

ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE UNCORRECTED MINUTES OF APRIL 9, 2010

The Robert Holland Faculty Senate of Mississippi State University held its regular monthly meeting in the Coskrey Auditorium at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, April 9, 2010.

Members absent and excused were: Michael Berk, Tom Carskadon, Jerry Emison, Randy Follett, Rob Harland, Vince McGrath, Peter Ryan.

Members absent were: Charles Palmer and Xiangsheng Xu.

The meeting was called to order by the Senate President, Hart Bailey.

The minutes of the March 12, 2010, meeting were approved.

GUESTS

DR. JEROME A. GILBERT, PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. Gilbert said that “Three Cups of Tea” was selected as the book for Freshman reading and suggested that faculty read it. He said the book was an inspirational true story of a mountain climber who built schools across Pakistan. He hopes that the author will come to MSU on September 23 to speak to campus. He also said that the faculty will have opportunity to annually review department heads electronically. He hopes to have this in place next spring and plans to use the information gathered through these reviews to improve administrator performance, for merit evaluations and to keep him abreast of how things are going in the individual departments across campus. Dr. Gilbert said the searches for Associate Provost and Associate Vice President will begin in the fall, but Dr. Peter Ryan and Dr. Gary Jackson will begin performing those duties as Interim Associate Provost and Interim Associate Vice President respectively on April 15th. He has named Allison Pearson as chair for the AOCE Task Force, whose charge is to look at conflicts of interest in the current AOCE funding model, compare with other universities, and produce options for a new model. This process should take between six to nine months and is currently in a stage of gathering people to serve on the task force. Dr. Gilbert also said the new IHL policy on textbooks requires that students are asked questions on the use and availability of textbooks in each specific course. He asked the faculty for their opinion on the best way to implement this portion of the policy – by adding these questions to the course evaluation form, have a separate form for these questions, or to create an electronic version. He said that the Benchmarking process recommended in the SCEI report has begun. Dr. Steele will chair an advisory committee that will come up with parameters helpful for reallocating resources after the retirement incentive. Dr. Gilbert proposed the possibility of purely instructional faculty positions. This faculty will only be responsible for teaching, but would differ from instructor positions in that there would be promotable ranks. He also said that IHL has a new policy that will be implemented July 1 to protect copyrighted content. In accordance with federal law, the policy will require students, staff, and faculty to acknowledge the policy and abide by it on university computers.

MR. SAM MANNING, PROFESSIONAL AND SUPPORT STAFF ADVISORY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mr. Manning said that Staff Appreciation Day 2010 would be held May 7th. He said faculty volunteers were needed and to contact Robbie Black or Sherry Fisackerly, if interested. He also said small gifts were needed as game prizes as well as nominations for the Zacharias Distinguished Staff

Awards. Categories for these awards include: Executive/Managerial/Administrative, Other Professional (non-teaching), Technical Paraprofessional, Clerical/Secretarial, Skilled Crafts, and Service Maintenance.

MR. THOMAS SELLERS, STUDENT ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

Mr. Sellers said the Student Association in conjunction with the MSU Foundation has established a MSU Relief Fund to help students and faculty affected by the fire at Crossgates Apartments. He also spoke about a resolution to use Gmail as a server for student email rather than Webmail. The students would still retain their current email address, but using Gmail would increase storage by 350 times and would save the university money and space on their servers.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Faculty Senate Colleagues:

The elections for our 13 newest Senators have been held over the last month and are complete. The results are as follows:

College of Architecture Art and Design
Professor Michael Berk

College of Education
Dr. Burnette Hamil

College of Arts and Sciences
Dr. Mike Brown
Dr. Lara Dodds
Dr. Xiangsheng Xu

College of Engineering
Dr. Stan Bullington
Dr. Keith Walters
Dr. Rebecca Toghiani (re-elected)

College of Business
Dr. Jason Leug (re-elected)
Dr. Meghan Millea (re-elected)

College of Forest Resources
Dr. Robert Grala
Dr. Jilei Zhang

Please greet the new newly elected members of our body and welcome back those veteran Senators returning.

Dr. Jerry Gilbert has assumed the position of Provost and Executive Vice President. We welcome Dr. Gilbert to this position and look forward to working closely with him in the future on issues of importance to the MSU family.

Sasaki, the architectural firm developing the Campus Master Plan, held another Faculty Senate focus group and I thank those of you that attended and contributed. The architects will return in May with a report of the issues and concerns put forth thus far by the different campus groups. Campus-wide feedback will be requested during and after the May meeting.

Senate Vice President Meghan Millea and I are working with ITS to get the mechanism for the Faculty's confidence survey established on the Faculty Senate site. Our goal is to have that completed by mid-April. We also have been involved in the vending contract committee. The purpose of the committee was to review the different vendor proposals seeking to acquire the contracts for selling beverages and snacks on campus.

Work on the Benchmarking Committee continues. Dr. Jerry Gilbert recently met with the group to renew our charge to continue collecting information on the parameters the different colleges and departments use to evaluate themselves. One purpose for this group is to develop information that will be used to assist the administration in the application of resources to the most appropriate places following implementation of the retirement incentive.

We will hold our officer elections at the meeting Friday. Dr. Janet Rafferty has graciously agreed to assume the responsibility of the Election Officer. I would encourage each Senator to attend and participate in the voting process. If you cannot attend, then please express your opinion through voting absentee. You may contact Dr. Rafferty for details on the process.

