



ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE

Uncorrected Minutes of April 10, 2015

The Robert Holland Faculty Senate of Mississippi State University held its regular monthly meeting in the Templeton Room of Mitchell Memorial Library at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, April 10, 2015.

Members absent and excused were: Mathew Boggan, Joey Burt, Pasquale Cinnella, Renee Clary, Mary Ann Jones, Aaron Kiess, and Rocky Lemus.

Members absent were: Jerrold Belant, Patty Lathan, and John Wyatt.

The meeting was called to order by the Senate President Randy Follett.

President Follett stated that the March 20, 2015 minutes were to reflect Senator Riehm's request regarding his report to the Senate reads "Also, the new residence halls bid did not include the most energy efficient alternatives, the committee suggested that these alternatives be sent back for bid." in place of "Also, the new residence halls were not bid with the appropriate energy efficiency requirements and were denied and sent back for bid."

GUESTS

Dr. Jerry Gilbert, Provost and Executive Vice President

Dr. Gilbert began by saying that the Legislature did not approve the increased amount in funding for the upcoming fiscal year that was requested. They did approve an increase in E&G funds for the first time in many years. Sixteen million dollars has been allocated as an increase in E&G funds for the entire IHL system. This means that there should be a raise pool available of two percent or higher, depending on the final budget numbers. Dr. Gilbert stressed that faculty and staff salaries remain the highest priority for the University.

Dr. Gilbert said that even though it does not look like there is much progress being made on the new classroom building, there has been significant work done to stabilize the foundation.

Concrete will begin to be poured in the very near future. The architects have assured that the building will be available in fall of 2016.

Dr. Gilbert stated that Dr. Rodney Pearson is working with Information Technology Services to streamline the use of the classroom attendance scanners. There will be new software written to allow the instructor to utilize the scanners in as automated a fashion as they choose. There will be ten more scanners put online, with the addition of more scanners in the future. The new classroom building will have scanners installed in all classrooms.

This week the new Maroon Edition book choice was released. Next year's Maroon Edition book is entitled "Same Kind of Different as Me" by Ron Hall and Denver Moore, with Lynn Vincent. Dr. Gilbert said that the book is an inspirational book that deals with a change in life's direction for someone and the intersection of people from different racial and social backgrounds. Dr. Gilbert believes that the students will enjoy the book. He pointed out that there was a movie made about the book that was shot in Jackson, Mississippi and will be released later this year. The surviving author of the book will be on campus for the Freshman Convocation this fall.

Dr. Gilbert referenced a letter that he sent to President Follett in regards to the creation of committee with primary leadership coming out of the Senate to look at the possibility of creating tenure track Extension faculty positions. The committee would meet through next March and provide a recommendation. Dr. Gilbert said he hoped that the committee would arrive at a positive outcome.

Senator Williams asked if there was a plan in place that allowed for graduate housing. Dr. Gilbert replied that the new residence halls will have the option to have some of their space allocated as "apartment style" rooms like what is located at The Pointe. He also said that there is interest in demolishing the buildings of Aiken Village and having a developer come in and build housing suitable for graduate students among other things. Senator Williams asked what would happen to the preschool during this process. Dr. Gilbert replied that the thought is that the preschool could be moved into the Sheeley House with an expansion of the house. This would place it adjacent to the site where a partnership school would be built. Eventually the preschool would get a new facility in association with the partnership school, but this would put them close to that location in the interim. Administration is in communications with the preschool right now since they could choose to stay in their current location during the demolition phase of the project. If they choose to move, the Sheeley House would not be entirely retrofitted to suit them right away and would have to be worked on while they were in residence there.

Senator Williams asked if there was any strategic plan to get graduate teaching assistantships and graduate service assistantships to one hundred percent. Dr. Gilbert replied that he believed that the goal was to move in that direction. Don Zant is working on that as the budget VP and the goal is to get them to one hundred percent as well.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Report of the President

The first order of business is to welcome all of the newly elected (or re-elected) senators. They are:

CALS-MAFES

Darrin Dodds
Stephanie Ward
Joe Wilmoth – re-elected

Arts & Sciences

Dr. Renee Clary
Dr. Edward Potter – re-elected
Dr. Kathy Sherman-Morris

Business

Dr. Iva Ballard – replacement Senator
Dr. Kent Marett

Education

Dr. Stephanie Bennett
Dr. Debra Prince

Engineering

Jenny Du
Sundar Krishnan
Lesley Strawderman - re-elected

Extension

Alan Barefield
Mark Crenshaw
Brent Fountain – re-elected
Lelia Kelly – re-elected

Meridian

Natasha Randle – re-elected

Veterinary Medicine

Joey Burt – re-elected
Patty Lathan

I would like to personally welcome all of you, and thank you for your willingness to serve the university as a senator.

