



ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE

Corrected Minutes of November 10, 2023

The Robert Holland Faculty Senate of Mississippi State University held its regular monthly meeting in Bost Auditorium North at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, November 10, 2023.

Members absent and excused were Iva Ballard, Mike Breazeale, Charles Freeman, Skip Jack, Michael Jaffe, Kimberly Kelly, Rocky Lemus, Derek Marshall, Peter Messer, Cate Mochal, Rebecca Robichaux-Davis, Tara Sutton, Paul Tseng, Kim Walters, and Kelley Wamsley.

Members absent were Kris Krishnan.

The meeting was called to order by Senate President Banik.

President Banik asked for approval of the minutes from the October 6, 2023 senate meeting. Senator Gregory gave copy edits for correction. Hearing no further corrections, President Banik asked for a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Senator Barrett made a motion to approve the October 6, 2023 minutes. Senator Stokes seconded the motion.

GUESTS

Dr. Mark Keenum, University President

Dr. Keenum said he began his day on a Zoom call with the College Football Playoff Board of Managers. He said he is the chair of the board and they had conducted a national search for a new executive director. The current Executive Director will be retiring at the end of next year and the board selected Lieutenant General Richard Clarke, U.S. Air Force Academy Superintendent, as the new executive director. Dr. Keenum said Lieutenant Clarke will be retiring after a distinguished 38 years in the U.S. Air Force.

Dr. Keenum said after the Zoom call he participated in the campus Veterans Day celebration that recognizes our Veterans who have served in the military and thanked them for their service. He added how appropriate to celebrate having a soon to be veteran leading our College Football Playoff Board on Veterans Day.

Dr. Keenum said he continued his day by welcoming new students to our campus for Preview Day. He stated there were about 450 prospective students and their parents in attendance.

Dr. Keenum spoke about the increase in student enrollment this fall and how it has increased 8 of the last 9 years. Dr. Keenum said that, looking to the future, both in the state and nationally we are facing an enrollment cliff due to a demographic shift in young people deciding whether they are going to college.

Dr. Keenum said we are focusing on our advising and student success initiatives but also enhanced recruiting efforts for out-of-state, in-state, and community college students. He said we are also looking at providing more programs and opportunities for students to earn degrees in fields not offered in the past.

Dr. Keenum spoke about the first class of 19 Physician Assistants on our Meridian campus that graduated this past May and reported that none of them signed their first contract for less than six figures. Dr. Keenum stated the Physician Assistant program is all privately funded by the Riley Foundation.

Dr. Keenum said the Riley Foundation also made a strategic investment to enhance health facilities and to bring a nursing program to Meridian, which will hopefully be allowed to admit the first students next August. He was very happy to state that Mississippi State University's Dean of Nursing, Dr. Mary Stuart, and seven new nursing faculty members were hired who are all preparing for the program. He said there will be as many as 70 students per cohort in the Master of Nursing program when the program is up and fully operational.

Dr. Keenum shared that a survey was administered this past year and the results showed that in hospitals alone there were over 3,000 vacant nursing positions in Mississippi. He said the five IHL nursing schools turned away over 300 qualified nursing student candidates last year because they could not physically accommodate them.

Dr. Keenum said the entire program is privately funded by the Riley Foundation in Meridian, the Phil Harden Foundation, and the Broadhead Foundation. He said these foundations have stepped up and are providing all support, funding, and renovations as well as the faculty and administration costs. Dr. Keenum stated that we are truly blessed that they have the confidence in us to make this type of investment to meet a need for their community, but also for our state.

Dr. Keenum said the Lucky Day Scholars Program recently had their pinning ceremony for 49 freshman students inducted into the program. The Lucky Day Foundation is a leadership program focused on providing scholarships to students along with mentoring, counseling, support, and programs to inspire leaders. Dr. Keenum stated the Lucky Day Scholars Program began in the fall of 2020 with the first cohort of 9 scholars and will increase to 25 scholars this year. Next year it will jump to 75 scholars and in 2025 it will go to 80 scholars, and that will be our annual allotment. Dr. Keenum said Lucky Day provides the scholarships and the funding to

pay the support staff salaries, which amounts to over a \$2 million per year commitment by the Lucky Day foundation for our students. Dr. Keenum said the entire Lucky Day Scholarship Board recently came to campus for a signing ceremony where they have agreed to invest \$4 million in our new residence hall currently being built that will have a designated set of rooms and space for these scholars to use.

