ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE AGENDA

August 22, 2025

ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE

UNCORRECTED MINUTES OF APRIL 11, 2025

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, April 11, 2025.

Members absent and excused were Mike Breazeale, Kayla Carr, Christine Coker, Courtney Crist, Whitney Crow, Michael Jaffee, and Evan Kaplan.

Members absent and unexcused were Rocky Lemus, Jesse Morrison, and Tara Sutton.

Members on Sabbatical: Kimberly Kelly and Peter Messer

Faculty Senate President Robert Banik called the meeting to order and asked for corrections to the minutes of the March 7, 2025 Faculty Senate meeting. Hearing no corrections, President Banik accepted the minutes as presented.

Guests

Dr. Mark Keenum, University President
Dr. Keenum greeted the senate and gave an update on the last few months. He stated that after the November election he anticipated there would be changes in our country and changes that would have an impact on higher education and possibly here at Mississippi State. He said nothing prepared him for all the changes that have been occurring. He said we have seen unprecedented directives and mandates and executive orders that have come from Washington since the start of the year.

Dr. Keenum said one of the orders was a mandate to eliminate equity and inclusion and if not met would result in an array of requirements that would be imposed on us. He said the name of the Holmes Cultural Diversity Center was changed to the Holmes Center for Student Success and our mission statement was changed to meet that mandate. They were given two weeks to make the changes and if not complied with could result in the loss of federal funding.

Dr. Keenum said another area was the impact on our research funding. He said we have had several research grants that have been suspended and others have been notified that once their current contracts expire they will not be renewed, and this will impact us significantly. He said this past year we had more than $342 million dollars that MSU generated for our university. $182 million of that came from our federal agencies and partners. We do extensive work at the federal level which is significant for our nation and for the world. Dr. Keenum said he has spent a lot of time in Washington with members of the Senate and the House of Representatives and their staff speaking about these challenges. Our elected leaders have a great desire to want to help us and they have committed to try to do their best. He said we need you to express your views to a cabinet member and let them know your concerns.

Dr. Keenum said this past legislative session in Jackson was very contentious with difficult sessions and some of the hardest feelings he had ever witnessed. It all centered around the desire to want to eliminate our state income tax. Both the House and the Senate were very unhappy with how this played out so they did not pass a budget to operate the state government and funding for our capital needs and facilities. Under the Constitution we must pass a budget so our governor will have to call a special session just for this purpose.

Dr. Keenum said when he makes his rounds in personal meetings with the legislators and leaders, and in his personal testimony before the House of Representatives on appropriations, and over on the Senate side, he always emphasizes that the faculty are the number one priority for us and our budget. He explains to them about where our faculty salaries rank compared to our peers and that we cannot continue down this path. We must have a partnership with the state to maintain the quality of our faculty, scientist, researchers and staff.

He said he has asked the governor to consider the projects that we have asked the legislature to fund. He said we intend to build the MS Cyber and Technology Center in Biloxi adjacent to Keesler Air Forse Base. We have received over $30 million dollars but need another $18 million to begin the project. He said this state cannot grow and evolve without a strong, vibrant, healthy Mississippi State University.

Dr. Keenum asked the governor for funding for the continued CVM expansion in addition to the $18 million received from last year so we can begin phase one and two. He has also requested $13 million for an expansion for the equine facility and to begin the efforts of phase four for improvements to our small animal hospital. He said we have worked things out and have commitments from the legislative body but now it is up to the governor.

Dr. Keenum thanked President Banik for his work as president for the past two years and stated he was a very hardworking president that he greatly admired. Dr. Keenum presented President Banik with a cowbell for his service to MSU and the Faculty Senate.

Dr. Brent Fountain, FAR Representative
Dr. Fountain provided highlights from the student athletes and stated they continue to do exceptionally well. 306 of the 379 athletes in the fall had a GPA of 3.0 or higher and 15 of 16

teams had a GPA of 3.0 or higher.

Dr. Fountain spoke of the effect of the transfer portal and the number of midyear enrollees. He said in January of 2025 there were 59 student athletes enrolled with 39 being true transfers and 20 being first time in college. He said it is a lot of work and pressure for the athletic staff and advisors, but also for the academic staff and faculty.

Dr. Fountain said because of NIL they have redesigned and renamed Student Athletic Development to Bulldog Athlete Services. He said it positions our student athletes for success because it encourages communication and collaboration between departments.

Dr. Fountain gave an update on the House settlement, *House v. NCAA*. He said the judge recently met with the plaintiffs' attorneys and the NCAA and the power 5 conferences to discuss affirming or not the proposed settlement. Dr. Fountain stated there was still uncertainty in the landscape of what happens primarily for the fall sports as that will be after the July 1st date.

REPORT OF THE FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT

There comes a time for all of us when we must step aside and let others shape the world.

Serving as President of the Robert Holland Faculty Senate for the past two years has been an incredibly rewarding experience. It has been an honor to advocate for faculty, collaborate with university leadership, and contribute to meaningful discussions that shape the future of our institution. I have enjoyed working alongside dedicated colleagues who are passionate about improving academic policies, supporting faculty welfare, and enhancing the overall university environment as well as working with the administration who is always willing to listen to the concerns of the faculty. I am grateful for the opportunity I have played to foster positive change at MSU.

I would also like to thank those senators who will be leaving us today for their service to this body.

Andrew Jarosz – College of Arts & Sciences
Evan Kaplan – College of Arts & Sciences
Tara Sutton – College of Arts & Sciences
Eric Vivier – College of Arts & Sciences
Frank Adams – College of Business
Andy Perkins – Bagley College of Engineering
Beth Stokes – College of Forest Resources
Paul Spurlin – MSU Meridian

Welcome to the new and returning senators to the Robert Holland Faculty Senate as well.

