

## ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE AGENDA

October 4, 2024

1. Call to Order
2. [Adoption of Minutes, September 13, 2024](#)..... (p. 2)
3. Introduction of Guests
  - a. Dr. Mark Keenum, MSU President
  - b. Dr. David Shaw, Provost and Executive Vice President
4. [Report of the Faculty Senate President](#)..... (p.12)
5. [Report of the Faculty Senate Vice President](#)..... (p.13)
6. Reports from Faculty Senate Designates on University Committees
7. Business sent to Committee
8. Business to be sent to Committee
9. Standing Committee Reports:
  - 9.1. Academic Affairs
    - 9.1.1. [AOP 12.04 Final Examination](#)..... (p.15)
  - 9.2. Ancillary Affairs
  - 9.3. Charter & Bylaws
  - 9.4. Faculty Affairs
  - 9.5. Student Affairs
  - 9.6. University Resources
10. Old Business
11. New Business
  - 11.1. [Academic Freedom Resolution](#)..... (p.20)
12. Adjourn



## Robert Holland Faculty Senate

### Uncorrected Minutes of September 13, 2024

The Robert Holland Faculty Senate of Mississippi State University held its regular monthly meeting in the Grisham Room of the Library at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, September 13, 2024.

Members absent and excused were Frank Adams, Robin Fontenot, Robert Grala, Jesse Morrison, Neeraj Rai, Paul Spurlin, Kim Walters, and John Wyatt.

Members absent were Kris Krishnan.

Members on Sabbatical: Peter Messer and Tara Sutton

Faculty Senate President Robert Banik called the meeting to order. President Banik requested approval for the August 23, 2024 Faculty Senate meeting. Hearing no corrections, President Banik requested a motion to approve the minutes as corrected. Senator Lemley made a motion to approve. Senator Stokes seconded the motion.

### Guests

#### **Mr. Sid Salter, Vice President for Strategic Communications**

Mr. Salter discussed the changing landscape of university diversity programs. He stated that Mississippi State has always been “The People's University” of Mississippi. He added that, in November of 2023, we amended the nomenclature of our program from diversity and inclusion to access, opportunity, and success because those terms represent the intent of our university in giving people who have had impediments to attending college access to the opportunity and to trying to ensure student success; as educators, we know that looks different for different people.

Mr. Salter said the governor of Florida was the first to become an obstacle in higher education and to challenge the worth of these programs and he received political traction in doing so. Afterward, politicians across the red states and particularly across the South began to embrace those strategies.

Mr. Salter said Dr. Keenum was involved with establishing and formalizing many of the programs and was one of the first in the SEC to look at the nomenclature. He stated there have been allegations that MSU is engaging, in some cases, in woke indoctrination. He went on to say that indoctrination means that you are compelling someone, on penalty of some type of punishment, to come to believe a set of ideologies or teachings. He said that the allegations are untrue. It doesn't matter



where the professor falls on the political spectrum in their own beliefs; he said we don't do that to students, and the real problem is the notion that our students would tolerate it or that their families would tolerate, which does not reflect reality.

Mr. Salter stated the strategy of the university moving forward in terms of strategic communications is to try to manage this situation as professionally and on as high a plain as possible. He said as an institution we must be mindful of the environment in which we are working and the environment in which we're trying to educate our students. The greatest academic freedom is that all of you be allowed to continue to teach and to teach the things that you have prepared for your students in the manner that you have consistently done in the past.

Mr. Salter stated that he would disagree with some faculty about how we package public information so as not to be in a position of drawing undue criticism or where we are committing an error in trying to manage the university's reputation. He said that there is a very visible movement, among what he believes is a minority in the political world, to exert constraints on teaching that is inappropriate and concerning. He said he would hope that faculty would focus on continuing to teach and share their concepts with their students and, when it works for their beliefs and value system, let us advise when we can.

Mr. Salter added that even though we live in a divided America, there is a wide chasm of debate and discussion about what's appropriate for the country. Over the last 15 years, Mississippi State University has developed and advanced in ways many would not have believed possible.

Mr. Salter stated that, rather than become bogged down in what will be a fairly temporary debate, we should keep our eyes on the prize of continuing to build a world-class research university because that is what matters and that is what we can best do for our students.

President Banik opened the floor for questions.

Senator Kelly voiced many faculty concerns that had been brought to her. She stated that Auditor Shad White is attacking efforts for campus to be more inclusive for students and those who are marginalized, by race and ethnicity, gender identity, sexual identity, and anything under the "DEI umbrella," which includes efforts to make campus more inclusive for students. Efforts targeting first-generation students, veterans, and lower-income students seem to remain outside of politics for now, but other groups, particularly our LGBTQ and trans students, are not receiving that same support.

Senator Kelly stated Auditor White also conflates DEI efforts with research and seems to think that things going on in Student Affairs are somehow also what is being done in terms of research and that our research is wokeism and indoctrination. She said research is a different undertaking, one that can yield results that indicate the need for DEI efforts, but not a form of advocacy in itself. She stated attacking research that focuses on race, gender, and sexuality is an attack on academic freedom that has a chilling effect on not only what work scholars do, what kinds of grant proposals they might go for, and how and if faculty disseminate their work.

Senator Kelly shared that another faculty member stated that we are an R1 land grant university in Mississippi and we have a professional duty to share our work, particularly when it addresses challenges unique to our state or that disproportionately affect our state. The whole point of going to an R1 university is to have research-active faculty in the classroom, but we are in a political

climate that increasingly makes that difficult and takes time and attention away from important work.

Senator Kelly said we have state officials attacking faculty by name and by reputation. Two of the most recent faculty members that Auditor White chose to target have won multiple awards from outside the university for their research. She added we have state officials denigrating entire fields of scholarly work as garbage disciplines. So, there is an immediate concern that these attacks represent an immediate threat.

Senator Kelly asked what the university's strategy was for defending those students who political leaders do not find palatable and protecting their access to opportunities. She also asked what the university's strategy was for defending faculty in terms of research, teaching, and programming, and what the consequences are of publicizing certain types of research that get a negative reaction.

Mr. Salter stated the consequences are what happened recently where individuals were singled out based on their research. He stated he does not have any interest in being pulled into social media exchanges with public officials because it doesn't benefit the university. He said what we have tried to do is to defend academic freedom and the right to teach.

Mr. Salter said our strategy is that we're going to continue to defend our faculty and state the facts when people make allegations about what we're doing here.

Mr. Salter stated Dr. Keenum works very diligently during budget season to put together a very logical and very informative presentation about the needs of the university. He said someone will ask a question from the back of the room about these issues and the budget presentation gets hijacked, and the request to the university for the legislature for support for the university gets hijacked and sidetracked which doesn't serve us well. We have tried to be measured and respectful, and that will be how we deal with this because that has proven to be the most effective means.

Senator Kelly asked, in terms of consequences, if the legislature could cut funding or target particular programs.

Mr. Salter stated it was a concern, but the programs still exist and we have very distinguished faculty members who are working in sociology and gender studies who do meaningful research and our students need those critical thinking skills to be able to go into the world. He said our students, parents, and families would not tolerate indoctrination.

