

ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE UNCORRECTED MINUTES OF APRIL 11, 2014

The Robert Holland Faculty Senate of Mississippi State University held its regular monthly meeting in the Grisham Room of Mitchell Memorial Library at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, April 11, 2014.

Members absent and excused were: Ioana Banicescu, Jerrold Belant, Matt Boggan, Michael Brashier, Joey Burt, Sylvia Byrd, Guangqing Chi, Ben Harvey, Missy Hopper, Mary Ann Jones, Jamie Larson, Rachel McCann, Rebecca Robichaux, John Rodgers, Andrea Spain, Cyprianna Swiderski, and Chip Wade.

The meeting was called to order by the Senate President, Jerry Emison. He welcomed the new and newly reelected senators.

The minutes of the March 23, 2014 meeting were approved.

GUESTS

MARK KEENUM, PRESIDENT

Dr. Keenum mentioned the exciting weekend festivities ahead surrounding Super Bulldog Weekend. He said that the Alumni Board was on campus meeting and Spirit of State service award ceremony will be held during the evening.

He said that the SACSCOC visit could not have gone better. They had no recommendations for the university. He said that it was a reflection of the faculty and staff's hard work.

The legislative session has wrapped up. IHL received all of its requests, additional funding, addition R&R funds, bond bills, 5% increase in funding for agriculture units.

As it's the last Faculty Senate meeting for the academic year, he presented Dr. Emison with a token of appreciation for his leadership of the senate and of the university. He said he appreciated the working relationship they have formed during the past few years and for his frank candor and advice.

JEROME A. GILBERT, PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. Gilbert thanked Dr. Emison for his leadership of the senate. He also thanked everyone involved the SACSCOC visit.

He mentioned that as a result of the Faculty Senate Roundtable held last week, he has planned a campus wide meeting with the leader of extension service called Assessment of Teaching in Extension: Implications for Tenure. The meeting will serve as a time to discuss teaching in extension. He invited the senate to join as sponsors for this event.

Senator Wilmoth asked when it would be scheduled. Dr. Gilbert said he would like to do it in August one afternoon for a few hours

Senator Kelly said "thank you, it's a long time coming." Dr. Gilbert said that there are a lot of misconceptions and this will be an opportunity to clear the air.

Senator Nagel said that extension faculty are looking for greater than normal raises since extension has done very well the past two years in getting funding from the state. He said that if non-tenure track faculty are not like tenure track faculty, then the raises should not be linked. Provost Gilbert

said he did not agree with the statement that extension faculty are different. He said that uniform guidelines are put out for all faculty and staff but there is always room for exceptions. If extension service would like to make exceptions, he would support that. He and Dr. Keenum have said that faculty and staff salaries are their priority.

Senator Lemus asked about the plan of administration for faculty who are not progressing in their productivity and up the ranks. Provost Gilbert said that there are some exceptions because of the previous set of promotion rules. Senator Boyd mentioned the post tenure review policy.

Senator O'Neill mentioned the concern of the newly passed Protection of Religious Freedom Act overriding MSU anti-discrimination policy. Provost Gilbert said that he was not familiar with the specifics of the law, but MSU will enforce our policy to prevent discrimination and protect the rights of all members of the university.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Here are some specific activities you may find interesting.

Master Plan Development and Advisory Committee

The Master Plan Development and Advisory Committee authorized substantial renovations and expansions to the Phi Mu House. They also approved investigating reconstructing the Orientation Leader and Road Runner Park/Fountain near Lee Hall. In addition the committee reviewed a portion of a draft governance document that describes the procedures the committee will follow in future deliberations. Of particular interest to the Faculty Senate may be the requirements that future capital projects be subjected to committee review prior to any expenditure of university funds unless expressly decided upon by the president of the university.

The Mill at Mississippi State

I represented the Faculty Senate at the groundbreaking for the Mill at Mississippi State. The Cooley Building will be renovated as part of the project and turned into a conference center. Plans call for a conference center, hotel and parking garage to be located at the Cooley Building.

Sustainability Committee

The Sustainability Committee approved investigating using heat reflective paint on university building roofs as a means to reduce energy demands.

Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Reaccreditation

The SACS Reaccreditation team was on-site April 1-2, and I participated in a number of meetings concerning the university's status related to reaccreditation. The team was particularly interested in the degree to which the Maroon and Write QEP was a shared activity across administration and faculty. During the exit meeting the SACS team was complimentary of the university's status.

Faculty Senate Administrative Support

Kylie Stewart Crosland has informed me that she has accepted a position with the academic counseling center. Kylie has done a masterful job for the Faculty Senate, and she will be sorely missed. We are pleased, however, to see her receiving a promotion, and she will be working in the field of her graduate training. Our best wishes and thanks go with her. Advertisement of the vacant position will be posted shortly. If you know of someone who might be interested in the position, please pass this information along.

President Emison thanked the senate for allowing him to serve as president. He also thanked Scott Lewis and Barry Hughes for their assistance and expertise with sound and video each senate meeting.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

One nomination for President of the Robert Holland Faculty Senate for the 2014-2015 term was received by the designated date, Senator Randy Follett. President Emison opened the floor for nominations. No nominations were made. With 32 votes by ballot, Senator Follett was elected President.