Michele Herrmann – College of Architecture, Art, & Design
Ryan Folk – College of Arts & Sciences
Amber Robinson – College of Arts & Sciences
Jon Woody – College of Arts & Sciences
Kelly Walker – College of Business
Cheryl Justice – College of Education
Matthew Priddy – Bagley College of Engineering
Neeraj Rai - Bagley College of Engineering
Carmen Sescu - Bagley College of Engineering
Chris Ayers – College of Forest Resources
Robert Grala – College of Forest Resources
Michael Jaffe – College of Veterinary Medicine
Darcie Sidelinger – College of Veterinary Medicine
Kayla Carr – MSU Meridian

Reports from Committees on which I Serve:

Athletic Council – This council met on March 19, 2025. Coach Nick Zimmerman from Women's Soccer spoke concerning updates to players and his appreciation to the fans at MSU when the team was going through the NCAA tournament. Athletics Director Zac Selmon said the NIL settlement ruling is set for April 7th. The Athletic Academic 3-year report should be completed very soon, and Dr. Fountain should be giving an update on this report at our April 11th meeting. The next scheduled meeting is April 9, 2025.

Dean's Council – This council did not meet in the month of March, but the subgroup working on AOP 13.05 Faculty Grievance did substantial work on this AOP. It was shared with Associate Dean's Council, and then the AOP was sent to me on Tuesday, March 18th. I then assigned it to the Faculty Affairs committee for a report. The next scheduled meeting for this council is April 14, 2025.

Design Review Committee – This committee did not meet in March or April. The next scheduled meeting is May 1, 2025.

Inclusive Excellence Leadership Council – This committee met on April 2nd. The committee discussed the passage of HB1193 through the joint committee of the legislature and sent to the governor. This bill seems to limit the academic programs and courses universities may offer among other issues. The consensus of the committee was to see what General Council has to offer for input on this bill before any major considerations or recommendations come through this committee.

Executive Council – This council did not meet due to lack of agenda items. The next meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2025.

Game Day and Special Events – No meeting is currently scheduled for this committee.

Master Plan Development and Advisory Committee – This committee did not meet in March or April.

Parking and Traffic Regulations Committee – This committee met virtually on March 27, 2025. A vote was taken on the closing of Barr Avenue from the intersection with George Perry to the east side of Old Main Academic Center, and the closing of thru traffic along Hurst. This vote passed unanimously to do both.

Sustainability Committee – This committee has not met since the last report.

United Faculty Senates Association of Mississippi (UFSAM) – This committee met on March 20, 2025. A discussion was had to send the IHL Commissioner a letter on behalf of UFSAM to reaffirm past statements and resolutions on academic freedom.

The committee called an emergency meeting on April 2, 2025, to discuss Dr. Dawn McLin (former JSU Senate President) and her termination from the university. Some committee members have concerns with the termination of a tenured professor based on, from Dr. McLin's words, collegiality and for cause. A few members of the committee members were going to discuss what this committee could possibly do in response to this termination.

Faculty Success Team – Faculty Success met on March 19, 2025. Each subgroup gave updates on faculty mentoring, faculty recruiting, and faculty development. I am a member of the mentoring subgroup, and we are working on information gathering from all colleges at MSU and other universities throughout the country. The goal is to create a list of recommendations or guidelines that all colleges at MSU can use to develop mentorship programs at all levels. My subgroup also met with Karyn Brown, Assistant Dean of Communication, from the College of Arts & Sciences on April 3, 2025 to get the latest updates that A&S offers in mentoring. Our next scheduled meeting is April 16, 2025.

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

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.

I would like to say "THANK YOU" for allowing me to serve as your vice president for the past two years. It has been an honor and a privilege. I have one more year to serve on the senate before I have to sit out for a year, so I look forward to seeing you all in the fall.

REPORTS FROM FACULTY SENATE DESIGNATES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

BUSINESS SENT TO COMMITTEE

BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEE

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs

1. **AOP 12.09 Class Attendance and Reporting Absences**
   Senator Perkins, on behalf of the Academic Affairs committee, presented the committee report on the AOP 12.09 Class Attendance and Reporting Absences.

   President Banik asked for questions or comments.

   Senator Vivier opened the discussion and stated that the original request from the students was that they be allowed one excused absence on the first Tuesday following the first Monday in November during presidential election years. He stated this was not an unreasonable request.

   Discussion ensued agreeing with Senator Vivier's statement.

   Senator Jarosz gave a motion to add another bullet point on excused absences on page 14 to state voting in presidential elections. Senator Carskadon gave the 2nd.

Senator Perkins suggested the language be changed to state "*voting in the general election during presidential election years"* to specify that it would not be in the preliminary elections. Senator Jarosz accepted that amendment.

President Banik stated the last bullet point will now say "*voting in the general election during presidential election years*."

Senator Beckman had concerns students would request off for travel days.
Senator Perkins suggested rewording the bullet point to state "*voting on the day of the general election during presidential years."*

The motion for the amendment to add the bullet point to state "*voting on the day of the general election during presidential years"* passed with 28 yay to 4 nay.

Senator Lemley gave a motion to delete the added sentence below the bullet points that states *"Other absences not appearing in the above list may be excused at the discretion of instructor."* Senator Rai gave the 2nd.

The motion to remove the sentence after the bullet point failed with 0 yay to 33 nay.

With no further discussion President Banik took the vote to accept AOP 12.09 with the added bullet point of "*voting on the day of the general election during presidential years"* and to keep the sentence below the bullet point *"Other absences not appearing in the above list may be excused at the discretion of instructor."*

Senator Carr asked why that day could not be a university holiday. President Banik stated that would have to come from IHL. He said they asked the Stennis Student Association if they would be willing to give up a Thursday of fall break to move it to that Tuesday and they said adamantly said no.

The motion to accept the committee's recommendation as amended passed by unanimous hand vote.

President Banik stated as the AOP was pulled from Faculty Senate for review, it will go through the process and next be sent to the Associate Deans Council, Deans Council, and Executive Council.