Senator Vivier commented about the difficulty of speaking to three audiences: parents and students, politicians in Jackson, and university faculty. He asked Mr. Salter about the lecture series organized in the College of Arts and Sciences that allows faculty to discuss recently published academic books. He said for this semester's first talk, Mr. Salter refused to publish a press release and suggested that the talks should be held after the presidential election in November.

Senator Vivier asked if Mr. Salter could explain how he came to this decision and if he thought it was appropriate for the Office of Public Affairs, which is not an academic unit, to determine when or if an MSU faculty member can talk about their peer-reviewed, internationally recognized, award-winning research on campus? Mr. Salter replied that both the book talk release and a related release on an award to Dr. Hagerman's recent book are in the pipeline to be released. He said given the current climate and the ongoing discussion that he did suggest it would be difficult to have that title publicized. He added there was a difference between having the talk and the publicity that goes with it and the talk or event was never in jeopardy.

Mr. Salter stated it was part of his job to consider reputational management for the university and to advise deans and professors about what he interprets as the consequences and results of actions that they ask us to take.

Senator Vivier stated the university posted a news story about First Amendment freedoms but did not say anything about academic freedom, which are slightly related but different things. He asked about the effect on faculty if the university is embarrassed by empirical research on race, racism, and social inequality and the effects that the university administration's response has on faculty who do this kind of research.

Mr. Salter stated that the university is not ashamed of research and that over the last couple of difficult weeks he has taken a lot of criticism. He has met with individual professors in the past who didn't agree with the decision we made and some decisions have been reversed in the past, but we wanted to be sure that the faculty member knew what they were getting into.

No further questions or comments.

### **Ms. Nicole Thomas, Manager of Communications, Campus Services**

Ms. Thomas shared a PowerPoint presentation which can be found in [Appendix A](#) of the online version of these minutes.

Miss Nicole Thomas spoke to the Senate about the Office of Sustainability and her new role as of January as the manager of communication. She stated they are on a recycling map for the full campus so that everyone knows where drop-off bins are located which can be more of a resource and a new website they hope to be helpful.

Senator Nunnery asked if the recycling efforts could be expanded to the Meridian campus to be more involved. Ms. Thomas answered they would look into ways to expand into Meridian.

Senator Gregory asked about Chadwick Lake as several years ago there were natural areas that have since been mowed down, especially on the very steep slopes. Ms. Thomas said they did a lot of clearing when preparing for the dredging and said she would look into it further.

Senator Gregory asked about providing better recycling information around campus regarding what can and cannot be recycled. Ms. Thomas stated they would look into providing more information and added having the recycling map as a resource of where you can recycle will help. Some people are going to recycle no matter what but they want to reach those that will do it if the information is in front of them.

Ms. Thomas stated she would add that to the list of things to look at and see how to make that a bigger voice and emphasis.

Senator Gregory stated the university opened glass recycling for anyone in Starkville. She asked if there was potential for a partnership with the city of Starkville, which has a drop-off recycling program that presorts versus what the campus has. Ms. Thomas stated she would look into it.

Senator Gregory asked about food waste other than the composting of coffee grounds. She said the local nonprofit, Starkville Strong, has a program called Second Servings, which takes up and helps to distribute leftover food from different organizations in town. In the past, student organizations have tried working with Aramark to have food waste either composted or donated, but have been told

there is no food waste. She asked about future initiatives such as pizza box composting, blue jean recycling, and many things that other land grant universities do because they have the space.

Senator Gregory asked about the discussion of plans and opportunities as there are so many things that could be done to tie in with the research, learning, and service aspects of our university.

Ms. Thomas stated she knew there was an effort on food waste that was more for composting but the food was getting mixed in with recycling so is thrown away since it all becomes garbage. She said this was another area of education that needs some emphasis but has not had a conversation with Aramark about food waste or the separation of food and plastics.

Ms. Thomas said she received a recommendation about the pizza box recycling and making sure the boxes were clean. She said they could have a conversation with Aramark and see what other ways to partner as the interest is there but it's setting up the system to allow it to happen.

Senator Gregory asked about plastic waste with food and drinks from all of the food service areas and looking into a way that the university could start going back to compostable, even if it is industrial compostable things due to the amount of plastic waste. She added that pre-COVID the university had switched over to paper clamshell containers for foods from all of the food service and paper cups but that went away with COVID. Ms. Thomas said she would add that to her list, particularly with Aramark.

Senator Kundu stated he and a colleague offered a course over the summer with a study abroad on Introduction to Sustainability. They will offer it next year and at some point have the course on campus. He asked if the students in that class could be involved to collaborate and communicate in some of these efforts and learn more about what's going on campus. Ms. Thomas agreed.

Senator Lemus stated an issue not addressed was sporting events where 10-20 thousand people are coming to town. He said a lot of emissions from traffic lines getting onto campus. He said there is also the waste generated at the football game and in front of dorms are huge containers full of waste. He asked what the long-term university plan is to reduce that carbon footprint not only on campus but in town as well. Ms. Thomas stated she did not have an answer in terms of reducing energy emissions. She said another area they are working with contractors on is what they are doing with their waste, how it's being recycled or reused, and where it's going.

Senator Lemus said he thinks it does need to be addressed because when we are talking about sustainability and being positive about sustainability, what we are doing is having a negative impact not being addressed right now. Ms. Thomas said she would look into it. She said the new construction on campus is green and there are some standards that the university has implemented. Ms. Thomas said there was a minimum standard and an MSU standard which is 30% higher. The Sustainability Committee meets quarterly and votes on anything that does not meet the MSU standard.

Senator Taibi asked what type of material can be recycled at the moment. Ms. Thomas said plastics 1 and 2 and cardboard. She said glass can be recycled when we have the drive on campus but there isn't a place to drop it off right now.

Senator Taibi asked if it could be confirmed if something put in the recycling bins, a plastic-type 1 or 2 or cardboard, is going to be recycled. Ms. Thomas said she has not heard anything to lead her to believe that those things are not being recycled. She said the only time she was aware there might be an issue was at one point they had something in the junction related specifically to tailgating but

if things become cross-contaminated then it ends up in a landfill because there is not enough manpower to sort it all.

Senator Taibi stated previously near his department there were two different colored bins, one for trash and one for recycling but you could not tell into which colored bin the items should be placed and encouraged signage. Ms. Thomas stated that since she came on board in January she has had many discussions about all these things and 100% agrees that better signage is needed. She stated it was just a matter of getting it done.

Senator Gregory stated the university does take aluminum. She said types 1 and 2 plastics are only for the bottles and that Newk's cups might say 1 or 2 but are not recyclable. She said the person who is in charge of the university garbage and recycling said they have to dump everything out and hand sort it. It is aluminum, paper, cardboard, and other metals. You can recycle other metals such as scrap metal if it is not contaminated. She said we want to try to eliminate plastics if we can and that cardboard and metals make money while plastic costs money.

Senator Gregory said glass is downcycled with a company that turns it into very small pavers because it is very hard to recycle and tears up the machines so it's not truly recycled. Ms. Thomas agreed that aluminum cans were also included.

Senator Stokes commented she was in the Department of Sustainable Bioproducts on campus and they would love to meet with her.

Ms. Thomas thanked the Senate for their interest and support and stated she may not have had all the answers, she will look into them and try to respond to the individuals.

