital, CAVS, and by working with local leaders to help them get federal funding to support their communities. Dr. Keenum said we are the only institution in the state doing these things to help grow our economy and make a better life for our citizens. Dr. Keenum said we are an investment and any appropriation to us will pay tremendous dividends for our future as a state. Dr. Keenum said he tells people all the time that a university is not the pretty buildings and landscape, it is the people. It is the people we have that makes a difference, and we have the best. Dr. Keenum said he wants to do so much more as an institution, and we are going to work very hard together to accomplish that.

Dr. Keenum said classes started this week and he is excited to have our students back. He said he will admit that he is not like Dr. Tom Carskadon, who is beginning his 50<sup>th</sup> year of teaching here. Dr. Carskadon says that the first day of class is like Christmas, Thanksgiving, the Fourth of July, and his birthday all rolled up into one. Dr. Keenum said as excited as he gets to have our students back it is not like all of those rolled up into one. He said all that we do with research and outreach and all that we do to grow our state and our economy is important. At the end of the day, our number one priority is our students. They are why we are here. We serve, enlighten, mentor, motivate, inspire, and educate them. Dr. Keenum said he teaches a class every fall. He said he enjoys being with students and enjoys what he gets from them as much as what they get from him. He said it is fun and he looks forward to being with his students as he hopes the senators do as well.

Dr. Keenum reminded everyone that the General Faculty Meeting will be held on September 13<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 in the Bettersworth Auditorium. He said he hopes the senators will be able to attend. The Fall Convocation will be held in Humphrey Coliseum on Tuesday, August 23<sup>rd</sup>. He said we have not been able to hold a convocation for the last two years. He said he has been assured that the construction around the Coliseum will not impact the convocation and it will be able to accommodate the more than 5,300 new students. Dr. Keenum said he is very pleased that Dr. Al Rankins, Jr., the IHL Commissioner, will be the speaker.

Dr. Keenum said our first football game will kick off at 6:30 p.m. on September 3<sup>rd</sup> at Davis Wade Stadium against the University of Memphis. The first volleyball game will be tomorrow at 4:00 p.m. in Newell-Grisham. The first soccer match of the season was held last night at the University of Miami. Dr. Keenum said the score of the game was 0 – 0.

Dr. Keenum closed by sharing that he had the pleasure of attending the awards ceremony for the Division of Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine. He said he shared with them that a week ago today a friend of his who lives in Washington D.C. sent him a text that made his day. His friend's nephew is a high school senior at a very prominent school just outside of Atlanta, GA. Her nephew and his mother had a meeting with the school guidance counselor to discuss the colleges he would visit over the coming year. The guidance counselor looked at the list of schools the nephew intended to visit and said that he needed to put Mississippi State University on his list. When the mother asked why MSU should be added to the list, the guidance counselor replied that Mississippi State University is the Chick-Fil-A of colleges. The counselor said everyone at MSU is so nice, kind, and eager to help. Dr. Keenum said he had never thought of comparing our university to Chick-Fil-A, but he will take it all day long. He said this is a reflection of who we are as a university and a reflection of our people, community, and culture. Dr. Keenum said it is a great honor and privilege to serve with outstanding leaders like the senators.

### **Dr. David Shaw, Provost and Executive Vice President**

Dr. Shaw said Dr. Keenum did a great job of setting the stage for the conversation, but he wanted to be available to the senators to answer any questions they may have.

Senator Mlsna asked about enrollment for the academic year. Dr. Shaw replied that the enrollment numbers are not final at this point, but we are looking to be level with last year. He said he was reviewing the enrollment numbers earlier in the day and we look to be slightly down at this time. He said it has been bouncing around and he is not sure that we will be setting a new enrollment record, but we should be right about where we were last year.