Ancillary Affairs – No Report

Charter & Bylaws – No Report

Faculty Affairs

1. **AOP 13.05 Faculty Grievance Procedures**
   Senator Tschume, on behalf of the Faculty Affairs Committee, presented the committee

report on AOP 13.05 Faculty Grievance Procedures.

Senator Rai had concerns in section 3C for the chair to determine if the grievance is a stand-alone issue or should be grouped together and in section 2 that the chair is going to determine if the grievance has merit. He suggested to move to the beginning of the mediation.

Discussion ensued.

Senator Grala gave a motion to add a timeline that lists all the steps in the grievance process how the applicant or review should proceed to the end of the document and. Senator Kundu gave 2nd.

The motion passed 19 yay to 7 nay.

Senator Gregory gave a motion to send AOP 13.05 back to committee considering the feedback given. Senator Adams gave 2nd.

The motion to send back to committee passed with 35 yay to 0 nay.

The motion to accept the report from Faculty Affairs passed 0 yay 32 nay.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

1. **Student Course Surveys**
   Senator Haynes on behalf of the Student Affairs Committee presented the committee report on the letter from Senator Carskadon about Student Course Surveys. The committee approved seven of the eight recommendations in the letter.

   Senator Jarosz opened the discussion stating he was concerned with point 8, which removes the top and bottom 10%.

   Discussion ensued.

   President Banik stated each point would be voted on individually.

   Item 1) Increasing the number of optional, faculty-selected questions from 3 to a maximum of 10. Passed 28 yay to 0 nay.

   Item 2) Investigating the overall correlation, if any, between student course survey results and course grades. Passed 35 yay to 0 nay.

   Item 3) Investigating whether any gender and/or racial bias exists in the student course survey results. Passed 32 yay to 0 nay.

Item 4) Investigating the correlation, if any, between student course survey results and class size. Passed 32 yay to 0 nay.

Item 5) Investigating whether, on average, results on student course surveys are higher for an already recognized group of excellent faculty, specifically John Grisham Master Teachers, than for the overall faculty. Passed 29 yay to 2 nay.

Item 6) "Cherry picking" positive or negative comments, by those in administrative and/or evaluative roles, should be considered an inappropriate use of anonymous student comments. Passed 26 yay to 6 nay.

Item 7) Presented in evaluative materials all four categories of student course survey responses to objective questions rather than only "Percent Who Agree" and "Percent Who Disagree". Passed 20 yay to 4 nay.

Item 8) Removing from statistical analysis the top and bottom 10% of student responses to the objective questions. Failed 1 yay and 32 nay.

University Resources – No Report

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Election of Officers**

President

President Banik, as outgoing president, served as the Elections Officer and announced the nomination of Senator Stacy Haynes for the office of President.

He asked if there were any nominations from the floor since there was only one nominee.

President Banik, hearing no additional nominations, asked for a vote of affirmation for Senator Haynes as President.

Hearing no objections to the vote of affirmation, President Banik announced that Senator Haynes was elected to serve as President.

Vice President

President Banik, as the Elections Officer, announced the nominations of Senator Neeraj Rai and Senator Jacob Tschume for the office of Vice President.

President Banik said each candidate would have 5 minutes to address the Senate if they so choose.

Senator Rai and Senator Tschume each gave a brief address.

President Banik asked the senators to navigate to the online Faculty Senate voting site to place their votes for Vice President.

President Banik announced that Senator Tschume was elected to serve as Vice President.

Secretary
President Banik, as the Elections Officer, announced the nomination of Senator Amber Robinson for the office of Secretary.

He asked if there were any nominations from the floor since there was only one nominee.

President Banik, hearing no additional nominations asked for a vote of affirmation for Senator Robinson as Secretary.

Hearing no objections to the vote of affirmation, President Banik announced that Senator Robinson was elected to serve as Secretary.

2. **USFAM Letter**
President Banik presented the letter from the USFAM Committee regarding the Request to Reaffirm Academic Freedom in Mississippi. He stated this letter had been approved by the majority of other Faculty Senates across the state to be sent on to IHL. He stated if we did not pass the letter we would request our name be removed from the letter.
The motion to send the letter to IHL passed 34 yay to 0 nay.

Senator New gave the motion to adjourn. Senator Herrmann seconded the motion.
The motion to adjourn passed by unanimous hand vote at 5:12 pm.

Submitted for correction and approval.

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Stacy Haynes, Secretary
Dinah Jenkins, Administrative Assistant

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

REPORT OF THE FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT

Welcome back! I hope you enjoyed your summer and are gearing up for a great semester! This is my tenth year on faculty senate, and what I've loved most is how effective we can be when we work together. I look forward to seeing what we can accomplish this year!

As you may recall, Dinah Jenkins retired from Mississippi State University over the summer. We are in the process of hiring her replacement and I will update you as soon as we have someone in that position.

Three senators – Christine Coker (CALS/MAFES), Michele Herrmann (CAAD), and Amirtaha Taebi (COE) – also left the university over the summer. The College of Agriculture and Life Sciences/Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, the College of Architecture, Art, and the Design, and the College of Engineering will need to hold elections to replace them. I have already emailed them to request nominations. Nominations are due by Wednesday, August 27th and elections will take place August 28th-September 8th. These dates will enable the newly elected senators to attend our next meeting on September 12th.

One of my first duties as President was to assign senators to the university committees on which we have a designated seat. Several committees specify the President or Vice-President as the senate representative, but any senator can serve on the remaining committees. I emailed current committee members to confirm their membership for this year. I then emailed all senators asking for volunteers for any open positions. Thanks to everyone serving on these committees; I appreciate your willingness to take on this extra commitment.