This is our last meeting of the 2009-2010 academic year and I want to thank each of you for your service to MSU. I especially want to thank, Drs. Meghan Millea and Dana Franz, Senate Vice President and Secretary respectively, for their diligent and dedicated efforts. My sincere appreciation also goes to the Executive Committee comprised of Drs. Janet Rafferty, David Bridges, Tom Carskadon, Cody Coyne, Jerry Emison and Randy Follett for all their hard work.

This past year presented many opportunities on campus for your Senate Officers and Executive Committee to represent the Faculty's viewpoints. Dr. Keenum has honored the concept of University Governance, and he has actively sought the Faculty's involvement and opinion on many issues through your Faculty Senate officers. This cooperation was most evident during the efforts of the Select Committee on Efficiencies and Innovations. All members of the MSU family were represented and the Faculty were in the majority on the committee. He also appointed me, as Faculty Senate President, as coordinator of the group. It is this type of cooperation between the Faculty and the Administration that will provide the best opportunity to address the challenges ahead, while maintaining the integrity and spirit of Mississippi State University.

Among the more long term accomplishments of your Senate leadership has been our work with ITS in establishing a secure and accurate means for voting and polling by the Faculty. This mechanism will ensure that elections for faculty representation on campus committees can be conducted in an efficient manner, greatly enhancing the University Governance process. We have also worked to strengthen the relationship of the Faculty with all members of the MSU family by working closely with the Student Association, the Professional and Support Staff Advisory Council, and the Alumni Association. Through the strengthening of our relationships across the entire campus MSU will be better positioned to address issues as they are presented.

Respectfully submitted,

R. H. "Hart" Bailey
President
Holland Faculty Senate
April 4, 2010

ELECTION OF 2010-2011 OFFICERS

Nominations:

President: Hart Bailey, Veterinary Medicine was nominated. No nominations were made on the floor. After one round of voting, Senator Bailey was elected as President, 38-2.

Vice President: Meghan Millea, Business was nominated. No nominations were made on the floor. A motion was made to elect by acclamation. Motion passed 40-0. Senator Millea was elected Vice President.

Secretary: Dana Franz, Education was nominated. No nominations were made on the floor. A motion was made to elect by acclamation. Motion passed 40-0. Senator Franz was elected Secretary.

VICE CHAIR REPORT

Academic Dean's Council met March 22nd. It was the first Dean's Council meeting after the appointment of Dr. Gilbert to the Provost and Executive Vice President position.

- Announcements:
 - The new International Studies Certificate was discussed briefly
 - Dr. Gilbert is visiting colleges informally, having deans show them around. He has already completed such visits to the SSRC, Registrar, and Meridian campus. He hopes to meet with college administrators and faculty.
 - A task force to evaluate AOCE funding will be formed (e-mail shortly followed naming Allison Pearson as the chair of that task force)
 - Another task force will evaluate the consolidation of information technology.
 - Glenn Steele will head an advisory committee to follow up on Select Committee on Efficiencies and Innovations recommendations.
 - The deadline to declare retirement under the incentive program is April 20th.
 - The Benchmarking committee is still meeting and working on its original charge.
 - The Maroon Edition Common Book for 2010 is "Three Cups of Tea" by Greg Mortenson, who will visit campus next semester.

- Discussions with Deans:
 - StatePride program- funding, match money, and award allocations to individual colleges.
 - Possibility of Teaching Faculty
 - Start-up funding allocation to the colleges to allocate among new faculty hires.
 - Enrollment plans with targets at the department levels.
 - Scheduling change—perhaps adding more than 10 minutes between classes on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. Lost class slot could be salvaged by moving the start time for classes forward.
 - Dr. Gilbert discussed accountability of deans and department heads. He expects to implement annual reviews of both heads and deans beginning next academic year.

- Dr. Nancy McCarley, Director of the Honors Program
 - Dr. McCarley discussed the Honors Program with the Deans, covering topics of course offerings, reimbursements, incentives for students to participate in the Honors Program, etc.

- Announcements by members of the Dean's Council
 - Butch Stokes- the Registrar's office is looking at the logistics of moving to one commencement per year.

Traffic Committee met on March 24th.

The violation schedule passed along to Dr. Kibler was returned to the traffic committee. After significant discussion, a subcommittee of the traffic committee is meeting to review violations and associated fines. It was agreed that the fines could increase, but should be phased in. The subcommittee will make a recommendation to the committee in April.

Spring Roundtable was held on March 5th. The report from that meeting is posted to the Faculty Senate website.

Confidence Surveys We are moving to an online confidence survey option. The survey should be available at the Senate site in mid-April. The questions are available from Hart upon request.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meghan Millea
April 1, 2010

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS COMMITTEE

No Report

BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEES

8.1 REQUEST FROM DR. KING RE: AOP 13.02 SELECTION OF WILLIAM L. GILES DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS (FACULTY AFFAIRS)

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

NO REPORT

ANCILLARY AFFAIRS

NO REPORT

CHARTER AND BYLAWS

NO REPORT

FACULTY AFFAIRS

9.1.1 AOP 13.07 Section 9.1.5 Promotion and Tenure Procedures: Faculty Promotion and Tenure Clarification Letters was discussed. The discussion was limited to fifteen minutes to give ideas to the Faculty Affairs Committee and will be addressed further later. Some topics that were brought forth were defining "misinterpretation of information," that a candidate should be allowed to address errors in their P&T report, and the fact that some department faculty are allowed to see their external letters and some cannot.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

NO REPORT

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

NO REPORT

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

The meeting was adjourned at 3:55.

Submitted for correction and approval.

Dana Pomykal Franz, Secretary