Over the past month (actually only about three weeks, due to calendar timing), there has been a lot of activity. I have had meetings with the Executive Council, the Athletic Council, the Diversity Council, and the Dean of Engineering search committee, along with individual meetings with the President, the Provost, and the Dean of both Ag and Life Sciences and Forest Resources. Some of the more interesting conversations have been in terms of looking at the

consideration of the possibility of tenure track positions in units that have faculty line items that are completely funded by either MAFES or the Extension Service. (This is in relation to the announcement made at the February meeting by Provost Gilbert and Dr. Gary Jackson.) The details of how these faculty would be able to demonstrate research and service are, of course, the easy parts. The more challenging part will be the determination of how they would demonstrate satisfactory or excellent teaching, and how that fits in with the rest of the tenured and tenure-track faculty positions in the university. One of the items on the agenda today is a letter from Provost Gilbert requesting an ad hoc committee be formed to address this issue.

Another opportunity that has recently presented itself is the consideration of a joint committee consisting of members of the Associate Deans Council, the Academic Deans Council, and Faculty Senate to provide an alternative to the existing process of review of AOPs for the university. This will take some time to work through the details on how it might function, and how the basic principles of faculty governance would be maintained. Regardless of whether this committee ever gets formed, it is indicative of the general spirit of cooperation that presently exists at almost every level in the university.

For the last couple of years, I have been writing reports for each Faculty Senate meeting, detailing things that I have seen/heard/participated in during the previous month that you as senators might find interesting or important. This report will be my last as President of the Faculty Senate, and as such, presents an opportunity for a reflection on the past year. The opportunity that the senate gave me last April has provided for an exciting and tremendously rewarding year of serving the university. In my total of twelve years now as a senator, I have had lots of interesting and productive experiences, including being a member of the Faculty Affairs Committee and the Academic Affairs Committee (with stints as chair of each of them), Vice President last year, and now President. I have been on various ad hoc committees, such as a committees to rewrite the Honor Code Policy, to consider Summer School fees, to institute a Freshman Convocation, and to look at Undergraduate Research and Creative Discovery. On each occasion, I have found that the committee work has been a positive experiences. In particular, the people serving on each of these committees have overwhelmingly shown how they are focused on the best interests of the university. Over the years that I have been on the faculty here at MSU, I have seen tremendous change, as well as the occasional controversial president or provost, who managed to really keep things interesting. I count myself as very fortunate to have served with President Mark Keenum and Provost Jerry Gilbert, since they have provided steady, fair, and positive leadership for the university. Student Association President Brett Harris and Staff Council Chair Penny French have also served on a number of the committees I have worked on, and have also been a real pleasure to work with. Each of them have provided real leadership and positive examples of service to their constituencies in particular, and the university as a whole.

During my time as president of the senate, some rather amazing things have occurred, including MSU being ranked as #1 in the country in multiple sports (including football) for multiple weeks, which hasn't happened much in the 31 years I have been on the faculty here. While I can't claim any responsibility for it, it is true that MSU has never lost a football game that I

attended as Faculty Senate President. Another experience that I found particularly gratifying was the opportunity to work together with the presidents of the faculty senates of the other seven universities to support the requested 5% across the board salary increases for all eight universities. (We'll see how this works out...) Although we never met in person, I was able to at least get some familiarity with the other presidents, and establish a bit of a relationship that I hope continues despite changes in the specific people involved. Finally, I want to thank the Bagley College of Engineering for electing me to senate, and I am extremely grateful to the senate for electing me to the office of President of the Robert Holland Faculty Senate this year.

ELECTION OF NEW OFFICERS

One nomination for President of the Robert Holland Faculty Senate for the 2015-2016 term was received by the designated date, Senator Cody Coyne. President Follett opened the floor for nominations. No nominations were made. With 37 votes by ballot, Senator Coyne was elected President.

One nomination for Vice President of the Robert Holland Faculty Senate for the 2015-2016 term was received by the designated date, Senator Anastasia Elder. President Follett opened the floor for nominations. No nominations were made. With 38 votes by ballot, Senator Elder was elected Vice President.