Committee	2025-2026
Academic Accommodations Committee	Kim Walters
Academic Deans Council	Jacob Tschume
Academic Review Board	Neeraj Rai
Additional Course Fees Committee	Neeraj Rai
Associate Deans Council	Matthew Priddy
Athletic Council	Stacy Haynes
Calendar Committee	Jacob Tschume
Commencement Committee	Stacy Haynes
Committee on Campus Access	Jacob Tschume

Committee on Courses and Curricula	Jacob Tschume
Design Review Committee	Stacy Haynes
Dining Advisory Committee	Barry Stewart & Fred Musser
Employee Benefits Committee	James Chamberlain
Executive Council	Stacy Haynes
Faculty Research Advisory Committee	James Sobaskie
Faculty/Staff Housing Appeals Committee	Stacy Haynes
Galleries and Museums Committee	Alexis Gregory
Inclusive Excellence Leadership Council	Stacy Haynes
Institutional Effectiveness Committee	Kevin Williams
Instructional Technology Advisory Committee	Iva Ballard
Library Committee	Krish Krisnhan
Master Plan Development and Advisory Committee	Stacy Haynes
Parking and Traffic Regulation Committee	Stacy Haynes
President's Committee on Planning	Stacy Haynes
Registration and Scheduling Committee	Jacob Tschume
Special Events and Game Day Operations	Stacy Haynes
Sustainability Committee	Stacy Haynes
Teaching Evaluation Committee	Alexis Gregory
Textbook Committee	Robert Banik
Undergraduate Research and Creative Discovery Committee	Jacob Tschume
Health and Wellness Committee	Lauren Priddy
Work-Life Balance Committee	Barry Stewart

I also want to thank Senator Banik for his leadership over the last two years and for meeting with me to help ensure a smooth transition. I have asked him to serve as our parliamentarian this year. I know the wealth of knowledge he's accrued during his presidency will be a huge asset.

During May and June, Senator Banik and I jointly attended meetings with Dr. Dunne and the Faculty Success Committee, Dr. Shaw, and President Keenum. My term as President officially began on July 1st. Since then, I have met with several of the university committees on which I serve.

Reports from Committees on which I Serve:

Academic Deans Council – This committee met on August 11th and I attended on behalf of Vice President Tschume. The committee discussed and approved three AOPs: 12.09 Class

Attendance, 12.22 Undergraduate Courseload Limits, and 12.26 Credit for Prior Learning. These will now come to Faculty Senate for review.

1) **AOP 12.09 Class Attendance** – The addition of U.S. Presidential elections to the list of excused absences was removed, but the sentence clarifying that any absences not on the list are the discretion of the faculty was kept.
2) **AOP 12.22 Undergraduate Course Load Limits** – The current version of this policy includes attachments to assist students and advisors in determining appropriate credit hour loads through different combinations of parts of term. Attachments include a Word document history and an Excel document calculation for advisors.
3) **12.26 Credit for Prior Learning** – This policy was modified to add a bullet to the credit by examination section for other department-approved standardized examinations. This change would allow the Math department to utilize ALEKS for credit if it desired and for CMLL to utilize some of the foreign language examinations.

Athletic Council – This committee did not meet over the summer, but Dr. Fountain and I will meet on August 21st to discuss meeting times and dates. We will also discuss the names of potential committee members to replace those who rolled off.

Design Review Committee – This committee met on August 7th to review plans for the Wise Center renovation and additions (which include the farm animal hospital, the equine hospital, and the laminitis research center). The design team's presentation included a survey of existing conditions, their site grading and drainage plan, utility plan, and ADA plan, and renderings of each of the proposed renovations and additions. The plan was approved.

Executive Council – This committee met on July 28th. No AOPs were on the agenda, but the following items were approved:

1) **HRM 60.225 Tuition Remission – Employees and HRM 60.226 Tuition Remission – Dependent Children of Employees** – Added the Master of Science in Nursing to the list of exempt programs and addressed newly enacted fees
2) **OP 70.08 Time and Effort Reporting** – Updated to comply with federal regulations related to time and effort reporting for sponsored project activities
3) **OP 79.11 Uncrewed Aircraft Systems/Model Aircraft** – Clarifies approval authority
4) **OP 95.501 Traffic and Parking Rules and Regulations** – Outlined changes to scooter and bicycle use on campus and introduced zone-specific parking
5) **OP 91.208 Hazing** – Included changes to comply with federal Stop Campus Hazing Act

One new OP was presented and approved: OP 91.131 Military-Connected Student Benefits and Resources. OP 56.03 Sharing and Handling of Major Expenses of Jointly Occupied Buildings was rescinded.

Fall Convocation Group – This committee met on July 11th and Secretary Robinson attended on my behalf. Fall Convocation will be held on August 26th at 6pm in Humphrey Coliseum. The meeting was to discuss logistics for the event. Faculty turnout has been low for this event, so I encourage you to attend as a representative of the faculty. Regalia is encouraged, but if not available they ask that you opt for business casual attire.

Inclusive Excellence Leadership Council – This committee did not meet in July or August.

Parking and Traffic Regulation Committee – This committee did not meet in person in July but did review OP 95.501 Traffic and Parking Rules and Regulations, which outlined changes to scooter and bicycle use on campus and introduced zone-specific parking, via email.

Sustainability Committee – This committee did not meet over the summer.

United Faculty Senate Association of Mississippi (UFSAM) – This committee met virtually on August 14th. We discussed the proposal for a joint meeting in Oxford on November 11th and received an update from Dr. McLin at Jackson State University. Dr. McLin is back at work and thanked everyone for their hard work on her behalf. We also discussed elections for UFSAM officers, provided updates about HB1193 and changes to ORP/PERS, and brainstormed goals for the coming year. We were also told to elect a second UFSAM representative by the next meeting to comply with the USFAM Constitution.

REPORT OF THE FACULTY SENATE VICE PRESIDENT

Academic Deans Council
Dean's Council met on August 11th, 2025. President Haynes attended the meeting for me as I was traveling on that day.