One nomination for Vice President of the Robert Holland Faculty Senate for the 2014-2015 term was received by the designated date, Senator Cody Coyne. President Emison opened the floor for nominations. No nominations were made. With 32 votes by ballot, Senator Coyne was elected Vice President.

One nomination for Secretary of the Robert Holland Faculty Senate for the 2014-2015 term was received by the designated date, Senator Anastasia Elder. President Emison opened the floor for nominations. No nominations were made. With 34 votes by ballot, Senator Elder was elected Secretary.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

Since the last Faculty Senate meeting, things have been VERY busy, although reportable items that are not being reported elsewhere are actually fairly scarce. I have been busy over the last few weeks getting invitations out to potential attendees for the annual Faculty Senate Roundtable, which is run by the Vice President of Faculty Senate. It was held this year on April 4 (last Friday). The attendee list each year is comprised of 8 "executive team" members, who are invited by President Keenum, and 16 faculty members who are invited by the Vice President of the senate (8 senators and 8 general faculty). The format closely followed that of other recent roundtables, and we considered the following two questions:

1. What are the characteristics of the decision-making process at the university currently?
2. What could be done to improve this current environment?

While I will be submitting a formal report later on, my initial impression is that things went very well, with lively discussion on each of these questions. Not surprisingly, there was a diversity of opinion on how decisions are made, and there were a number of good suggestions made in regard to possible improvements.

The other main item that I have to report is from the Freshman Convocation Committee, which last met on Monday, April 7. As I have mentioned previously, the inaugural Freshman Convocation will be held on Tuesday, August 19, 2014 to welcome the new Freshman class (Class of '18) to the university. Considerable progress has been made on formalizing the details that will occur, but the basic idea is that there will be a very strong emphasis on academics, including having all of the incoming freshmen sign a copy of the Honor Code. They will also receive a memento that is likely to be a unique coin that will only be available to those freshmen who attend the convocation. All faculty are urged to attend this event, where the President of the Student Association will formally present these new students to the faculty of MSU, and the President of Faculty Senate will welcome them on behalf of the faculty.

Since this will be my last report as Vice President, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the senate for giving me the opportunity to serve in this capacity. It has been an incredible experience, and I look forward to continuing to serve in whatever position I end up having for next year.

FACULTY SENATE REPRESENTATIVES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

None

BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEES

6.1 AOP 12.04 FINAL EXAMINATION POLICY

President Emison made a motion on behalf of the Senate Executive Committee to send AOP 12.04 to the Academic Affairs Committee. The motion carried to send to committee by unanimous voice vote.

6.2 DR. NAGEL'S RESOLUTION RE: PARKING FEES (UNIVERSITY RESOURCES)

President Emison made a motion on behalf of the Senate Executive Committee to send this resolution to the University Resources Committee. Senator Nagel moved to strike the motion on the floor. The motion was seconded by Senator Lemus. Senator Elder asked if there was a parking committee that a senator serves on. President Emison said he has raised the question with Ms. Tuck. She has formed the committee requested by the Senate last April. Senator Randle asked if there has been any logic presented as to why the parking fees are going up and if the senate votes on the resolution will it prevent the fees from raising this summer. It was discussed that the approval of the resolution would be taken under advisement. Senator Elder asked when the new committee will start meeting. President Emison assumes they will move forward once all representatives have been identified. He reminded the senate that the motion on the floor is to strike the motion to send to committee and to deal with it as a committee of the whole. The motion failed by hand vote 14 to 13. The motion to send to committee passed by hand vote 25-0.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

7.1.1 12.03 Awarding of Degrees Posthumously

Senator Addy presented AOP 12.03 and its report from the Academic Affairs Committee. He made a motion to approve the changes to the AOP. The motion to accept AOP 12.03 as amended passed by unanimous voice vote.

7.1.2 12.18 Academic Amnesty for Graduate Students

Senator Addy presented AOP 12.18 and its report from the Academic Affairs Committee. He noted that the Graduate School requested a reduction in the number of provisional hours. He made a motion to approve the AOP as changed. Senator Lemus asked how will this apply to staff members who are only allowed to take six hours per semester. It was clarified that staff can take more than six hours but could only get tuition remission for six hours per semester. The provisional period would be done sequentially over two semesters in that case. The motion to accept AOP 12.18 as amended passed by voice vote with 1 nay.

ANCILLARY AFFAIRS

7.2.1 Confidence Survey of Administrators

Senator Elder said that the Annual Confidence Survey will be coming out in the next few weeks. Comments will be solicited but will not be open to the public in the report.

CHARTER AND BYLAWS **NO REPORT**

FACULTY AFFAIRS **NO REPORT**

STUDENT AFFAIRS **NO REPORT**

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES **NO REPORT**

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

NONE

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

10.1 SENATOR NAGEL MOVED TO SPONSOR PROVOST GILBERT'S TOWN HALL MEETING IN THE FALL.

The motion was seconded by Senator Cox and carried by unanimous voice vote.

Senator Follett moved to adjourn. Senator Riley seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Submitted for correction and approval.

Brian Rude, Secretary