Dr. Keenum said our new gym and Thomas Duff Center and our new CAVS center for our Eco car are both making excellent progress. He said the construction site for our new High Performance Supercomputing Center that will house our new supercomputers is also making good progress.

Dr. Keenum said a mechanical and engineering firm was hired to assess numerous locations for optimal placement of a new Mechanical Plant which is in the planning phase on campus. Dr. Keenum said the new plant is a critical infrastructure for our heating and cooling systems especially with the growth our campus is experiencing. He said it has been highly recommended that the building be located between the Charles Lee Ag & Biological Engineering Building and the Norman Building because of the efficiency of moving the chilled water and the proximity of the places it will be serving. Dr. Keenum said he expressed concern to the engineering firm that the new plant be aesthetically pleasing and blend in with our campus. He stated he had concerns the location of the plant would impede either of the two buildings near it with their potential growth but the engineering firm said it does not impede in any way. Dr. Keenum said he also expressed concern about the potential noise such a building might make and was told it would be very limited with its noise because of the new technology and buffers that would be used.

Dr. Keenum said our Women's Basketball team began their season in the newly renovated Humphrey Coliseum. He said he hopes our fans will enjoy the renovations as they are very nice.

Dr. Keenum said our soccer field will be hosting the first round of the NCAA tournament for our soccer team. He said they have had a tremendous season.

Dr. Keenum spoke of the recent elections and the legislative season which will convene on January 2nd. He said because it was an election year there will be new faces in the legislature and a new Speaker of the House. Dr. Keenum went on to say the first session after an election lasts 125 days instead of the typical 90 days as you have new leadership that must get organized and get their committee structure laid out.

Dr. Keenum said four trustees from the IHL Board of Trustees will be retiring at the end of May. Our re-elected Governor Tate Reeves will be appointing four new trustees who have to be confirmed by our Senate before they adjourn. The Board of Trustees is our governing board that determines our policies and procedures and sets our budgets and allocations.

Dr. Keenum said he is usually called two times to testify in the House and Senate. He said he is also called before the House and Senate Agriculture Committees where he brings our Division

of Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine budgets to the legislature. Dr. Keenum said they will be meeting and having opportunities to express the needs for our university.

Dr. Keenum said he has and will continue to advocate for our faculty and staff as they do an amazing job. He continued by saying the university has phenomenal research that addresses critical issues for our state, nation, and the world. Dr. Keenum said we are serving the citizens of our state in our outreach and service from cities and counties to our communities and our farmers, ranchers, landowners', businesses, and industries and it could not happen without the people of the university.

Dr. Keenum stated faculty needed to be recognized and compensated for what they mean and add to our state and nation. Dr. Keenum said last year he shared with the legislature that when it comes to salaries we are not very competitive. He said this year they will share again not just in public meetings, but in private meetings with our leadership that we must have fair compensation for our people. Dr. Keenum said assistant professors at MSU are at about 84% of the average and full professors are only about 72% compared to our peers, and that is unacceptable. Dr. Keenum said they are working with our Foundation to bring more professorships, endowed professorships, and new chairs.

Dr. Keenum said the support we get for buildings and facilities are outstanding. He said the new supercomputing center was assigned separate appropriations over and above our normal bonding as we made the case that this is an investment not just for this university but the entire state to be able to have this type and caliber of supercomputer.

Dr. Keenum said we will have to raise tuition as our costs go up 3% to 5% every year. He said we have one of the lowest tuitions in the country but we must raise the tuition.

