

ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE UNCORRECTED MINUTES OF MEETING ON APRIL 12, 2002

The Robert Holland Faculty Senate of Mississippi State University held its regular meeting in Coskrey Auditorium of Memorial Hall at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, April 12, 2002.

Members absent and excused were Michael Berk, Susan Bridges, Stanley Bullington, Tim Chamblee, Lorenzo Crowell, Patricia Lestrade, George Light, Randy Little, PC McLaurin, Gary Myers, Bill Stuart, Paul Thaxton and Peter Wood.

Members absent and unexcused were Mike Goatley, Pearson Liddell, and Mark Zappi.

The meeting was broadcast real-time over the World Wide Web. The file will be left active for a few weeks and can be reviewed by clicking on the Senate homepage at http://www.msstate.edu/Org/FS/faculty_senate.html.

Chair Dan Embree called the meeting to order.

Chair Embree referred to the minutes of the March 22, 2002, Regular Meeting as distributed. Senator Rogers moved, Senator Culver seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate approve the minutes of March 22, 2002, as amended. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

WELCOME OF NEW SENATORS

Chair Embree introduced new members of the Senate: from Agriculture and Life Sciences – Peter Ryan, Randy Little, and Tim Chamblee, from Arts and Sciences – Robert Long, from Architecture – Michael Berk, from Education – Carlen Hennington, from Engineering – Mark Zappi, and from Extension Service – Melissa Mixon.

GUESTS

Chair Embree introduced the Senate's guest: Dr. Charles, Lee, Interim President; Dr. George Verrall, Interim Provost; and Dr. Kirk Arnett, Faculty Athletic Representative.

CHARLES LEE, INTERIM PRESIDENT

Dr. Lee provided the following information:

- Lee congratulated and welcomed the new members to the Senate.
- Bulldog Week was a success. Lee spoke with many groups.

- The estimated, predicted, overall decrease in MSU's budget is 5.6% for E&G and Ag. Division. This is approximately \$8,138,000. By contrast, last year's MSU budget reduction was about 7.5%.
- Eleven percent of MSU's 2002-2003 budget will be \$15 million in one-time money. This percentage is up from the previous year, but was the only way the state Senate and the House could find to help higher education. This came about because (1) \$119 million came from an accelerated, electronic form of tax collection from businesses and is a one-time source of dollars and (2) the state raided certain funds that had been storing dollars such as the Department of Environmental Quality which lost \$15 million. Higher education received \$42.2 million from this one-time funding.
- MSU is now more dependent on a good economic recovery than ever before. Competition for funds by programs, such as Medicaid, will be fierce. Therefore it is very much in MSU's interest for the economy to recover. MSU needs to help people understand the value of investments in higher education.
- The IHL Board has been looking at the financial health of member institutions.
- MSU's fund balance is approximately \$5 million, which is about one-half of what is appropriate.
- Lee continues to feel strong about employee compensation. The state classification system is obsolete and is losing any semblance of meaning. He noted that 260 people working at MSU make less than \$7 per hour.
- Tuition will be discussed at the next IHL Board meeting, but this topic will not be a serious agenda item until the May meeting.
- The Retirement Incentive Bill has been changed from a revenue bill to a non-revenue bill. The Governor should sign by April 25th.
- Lee is very pleased in everyone's interest in the academic honesty issue. The symposium brought forth the desired results of focusing attention on this issue and what should be done. A Task Force on Academic Code of Conduct has been established to make recommendations concerning the university's code of conduct as it pertains to academic honesty and cheating.
- MSU has one recipient of the Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship this year, Marc A. Seitz.
- MSU has five acceptances for Schillig Scholarships and three acceptances for Presidential Scholarships.
- MSU administrators anticipate that MSU's incoming freshman will have a higher ACT average, have more merit scholars overall, and that freshman enrollment will be down.
- Upon Dr. Lee taking office as Interim President, nothing had been done concerning a speaker for May Commencement. There were hopes of asking Laura Bush to speak, but MSU has been notified that she is not speaking at any commencements this year. Mr. Glenn L. McCullough, Jr., Chairman of the Tennessee Valley Authority's Board of Directors, native of Tupelo, Mississippi, and 1977 graduate of MSU will speak at the May 2002 Commencement.
- It is very difficult to communicate with potential donors and others about the future of MSU in the absence of a Master Plan for the campus. Skip Wyatt has agreed to facilitate a series of discussions within the University about a Master Plan.