Committee on Campus Access
This committee has not met since I took over as Vice President on July 1, 2025.

Calendar Committee
This committee has not met since I took over as Vice President on July 1, 2025.

Master Plan Development and Advisory Committee
The committee met on May 8th, and I attended in place of Senator Mike Breazeale. It was approved to build 8 pickleball courts in the Southeast corner of the Sanderson Center. There will be a plaza between the front door of the Sanderson Center and the pickleball courts. They

will also install lighting around the courts to have use at night when the Sanderson Center is open. Construction has already begun if you have been by the Sanderson Center in the second half of the summer. The committee also approved two phases for Wise Center Renovation and Additions for CVM. Phase A will be the construction of a Farm Animal Hospital and Phase B will be the construction of the Laminitis Research Facility.

The committee met on June 12th, and I attended in place of Senator Mike Breazeale. The committee approved the construction of new faculty housing along Maroon Drive. MSU will construct four duplex buildings (8 units), with each unit having 1311 square feet that is AC/heated, and each will have covered parking totaling 1706 square feet each. The hope is to have these ready to go for Fall 2026 move-in for faculty. These will be very similar to current faculty housing, with a little higher price point. The university will make sure it is affordable to faculty. MSU wants to build more in the near future, but funding is the issue to add more than what was proposed at this meeting.

The committee met on August 14th to discuss updates to the Hardy Road Project. Hardy will be changing from a two-lane road to a single lane beginning this fall. The finished project will only be open for transit and cycling. Ideally the project will begin in October/November and be completed during the summer of 2026. The delay in starting this project was due to a donor providing additional funds to extend the project from Morrill Road to the parking space between Etheridge Hall and Walker Hall.

Special Events & Gameday Operations

The committee met on August 7th, and I attended in place of President Haynes, who was double booked on meetings. The committee approved several items as it related to MSU Football Gamedays.

1. Southern Tailgating will be moving from the MSU Amphitheater area into the Junction except for the large pole tents that are located on the west side of the B.S. Hood and Stone Blvd. intersection.
2. The MSU Amphitheater will now be a dedicated area for students to tailgate. This was proposed in collaboration with MSU Administration and the Student Association with the Student Association wanting to have their own dedicated area for tailgating.
3. B.S. Hood Rd. will close at 2pm on Fridays before each home football game and will remain closed until postgame traffic clears on Saturday. (This is a repeat of the 2024 season)
4. The Famous Maroon Band will warm up in front of Stafford Hall pre-game on Saturdays. This grass area will be blocked off on Friday nights. (This is a repeat of the 2024 season)

5. Dawg Walk will take place 2 hours and 10 minutes prior to the start of the game and begin on Stone Blvd. and go through the Junction. (This is a repeat of the 2024 season)

Undergraduate Research and Creative Discovery Committee

This committee has not met since I took over as Vice President on July 1, 2025.

REPORTS FROM FACULTY DESIGNATES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

BUSINESS SENT TO COMMITTEE

1. **AOP 12.09 Class Attendance (Student Affairs)**

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

AOP 12.09 CLASS ATTENDANCE & REPORTING ABSENCES

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Academic Operating Policy and Procedure (AOP) is to establish the policy related to student class attendance at Mississippi State University.

POLICY

Upon registration, the student accepts the responsibility of attending all classes and completing all in-class and out-of-class work that the instructor formally assigns. When absence from class is essential, the student must inform the instructor through a designated means of communication and provide satisfactory documentation of the impending absence unless prescribed otherwise in the syllabus. If possible, all arrangements should be made prior to the absence. The student should discuss and document the scope and time frame for completion of missed work with the instructor in an agreed-upon timely manner. The student should recognize that failure to comply with this documented, mutually agreed-upon procedure could result in a grade penalty, if prescribed in course syllabus.

A reasonable attendance policy is the purview of an individual instructor, subject to the limitations described later in the document. A policy should include, but is not limited to, how the instructor defines class attendance, particularly as it pertains to in-class responsibilities that go beyond the student's mere presence in the classroom, how attendance relates to student learning outcomes, the extent of credit or penalty, how excused and unexcused absences are measured, and how all absences are recorded.

Each instructor must describe his or her attendance and participation policy in the course syllabus. If the instructor has a prescribed policy, he or she should describe that policy in class; inform students in writing how attendance will be measured; maintain current, verifiable attendance records; and recognize that failure to comply could constitute grounds for grade appeal.

It is the responsibility of the university to ensure the highest academic standards; to recognize that events occur beyond the personal control of students or faculty; to establish procedures that apply equally to on-campus and distance-learning students; to acknowledge that diverse course offerings and student learning outcomes mandate diverse attendance policies; and to provide procedures that assure appropriate resolutions of disputes.

Best practices would dictate if attendance and participation are used in the evaluation of a student's performance, passing or failing a course should not rest solely on class attendance and participation.

The instructor's department head will supervise all class attendance policies so as to assure compliance with departmental standards and university policy.

PROCEDURES

Excused Absences Defined

These approved excused absences are not subject to instructor discretion in course attendance penalties:

- Participation in an official university activity with authorization from an appropriate administrator sponsoring the activity (e.g., Department Head or higher). If the validity of the activity is questionable, the matter should be referred to the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President for final resolution.
- Death in a student's immediate family to include a student's parent, legal guardian, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, spouse or partner, as well as natural, adopted and/or in-law children.
- Participation in legal proceedings or administrative procedures that require a student's presence.
- Religious holy day.
- Illness that is too severe or contagious for the student to attend class.
- Required participation in military duties.
- Mandatory admission interviews for professional or graduate school that cannot be rescheduled.

Other absences not appearing in the above list may be excused at the discretion of the instructor.

An illness or injury of a student's immediate family (to include parent, legal guardian, sibling, grandparent, grandchild, spouse or partner, as well as natural, adopted and/or in-law children) is eligible for excused absences, but is subject to the instructor's discretion.

