



ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE

Uncorrected Minutes of April 13, 2018

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 13, 2018.

Members absent and excused were: Guihong Bi, Marina Denny, Jenny Du, Allison Eddy, Angela Farmer, Wendy Herd, Stephanie Lemley, Debra Prince, Lindon Ratliff, Judy Ridner, Angela Savage, Andrea Spain, Rani Sullivan, Chinling Wang, Joe Wilmoth, and Molly Zuckerman

Members absent were: Alan Barefield, Charles Freeman, Lyndsey Miller, and Natasha Randle

The meeting was called to order by Senate President, Brent Fountain.

President Fountain asked for any corrections to the minutes of the March 9, 2018 meeting. Hearing no corrections, the minutes were accepted as presented.

GUESTS

Dr. Mark Keenum, University President

Dr. Keenum began by noting the changes to the commencement ceremony for the spring semester. There will be three commencement ceremonies held over two days. He said the ceremonies have been lasting too long. An additional ceremony was held for the fall graduation and it seemed to work well. The Meridian campus ceremony will continue to be conducted in addition to the three ceremonies on the main campus. The speaker will be a very dear friend of the University, retired Chief Justice of Rhode Island Frank Williams. Frank Williams donated the nation's largest private collection of Lincolniana, which is on display on the fourth floor of

the library. An honorary doctorate will be presented to Mr. Williams at the commencement ceremony. Robert Clark will also be presented with an honorary doctorate. Mr. Clark was the first African American to be elected to the state legislature. He was elected in 1967 and was the sole African American in the legislature for his first two terms in office. He finished his tenure in the legislature as the Speaker *pro tem* for the House of Representatives.

Dr. Keenum said the legislative session is over. This session lasted from January 1st through the end of March. The University did not receive a budget cut for the upcoming fiscal year. The insurance cost for all IHL institutions will increase next fiscal year. The legislature agreed to cover the cost of the increase for insurance and keep all other funding level. The Division of Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine (DAFVM) relies solely on state funding to operate. The legislature was asked to provide a 2% increase to funding to keep the DAFVM truly level. The legislature agreed to the increase. The state economy has been better this year than it has in years past. Dr. Keenum said the recent session was positive for the University. At this point, state revenues are 12 million dollars below estimates for the year.

All IHL institutions worked very hard to get a bond bill this year. There was not a bond bill issued last year. This year a bond bill was approved for 82 million dollars. Mississippi State University will receive 14 million dollars from the bill for capital improvements. The biggest priority for the funds is to address the Kinesiology facility needs.

Dr. Keenum said other issues arose during the session as well. One example is the passing of legislation in the House of Representatives that would allow any individual with an enhanced concealed carry permit to carry a firearm anywhere on campus, including the sporting venues. IHL board policy does allow for enhanced concealed carry permit holders to carry a firearm in any public place. This does not include classrooms, classroom buildings, residence halls, or sporting venues. If the Senate passed the bill as the House of Representatives did, the SEC would not allow football games to be held in the stadium. The concerns over allowing firearms in the stadium were communicated to Senate members. As a result, the Senate passed a bill that specifically disallowed firearms in the stadium. The House would not agree to the modified Senate bill and the bill died. Dr. Keenum said he was disappointed that a bill specifically prohibiting firearms in stadiums did not make it through the legislature.

Dr. Keenum mentioned the campaign to encourage students to take more summer hours, Summer Advantage. He wants to create an atmosphere that encourages students to take advantage of summer semesters, which helps some students stay on track to finish in 4 years.

Dr. Keenum said he really enjoyed the discussion of communication during the Faculty Senate Roundtable. The written report that is produced from the Roundtable discussion is useful to determine how to identify ways to improve the campus.

Senator Williams said the Communication department teaches 10 classes that are required for Kinesiology students. He asked that Dr. Keenum keep this in mind during the planning for the

expenditure of the bond funds earmarked for improving Kinesiology. Dr. Keenum said McComas Hall has had minor updates done to improve the appearance of the building. He added that the building does need additional renovations.