Dr. Keenum said one of the biggest challenges legislatures will face in this upcoming session is PERS, our public employment retirement system, and that it has not been performing well as an investment fund. Dr. Keenum said there is a separate board that oversees our retirement fund and they have already voted and determined that to shore it up, employers must put more money into it and have advocated 5% more of a contribution will be needed. He said they have given us 3 years to do so, but right after those 3 years, we are going to need to add another 5%. Dr. Keenum said over \$17 million will come out of the university's total budget and that is before inflation, faculty salaries, or anything else. He added this will not just affect MSU, but every university, community college, city, county, and public agency and that they do not have these kinds of dollars in their budgets either.

Dr. Keenum said his main message today was to say thank you and that the university could not be where it is without our faculty and what they do and that he is very appreciative.

Senator Williams told Dr. Keenum it had just come to his attention that the Eagle Scout Scholarship was dropped from \$6,000 over four years to \$2,000 for just a single year. He said the same thing has happened with the Girl Scout Award. He said he has been active with the

Boy Scout organization for the last 10 years and in the last 2 years has shepherded through 12 Eagle Scouts. He said he had lunch earlier that day with a parent who was upset because the scholarship is now \$4,000 less. He added females can be a part of Boy Scouts and there have been females who achieved both the Eagle Scout award and the Gold award in Girl Scouts, which is the highest level in both organizations, but MSU has told them they can only pick one of the scholarships. He said they are 2 similar organizations but are not tied together financially at all. Dr. Keenum said he appreciated this being called to his attention and he would talk with the scholarship team as they are looking at this coming year and will see what can be done on both fronts.

Senator Gregory asked Dr. Keenum if there had been progress on the replacement of Don Zant. Dr. Keenum said Les Potts was the Interim CFO and they would be looking in a few months at opening the search if needed for other candidates.

Senator Gregory asked Dr. Keenum about the Ombudsman as it seems that position has been eliminated. Dr. Keenum said he was aware as it was brought to his attention it may need to be restructured. He added Dr. Hart Bailey had been an incredible Ombudsman but understood there may be a better structure to provide an outlet and opportunity to have someone who can be an advocate for employees on issues they may have with the campus and university.

Dr. Brent Fountain, Faculty Athletic Representative

Dr. Fountain said the Hump was re-opened in time for our basketball season and Athletics asked him to share the changes to the seat locations. He said all faculty and staff who purchased Men's Basketball season tickets before the 2023 season were accommodated with lower-level seating in sections 109 and 110. The faculty and staff who had not purchased tickets until this year selected their seats based on their Bulldog Club rank. Dr. Fountain said a high number of returning season ticket holders took up the existing sections of 109 and 110 and many of the newer purchasers are now in the 200 level. He added the momentum of men's basketball is greatly improved and this was the highest season ticket sales since the 2011-2012 season.

Dr. Fountain said prior to this year Women's Basketball only had general admission tickets with no designated faculty and staff sections. He said Athletics extended the same season ticket discount as men's basketball so the returning and the new Women's Basketball season ticket purchases were available.

Dr. Fountain said work on the faculty and staff appreciation events has begun for the spring semester. He said on November 15, 2023 they will be hosting Volleyball which will be the final faculty/staff appreciation event for the fall.

Dr. Fountain said Soccer is a 6th Seed in the NCAA Tournament and will host Providence on November 11, 2023 at 1:00 pm. He said Soccer is usually free but with NCAA events there is a

charge and that pets are normally allowed at soccer games but they are not allowed at NCAA tournaments.

Dr. Fountain said Athletics submitted the Department of Education's Annual Equity and Athletics Disclosure Act Report that was due on Oct. 31st. He said Athletics are now working with their external auditors on completing the Annual NCAA Agreed Upon Procedures Report that is due in January. He said this report is an annual requirement of D1 athletic programs and they must submit their financial data detailing their operating revenues, expenses, and capital that relate to their intercollegiate athletics program.

Dr. Fountain stated the NCAA Division I Council has adjusted the transfer window for all sports from the previous 60-day window to a 45-day window. He said different sports had different windows of time based upon when seasons ended and the NCAA thought 60 days was too long a window of time.