University or other organized events intended to provide personal enrichment or entertainment will not be considered university authorized activities as it pertains to course attendance and will not qualify as an excused absence.

It is the student's responsibility to obtain valid documentation from a physician or clinical psychologist that contains the date and time the student sought medical consultation and/or treatment and present that documentation to the instructor upon returning to class. The instructor may ask the student to obtain verification of their excused absence through the Dean of Students Office.

Excused Absences and Grades

Excused absences shall not result in attendance or grade penalties. Use of a drop grade will be considered as a penalty. When excused absences occur on days of scheduled exams and/or quizzes or other measures of academic progress (e.g., assignments) listed on specific dates in the course syllabus, the instructor will provide a student with an opportunity for a comparable evaluation prior to or after the absence. It is the student's responsibility to initiate a request of making up missed exams or other measures of academic progress in a timely manner, and the instructor should communicate a response to such requests in a timely manner.

If a student accrues a significant number of excused absences and/or unexcused absences, then the instructor should contact the student about the best course of action regarding the timely completion of the course or withdrawal from the course.

Reporting Absences

Attendance should be reported for all students. Faculty are encouraged to report absences, especially for freshmen, in a timely manner. The university information system (Banner) supports the ability to report absences at any time as frequently as desired. An excused absence is still reported as an absence.

All absences and last dates of attendance (where applicable) will become a part of the student's file in the Registrar's Office. Instructors may report absences to the Division of Student Affairs at any time they feel it appropriate to do so and are expected to report students with continued consecutive absences.

Attendance of Online Classes

Student attendance in an online class should be explained in the course syllabus. A student will be considered to be in attendance in an online class when the student; a) participates in a course activity (e.g., discussion board); and b) is in communication with the course instructor regarding a course topic within a specified time frame. Logging into an online course without active participation does not constitute attendance. When students who are enrolled in an online course are aware of necessary absences, they should inform the instructor as soon as is possible so that other arrangements can be made.

REVIEW

This AOP will be reviewed every four years or whenever circumstances require an earlier review by the Executive Vice Provost for Academic Affairs with recommendations for revision presented to the Provost and Executive Vice President.

REVIEWED:

Executive Vice Provost	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

2. **AOP 12.22 Undergraduate Student Course Load (Ancillary Affairs)**

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

AOP 12.22: UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT COURSE LOAD

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Academic Operating Policy and Procedure (AOP) is to establish the policy regarding undergraduate student course load at Mississippi State University.

POLICY/PROCEDURE

The following limits will apply to enrollments in full-semester and shortened format terms. Any exceptions to the course load limits defined below require the approval of the student's Advisor, Department Head (or equivalent), and Academic Dean:

1. Fall or Spring Semester

    a. Students who are in good academic standing can take a total of up to 19 credit hours during the fall or spring semester. Students may take a combination of mini-term and full term courses so long as the equivalent contact hours during any week of the semester does not exceed 19 credit hours.

    b. Students who are not in good academic standing (see AOP 12.15 Academic Probation, Suspension, and Dismissal for Undergraduate Students) are limited to an enrollment of 16 credit hours total during the fall or spring semester. Students may take a combination of mini-term and full term courses so long as the equivalent contact hours during any week of the semester does not exceed 16 credit hours.

    c. An entering first-year student who is required to take appropriate remedial and/or learning skills courses in accordance with IHL Policy 608 should schedule those courses within the first two semesters of enrollment. These students should be limited to an enrollment of 16 credit hours. Students may take a combination of mini-term and full term courses so long as the equivalent contact hours during any week of the semester does not exceed 16 credit hours.

2. Summer Session:

    a. Students who are in good academic standing can take up to 12 hours total during the summer terms so long as the equivalent contact hours during any week of the summer session does not exceed 12 hours.

    b. Students who are not in good academic standing can take up to 10 hours in the summer terms so long as the equivalent clock hours during any week of the summer session does not exceed 10 hours.

3. Maymester and Winter Intersessions

    a. Students must be in good academic standing and have completed 12 credit hours at MSU to enroll in the Maymester and Winter intersessions, and they are limited to a total of 4 credit hours in each intersession.

REVIEW

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

REVIEWED

Executive Vice Provost for Academic Affairs 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

3. **AOP 12.26 Credit for Prior Learning (Academic Affairs)**

AOP 12.26: CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Academic Operating Policy and Procedure (AOP) is to describe how students can receive undergraduate credit for prior learning (CPL).

POLICY

Mississippi State University accepts three forms of credit for prior learning (CPL) as fulfilling academic course requirements as defined in AOP 12.08 Requirements for Academic Programs and Academic Consortial/Contractual Agreements.

Definitions

- Credit by Examination is an external, standardized test used to demonstrate the level of knowledge a student has in a particular subject.
- Portfolio-based or individual assessment is a method where students prepare evidence that demonstrates their competency of course content based on their experiences or other non-credit activities.
- Non-college training programs are instructional programs completed as part of the students' employment or military training that offer comparable course content (e.g., American Council on Education (ACE) or military credits).

Guidelines

- CPL applies to current Mississippi State University students for undergraduate courses approved by the University Committee on Courses and Curricula (UCCC).
- CPL may be awarded at any time after the student is admitted to the university.
- CPL may not apply toward residency requirements.
- The combination of all forms of CPL must be less than 25% of the credit hours required for the academic credentials for which the student is enrolled.
- Coursework fulfilled by CPL receives an "S" grade and therefore is not calculated in the grade point average.
- Students may apply for CPL up to the last day to withdraw in the semester prior to degree completion.
- Departments may choose which of their courses (if any) to allow credit for prior learning.

Undergraduate Credit by Examination

1. **Advanced Placement Examinations.** Students entering Mississippi State University for the first time are allowed credit on the advanced placement examination administered by the College Entrance Examination Board. A list of specific courses approved for Advanced Placement credit may be found in the university catalog at http://catalog.msstate.edu.