One nomination for Secretary of the Robert Holland Faculty Senate for the 2015-2016 term was received by the designated date, Senator Brent Fountain. President Follett opened the floor for nominations. No nominations were made. With 37 votes by ballot, Senator Fountain was elected Secretary.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Search Committee: Vice President for Student Affairs

On-campus interviews of candidates for Vice President for Student Affairs will be scheduled during the month of April and will include presentations to the general faculty.

Student Disabilities: Proposal to Compose Single OP Document

Academic Records: Proposal to Compose Single OP Document

Committee (ad hoc) established in final form March 31, 2015

Appointed Members: Stan Bullington (Engineering), Laura Grace (DAFVM: Forest Resources), Ed Potter (A&S), Joe Wilmoth (CALs-MAFES), John Wyatt (Education), C.P. Coyne (DAFVM: CVM/chairman)

OP XX.XX Student with Disabilities
Document

Proposed Master OP

*AOP 12.35 Academic Accommodations for Student with Disabilities

*OP 90.130 Guidelines for Documentation of Students with Specific Learning Disorders

*OP 91.121 Students with Disabilities

OP XX.XX Educational Records

Proposed Master OP Document

*AOP 12.13 Academic Records

*AOP 10.06 Family Education Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA: Buckley Amendment)

*OP 60.109 Records Management and Security

Note: Only specific offices are authorized to archive student records related to Honor Code Violations and decisions rendered during the course of Honor Code Appeals Hearings (e.g. Student Honor Code Office, and Academic College or Department Office).

Giles Distinguished Professor Candidates

Applications submitted by candidates nominated as Giles Distinguished Professors will initially be reviewed mid-April by a six member panel.

Deans Council Meeting: April 6, 2015

VP Report had to be submitted for inclusion in the April Agenda prior to meeting

Update will be provided during April 10, 2015 senate meeting

Faculty Research Advisory Committee

Meeting Schedule: May 1st, 2015

Master Plan Advisory and Development Committee.....No Scheduled Meeting

Undergraduate Research and Creative Discovery.....No Scheduled Meeting

Campus Access Committee.....No Scheduled Meeting

Minutes and White Paper Briefs

White Paper Brief for the March Robert Holland Faculty Senate meeting was distributed in both a “short” and “long” form.

FACULTY DESIGNATES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

None

BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEES

None

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs

1. AOP 12.09 Class Attendance and Reporting Absences

Senator Addy, on behalf of the Academic Affairs Committee, presented his report on AOP 12.09. He explained that the primary change was the required reporting of absences for freshman. The Academic Affairs Committee recommends that AOP 12.09 be adopted as amended.

Secretary Elder asked if there would be any flagging of freshman students in Banner or any reminder sent that classes with freshman get priority to use the rooms equipped with scanners. Senator Addy replied that he had not heard anything regarding the implementation of the mandatory attendance for freshman students.

Senator Larson inquired about the striking of “class participation” in the fifth paragraph. She asked if that meant that credit had to come from learning outcomes solely. Senator Addy replied that the sentence was now more vague. President Follett added that the second sentence in the paragraph stated that it was up to the instructor to include attendance as part of the learning outcome or not.

Senator Wilmoth asked if there was a policy that listed that no more than ten percent of a student’s grade could come from attendance. Senator Addy replied that he had looked for such a policy and was unable to find one. He added that it may be a best practices policy of the Committee, but it does not exist at the level of an AOP.

Senator Potter asked where the list of excused absences came from. Senator Addy replied that they came from the prior AOP.

Senator Larson motioned to strike the first sentence of the fifth paragraph. Senator Boyd seconded the motion. Senator Baldwin asked if the ten percent policy was written down. Senator Sherman-Morris replied that she has been on UCCC for the last three years and the ten percent policy was guided by the Provost’s Office. Last year the Provost’s Office relaxed the rule and UCCC has not been enforcing the ten percent rule. Senator Wilmoth stated that he did not like that the deletion of the first sentence would allow up to forty nine percent of the grade to come from attendance. Senator Riehm stated that if the first sentence were not deleted, he would

have to change his syllabus or be open to grade appeals. President Follett called for a vote on the motion to delete the first sentence of the fifth paragraph. The motion passed nineteen to sixteen by hand vote.