Dr. Fountain said the NCAA Council continues to push for a congressional intervention to help with the regulation of NIL (Name, Image, Likeness) and the NIL protection of student athletes. Dr. Fountain said the NCAA wants to protect the student athlete with having a requirement to disclose deals over \$600, a voluntary agent registration with the NCAA, and standardized contract terms and agreements for the athletes.

Dr. Fountain added that MSU has already taken advanced steps with our student athletes and they work across the campus to understand brand management, tax implications, and contracts so we are being compliant in these areas.

Dr. Fountain said the NCAA is reviewing its penalty structure for those involved in violation of the rules of sports wagering. He said there will be a push from the NCAA to change state laws to insert protections for student athletes from athletic staff and from harassment and coercion. Dr. Fountain said in the legislative session coming up that Mississippi will very likely add online betting so it is very important to add these types of protections and penalty structures should they occur across the NCAA.

Dr. Fountain said in academics the APR (Academic Progress Rate) was paused during Covid but has returned. He said every team has a rolling 4-year APR average based on the number of student athletes they have on that team. The minimum APR score a team can have and not face any type of penalty is a 930 (out of 1000) and if the score dropped below that number they are subject to NCAA penalties. Dr. Fountain said all the MSU teams were well above the 930 minimum threshold score and the lowest team score was 972. He said four teams had perfect 4-year averages of 1000 and six teams had 999 averages.

Dr. Fountain discussed Athletic Academics and said the overall Spring GPA was 3.18 and was the highest Spring GPA on record. He said that marked the twelfth consecutive semester with a GPA over 3.00. The highest women's GPA was Women's Tennis with 3.78. The highest men's

GPA was Men's Tennis with 3.71. Eleven of the thirteen teams ended the Spring Semester earning a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Dr. Fountain said there were 58 students in the spring who earned Top Dawg Honors, which is a 4.0 GPA. 82 student athletes had a GPA over 3.8, 67 student athletes had a GPA between 3.5 and 3.79, and 248 student athletes earned Bulldog Honor Roll with a 3.0 GPA or higher.

Dr. Fountain said 107 student athletes graduated in the Spring and 30 have already applied for the upcoming December graduation. Dr. Fountain said the top four colleges our student athletes are enrolled in are the College of Arts & Sciences, College of Business, College of Education, and the Bagley College of Engineering. The top majors for our student athletes are BSIS, Business Administration, and Kinesiology. There are 39 student athletes enrolled in graduate school and 254 student athletes were advised on advising day.

Dr. Fountain said in December the SEC Faculty Athletic Reps will meet with the Athletic Academic Leadership. He said they expect to cover class attendance policies as every SEC institution submits the attendance policies to the conference where they keep them on file. He said some of the policies are very strict and some are very lenient. Dr. Fountain said MSU's class attendance policies are in our athletic student handbook.

Dr. Fountain said he also expects discussion about the transfer portal in the meeting. He said they want to make certain students understand when student athletes transfer to another institution they are not just playing for another team, they are first a student and must put in the academic work if they intend to compete.

Senator Carskadon asked if the rumor about a plan to reseat the Coliseum every three years or so is true. Dr. Fountain said he had not heard of that but will find out and report back.

Senator Carskadon asked if there was long term consideration for having a faculty and staff section in Women's Basketball as it has grown and become more popular. Dr. Fountain said it had not been an issue in the past but is something that will more than likely happen going forward as they value the faculty and staff section.

Dr. David Shaw, Provost & Executive Vice President

President Banik invited questions for Dr. Shaw.

Senator Gregory asked Dr. Shaw to expand on the question she asked Dr. Keenum about the Office of the Ombudsman being closed and having been eliminated. Dr. Shaw stated he would not be able to answer a lot more than what Dr. Keenum said but they had been having conversations with the Title IX office and are deciding the best way to accomplish what the university needs to be offering in terms of advocacy and immediacy. Dr. Shaw said Dr. Baily has a 75% appointment with the College of Veterinary Medicine and the new dean at CVM is assessing how that other 25% appointment is going to be managed.