No further questions or comments.

### **Ms. Lauren Geiger, Digital Archivist, MSU Libraries**

Ms. Geiger shared PowerPoint presentations that can be found in [Appendix B](#) of the online version of these minutes.

## **Report of the Faculty Senate President**

It has been a short time since our last meeting on August 23<sup>rd</sup>. Hopefully, everyone is settling into the routine of the semester now. Fall Convocation was held on August 27<sup>th</sup> at Humphrey Coliseum. Thanks to you all who were able to attend to represent the faculty at that event as we welcomed new freshman and transfer students to the university.

The Fall 2024 General Faculty meeting was held on September 4<sup>th</sup> in Bettersworth Auditorium. Dr. Mark Keenum addressed the faculty, giving updates from Jackson, on construction projects, and pertinent issues. Thanks to Dr. Keenum for these updates.

I would like to thank Senator Kimberly Kelly who volunteered to serve on the Gerontology Committee after the August 2024 meeting.

Along those lines, seven university standing committees have been recommended to disband. The relevant vice president must decide to disband these before they are officially disbanded. These include:

Gerontology Committee

Registration and Scheduling Committee  
 Research and Technology Advisory Committee  
 Teaching Evaluation Committee  
 Textbook Committee  
 University Instructional Improvement Committee  
 Work-Life Balance Committee

I have also asked that the library provide an alternative to the basic metal chairs from the previous meeting, and the layout of the meeting will be slightly different this week. Come early and grab a seat in the Grisham Room.

Last month, Dr. Reuben Burch presented on Promotion & Tenure Innovation & Entrepreneurship (PTIE). Dr. Shaw and I discussed creating a joint taskforce to explore how PTIE principles could be implemented at MSU. Vice President Mike Breazeale has been asked to chair this taskforce. The membership includes:

Mike Breazeale (Chair) – College of Business  
 Reuben Burch – Associate Vice President of Research  
 Stephanie Lemley – College of Education  
 Todd Mlsna – College of Arts & Sciences  
 Nick Pashos – Center for Entrepreneurship & Outreach Director  
 Amirtaha Taebi – Bagley College of Engineering  
 John Walters – Office of Technology Management Director  
 Amelia Wollums – College of Veterinary Medicine

Dr. Tracey Baham also sent me the upcoming schedule for deployment of the course surveys over the next several terms. I have them listed below. These dates are based on Faculty Senate guidelines given to OIRE.

	<b>Survey start date</b>	<b>Survey end date</b>
2024 Fall	11/15/2024	12/4/2024
2024 Fall Mini Term One	10/3/2024	10/8/2024
2024 Fall Mini Term Two	11/21/2024	12/2/2024
2024 Winter Session	1/6/2025	1/10/2025
2025 Spring	4/23/2025	5/6/2025
2025 Spring Mini Term One	2/28/2025	3/5/2025
2025 Spring Mini Term Two	4/29/2025	5/4/2025
2025 Maymester	5/28/2025	5/30/2025
2025 Summer First Term	6/24/2025	6/30/2025
2025 Summer Second Term	7/25/2025	7/31/2025

2025 Summer Ten-Week Term	7/25/2025	7/31/2025
2025 Fall	11/17/2025	12/3/2025
2025 Fall Mini Term One	10/2/2025	10/7/2025
2025 Fall Mini Term Two	11/21/2025	12/1/2025

### **Reports from Committees on which I Serve:**

**Athletic Council** – The committee has not met as of this report. Our first monthly meeting will be September 11<sup>th</sup>.

**Dean’s Council** – Dean’s Council did not meet in person in August, but an email vote concerning rescinding AOP 11.05 Requirements for Shortened-Format courses was held. Much of the language in AOP 11.05 is now included in AOP 12.12. This vote passed unanimously to rescind AOP 11.05.

The council met on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Four AOPs were discussed. These were AOP 13.03 Responsibilities in Instruction and Curriculum and Attendance at Classes, AOP 13.05 Faculty Grievance Procedures, AOP 12.04 Final Examination, and AOP 12.38 Undergraduate Academic Advisement. AOP 12.38 was a minor edit, and with approval from the Executive Committee, this edit was done to comply with an updated IHL policy. AOP 12.38 was then sent back to Associate Deans Council for a full update and will return to the full senate soon. AOP 12.04 was passed and sent to Faculty Senate along with AOP 11.05. We cannot rescind AOP 11.05 until AOP 12.12 Credit and Grades is passed, so AOP 11.05 will be assigned after AOP 12.12 is completed. AOP 12.04 Final Examination has been sent to Academic Affairs as of September 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Design Review Committee** – This committee did not meet in September. The next meeting is scheduled for October 3<sup>rd</sup>.

**Executive Council** – This committee did not meet in August. The next scheduled meeting is September 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Game Day and Special Events** – This committee has not met since the last Faculty Senate meeting.

**Inclusive Excellence Leadership Council** – This committee has not met since the last Faculty Senate meeting. I spoke with VP Ra’Sheda Forbes last week, and she assured me that a meeting will be held very soon.

**Master Plan Development and Advisory Committee** – This committee has not met since the last Faculty Senate meeting. The September meeting was also canceled.

**Parking and Traffic Regulations Committee** – This committee met on August 22<sup>nd</sup> to discuss a request from the Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine. The request was to create reserved parking for each college dean. Discussion was held, and this passed the committee by a 4-3 vote.

**Sustainability Committee** – This committee has not met since the last Faculty Senate meeting.

**United Faculty Senate Association of Mississippi (UFSAM)** – This committee has not met since the last Faculty Senate meeting. I circulated a proposed letter to our senate body for approval. The Robert Holland Faculty Senate voted unanimously on the support letter on September 3<sup>rd</sup> and the UFSAM was notified that day. The letter was then sent on September 4<sup>th</sup> to the president of Jackson State University and copied to the IHL Commissioner Dr. Al Rankins, the AAUP, and members of the

Jackson State Faculty Senate. A copy of the letter is under Old Business in the agenda packet. The Mississippi University for Women Faculty Senate voted to not support this letter, so the final letter was signed by those below.

Robert Banik, Mississippi State University  
Joshua Bernstein, University of Southern Mississippi, President of the UFSAM  
Candace Carter-Stevens, Mississippi Valley State University  
Nora Gough-Davis, Delta State University  
Anant Singh, Alcorn State University  
Hans P Sinha, University of Mississippi  
Bradley J. Walters, University of Mississippi Medical Center

## Report of the Faculty Senate Vice President

### **Committee on Campus Access**

This committee has not met since the last Vice President's report.

### **Calendar Committee**

This committee meets an hour before the September Faculty Senate meeting. I will have a report at next month's meeting.

### **Master Plan Development and Advisory Committee**

This committee has not met since the last Vice President's report.

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

This committee has not met since the last Vice President's report.

## Reports from Faculty Senate Designates on University Committees

### Business Sent to Committee

1. AOP 12.04 Final Examination (Academic Affairs)
  - a. President Banik stated AOP 12.04 Final Examination had been sent to the Academic Affairs committee.