AOP 12.09 passed unanimously as amended by voice vote.

Ancillary Affairs

Senator Williams made a motion to suspend the rules to allow the discussion of AOP 10.02 and the creation of an anti-bullying policy. Secretary Elder seconded the motion.

The motion to suspend the rules passed by unanimous voice vote.

1. Recommendation to Develop Anti-Bullying Policy

Senator Fountain, on behalf of the Ancillary Affairs Committee, presented the recommendation to create an anti-bullying policy at Mississippi State University. He explained that Human Resources had been contacted and that their response was that the policy in place covers bullying. The Ancillary Affairs Committee feels that the current policy does not address all aspects of bullying. Further, the committee feels that there should be a clearly defined reporting path as well as equal protection for both the accuser and the accused. Senator Fountain asked that the Senate support the committee's resolution to request that the Provost organize an ad-hoc committee, which is representative of all involved parties University wide, to create an anti-bullying policy.

Senator Randle asked if the committee felt that bullying fell outside point fifteen of the current policy. Senator Fountain replied that one instance that the current policy does not cover bullying is cyber-bullying.

The Resolution to request that an anti-bullying policy be created through a University ad-hoc committee passed by unanimous voice vote.

2. AOP 10.02 Academic Administrators and Directors

Senator Fountain, on behalf of the Ancillary Affairs Committee, stated that the central issue of the policy is when the evaluating administrator's decision regarding the future status of an appointment of an administrator differs from the majority of the impacted faculty following the three year review. Senator Fountain explained that his committee added that in a situation which the administrator's decision to continue or discontinue an appointment, when this decision differs from the majority of the impacted faculty, there will be a rationale provided for the decision. There will also be a public forum to discuss the results of the three year review.

Vice President Coyne stated that at the public forum the administrator in question was present and that there was no feedback. If feedback was encouraged, the administrator in question should not be in attendance.

Senator Grace pointed out that non-responses to the online vote are considered to be positive votes.

Senator Ridner stated that the online surveys seemed to be constructed with leading questions and should be written in a more neutral fashion. She also said that the public forums are problematic due to possible retribution for comments made in such a setting.

Senator Krishnan asked if the feedback provided at the public forum would change anything since the rationale was given at the forum. Senator Fountain replied that the rationale was not provided at the forum, and that the final decision could be based on the feedback received from the forum or from feedback provided to the administrator directly from individual faculty members.

Senator Prince motioned to add a sentence signifying that non-respondents to the online survey will be not be counted as a vote. Senator Kelly seconded the motion.

The motion to amend the AOP passed by unanimous voice vote.

Senator Prince motioned that a statement be added that read “In order for a survey result to be valid, a majority of the affected faculty must respond.”. Senator Baldwin seconded the motion. Senator Ward pointed out that if the results were invalidated, this amendment does not state what the process is to move forward. Senator Fountain pointed out that if the individual being reviewed is higher up in a department, the required number of responses to validate a result could be quite large.

The motion to amend the AOP failed by unanimous voice vote.

President Follett called for a voice vote on AOP 10.02 as amended.

AOP 10.02 failed to be accepted by a unanimous voice vote and was sent back to the Ancillary Affairs Committee.

3. Update on Faculty Senate Confidence Survey

Senator Fountain stated that the Confidence Survey is currently being revised and the hope is to go live with the survey on April fifteenth.

Charter & Bylaws

Faulty Affairs

Student Affairs

1. AOP 35.05 Waiver of Non-Resident Fees for Approved Student Exchange

Senator Grace, on behalf of the Student Affairs Committee, reported that this AOP was reviewed as part of the regular review cycle. The committee recommends that the Senate accept AOP 35.05 as presented.

AOP 13.14 passed unanimously by voice vote.

University Resources

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

Mike Cox, chair of the ad hoc committee to review the possible integration of the DAFVM annual review form with the University standard review form, gave background on the creation of the ad hoc committee. Dr. Cox explained that there were three questions that the committee had to answer. First, can the current general review form be modified to create a new form with the DAFVM form in mind? Second, are the two forms incompatible, meaning that they should stay separate? Last, should a new form be created?

The committee decided that the current University wide general review form could not be readily modified to accommodate all of the units of the University. There is too much diversity between departments to make this a viable option.

The committee determined that it would be beneficial for the University to have one standard form campus wide.