REPORT OF THE FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT

As we are closing in on the final senate meeting of Fall 2023, and I am amazed at how fast this semester has gone by. As I am winding down my first semester as President, I feel honored to be representing this body on so many fronts. I have gotten to know so many of you on a much deeper level than I have just being a member of this body

The call and email went out for the Southeastern Conference Faculty Achievement Award. Nominations are due by Tuesday, November 21st. I encourage all who are eligible for this award to apply and nominate someone if you know of a good candidate.

I have spoken to the Executive Committee about the additions of unrepresented faculty members to this body. Dr. Tracey Baham is working on getting a list of the number of unrepresented faculty, and we will be working with this information as Charter & Bylaws begins to consider reallocation of senators in the Spring 2024 semester.

Dr. Jim Dunne and I met on October 17th. We discussed committees, and we will be looking at 1/3 of them at a time. We also talked about updating the descriptions online to more current needs based on faculty.

Know that the Faculty Senate is always open and wants to hear from and work with faculty. Please bring forward any concerns you may have so that we can work on these issues together.

Reports from Committees on which I Serve:

Athletic Council – This committee met October 18th in the M-Club. Some updates include a total goal for student athletes to complete 1,900 hours of community service. Currently, 759 community service hours have been completed. Advising Day(s) have started as class registration is going on. Graduation rates are at 79% (77% male, 81% female). This includes a 3% increase in male graduation. Austin Williams (football) and Emma Antonaki (tennis) were nominated for the Halbrook Award. Transfer portal dates have been shortened from a 45-day to a 30-day window, with possible online betting coming soon.

Josh McCowan spoke about updated goals. These include modernizing the Bulldog Club, looking for new areas for revenue growth, maximizing Name, Image, Likeness (NIL), and supporting athletes and coaches. Zac Selmon spoke about working on an athletic master plan and Humphrey Coliseum should be ready for first game. Ticket sales are up 119% percent. They are working on faculty/staff discounts for games, and premium seating is now sold out for Women's Basketball.

On November 15th, there will be a Faculty/Staff Appreciation game for Volleyball against Auburn.

Dean's Council – This committee met on October 9th. AOP 12.11 Undergraduate Student Requirements for Graduation and AOP 13.21 Faculty Released Time for Specified Chairs were discussed and passed. These AOPs will be coming to Faculty Senate in November.

Academic Common Market requirements have been changed from an overall GPA of 2.75 to an overall GPA of 3.00.

Sabbatical forms have been updated and are posted on the Provost website.

Legal Council gave updates on agreements and how payments should work (co-ops, internships, etc.). Some templates are being constructed to assist with these agreements.

Design Review Committee – This committee did not meet in October. We met on November 2nd to discuss the Perry Hall Renovations and Addition. There will be three dining venues inside Perry, including a Southern Cuisine, BBQ, and a revolving option. Also, the Starbucks and State Fountain Bakery will be moving out of the Union. The Starbucks will be in the southeast corner of Perry, and the Bakery will be back in the original location on the north side of Perry. A glass addition is also planned to join the Perry to the Bakery and Moe's. The Meyer Student Media Center renovations are scheduled to begin on November 27th with a 4-month timeframe. This way, Perry Hall will go offline in May 2024 with renovations completed by August 2025.

Inclusive Excellence Leadership Council – This committee met for the first time in several months on October 26th to discuss the purpose and goal of the committee, best practices, and challenges in our areas, and ways in which the committee members can assist each other and continue to support MSU stakeholders. The purpose of this council is to coordinate efforts that enhance the missions of research, teaching, and service by creating affirming efforts and preparing our students to thrive in a diverse and interconnected world, which is one of the core values of higher education. Each member gave updates for the represented units. The committee was reduced in number of representatives as it was not a need to have multiple people from the same unit, department, or college. The thought is the Council member should work within their unit's structure and report information back. The updated membership list is on the Standing Committee page for the university.