- Senator Diehl asked for more details on the Retirement Incentive Bill. Lee responded that the bill was written as a “local option” for institutions that might wish to participate.
- Senator Embree asked if “local option” also meant “local money” meaning that MSU would have to fund this incentive. Lee agreed with this interpretation.
- Senator Embree asked if an appropriate example of this retirement incentive would be for MSU to give a professor a designated amount of money to retire and then use the dollars saved to hire the professor’s replacement at a lower salary. Lee responded that this was correct although the savings may not be substantial due to the market value of potential new employees.
- Senator Embree asked if there is no net benefit, why participate in the Retirement Incentive Program. Lee responded that the benefits would not be evenly distributed throughout the institution and that even though there may be no benefit in some parts of the institution, there would be benefits in other parts.
- Senator Williams asked if the university would enforce the May 1st deadline for admissions. Lee and Verrall responded affirmatively.
- Senator Huddleston asked how the university will handle having two retirement programs should it opt to participate in the Retirement Incentive Program. Lee responded that he did not know.
- Senator Cinnella asked for an update on the search for the Executive Director of the Engineering Research Center. Lee responded that he has received a recommendation for filling the position. Discussion is going on with a potential donor for a very large gift that will affect almost all dimensions of engineering, and this gift may be made within the next month. This is the reason for the delay in naming an Executive Director although it will not affect the choice of Director.

GEORGE VERRALL, INTERIM PROVOST

Dr. Verrall provided the following information:

- The promotion and tenure process took longer than Verrall anticipated, and he hopes that next year will go more rapidly. Verrall encourages all departments/colleges to have faculty Promotion and Tenure Committees.
- The Committee to select the Meridian Dean has made its recommendation, and the public announcement will be forthcoming.
- The IHL Management Report (a draft report) will be presented to the Board at the next meeting. Verrall hopes that this document will be a working document and open for change.
- The SACS process is moving along nicely. Verrall appreciates everyone’s participation in the town meetings and on various committees.
- There is an issue about contact hours in class and whether MSU could have a Fall Break. Various officials are studying this concept to determine what MSU will do.
- Verrall wants input from the Faculty Senate on the Master Plan, and Chair Embree will schedule this meeting. Attachment 4 has been included in today’s packet to start the discussion process.

- The Chief Academic Officers meet next week at the Board Office. Topics for discussion will be work loads, flagged programs, mission statements and programs. Verrall will be attending this meeting.
- Verrall's concern about the Retirement Incentive Bill is that if the Governor allows the bill to sit on his desk, the time frame for implementing it could be unmanageable. It takes about 50 days for someone to complete the paperwork in order to retire by the end of June.

KIRK ARNETT, FACULTY ATHLETIC REPRESENTATIVE

Dr. Arnett provided the following information:

- Arnett referred to the handout provided to Senators at the beginning of this meeting. The first two pages are the results of exit interviews of MSU student athletes. Page one covers a single question asking the student to make an overall rating of their athletic experience at MSU. About 44 students answered this question. Page two is also the results of a single question asking "Do you believe that male and female sports are treated equitably?" Page three is a sampling of the kind of legislation that faculty representatives in the Southeastern Conference review. Page four states the conference policies on missed class time, and Arnett noted, for example, that the better a tennis player is, the more classes he or she will miss. The last two pages are on graduation rates.
- Senator Goodman asked about why the number of black male freshman (137) with a graduation rate of only 27% is so much lower than all the other groups. Arnett stated that he had noticed and was troubled by this number but had no explanation about the difference.
- Senator McCarley asked how MSU was conducting these exit interviews/surveys. Arnett responded that athletes are asked to go by the Compliance Office and complete an exit interview. Students are given a written questionnaire to fill out and turn in. There is no follow-up to determine if a student does so.
- Senator Diehl asked why the lights in the stadium are on all night. Arnett responded that he was not aware of this.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Embree began his Chair's report by sharing the following remarks:

- Since Linda Cornelious has retired from the Senate after six years of service, Chair Embree has appointed Roy Montgomery as chair of the Academic Affairs Committee.
- The MSU Calendar Committee has met and agreed to restore Reading Day before final exams begin. This schedule will take effect in Spring 2003 since the Fall 2002 calendar is already set.