The committee recommends that Provost Gilbert create a new University wide form that incorporates some elements of both the University general form and the DAFVM form. The committee would like to see a merging and generalization of the basic sections, such as name and title page, including the percent effort and the evaluation by the department head and dean, and the goals and signature pages. An element of the DAFVM form that was very appealing to the committee, was the specification of percent effort. The committee would also like to see the general form start with the three missions of the University, teaching, research and service. There should be a general set of instructions prior to each form, particularly concerning the use of not applicable. After the general form, the committee would like to see a set of appendices that are developed to be specific to each unit.

The recommendation of the ad hoc committee passed unanimously by voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

1. President Follett informed the Senators that there was an ad hoc committee formed regarding the request of the Provost to consolidate and change the AOP's and OP's regarding students with disabilities. The committee was able to meet yesterday and are prepared to report to the Senate if there was a motion to suspend the rules since the information was not sent out three days prior, as the bylaws require.

Senator Grace made a motion to suspend the rules. Senator Wilmoth seconded the motion. The motion to suspend the rules to consider the results of the ad hoc committee passed by unanimous voice vote.

Vice President Coyne, on behalf of the ad hoc committee responsible for reviewing the proposed consolidation and change of the policies, announced that there are two different recommendations from the committee for the Senate to consider. The first recommendation from the committee involves students with disabilities. The request asked that the classification

of several AOP's and OP's be modified. The affected policies are AOP 12.35, OP 91.121, and OP 91.130. These policies would be merged into a single OP that would be titled "Students with Disabilities". The existing policies would be rescinded. Vice President Coyne explained that the reason that these changes have been requested is to conform to the changes that have occurred in the federal regulations which govern the handling of students with disabilities. The new policy would shift more of the responsibilities of accommodating students with disabilities to Disabilities Support Services. By allowing this content to be contained in a single OP, MSU could react to any future changes in a timelier manner than having to go through the review process of an AOP.

Senator Brashier asked if the Senate was just basically being asked to rescind the AOP and relinquish oversight of the topic. President Follett replied that while Faculty Senate is not charged directly with reviewing Operating Policies, occasionally Senate is asked for input on them. He further explained that due to the rapid changes required to meet new legal requirements, the process which AOP's are reviewed is not timely enough to adopt changes that allow the University to be in compliance.

The motion made by the ad hoc committee to rescind AOP 12.35 and adopt the newly created OP passed by unanimous voice vote.

2. Vice President Coyne, on behalf of the ad hoc committee, explained that there is a similar request from the Provost to address educational records. The federal requirements have also changed in regards to educational records. The affected AOP's are AOP 12.13 Academic Records and AOP 10.06 Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act. These AOP's are to be rescinded and included in a newly created OP entitled Educational Records.

Senator Fountain asked for further explanation of the contents of the two AOP's to be rescinded. Brandon Jolly replied that the existing AOP 12.13 was entitled Academic Records and the federal government refers to these as Educational Records. The new OP would address this and be updated to include the new regulations. AOP 10.06 just states that the University will follow FERPA regulations and points back to AOP 12.13. Mr. Jolly added that educational records consists of a broader scope of documents than just the academic records of a student. Educational records actually includes any documents on campus that relate to a student.

The motion to combine AOP 12.13 and AOP 10.06 into a single OP entitled Educational Records passed unanimously by voice vote.

NEW BUSINESS

President Follett referenced the letter from Dr. Gilbert for the creation of a special committee of Senators and others to review the possible expansion of tenure track faculty to include non-tenure track categories in the Department of Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine. Specifically Extension faculty funded one hundred percent by the Mississippi State Extension

Service and research faculty funded one hundred percent by the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Service. The committee is to complete their work by March 1, 2016.

Senator Brashier motioned to create the special committee to review tenure track positions for current non-tenure track faculty. Senator Grace seconded the motion.

Senator Baldwin asked why Engineering research faculty were not included. President Follett replied that there has been no request for the inclusion of engineering faculty to be included.

Senator Potter asked who the members of the committee would be that were not Senators. President Follett replied that the others would be non-Senators that had insight into the topic to be chosen by himself and newly elected President Coyne.

The motion to form a special committee to review the request by Dr. Gilbert passed by unanimous voice vote.

Senator Kelly made a motion to adjourn. Vice President Coyne seconded the motion.

After a unanimous voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 4:37 p.m.

Submitted for correction and approval.

Anastasia Elder, Secretary

Jason Cory, Administrative Assistant II