Executive Council – This committee did not meet on October 23rd. An email vote was taken for OP 91.122 Students with Disabilities. The IHL ADA Task Force is requesting the student disability policies from all institutions. The vote passed.

Game Day and Special Events – This committee met on October 17th. Two items were discussed. A tent on lot 18 for homecoming related to PGM was approved. The Student Association requested to put a photo booth in front of the M club on Friday, November 3rd.

An email vote was passed to allow placement for the Learfield Ag Day Partner Tailgate and the Letterwinners Tailgate.

Information Technology Council – About half of the backordered Crestrons for the classroom technology podiums have arrived. They will be installed between now and Spring Break of 2024.

Adobe Express has ended or will be ending soon for MSU credentials. Only around 200 people are currently using Adobe Express, and people can still get it with the use of a non-MSU email address.

The MSU Information Security Program document was discussed at length and will be reviewed again at the next IT Council meeting. This document contains all the new security protocols for the university, some of which were discussed at Faculty Senate last month.

Master Plan Development and Advisory Committee – This committee met on October 12th to discuss plans for a new south campus mechanical plant to be built behind the Ag and Bio Engineering building. This plant is designed to add to the already used plant behind Patterson Hall and give a more centralized location for heating/cooling water. This will also ensure that if one chiller was to go down, there are backups. Right now, if one fails, there would be a loss of supply. The new plant will have the capacity to add six new chillers, but it is proposed to start up with two.

Parking and Traffic Regulations Committee – The committee did not meet on October 26th, but I spoke to Jeremiah Dumas about the question Senator Sutton raised at the previous meeting about ADA parking within the gated areas. Mr. Dumas responded with:

The Americans with Disabilities Act requires that a certain number of parking spaces in each parking facility be designated as handicap parking and that those spaces must be on an accessible path into a building. As a large parking system, we manage ADA parking on various levels. Most importantly, is that we ensure that we have more than the required number of ADA spaces in each permitted zone type (Commuter East, West, South..., Resident North..., Staff, etc.).

In addition to the zone-specific ADA spaces, we have constructed large banks of ADA parking around the campus core that are Maroon Permit areas (open to any permit type), so that when the ADA spaces in your permitted zone, nor the SMART system, provide the access needed, anyone with a permit can use these central facilities. These areas are around Montgomery Hall, the Chapel of Memories, between Cresswell and Fresh Foods, between Bowen and Patterson Hall, between the Student Health Center and IED, and between the Roberts Building and Middleton Hall.

We have a long-standing accommodation process that works well for when people with a permit need an additional ADA parking accommodation that is above the standard ADA approvals. This process can be found on our website, and I can explore further if need be.

Gated parking, including the ADA spaces and like all other parking zones, is protected for those who pay the premium for gated parking. Access into gated is a parking accommodation that we

do consider for various permit holders who seek that level of accommodation and those who are provided a gated parking accommodation are required to pay the price of a gated permit. This is also true for ADA spaces in our metered/timed areas and our garages. All vehicles, even those with placards are required to pay the regular parking rates.

A handicap placard is not a park-for-free or a reduced cost credential, it is simply a credential that qualifies that the individual has met the state standard of using a handicap space.

We do have an accommodation process that includes access into the gated core and for those that are granted the accommodation, they aren't charged extra, they are simply required to pay the standard gated parking rate.

Gated parking does not include most of the ADA parking. The gated zone has it's required number of spaces per the ADA. Most of the ADA spaces are outside of campus, with the largest banks of spaces around the core in zones that are open to any permit.

Sustainability Committee – This committee did not meet in October, but a meeting is scheduled for November 8th. I did meet with Saunders Ramsey for about 30 minutes on October 26th to discuss the coordinator position. I also received answers to several questions posed from the August meeting of the Faculty Senate.