### Business to be Sent to Committee

### Standing Committee Reports

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS – **No Report**  
ANCILLARY AFFAIRS – **No Report**  
CHARTER & BYLAWS – **No Report**



## FACULTY AFFAIRS

### 1. AOP 12.03 Awarding of Degrees Posthumously

Senator Tschume, on behalf of the Faculty Affairs Committee, provided the committee report on AOP 12.03 Awarding of Degrees Posthumously.

The motion to accept AOP 12.03 Awarding of Degrees Posthumously, as presented, passed by unanimous hand vote.

## **STUDENT AFFAIRS – No Report**

## **UNIVERSITY RESOURCES – No Report**

### Old Business

#### 1. JSU Letter of Support

President Banik shared the JSU Letter of support for the records.

### New Business

#### 1. Contact Hours Letter of Support

President Banik shared a letter received from Dr. Julie Jessop in the Bagley College of Engineering, who had concerns about the number of hours of a class at the moment based on the old AOP 12.12 Credit and Grades. This letter has been given to the Academic Affairs committee as they are currently working on AOP 12.12 Credit and Grades.

Senator M. Priddy made a motion to adjourn. Secretary Haynes seconded the motion.

The motion to adjourn passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.

Submitted for correction and approval.

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Stacy Haynes, Secretary

Dinah Jenkins, Administrative Assistant

## INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Dr. Mark Keenum, University President  
Dr. David Shaw, Provost & Executive Vice President

## REPORT OF THE FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT

Wow! We are already at our third meeting of the semester. Time is flying by very fast this semester. Be sure to go out and take a stroll around campus with the nicer temperatures lately. Hopefully, we have left behind the 90+ temperatures of summer as we move into a more fall-like season.

I met with Emily Shaw, Emily Owen, Tommy Parker, James Herzog, Chelsea Cockburn, Cheryl Bowen, and Andi Burck to discuss book adoptions on September 17<sup>th</sup>. I asked that Barnes & Noble not send emails out to faculty until at least October 1<sup>st</sup> to request book adoptions. Originally, Barnes & Noble representatives wanted to have access to the SIS report from the Registrar's office as early as September 1<sup>st</sup>. Since the spring semester course offerings were not due to the Registrar's office until September 25<sup>th</sup>, we all agreed on October 1<sup>st</sup> as the date to request adoptions from faculty.

### **Reports from Committees on which I Serve:**

**Athletic Council** – This committee met on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Athletic Director Zac Selmon spoke and gave athletic updates and a “state of the state” update. He talked about having tools for student success and that means more than the scoreboard. Student athletes need transformational experiences to win at life. He also gave an update on the NIL backpay case and additional funding for student athletes. He stated MSU had 9 students and 1 coach in the Olympics this past summer. A few updating projects were mentioned, such as lighting and sound at Davis Wade Stadium and the updates to Humphrey Coliseum.

There will be a guest coach program for faculty based on student input and nominations of past instructors. The faculty must be from the previous semester or earlier, not the current semester. Seven faculty were chosen for this year for football. These faculty, plus one guest, will get to participate in Friday/Saturday meals, the Dawg Walk and receive sideline passes and tickets. This is a different program than the faculty recognition and invite held in the spring.

**Dean's Council** – This committee has not met since our last meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for October 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Design Review Committee** – This committee has not met since our last meeting and the October 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting is cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for November 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Executive Council** – This committee has not met since our last meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for October 28<sup>th</sup>.

**Game Day and Special Events** – This committee has not met since our last meeting.

**Inclusive Excellence Leadership Council** – This committee has not met since our last meeting. This committee is scheduled to meet on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.

**Master Plan Development and Advisory Committee** – This committee has not met since our last meeting. The next meeting is scheduled for October 10<sup>th</sup>.

**Parking and Traffic Regulations Committee** – This committee met with Walker Consultants to do a campus wide Parking and Transit Demand Study on September 19<sup>th</sup>. Consultants came to campus to do their initial survey work and met with this committee as we represented key groups on campus. Walker Consultants will be taking the next several months to create a parking master plan for changes and updates throughout campus.

**Sustainability Committee** – This committee met on September 26<sup>th</sup>. Nicole Thomas shared that she has initiated some of the ideas brought up at Faculty Senate in September. She has reached out to the Meridian Campus to see what steps could be taken for recycling at that campus. She also has put one of the interns in charge of starting a composting of pizza boxes and what steps should be taken to have this set up.

Beyond these updates, it was mentioned that over the next two years, the outdoor space around campus will be enhanced to provide more outdoor enjoyment. Also, to cut the grass from around and under the new solar farm, DAFVM has moved sheep to the area to “mow” the grass. The final week of testing for the new C.A.B. autonomous buses was last week. The hours for the buses will be from 12pm – 8pm this week. The Glass Recycling drive will be October 22<sup>nd</sup> from 1pm – 5pm at the Sanderson Center/Chadwick Lake boat ramp. MSU Green Week will be October 16<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup>. The next meeting is scheduled for December 5<sup>th</sup>.

**United Faculty Senate Association of Mississippi (UFSAM)** – This committee met on September 17<sup>th</sup>. The termination hearing for JSU Faculty Senate President Dawn McLin on September 20<sup>th</sup> was not held. The chair of that hearing had a family emergency, so that will be rescheduled. Beginning in October, at least one member of the UFSAM will attend the monthly IHL board meeting in Jackson, MS. I was nominated to attend the October 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## REPORT OF THE FACULTY SENATE VICE PRESIDENT

### **Committee on Campus Access**

This committee has not met since the last Vice President’s report.

### **Calendar Committee**

As I mentioned at last month’s meeting, we are preparing the 2025-2026 Academic Calendar. I was able to ensure that grades are never due less than 48 hours after final exams, and they will not be due on a weekend day.

### **Master Plan Development and Advisory Committee**

This committee has not met since the last Vice President’s report.

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

There were several relevant topics in this month’s meeting:

- Reminder to check out the URCD website - comprehensive resource <https://urcd.msstate.edu> (Subscribe to the Research Connections e-mail there.)
- Sandra Orozco-Altman will be teaching a Research Discovery course in Spring 2025 to help students explore research opportunities in the early years of their college careers (Freshmen/Sophomores)

- Introducing Endeavors Undergraduate Research Journal to create an opportunity for MSU undergrads to publish (1) original student research, (2) review articles, and (3) undergraduate theses. Shooting for Spring 2025. This is a student-led initiative.
- Spring Undergraduate Research Symposium will be April 9-10, 2025. Look for the call.

## REPORTS FROM FACULTY DESIGNATES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

### BUSINESS SENT TO COMMITTEE

### BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEE

### STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

#### ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

## **Report to the Robert Holland Faculty Senate**

### **Academic Affairs Committee**

#### **Report on AOP 12.04 Final Examination**

**September 30, 2024**

#### **Background**

On September 10, 2024 Robert Holland Faculty Senate President Robert Banik assigned AOP 12.04 Final Examination to the Academic Affairs Committee for review. This committee previously recommended edits to this policy, which were approved by the Robert Holland Faculty Senate at the February 9, 2024 meeting. Those changes necessitated re-review of the policy by Associate Deans Council and Academic Deans Council, and the policy has returned to RHFS for review.

#### **Recommendation**

The Academic Affairs Committee recommends that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate approve AOP 12.04: Final Examination with no changes.