Senator Pelaez said the departments and colleges are trying to edit their promotion and tenure documents to align with the new university promotion and tenure document. She asked how the administration is viewing the changes that were made as it deals with rank. She said, for example, can a faculty member in an Instructor III position vote on a faculty member's promotion to Associate Teaching Professor? Senator Pelaez commented specifically on lines 478 to 481, describing the membership of a college's promotion and tenure committee. Dr. Shaw replied that the revisions to the document were to make sure that any time someone was up for promotion that they would have representation in the group making the decision. He said it would never be fair for a group at the department or college level to vote on an Instructor II to Instructor III promotion without Instructor representation on the committee. The separate conversation, and where there is some latitude allowed in the Faculty Handbook, is the composition of the committee crossing those lines. He said part of the conversation last year was, do we want to have a separate promotion committee for each of the ranks such as Teaching Professor, Instructor, or Professor of Practice. Dr. Shaw said the response he got from the Senate is that it needs to be a composite committee which is representative across the board. There is some latitude to have departmental decisions that are made about whether an Instructor can participate in the conversation and have a vote as opposed to excluding them from voting on promotion. Dr. Shaw said there is some variety on campus right now as far as the approach being taken with regard to clinical faculty and tenure-track faculty. The expectation is that the department and ultimately the college will grapple with these questions and provide clarity and fairness in the approach. We do not want someone going up for promotion when they are not being judged by their peers and colleagues within a rank. There was a good bit of latitude afforded to departments and colleges in the university document to allow for specific needs of individual departments. Dr. Shaw said his expectation is to see these definitions made by the faculty in the department.

Senator Pelaez commented with concerns that the clarity of expectations for promotion regarding the Instructor ranks may be opening the door to tensions within departments, by not

providing specifics about who should be involved in making promotion decisions for the different new faculty lines.

Dr. Shaw said one thing that he hopes was made very clear is that tenure recommendations can come from only tenured faculty. He said it needs to be understood that we are bifurcating between promotion and tenure. Dr. Shaw said Senator Pelaez's comments are perfect examples of the types of conversations he was referring to in May when he said that the easy part is over. These are the kinds of things that he was expecting to come up through college and departmental discussions. Dr. Shaw said, from a personal standpoint, when the decision was made to incorporate Extension faculty into comprehensive departments within the Division of Agriculture, the Plant and Soil Sciences Department went through some horrendous conversations. The conversation was very much that Extension faculty cannot evaluate research and a researcher cannot evaluate Extension. He said for a while he had given up hope and thought there would be two separate committees. In the end, after two years of discussion, common ground was reached, and it actually works extraordinarily well. He said there were some friendships lost over some of the conversations to get to that point. He said he fully understands the difficulty Senator Pelaez is speaking to and he knows we will see this replicated around the campus. Senator Pelaez commented that she would have liked to have this clarification in the spring semester when voting was occurring.

President Barrett introduced Senator Sutton as a late addition to the agenda with an update on the Campus Climate survey.

Senator Sutton provided the senators with an update on the Campus Climate survey. She said the survey will be conducted this semester and will be released on Tuesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. The survey will close on Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>. Faculty, students, and staff will be surveyed. Senator Sutton asked the senators to please participate in the survey and to encourage their peers and students to participate as well. She said she has a PowerPoint presentation that she can share if anyone is interested. The results of the survey will be presented in April 2023. A community-driven action plan will be developed between April and June 2023. Senator Sutton said an outside consulting firm is working with campus to conduct the survey and she has been impressed with this process so far. She said the University has already come up with solutions to some of the problems identified in the focus groups used to help create the survey. The survey takes between 20 and 30 minutes to complete and is online. Paper copies are available for those who need them. Students who participate will be eligible to receive various prizes.

President Barrett reminded senators to reach out to the officers and executive committee to bring items forward for discussion, as there will be a short turnaround between this meeting

and the next. He commented on the need for discussion and the number of big issues that the Senate has dealt with over the last two years, and that the updating of Promotion & Tenure documents will be the “heavy lifting” for the upcoming year.

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

Greetings and I hope you all have had a great and enjoyable summer. I am glad to see faculty and students returning to campus. It is life coming back to this institution. This summer was very peaceful, and I do hope we carry that feeling into and throughout the academic year.

It is great to be here and serving as your president for the coming year. Please know that the Senate is always open and wants to hear from and work with faculty. This is your office so please reach out with any questions and/or comments that make MSU a better place.

On August 11<sup>th</sup>, I was able to join the President, Provost, and many other administrators from across campus in welcoming over 100 new faculty members to MSU. It is great to see so many new faces and make an effort to start them on the right path. It is very encouraging to see the amazing faculty that are being recruited and employed at MSU. Seeing all the new and talented faculty make me see how we are able to accomplish so much at MSU.

Since I took office on July 1, 2022, there have been several university committee meetings on which I represent you.

Design Review Committee (July 2, 2022) – There will be a Greek road closure between the Sigma Chi house and the Lambda Chi house as we consolidate dumpsters to stop tearing up the parking lot and make the area more aesthetically pleasing. It may possibly get screened by bushes or shrubs as needed.

The Solar Decathlon is part of the 2023-2025 Department of Energy Decathlon. There is no imminent build in front of us, but we do look to participate.