2. **College-Level Examination Program (CLEP).** Mississippi State University serves as an open testing center for both the General and Subject Examinations. Academic credit on the Subject Examinations is awarded to students who are enrolled at the University and who make a scaled score as indicated in the university catalog. A list of courses for which credit may be obtained can be found in the university catalog at http://catalog.msstate.edu. If you have any questions concerning CLEP credit, contact the Registrar's Office.

3. **The International Baccalaureate (IB):** Mississippi State University recognizes the IB Program. Advance standing credit will be considered for the higher level subject examinations with scores of 5, 6, or 7 pending approval of dean and/or head of the academic unit where the course is housed.

   Students must request a final official IB transcript from the International Baccalaureate North America (IBNA) regional office following the grade awarding.

4. **Cambridge International:** Students entering Mississippi State University for the first time may be granted credit for examinations administered by Cambridge International. Courses taken as part of the AS level or A-level curricula will be considered. Contact the Office of the Registrar for details on how credit is assigned in the various subject areas.

5. **Other forms of credit by standardized exam:** Academic departments may determine that certain scores on standardized examinations not already specified in this policy may fulfill credit toward courses. Only program faculty in the department offering the course may determine which examinations fulfill credit. The department will provide a justification letter that requires approval from the department head or equivalent, academic dean, and the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President with an explanation of how the examination was vetted, what course(s) it fulfills, and what scores are accepted. Departments may notify the Office of the Registrar of such approvals so these examination opportunities may be publicized to prospective students. Students may not take an examination for credit in a course previously taken for credit.

Credit by Portfolio, Individual Assessment, and Non-College Programs

Demonstration of learning from prior work/military experience may be used on a limited basis to count as academic credit. Work experience may also count toward internship credits in the major. It will be incumbent upon the student to demonstrate how the knowledge and experience is equivalent to the learning outcomes of the selected course. Prior learning will be denoted on the transcript with the select course. These credits may not necessarily transfer outside of Mississippi State University.

- Credit is awarded based on the student's demonstration of competency in the course learning outcomes, as opposed to experience in the field.

- Assessment of student learning for CPL is equivalent to the assessment of student learning in the course and may use the same rubrics or checklists for evaluation. Demonstration of learning outcomes may include but are not limited to the following:

    - Report, paper, brief, or other form of written document

    - Presentation, poster, podcast, or other form of multi-media scholarship

    - Peer-reviewed or juried scholarship (journal article, conference presentation, exhibition, recital)

    - Comprehensive examination (written, oral, or combination)

- Assessment of student learning is completed in accordance with AOP 13.09 by academically qualified faculty members who are from the department that offers the course.

- Qualified faculty from the student’s academic program communicate with the student how credit earned through CPL will be applied to the student's program of study.

- Students will be notified in writing about the determination of the assessment.

- Students may submit evidence of learning at most two times for a given course. The second attempt cannot be submitted within 30 days after the written notification of the determination of the first attempt.

- Prior learning will be denoted on the transcript with the select course (see example).

XX	1103	Starkville	Course Title	S	3.00	0
			XX-1103: Prior Learning Assessment			

- Experiences completed prior to enrollment at Mississippi State University will be denoted on the transcript in the same manner as transfer credits, and experiences while enrolled at Mississippi State University will be denoted in the semester the credit is issued.

Implementation

A Credit for Prior Learning (CPL) Committee will be formed with membership that must include (but not limited to) faculty and staff from participating departments and programs, along with representatives from the Registrar's Office, the Office of Institutional Research & Effectiveness, and the College of Professional and Continuing Studies. This committee will address the following topics:

- Uniform fee structure

- Uniform CPL appeal process

- Guidance for departments to develop internal assessment tools

- For-credit course to help students build portfolios

- Process through the Office of University Registrar to uniformly record CPL experiences on students' transcripts

This policy may be implemented for credit by portfolio, individual assessment, and non-college training programs as soon as the CPL Committee has finalized its process and the University Registrar is prepared to transcript the credits.

REVIEW

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

<u>REVIEWED BY:</u>

____ __________
Executive Vice Provost for Academic Affairs Date

____ __________
Provost and Executive Vice President Date

____ __________
President, Robert Holland Faculty Senate Date

____ __________
Associate Vice President, Institutional Strategy & Effectiveness Date

____ __________
General Counsel Date

<u>APPROVED BY:</u>

____ __________
President Date

BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEE

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Academic Affairs
2. Ancillary Affairs
3. Charter & Bylaws
4. Faculty Affairs
5. Student Affairs
6. University Resources

OLD BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Letter from Provost Shaw about UCCC**

MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY

OFFICE OF THE PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

P.O. Box BQ
3500 Lee Hall
Mississippi State, MS 39762

P. 662.325.3742

May 22, 2025

President Stacy Haynes
Robert Holland Faculty Senate
Mississippi State University

Dear President Haynes,

At the beginning of this semester I met with the University Committee on Courses and Curricula (UCCC) and encouraged them to focus on their role as a university-level committee, relying on departmental and college committees to handle more detailed syllabi review, for example. The role this committee plays is crucial to the function of this institution, and the committee members at times are having to spend an inordinate amount of time in their role.

I would propose that the Academic Affairs Committee of Faculty Senate be charged with the following tasks.

- Review the practices and operating policies of the UCCC, ensuring that these are appropriate for a university-level committee that is providing broad oversight from an institutional level.
- Ensure that UCCC policies are in keeping with all relevant AOPs, in particular AOP 12.09 and AOP 13.03.
- Propose an approval process for all UCCC policies that involves relevant stakeholders (e.g., Faculty Senate, Deans' Council).