#### **Discussion**

Changes introduced since the last review of this policy include the addition of a grading day, which is a period of at least 24 hours from the time of conclusion of the examination period and the submission of final grades to the Registrar's Office. There were also minor edits to clarify the procedure for examinations in classes offered during shortened formats. The committee has reviewed these edits and agreed that they should be accepted and that the policy is ready to be presented to the Robert Holland Faculty Senate.

**Committee Members: Andy Perkins (Chair), Frank Adams, Alison Lee, Jesse Morrison, Julie Parker, James Sobaskie, Kim Walters, Molly Zuckerman**



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## AOP 12.04: FINAL EXAMINATION

### PURPOSE

The purpose of this Academic Operating Policy and Procedure (AOP) is to define the policy regarding final examinations at Mississippi State University and to define the responsibility of the administrators and faculty.

### POLICY/PROCEDURE

~~The Examination Schedule starts with a Reading Day. The purpose of the Reading Day is to allow students time to study and prepare for final examinations. No mandatory activity, meeting, assignment, or event for a class should be scheduled on this day. These restrictions apply to all Mississippi State University classes (e.g., face-to-face, online, etc.).~~

~~For the purpose of this policy, the final examination period is defined as the normal five-day (may span a weekend) period during which final examinations are scheduled.~~

All final examinations ~~shall~~will be held as specified on the ~~E~~examination ~~s~~Schedule except those for classes meeting fewer than two lecture hours per week and/or certain other classes which may be given at particular times by special permission from the Provost and Executive Vice President. Classes meeting fewer than two lecture hours per week and all laboratories will have their examinations at the last regular meeting of the class. Evening classes will have their examination ~~at the~~on the same night of the week during the Examination Schedule final examination period ~~regular meeting hour of the class during the examination period.~~ Classes offered in shortened formats should hold the final exam during the last class period for synchronous delivery or the last class day for asynchronous delivery when the exams are not scheduled in the University academic calendar.

~~For the purpose of this policy, the final examination period is defined as the normal five-day (may span a weekend) period during which final examinations are scheduled.~~

~~The purpose of the Reading Day, when scheduled, is to allow students time to study and prepare for final examinations. No student activity, meeting, assignment, or event should be scheduled on this day. These restrictions apply to all Mississippi State University classes (e.g., face-to-face, online, etc.).~~

When an instructor ~~is teaching~~teaches more than one section of the same course, permission may be given in advance ~~by~~at the instructor's discretion to a student registered for the course to take the examination in any one of the sections, provided that procedure does not result in too many examinations for the student in one day.

Students are entitled to sit through the full three hours of the allocated exam time. If a student is late for the examination but no classmates have completed the examination before the student's arrival, then the faculty member must allow the student to take the examination within the remaining examination time. If a student arrives after an examination has been submitted for evaluation, the faculty member or proctor may refuse to administer the final examination to the late student.

Asynchronous online classes will have their examination during the regular ~~(normal five-day, may span a weekend)~~ examination period. Examinations for traditional 15-week semester courses must be available to online students for at least 72 hours between the end of Reading

**Commented [BT1]:** Do we need to specify classes in a 15-week semester? Would a class offered during a mini-term that overlaps the 15-week semester have to follow this procedure?

**Commented [TB2]:** Added during ADC Dec 2023 to prevent final exams in mini-terms from overlapping with other shortened formats.

**Commented [BT3]:** Do we need to specify classes in a 15-week semester? Would a class offered during a mini-term that overlaps the 15-week semester have to follow this procedure?

**Commented [RR4]:** It is not always possible to make the final exam available for 72 hours within the final exam schedule for shortened-format courses.

Day and prior to the end of the exam period. In the case of shortened-format terms, examinations will be available to online students for the duration of the final examination period. For asynchronous courses in shortened formats with- no scheduled final examination period, examinations will be available to students for 48 hours to include the last day of class. Synchronous online classes will follow the normal exam schedule. Courses delivered through face-to-face including hybrid methods may opt to also offer asynchronous online examinations; however, students must also have the option to complete an in-person final examination during the regularly scheduled final examination window-or hybrid with permission of the respective department head and dean. In cases of asynchronous final examinations for face-to-face courses, the final examination window due date must include at a minimum the full three-hour session allotted by the final examination schedule.

**Commented [TB5]:** Added this sentence in ADC 3/27/24 to address mini-terms that don't have a scheduled final examination.

Grading Day: Faculty should be given at least 24 hours from the time of conclusion of the examination period and the submission of final grades to the Registrar's Office to grade exams.

**Commented [TB6]:** These last two sentences have been modified at ADC 3/27/24 to address the need for in-person options in face-to-face or hybrid methods.

Exceptions to the published Examination Schedule are discouraged. If an exception is deemed necessary, the request must be approved by the respective department head and dean and copies of these approvals placed on file in the dean's office. Approval for a request to change the final exam schedule must be secured at least 2 weeks prior to final exam week. Exceptions to the published Examination Schedule will be emailed and announced to the affected classes at least 2 weeks prior to final exam week.

**Commented [PR7]:** There were situations that occurred during the shorter formatted semesters that resulted in faculty having less than 24 hours to grade exams. This is an effort to ensure that faculty have at least a full 24 hours to grade exams before having to submit final grades.

### **Three or More Final Examinations in One Day**

Students should not have to take more than two final examinations in a given day. To resolve the problem of multiple final examinations, students will-must initiate the process and administration will become involved if necessary. The rescheduled final examination ideally should be a time that is convenient for both the instructor and the student. The rescheduling should be completed prior to the beginning of the final-examination period Examination Schedule-final examination period and the resulting examination must be administered during the Examination Schedulefinal examination period final-examination period. Any exception to these guidelines must be approved by the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President.

Student Responsibilities to Resolve Multiple Examinations:- If the schedule has three or more final examinations scheduled on one day for a student, the student should take the following actions:

- The student should notify all instructors at least two weeks prior to the beginning of the examination period to explore if one of them can easily reschedule an examination.
- Within a week, if no instructor is willing to voluntarily reschedule a final examination for the student, the student should notify the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President so that this issue can be resolved administratively.

Administrative Responsibilities to Resolve Multiple Examinations: If the student contacts the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President, the Associate ProvostExecutive Vice Provost will coordinate the next steps of contacting the associate dean(s) in the college(s) of the student and the professors who are giving the final examinations. The following provisions will apply:

- The affected associate dean(s) will resolve the situation and decide who will

reschedule which examination.

- The lead associate dean will be the associate dean representing the college of the student.
- The decision of the lead associate dean on which examination is to be rescheduled will be the final decision.

Students should report any violation of the above policy to the instructor's department head.

#### REVIEW

This AOP will be reviewed every four years (or whenever circumstances require an earlier review) by the Executive Vice Provost ~~and Dean of the Graduate School~~ with recommendations for revision presented to the Provost and Executive Vice President.