Davis Wade Stadium will have a west side renovation around the current press box area. It will be called the Legacy Suites. There will be 6 central legacy suites with 2 club levels, one north and one south of the legacy suites. The look and feel will be similar to the scoreboard club.

Fall Convocation (July 25, 2022) – Fall Convocation will be held on Tuesday August 23<sup>rd</sup> at the Humphrey Coliseum. We will be using the North end for seating due to the current construction taking place. Doors will open at 4:30pm and this is a great opportunity to attend as a supporting faculty member or to give credit for students to participate. The student association will be creating a video of how to enter and exit the coliseum so be on the lookout for that.



Executive Council (July 25, 2022) – OP 80.12 Distribution of Recovered Facilities and Administrative Costs, and the approval came with the addition of a minor increase to F/A only for DoD contracts. AOP 12.12 Credit and Grades was passed. OP 60.322 Administrative Closing Compensation was passed to clarify compensation during administrative closing or move to remote work for non-exempt employees. OP 60.324 Flexwork was passed, and that policy information has been shared by the Provost’s Office. OP 95.501 Traffic and Parking Rules and Regulations were passed. The policy was simply updated to account for the times and the current master plan.

Athletic Council (July 28, 2022) – Met with Dr. Brent Fountain for representation on the Athletic Council. We will look to have Dr. Fountain as our Faculty Athletic Representative to attend the November 2022 and April 2023 meetings of the Senate. We will continue the Faculty Appreciation Month which will be October or November, with the Faculty Appreciation football game likely to be the MSU vs. Bowling Green game, so stay tuned for more information. We will also have events with volleyball and soccer.

IT Council (July 28, 2022) – We met via Webex. The bulk of the discussion was related to the Adobe Creative Cloud. The Adobe Team will be coming to campus on August 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> for “Adobe Days”. Adobe would like to be in the classroom with our Faculty and Students utilizing. MSU has made the Adobe suite of products available to any and all faculty, staff, and students that want the products/tools. The suite can be purchased at <https://www.adobe.msstate.edu/>. Also, look for two-factor authentication on desktops machines/computers. We will have a DUO upgrade as the university tightens restrictions. Please be conscious of hacking and phishing attempts and report them.

MSU Game Day Committee (August 3, 2022) – Approval of junction John/Jane for football season. These portable restrooms will be in the similar locations as last football season. The volleyball team/program will have outdoor space for tailgating before games this year as long as it doesn’t interfere with class. We are coming off much excitement from last year’s season success. For football, look for the “Fall Fan Fest” in the junction.

President Barrett commented on the Bulldog Bundle and encouraged senators to complete the forms regarding its implementation for their courses. He also listed several standing university committees where we do not have Senate representation at the moment and asked for volunteers to fill those positions. President Barrett also discussed the elimination of senate binders for everyone, unless requested, in lieu of Microsoft Teams channels for the senate and its committees. Documents normally provided in hard copy will be presented on Teams.

Senator Pelaez said Dr. Shaw said the new grade distribution site was discussed in the Executive Committee. She asked why the Executive Committee did not feel that the new site should be

discussed within the full Senate given the history of faculty reluctance to release survey information. President Barrett replied that the site is only available to faculty at the moment so they can provide feedback. Senator Pelaez said this is a question about representation and how we work as a body. She said her question is about how we organize ourselves and the relationship between the Executive Committee and the Senate as a whole.

Senator Gregory said she suggests that the senators all reach out to their faculty and gather concerns. She said faculty have until October 3<sup>rd</sup> to provide feedback. She asked that the Senate discuss this matter during the September meeting. She said only three members of the Executive Committee are elected by the Senate and the rest are appointed by the President, so it is not truly a representative body. President Barrett said he would like to discuss this matter during the September meeting and will invite Drs. Shaw and Baham back for the discussion. He asked that the senators forward the feedback they receive to Dr. Tracey Baham as well. He said she is updating the site as feedback is received so sharing it as it is received could be beneficial.

Senator Robichaux-Davis said the Senate is not in session between the April and August meetings. She said the Executive Committee has the prerogative to act on behalf of the Senate during this time. When this issue was brought to the Executive Committee the question was not if we will provide this information to the students. The question was what information would be provided. She said the Executive Committee was asked to provide feedback. If the Executive Committee would have brought this to the full Senate and assigned it to committee during the August meeting, the earliest the committee could have reported on it would have been September. If it was being considered by Faculty Senate, it would not have been released to the full faculty until the Senate fully considered it. This would have left very little time for the full faculty to view it and provide feedback before the opening of early registration. Senator Robichaux-Davis said the Executive Committee felt it was best to allow the full faculty to be able to review it for as long as possible so they could provide feedback.