- The Calendar Committee also talked about the possibility of MSU going to a four-day work week (4 days of 10 hours each). Senators may forward their concerns on this topic to Chair Embree for future discussions.
- Interim President Lee has established two new committees to which Chair Embree has been appointed: (1) Task Force on Academic Code of Conduct and (2) Harassment Policy Committee.
- Senator McCarley asked if Senators will be given the results of the MSU survey which was conducted on academic dishonesty. Embree reported that Princeton researcher McCabe had a heart attack within a week of conducting the survey and that the results will surely be forthcoming at a later date.
- Senator McCarley then asked if the Harassment Policy Committee would also discuss harassment of teachers. Embree stated that there are two existing policies on harassment: (1) one policy on harassment of students by other students or by faculty, etc.; this policy includes all types of harassment and (2) a second policy on sexual harassment which covers harassment of anyone by anyone. Embree is not aware of a policy on harassment of teachers by students, and this problem has not been mentioned as part of the committee's charge, but asked that Senator McCarley give him more details after the meeting. He will see if the committee will broaden its charge to cover this problem as well.

REPORT OF THE VICE CHAIR

- Vice Chair Diehl referred to the Robert Holland Faculty Senate Vice Chair's Report as distributed. He particularly noted attachment four comprising the Draft Academic Affairs Questions for Discussion. Senators who have additional questions, topics, opinions, etc., should forward those directly to Interim Provost Verrall via e-mail.
- Diehl also pointed out attachment two which is a list of programs placed on probation. Attachment three gives MSU's response to IHL concerning all programs that had been on the original list. A comparison of these two lists will show which programs were initially reviewed by IHL and not targeted for probation.
- Senator Cinnella asked if Diehl had any additional information on Music Education since it continues to appear on the list. Diehl responded that there has been no IHL Board meeting since he received this information. Senator Cinnella commented that it seems as though the Board was very rational about all explanations given for all MSU programs except Music Education.
- Senator Greenwood asked if this same review process will happen every year. Diehl responded that he did not know this answer but assumed that it was very possible.
- Senator Williams asked what is the makeup of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Job Description of AA/EEOC Officer. Are there any faculty or staff members? Diehl responded that several faculty and staff are on this committee.

REPORT FROM FACULTY SENATE DESIGNATES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

University Research Council – Senator Cinnella reported that at the last meeting, there was discussion on the budget reduction and on the draft document of the MSU Mission. Future items which will come before the Senate include a possible review of Operating Policy 56.06 and a draft of ‘Policy and Guidelines for the Establishment and Operation of Institutes, Centers and Other Designated Research Education and Service Activities and Entities.’

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

One nomination for Chair of the Robert Holland Faculty Senate for the 2002-2003 term was received by the designated date: Senator Walter Diehl. Chair Embree opened the floor for additional nominations. Receiving no further nominations for chair from the floor, Chair Embree closed nominations. Senator Diehl was elected by a Senate vote of 33-0.

One nomination for Vice Chair of the Robert Holland Faculty Senate for the 2002-2003 term was received by the designated date: Senator Linda Pote. Chair Embree opened the floor for additional nominations. Receiving no further nominations for vice chair from the floor, Chair Embree closed nominations. Senator Pote was elected by a Senate vote of 35-0.

One nomination for Secretary of the Robert Holland Faculty Senate for the 2002-2003 term was received by the designated date: Senator LaDonne Delgado. Chair Embree opened the floor for additional nominations. Receiving no further nominations for secretary from the floor, Chair Embree closed nominations. Senator Delgado was elected by a Senate vote of 34-0.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF CALLED MEETING

Chair Embree announced a called meeting of the Senate for April 26, 2002, to complete some time-sensitive business which still resides in committees.

BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEES

Senator Rogers moved, Senator Bryant seconded, that the Senate suspend the rules to allow business since the following information did not reach all Senators before the three-day deadline. The motion passed on a Senate vote of 33-0-0.

Letter from Phil Oldham, re: Senate Review of Proposed Mission Statement – Senator Bryant moved, Senator Hood seconded, to refer this issue to committee. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. Chair Embree assigned this issue to the Charter and Bylaws Committee.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

No report.

ANCILLARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Senator Morse, Chair of the Ancillary Affairs Committee, referred to this Committee's report initiated by a letter from Dr. Andy Gillentine on the parking problem on campus. Senator Morse moved, Senator Rogers seconded, that the Senate recommend that the University:

1. Increase the number of ticket writers.
2. Install gates in faculty/staff lots.
3. Increase the number of lots designated as wheel-lock zones.
4. Increase parking fines.
5. Develop policy for revocation of parking privileges for repeat offenders.
6. Evaluate location and number of handicapped parking spaces.

The motion passed on a Senate vote of 33-1-0.

CHARTER AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Senator Pote, Chair of the Charter and Bylaws Committee, referred to this Committee's report initiated by a letter from Dr. Dan Embree requesting that the Senate alter its bylaws to eliminate the December meeting. Senator Pote moved, Senator Bryant seconded, that the Senate endorse the following recommendations:

1. That the sentence in the "Bylaws of the MSU General Faculty" (Faculty Handbook, page 24: Section 6. Meetings: 1) that reads:

"The regular monthly meetings of the Senate shall be held the second week of each full school year month, except when there is a conflict with the scheduled holidays, at which time the meetings shall be held in the third week of that month"

be changed to:

"The Faculty Senate shall meet once a month during the regular school year, except December. All meetings shall be held in the second week of each month, except when there is a conflict with scheduled holidays, in which case the meetings shall be held in the third week of the month."

2. That the Chair of the Holland Faculty Senate petition the General Faculty to amend the sentence in the Charter of the Organization of the Faculty (Faculty Handbook: page 19: Section 6. Meetings) that reads:

“The Faculty Senate shall meet once a month during the regular school year and upon call of the Chair of the Senate or petition of seven of its voting members”

be changed to:

“The Faculty Senate shall meet once a month during the regular school year, except December, and upon call of the Chair of the Senate or petition of seven of its voting members.”

The motion passed on a Senate vote of 33-0.

FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

No report.

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

No report.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

No report.

ELECTION OF SPECIAL COMMITTEE

Senator Diehl moved, Senator Goodman seconded, that the size of the Committee to Study the Presidential Search Process be seven individuals. The motion passed on a Senate vote of 33-0.

Chair Embree opened to floor for nominations for members to serve on the Committee to Study the Presidential Search Process. Senator Pote nominated Senator Williams, Senator McCarley nominated Senator Cathcart, Senator Culver nominated Senator Rogers, Senator Long nominated Senator Goodman, Senator Dooley nominated Senator Morse, Senator Williams nominated Senator Mixon, Senator Williams nominated Senator Follett.

Senator Diehl moved, Senator Hood seconded, that this slate of nominees be elected as members to the Committee to Study the Presidential Search Process. The motion passed on a Senate vote of 34-0.

Chair Embree appointed Senator Morse as the temporary chair of the Committee in order to convene the first meeting. The Committee will then elect its own chair.

Chair Embree polled the Senators to determine whether to have the meeting Interim Provost Verrall requested together with the Deans and Department Heads or separately. Senators expressed their wish to have the meeting to discuss MSU's Master Plan as a separate meeting. Chair Embree stated that he would contact Verrall and make the arrangements.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Senator Diehl took a point of personal privilege to ask the Senators to join him in thanking Senator Embree for serving as Chair of the Senate for the past two years. A heart-warming round of applause was given by all.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Rogers moved, Senator Diehl seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of the Senate.

Submitted for correction and approval.

LaDonne Delgado, Secretary