**REVIEWED:**

\_\_\_\_\_

Executive Vice Provost~~and Dean, Graduate School~~

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Provost and Executive Vice President

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

President, Robert Holland Faculty Senate

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

Associate Vice President, Institutional Strategy & Effectiveness

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

\_\_\_\_\_

General Counsel

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

**APPROVED:**

\_\_\_\_\_

President

\_\_\_\_\_

Date

ANCILLARY AFFAIRS  
CHARTER & BYLAWS  
FACULTY AFFAIRS  
STUDENT AFFAIRS  
UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

**1. Academic Freedom Resolution**

Be it resolved that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate advocates for the protection and promotion of academic freedom for faculty members across all Institutions of Higher Learning (IHLs) in Mississippi. The Robert Holland Faculty Senate calls on other faculty senates in the state to join in this resolution and requests a letter of support from the United Faculty Senates Association of Mississippi (UFSAM). This letter will be shared with all university presidents and chancellors. While the media maintains the right to free speech, it is essential that universities uphold and defend the principles of academic freedom to foster a vibrant and open academic environment throughout Mississippi's universities.

ADJOURN

## Appendix A

# Sustainability at Work

Presented by: Nicole Thomas,  
Manager of Communications



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# Mission

**The Office of Sustainability** is focused on developing an environmentally responsible foundation that guides and tempers campus operations.

With a holistic campus approach to sustainability, our work extends beyond resource use and consumption to include our overall campus environment.



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# Sustainable Campus Climate Action Plan

## Areas of Focus

- Operations
- Materials
- Transportation
- Grounds
- Education & Research



# Sustainable Campus Master Plan

- Land Resources
- Landscape
- Water Resources
- Energy and Emissions
- Mobility



# Sustainable Campus Initiatives

- Solar Facility
- LED Retrofit + Lighting Upgrades
- Glass Recycling
- Arbor Day
- Coffee Composting
- Green Graduation
- Sustainable Saturdays
- Earth Month
- Pollinator Gardens
- Chadwick Lake







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# Powered by the Sun

**New, on-campus solar facility-the largest in the Southeastern conference-**is now converting sunlight into electricity to generate renewable, sustainable power on Mississippi State University's campus.

- Constructed 3,420 solar panels
- Designed to produce about 2.4 million kilowatt hours of energy annually
- Combined with LED retrofit and lighting upgrades
- Reduce MSU's carbon footprint by 7,548 metric tons annually
- Save 10, 784,865 kilowatt hours of energy per year





# ILLUMINATED SAVINGS WITH LED LIGHTS

**LED LIGHTS** not only require less energy for equivalent or increased visual lighting, but the bulbs' longer lifespan translates to less maintenance savings.

- **Construction:** Upgraded 54,000 lighting fixtures with LED bulbs over seven million square feet of campus.
- **Production:** Approximately 8,378,585 kilowatt-hours (kWh) or 28,589 MMBTU/yr
- **Savings:**
  - \$696,500 in cost avoidance
  - \$300,000 in rebates from TVA



# Hazardous Waste Emissions

## SOLAR

Avoided Emissions: 1,774 Metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>/yr

350

homes' electricity use  
for one year

*equivalent greenhouse gas emissions*

2,071

number of acres of U.S.  
forests in one year  
*equivalent carbon sequestered*

## LED

Avoided Emissions: 5,853 Metric tons CO<sub>2</sub>/yr

6,450,455

pounds of coal  
burned

*equivalent CO<sub>2</sub> emissions*

386,395,652

smartphones charged

*equivalent CO<sub>2</sub> emissions*



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# Mechanical Plant



- Converted to high-efficiency, hot-water condensing units
- Added double-decker ice storage area to produce ice at night when off-peak energy costs are cheaper



# College View Drive Complete Street



- New gateway to campus from College View Drive
- Realigns College View at the intersection of Bailey Howell Drive
- Connects to Barr Avenue at intersection of Bost Drive
- Designed for all modes of transportation
- Features raised pedestrian crossings, expanded sidewalks, protected bike lanes, shuttle stop, additional parking
- Increases efficiency and safety on west side of campus
- Creates a corridor from Davis Wade to MSU Soccer to Nusz Park
- Closes a section of College View in front of Howell and Giles Halls to be reconfigured as a multi-use pedestrian plaza



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# Arbor Day

- Planted 140 trees in 2024
- Planted 2,000 trees in the last 5 years
- Transformed College View Connector, a 1 mile multi-use path that links campus to Highway 182
- Designated Tree Campus Higher Education from Arbor Day Foundation for 12 years
- Partnership with College of Forest Resources



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# Coffee Composting

- Undergraduate intern in Office of Sustainability picks up coffee grounds from Starbucks and MSU Fresh Market weekly
- Compost at Campus Landscape
- Used in color beds around campus
- Partnership with MSU Dining





# Earth Month



- Hosted multiple events around campus to raise awareness about MSU's commitment to a sustainable future
- Kicked off our Green Fund campaign



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# Outdoor Spaces



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# Hilbun Hall

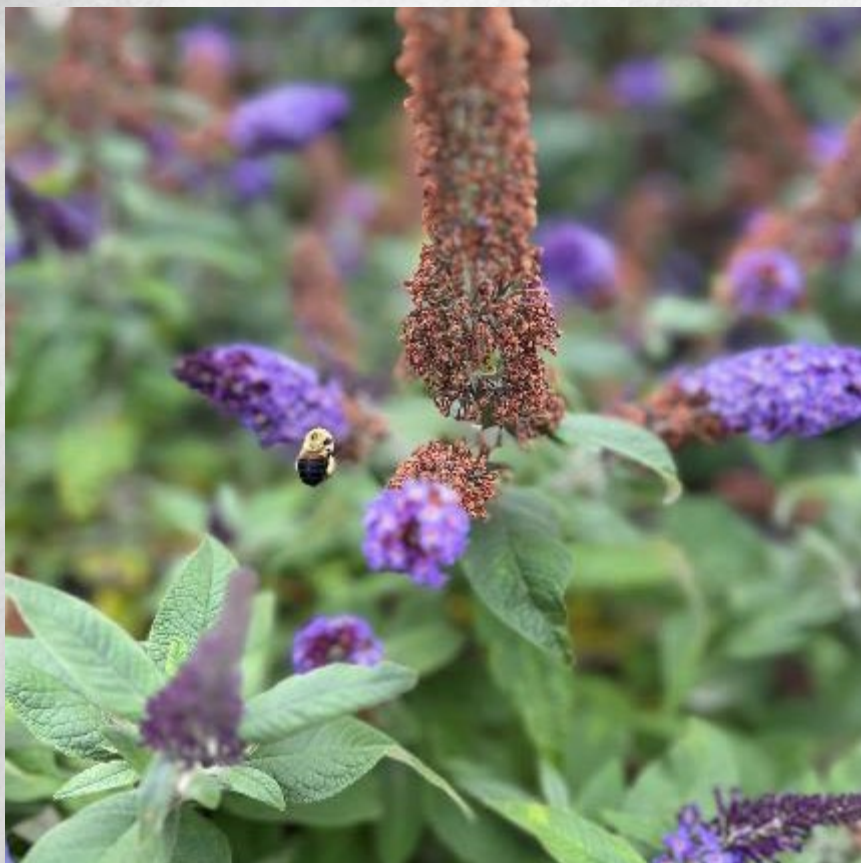


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# Pollinator Gardens



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# Chadwick Lake

- Dredged lake to improve water quality, preserve aquatic life and prevent algal bloom
- Hosted family fishing day to restock lake





# Glass Recycling



MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY  
2024 GLASS RECYCLING EGG BOWL CHAMPIONS

MISSISSIPPI STATE COLLECTED  
8,023 POUNDS — 4 TONS — OF GLASS

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OFFICE OF SUSTAINABILITY

 MSU GOES GREEN



**GLASS RECYCLING DRIVES**

SEMESTER	POUNDS
Fall 2023	6,090
Spring 2023	5,460
Fall 2022	4,976
Spring 2022	6,942
Fall 2021	2,300
Fall 2019	5,340
Spring 2019	4,370
Fall 2018	3,515

**TOTAL—47,016 POUNDS**  
COLLECTED FOR RECYCLING SINCE FALL 2018

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 MSU GOES GREEN



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# Green Graduation



MSU Alumni Association distributed biodegradable confetti to graduates in May 2024 to help us keep our beautiful campus litter-free.