1. What types of chemicals are being used in Chadwick Lake to combat algae growth?

Regarding the chemical treatments in Chadwick Lake, Mark Peterman from the College of Veterinary Sciences is working on the algae treatments. As of right now the primary treatment for algae growth is Hydrogen peroxide. The Hydrogen peroxide is being used in unison with two liquid, copper-based products, Cutrine-Ultra and Cutrine-Plus, as well as the occasional Bio-block (also called a pond block or eco-block). The only other part of this treatment includes the diffusers and aerator fountains currently in Chadwick. Bream fish have increased as well, and bass have been added to the lake. Mark is currently working with several other departments to get better information on the sources of over-nutrication. Once there are some confirmations made there may be a future addition to this treatment, including granulated activated carbon placed in/at the known point sources, as well as possible treatment using Nutrisorb, which Mark believes to be made up of aluminum sulfate and magnesium oxide, but he is not 100% sure.

Algae growth has been due in high part to the amount of phosphorus entering Chadwick. This phosphorus is most likely coming from the fertilizers used on campus, particularly the sports fields. The athletic department has not given out information regarding the fertilizers used. This has increased the difficulty of treating the algae in Chadwick. Despite this, it seems that Mark and the other members of this operation are making very active progress and I don't want to diminish that.

2. What is the current approach to recycling on the campus, and how can we better develop what we currently are doing?

Recycling on campus is collected through Campus Services. The recycling is moved to the blue dumpsters, which are then transported to a recycling facility. There are a few things that could be improved upon with this system. From my understanding and previous recycling audits, we have a rather high contamination rate on campus. This is in part due to lack of signage and awareness of the blue dumpsters on campus (the one outside Critz hall for instance where freshmen regularly dispose of trash). Our recycling audit from June discovered that there are many inconsistencies between the different recycling dumpsters, such as the signage, color, and whether or not they have lids to protect from rain.

Educating the student body and faculty of the different dumpsters would also be highly beneficial. We as an office can only spread so much information, which is why we would really like to encourage an educational section on recycling/campus sustainability practices for the freshman and transfer student orientation processes. Increased awareness and lower contamination rates are an important goal of ours, as it prevents from wasting Campus Service's time and energy and increases the materials, we actively keep from entering the landfills. I have also personally received comments during tabling for the office, that there are not enough recycling bins in comparison to trash bins. There are none outside around the Union for instance, but there are plenty of trash bins. This encourages students to do what is more easily accessible, which is throw recyclables away. I am sure we will uncover more improvements to be made of the recycling processes at MSU, but for now these are our big concerns.

This semester, use of maroon/white bags have been implemented during football games to differentiate from the "green" bags used. This is an effort to add more recycling effort to the gameday experience. This may be marginal due to the possible lack of cooperation from fans at tailgates. Also, put on your calendars November 7th. This is the Fall 2023 glass recycling drive from 1pm – 5pm.

3. What is the timeline for a new sustainability coordinator hire?

MSU is having a hard time attracting a person just for sustainability when other people are doing much of the work, including engineers and student interns.

There are two ideas to handle this issue:

1. Instead of hiring someone into a standalone coordinator position, MSU could try to hire a Public Affairs person to coordinate the student interns who are currently working on sustainability efforts. Most of the engineering type efforts are being handled by others in Campus Services, and a public affairs style person could get the word out about all that is going on with sustainability.

2. Instead of hiring someone into the coordinator position, MSU could combine efforts of the sustainability coordinator with a current position in Campus Services. This would combine someone from plumbing or electrical or some other position into sustainability so that interns would have someone to report back to.

There are several other efforts for sustainability currently on campus. The new solar farm is under construction. The chiller plant behind Patterson is using water and ice to cool water through the peak of the hot summer months. Hundreds of trees are being planted around campus. Each building on campus must meet 30% more than the requirement of energy usage. These are just some of the many efforts this campus is doing to promote a sustainable campus.

REPORT OF THE FACULTY SENATE VICE PRESIDENT

Committee on Campus Access

No meetings were held since the last Vice President's report

Calendar 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

This committee met on October 12 and President Banik will give an update with his report.