Senator Freeman made a point of clarification that an agenda item should be presented in writing to be allowed on the agenda for the next meeting, and would need to be presented as a motion or resolution before open discussion among the Senate could occur.

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

### **Academic Deans Council**

The July and August Deans Council meetings were canceled.

### **Committee on Campus Access**

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

### **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**

No August meeting was held. In the July meeting, there were two information items for the committee. Greek Right of Way (ROW) re-routing and the Davis Wade Stadium 200 Level interior renovations were discussed. Neither of these items required committee action and the items are in keeping with the University's Master Plan.

Greek Right of Way (ROW) Rerouting: Phase I will include placement of bollards to mark the closure of Greek Drive, behind the Phi Gamma Delta and the Lambda Chi Alpha fraternities. The area has been marked and blocked off by several curb stops, and bollards will be installed soon. Large trash dumpsters will be placed in that one location. After a sufficient trial period, Phase II will complete the project by adding a surround to conceal the containers and will become a permanent location for trash collection for the sorority/fraternity houses.

Davis Wade Stadium renovation: The project includes the demolition of the west 200 level Press Box and surrounding areas. This area will be replaced with new suites, restrooms, and relocation of the scoreboard, game clock, and space for replay and camera staff.

### **Undergraduate Research and Creative Discovery Committee**

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

Senator Tagert said she knows the MSU Sustainability Coordinator left to take another position. She asked if the position will be filled and what the status of the Sustainability Committee is currently. President Barrett said he has not received any communication regarding the Sustainability Committee, but he will look into it and report back.

Senator Gregory asked about the status of the Diversity and Inclusive Excellence Committee. She said the committee may not have the same name, but she believes this committee has met in a while. Senator Gregory said her department is coming up for accreditation and are required to show that they have addressed diversity, equity, and inclusion. Vice President Barrett replied that President Barrett is the Senate representative on the Inclusive Excellence

Leadership Council. President Barrett said he would look into the status of the committee and report back.

## **FACULTY DESIGNATES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES**

### **BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEE**

#### **1. AOP 13.11 Academic Freedom (Faculty Affairs)**

President Barrett asked for any discussion on sending AOP 13.11 Academic Freedom to the Faculty Affairs Committee.

Senator Rai said during the last review of a policy by the Senate, the pronouns were changed to be gender neutral. He asked that the pronouns in this policy be modified also to maintain consistency. President Barrett asked that the Faculty Affairs committee consider Senator Rai's request when reviewing the policy. The motion to send AOP 13.11 Academic Freedom to the Faculty Affairs Committee passed by unanimous voice vote.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Academic Affairs**                      **No Report**

**Ancillary Affairs**                      **No Report**

**Charter & Bylaws**                      **No Report**

**Faculty Affairs**                         **No Report**

#### **Student Affairs**

#### **1. AOP 12.32 Refund and Course Credit for Student Members of the Military Called to Active Duty or Deployed**

Senator Haynes, on behalf of the Student Affairs Committee, presented the committee report on AOP 12.32.

Senator Robichaux-Davis made a friendly amendment to replace the five instances of "his or her", "he or she", and "his/her" with their, they, and their respectively. Senator Haynes accepted the friendly amendment on behalf of the Student Affairs Committee.

The motion by the Student Affairs Committee to accept AOP 12.32 Refund and Course Credit for Student Members of the Military Called to Active Duty or Deployed as amended passed by unanimous hand vote.

**University Resources**                      **No Report**

## **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **PENDING BUSINESS**

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Senator Rai asked for clarification on what the senators were supposed to be asking their constituents with regard to the grade distribution website. He also asked what action the Senate would be taking with the feedback. President Barrett asked Dr. Shaw if he would like to address Senator Rai's question. Dr. Shaw replied that any and all feedback would be appropriate. He said this could range from very technical questions such as the cross-listing of a course to conceptual questions such as if a faculty has a better way to do this. Dr. Shaw said the Student Association has asked a very legitimate question based on our survey of other institutions. Several institutions are taking radically different approaches than we are so what has been put forward is what is believed to be a really good approach to it. Some suggestions have already been received about other approaches that could be taken.

Senator Robichaux-Davis made a motion to adjourn. Senator Gregory seconded the motion.

The meeting adjourned at 3:34 p.m.

Submitted for correction and approval.

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Beth Stokes, Secretary

Jason Cory, Administrative Assistant II