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# Sustainable Saturdays



- Partnered with Starkville Community Market to share sustainability practices
- Hosted 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month in June, July and August
- Included information on native plants, composting at home, and recycling



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# CONNECT WITH US

@msugoesgreen



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@msstatecampus



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# Questions?



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# Campus Master Plan

<https://tinyurl.com/msstatecampusmasterplan>

# Climate Action Plan

<https://tinyurl.com/msstateclimateactionplan>



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## Appendix B

# CC\* Planning: MSU Leading Advanced University Computing for Higher Education (LAUNCH)

Michael Navicky

Lauren Geiger

Carolina M. Siniscalchi

Dawn Reynolds

Jeremy LaSalle



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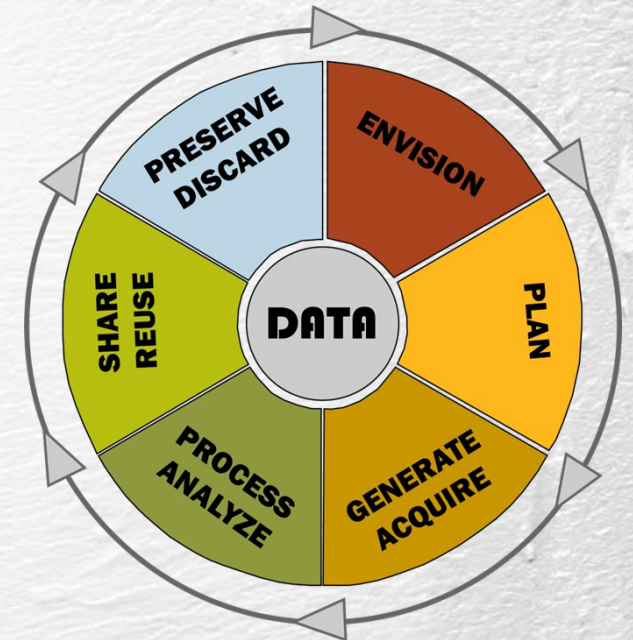


# Research Computing and Data Management

RCD is a set of services we are providing from High Performance Computing, Information Technology Services, and Libraries to promote research excellence throughout the research lifecycle

For example:

- Providing secure computing environments
- Helping with data management solutions
- Creating and maintaining data storage





# Research Computing and Data – Capabilities Model

- We have been thinking about these issues
- The RCD Capabilities Model: an evaluation tool that provides an overview of RCD on campus

Summary page of Capabilities Model results				
Your Institutional Scope/Context:		Mississippi State University		
<a href="#">For suggestions on how to approach filling this out, background about the Capabilities Model, etc., please follow this link to see the Introduction and Guide to Use</a>				
<i>Please do not alter/edit the tables below.</i> <i>These are computed from your answers on the 'Facings' sheets, and editing the tables will just break the summary functionality.</i>				
<b>Facing Area</b> (click the "+" to the left of each to expand areas within)		<b>Computed Coverage</b>	<b>Domain Support</b>	<b>Domain Weighted Coverage</b>
Researcher Facing Capabilities Coverage		55%	30%	28%
Data Facing Capabilities Coverage		41%	70%	32%
Software Facing Capabilities Coverage		42%	30%	22%
System Facing Capabilities Coverage		67%	30%	34%
Strategy and Policy Facing Capabilities Coverage		57%	30%	29%
Total Organizational Research Computing and Data Coverage		52%	38%	29%





# RCD-CM Assessment Questions

1	Area	Questions to consider for: Mississippi State University	Help	Deployment at Institution	Multi-Institutional Collaboration	Service Operating Level	Computed Value	Local Priority
2	<b>Research Computing and Data Staffing</b>						50%	
3		Do researchers have access to <b>introductory user support and training</b> related to the use of research computing and data resources available at local, regional, and national level? I.e., are there researcher-facing engagement and support staff who provide this?	?	Planning, piloting, and initial deployment - 3	No existing multi-institutional collaboration - 1	Lights on Only - 3	45%	Med Prio
4		Are researcher-facing staff provided with <b>professional development and networking opportunities</b> ?	?	Deployment/support for parts of the institution - 4	No existing multi-institutional collaboration - 1	Priority/Premium - 5	79%	
5		Do researcher-facing staff have the skills and capacity to <b>broadly support researchers across levels</b> (graduate students to PIs) <b>and across domains</b> with information about the use and effectiveness of new technologies?	?	Planning, piloting, and initial deployment - 3	No existing multi-institutional collaboration - 1	Lights on Only - 3	45%	

25	Fields and Domains Support				?
26	How strong is Researcher Facing support across these fields and domains				
27	Arts and humanities		Little or no support 1	0%	
28	Computer science and engineering		Limited Support 2	50%	
29	Health and life sciences		Limited Support 2	50%	
30	Physical sciences		Limited Support 2	50%	
31	Social sciences		Little or no support 1	0%	
32	<u>Other Domain</u> (specify additional domain)		Not relevant or applicable 0	n/a	
33	Aggregate Domain support			30%	







# CC\* LAUNCH

NSF-funded Campus Cyberinfrastructure Planning grant awarded

- Collaboration Between

- High Performance Computing
- MSU Libraries
- IT Services

- Goals

- Gather information about the current campus cyberinfrastructure, future needs, areas that are lacking support
- Create a new cyberinfrastructure plan
- Apply for cyberinfrastructure grants







# CC\* LAUNCH

- Strengths of Library
  - Research data management
  - Service oriented
  - Well-connected on campus
- Strengths of HPC
  - Data storage
  - Computational capability and knowledge
  - Systems
- Strengths of ITS
  - Campus-wide knowledge
  - Service oriented







# RCD Challenges

- **Challenges**

- Siloed departments
- Limited access to software, storage, and compute.
- Limited staff to teach/support researchers
- Recognizing the value of an RCD

- **Approach**

- Build relationships focused on RCD
- Collaborate with researchers on potential uses
- Build systems and support staff capabilities
- Communicate with senior leaders, faculty, and researchers about long-term value of RCD