Undergraduate Research and Creative Discovery Committee

This committee met on October 20. Faculty were asked to save the dates, April 11-12, 2024 for the Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium. Departments, colleges, and other units are encouraged to consider planning and supporting a Special Area Competition within their disciplines. You can e-mail urcd@msstate.edu for a fact sheet about these competitions and how to get involved. Faculty and staff will also be asked to visit these projects when displayed to provide constructive feedback via comment cards.

Senator Rai commented about the bus stop at the corner of President's Circle and Creelman St. being unsafe as the buses stop in the street to allow students off near Montgomery Hall but the students don't look around to check for oncoming vehicles.

President Banik checked with Jeremiah Dumas about the possibility of the buses pulling through to Darden St (the lane directly next to Montgomery Hall, currently unused) to allow students off. Mr. Dumas stated that the ADA lifts/ramps of the buses are required to connect to the shelter or an accessible ramp. The buses used to enter from Tracy going east down Darden so that the shelters would be on the door side. Now the buses enter Creelman from President Circle so that shelters and the rear ramp behind the shelters is door and lift side. Having the buses turning left onto Creelman is far safer than multiple turns in that area, regardless of

direction, and it is much more efficient, which is important due to our current driver shortage. With the development of the new Duff Center complex, there are a few design solutions to extend Old Main Plaza south, which would eliminate President's Circle and this portion of Magruder, and a new bus terminal is also part of that discussion.

REPORTS FROM FACULTY DESIGNATES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEE

1. AOP 12.11 Undergraduate Student Requirements for Graduation (Academic Affairs)
2. AOP 13.21 Faculty Released Time for Specified Committee Chairs (Faculty Affairs)

Senator Stewart gave the motion to send the AOP's to committee. Senator Williams gave the second. The motion passed.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs - No Report

Ancillary Affairs

1. AOP 10.05 Nepotism

Senator Grala, on behalf of the Ancillary Affairs Committee, presented the committee report on AOP 10.05.

Senator Gregory asked if the committee found the definition of a relative. Senator Grala stated it was in the HRM policy 60.103 and it listed family members of the employee as spouse, children, parents, grandparents, great grandparents, brothers, sisters, nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, grandchildren, great grandchildren, in-laws and step-relatives.

The motion of the Ancillary Affairs committee to accept AOP 10.05 as presented passed by unanimous hand vote.

Charter & Bylaws

Letter of Request from Provost Concerning AOP Assignment to Faculty Senate Committees. Senator Spurlin, on behalf of the Charter & Bylaws committee, presented the committee report on the Letter of Request from Provost Concerning AOP Assignment to Faculty Senate Committees.

Senator Gregory stated she was concerned the Robert Holland Faculty Senate is an advisory body and does not have control if OP 01.01 is adjusted. Dr. Shaw stated what has been

presented was very reasonable and would take on making certain OP 01.01 had the revisions necessary as the president and cabinet would find it to be a worthwhile request.

Senator Carskadon made a motion that the committee add a sentence stating when an AOP is assigned to a committee the RHFS President inform the full Senate of the AOP and committee assignment. Senator Baker gave the second.

Senator Tschume asked for clarification if the language of OP 01.01 was not updated would the 30-day deadline still be in effect. President Banik stated it would be pushed through by no report. He added RHFS rarely meets the 30-day deadline which is one of the important issues.

The motion of the Charter & Bylaws committee to accept recommendation as presented and amended passed by unanimous hand vote.

Faculty Affairs- No Report

Student Affairs - No Report

University Resources - No Report

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Graduate Student Body President Luke Tucker stated along the lines of the Ombudsman that some graduate students were having issues in communicating with their advisors and major professors about certain issues with labs and work required. He asked if there could be a mechanism put in place to address these types of issues with the major professor and graduate student to discuss these types of issues with an arbiter. Dr. Shaw said there would be someone put in place for these issues.

President Banik asked for a motion to adjourn. Senator Barrett made a motion to adjourn. Senator Williams seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

Meeting adjourned at 4:15 pm.

Submitted for correction and approval.

Stacy Haynes, Secretary

Dinah Jenkins, Administrative Assistant II