I would suggest three members of administration serve with the Academic Affairs Committee: Dean Angi Bourgois (former chair of UCCC), Tracey Baham, Associate Vice President for Institutional Strategy and Effectiveness, and Jim Dunne, Associate Vice President for Faculty Affairs. In addition, I would also suggest the chair and vice chair of the UCCC be included.

Sincerely,

David R. Shaw

David R. Shaw
Provost and Executive Vice President

2. **Election of second UFSAM representative**

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
UNIVERSITY FACULTY SENATES ASSOCIATION
OF
MISSISSIPPI*

ARTICLE I
(NAME AND LOCALE)

Section 1 The name of this organization shall be the University Faculty Senates Association of Mississippi, hereinafter referred to as the UFSA of Mississippi, or simply UFSA.

Section 2 Headquarters for the UFSA of Mississippi shall be located at the institution at which the current President of UFSA resides.

ARTICLE II
(FUNCTION)

Section 1 The primary function of the UFSA of Mississippi shall be to promote interaction between faculties at all Universities in the state, for the constructive benefit of each, relative to those matters which are primarily of common interest to all state university faculty.

Section 2 The UFSA of Mississippi shall function as a channel of communication between the various University Faculty Senates/Councils and shall also act as an advisory body to the Council of University Presidents on those matters pertaining to the welfare of the state university system and its associated faculty.

Section 3 The UFSA of Mississippi shall consider all matters brought before it by the Council of University Presidents, a member University Faculty Senate/Council, the administration of a member University. or the General Faculty of a member University and make recommendations concerning them when appropriate.

Section 4 All recommendations made by the UFSA of Mississippi on matters that were either referred to it (as per section 3 above) or as developed by the UFSA voting membership shall first be reviewed and accepted (by majority vote) by at least two-thirds (2/3) of the Faculty Council/Senates of member Universities prior to forwarding said recommendation to the Council of University Presidents.

Section 5 No item or matter, either referred to the UFSA of Mississippi or brought up internally, will be considered by the UFSA of Mississippi for purposes of studying and making a recommendation(s) which is detrimental to any one or more Institution of Higher Learning (IHL) in Mississippi to the benefit of other Institutions. Only those items or matters which are felt to be potentially beneficial to all IHL in the state may be undertaken for study and formulation of recommendations. The selection of topics for the purpose of formulating a recommendation by this group can be altered if 3 voting members formally request (i.e., in writing prior to a meeting, or expressed verbally and recorded in the minutes) that a given topic/matter not be undertaken (for the purpose of formulating a recommendation).

ARTICLE Ill
(MEMBER UNIVERSITY)

Section 1 A 'member' University shall be a University in the State of Mississippi whose Faculty Council/Senate adheres to and ratifies the functions of the UFSA of Mississippi as outlined in this Constitution.

ARTICLE IV
(MEMBERSHIP COMPOSITION)

Section 1 Membership of the UFSA of Mississippi shall consist of the president/chairperson of each member University Faculty Senate/Council and one (1) duly elected delegate from each member University.

Section 2 The delegate shall be elected to represent a given University by majori1y vote of the University 's Faculty Senate/Council.

ARTICLE V
(VOTING ELIGIBILITY)

Section 1 Only formal members of the UFSA of Mississippi (as defined in Article IV) from member universities may vote.

ARTICLE VI
(OFFICERS)

Section 1 Officers of the UFSA shall consist of a president, vice-president, and secretary. Each of these offices shall be elected positions.

Section 2 All officers shall be elected from and by the voting membership of the UFSA for a term of one(I) year. A majority vote by secret ballot shall be required for election. Election of officers shall be undertaken at the July meeting of the UFSA. Also, term of office for the new officers shall begin upon election.

Section 3 If the office of president should become vacant during a specific term, the vice-president shall assume that office. If the office of the vice-president or secretary is vacated during a specific term, the president shall fill such vacancy by appointment subject to the approval of a majority of the voting members.

Section 4 Elected officers may be removed from office by a consensus of all voting members other than the officer being considered for removal.

ARTICLE VII
(MEETINGS)

Section 1 The UFSA shall meet at least once per month, 12 months per year.

Section 2 The location of the UFSA meeting shall be determined by the scheduled IHL meeting. If not otherwise designated, UFSA meetings will be at the Jackson Center facility.

Section 3 Special meetings of the UFSA may be called by the president on his/her own initiative or upon the written request of three (3) of the voting members. A notice of all special meetings shall contain a statement or the purpose of the meeting or the special business to be transacted.

Section 4 A quorum at all regular and special meetings of the UFSA shall be a majority of the voting members.

ARTICLE VIII
(BY-LAWS)

Section 1 The UFSA shall have the power to propose by simple majority of the voting members present at any meeting such By-laws as are considered necessary for the conduct of business, provided that the membership is notified of the proposed By-law at least two weeks prior to the meeting during which it is to be voted upon.

ARTICLE IX
(AMENDMENTS)

Section 1 A proposal to amend this Constitution may be enacted by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of the voting members present at any meeting provided that the membership of the UFSA is notified of the proposed amendment at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting during which the amendment is to be voted upon. Final amendment is established upon approval (by majority vote) of two-thirds (2/3) of the Faculty Senate/Councils or member universities.

*This Constitution revised by _________________, UFSA Vice-President, and submitted for approval on _______________ It was approved by the 2021-2022 UFSA officers and members:

Dr. Daniel W. Durkin - President	University of Mississippi
Dr. Chetara D Epps	Mississippi Valley State University
Dr. Byron Johnson	Alcorn State University
Dr. Brian LaPierre	University of Southern Mississippi
Dr. Hunter Manasco	Mississippi University for Women
Dr. Dawn McLin	Jackson State University
Dr. Rebecca Robichaux-Davis rrr102@msstate.edu	Mississippi State University
Dr. Bradley J. Walters	University of Mississippi Medical Center
Dr. Andrew Wegmann awegmann@deltastate.edu	Delta State University