# What we need to help you

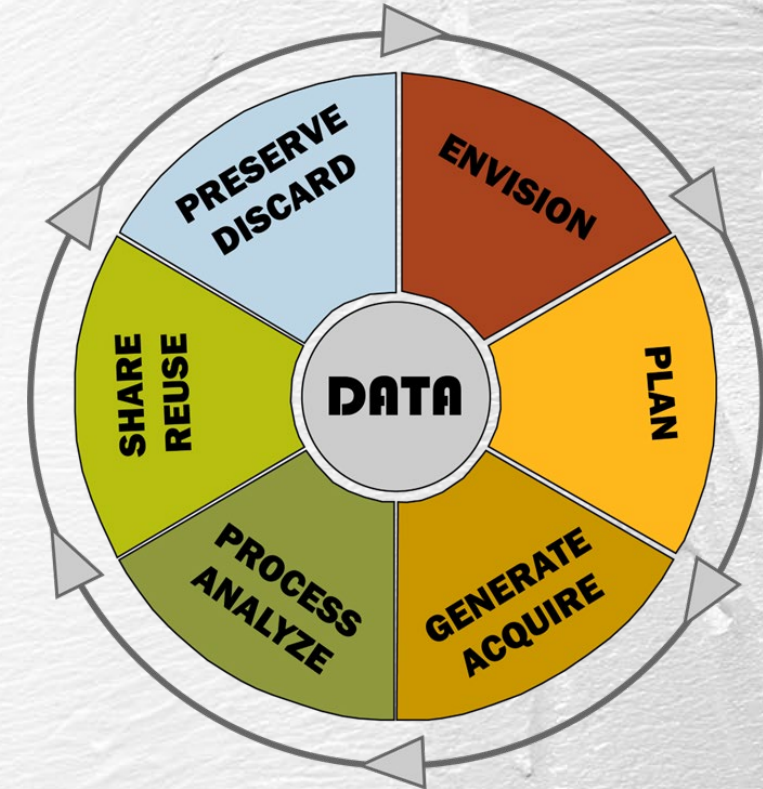
- We need to know what you need from RCD
- Tell us how you are currently getting RCD support
- Action plan:
  - Information-gathering events (fall)
  - Visit peer institutions (fall)
  - Workshops (October 30, 2024)





# How will this help you?

- Improved research workflow
- Research computing and data management that attend the needs identified by the campus communities
- Cyberinfrastructure investment generates funding return







# Research Computing and Data Vision and Mission

## Vision

To be recognized as a critical contributor in learning, service and research; and a valued partner to MSU faculty, staff, students and our collaborators.

## Mission

Attract, retain and support MSU faculty, staff, and students by providing leading edge research computing resources that allows MSU and our collaborators to excel on the state, national and global stage.



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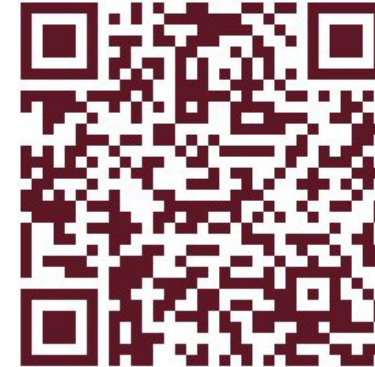


# Workshop Interest Form\*

Arts and Humanities



Health & Life Sciences



Computer Science



Physical Science



Social Sciences



\*Registration Form to be sent out soon!



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## **Official Project Overview of NSF Campus Cyber (CC\*) Planning Grant: MSU Leading Advanced University Computing for Higher Education (LAUNCH)**

### **Summary**

This grant seeks to improve research compute and data management (RCD) at Mississippi State University by collaborating with faculty and staff on their research data needs. The Principal Investigators (PIs) hope to learn more about the current state of research data needs and wants at MSU by having initial departmental meetings, a survey, and focus groups to gather more detailed information. The end goals are to have an updated campus cyberinfrastructure plan focusing on RCD and a formal plan to broaden RCD support to the campus based on the information we gather from faculty and staff.

### **Project Background and Expanded Description**

Mississippi State University's (MSU) High Performance Computing Collaboratory (HPC2) currently manages significant computational resources, hosting two systems on the top500.org list. Using the Research Computing and Data Capabilities Model developed by Campus Research Computing Consortium, Internet2 and EDUCAUSE with support from the National Science Foundation, MSU recently identified opportunities for improvement in four of the five facing:

- Researcher-facing issues of support, outreach, training, and research lifecycle management
- Research Data Management issues including creation, discovery, analysis, visualization, storage and transfer, policy, and security
- Research Software issues including installation, development, optimization, workflows, portability, security, and physical specimens management.
- Systems issues, including support of infrastructure (compute, data, network, etc.), operations (monitoring, change management, planning, etc.), and security and compliance.
- Issues related to Strategy and Policy roles, including institutional alignment and culture, funding, professional staff development, and diversity, equity, and inclusion.

MSU found it had a strong system facing coverage but needed to improve coverage provided in the data, researcher, strategy, and software facing areas. Further, the capabilities model highlighted domains throughout MSU had inconsistent levels of support or in some cases no support at all. MSU seeks to provide comprehensive research computing support to a broader group of MSU researchers.

We seek to move beyond a system-focused approach and develop holistic research computing and data capability at MSU. By building campus-wide partnerships with the MSU Libraries, Office of Research Compliance and Security, Campus ITS, our researchers and other supporting units, MSU will develop a plan to create a research computing environment with broad availability and capacity. Our recent assessment efforts were key in identifying the need for a broader planning effort. The HPC2 recently added our first research computing facilitator to the team providing cyberinfrastructure support to researchers in climate and materials science. The

Mississippi State University Libraries also added a data scientist to their staff that will be dedicated to supporting researchers with data area expertise. Both recent staff additions are seen as positive first steps in developing a comprehensive approach to research computing at MSU. These additions have also highlighted that more comprehensive planning is needed to scale these capabilities to have the most positive impact on research. Through MSU LAUNCH, our vision is to create a research computing and data ecosystem that allows MSU researchers from a broad range of domains to focus on their area of research while harnessing the enormous power of research computing and data. This ecosystem will be sustainable, scalable, secure, highly responsive, and sufficiently flexible to address any research question.

Our approach has three main efforts:

#### 1. Better Understand Researcher Computing Needs

Appraising the current capabilities is an important starting point, but developing future capabilities should be driven by understanding the needs of our researchers. The Research Computing and Data Capabilities Model can provide insight into a university's research computing, but MSU cyberinfrastructure professionals must understand the unique needs to select the applicable portions of the model to assess. Having data, both qualitative and quantitative, is critical to understanding system, data, software, and researcher support needs.

#### 2. Create Cyberinfrastructure Plan

Purposely growing research cyberinfrastructure requires a deep and detailed understanding of MSU's current cyberinfrastructure. Drafting a plan requires a cohesive and empowered team, and the cyberinfrastructure plan will drive the creation of this team through necessity and common goals. With the support of university leadership and by using tools and templates from recognized industry standards, the MSU cyberinfrastructure team will create a plan and processes that allow for planning future capabilities, thoughtful scalability, and deliberate lifecycle management.

#### 3. Broaden Research Computing Support

The current research computing structure at MSU supports a limited number of researchers and disciplines; much of our research computing environment is not well understood or broadly available. This results in research computing support gaps or maintaining underutilized resources. By using the Research Computing and Data Capabilities Model, MSU can build a culture of radical interdependence that enables access to a broader audience of researchers. Planning will allow MSU to deliberately develop a structure that will provide access to more researchers, broader disciplines in appropriate capacities.