Dr. Regina Young-Hyatt, Vice President for Student Affairs

Dr. Hyatt said this time of the semester is when student stress levels are high and the time some students find themselves unable to afford meals. The University has a program called Block by Block to address this issue. The students in need can get block meals through the dining program. The student must meet with the Maroon Volunteer Center and they can have 20 meals added to their ID cards that can be used at the dining facilities on campus. Over the past several days, Dr. Hyatt has been doing pop-up events around campus. She has been giving away free meals, and the students have been extremely grateful to receive the free meals. From June of 2017 to April 4th, 3,280 meals have been distributed to students through the program. This equates to 164 students. Research is being done through the food security network on campus to better understand the food security needs of students on campus.

Senator Clary asked if the block meals were donated by other students. Dr. Hyatt replied the meals are donated by students and Food Service matches all donations.

Senator Sebba asked if a food insecure student can keep going back if their need persists. Dr. Hyatt replied that if the need persists, the student can continue to receive support. She added that the student is also referred to and aided with utilizing other available resources.

Dr. Steve Turner, Faculty Athletic Representative

Dr. Turner said the overall GPA for the fall semester for student athletes was 3.16. This is the highest GPA since record keeping began in the 1990's. Almost every sport had a higher GPA in the fall than the spring semester. Eleven student athletes graduated at the end of the fall semester. The NCAA graduation success rate, which is different than the federal graduation rate due to the allowance of transfers, was 90%. This is the highest NCAA graduation success rate ever at the University and ranked fourth in the SEC.

Dr. Turner said the faculty and staff perception of college sports was lower than all of the other groups polled. The NCAA is in the process of investigating why this is the case as well as what can be done to improve faculty/staff perception of college sports. Dr. Turner said when he speaks to faculty on campus about the issue, they reply the numbers may not reflect how this campus feels. In the near future, an email will be sent that contains a link to a NCAA survey. Dr. Turner said he would really appreciate faculty taking the time to fill out the survey. The survey takes very little time and very little thought to fill out. The survey conducted in 2016 shows the faculty and staff opinion of the NCAA is only 16% positive while the general

population is 50%. The student rate is 70%. This shows the students appreciate the opportunities afforded them by college athletics. These results include Divisions I, II, and III. Division II faculty had a slightly better perception of college athletics than either Division I or Division III. Dr. Turner said the publicity generated through college athletics takes the Mississippi State University brand all over the United States and all over the world.

Secretary Jones asked if the survey would be sent to all faculty, or a random sample. Dr. Turner replied the survey will be sent to all faculty and is voluntary. Susan Brooks asked if staff would be included in the survey. Dr. Turner replied the survey would be sent to just faculty this time. Senator Bora asked if the survey asked if the faculty member has a student-athlete in their class. Dr. Turner replied he did not believe that question was included in the survey. Senator Wipf said he notices female athletes consistently outperform male athletes in regards to GPA. Particularly in football, basketball, and baseball. He said he knows student athletes have a lot on their plate, but he believes within the pool of male and female student athletes, the GPAs should be comparable. Dr. Turner replied the common explanation is the student athletes do not come from equivalent educational backgrounds. He added this is particularly true in men's football and basketball. He added the key difference is between when they enter and when they leave. The graduation rate is the key. Dr. Turner said if the graduation rate improves, it shows the success of the faculty at Mississippi State.

Dr. Turner concluded his remarks by thanking the senators for their service to the university.

REPORT OF THE FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT

Robert Holland Faculty Senate President Committee Service

Executive Council	Design Review Committee
Executive Enrollment Management Council	Information Technology Council
Special Events and Game Day Operations	Athletic Council
Diversity Council	Parking and Traffic Regulations Committee
Sustainability Committee	Fall Convocation Planning and Review
Textbook Adoption Committee	Employee Benefits Committee
Alumni Board	Health and Wellness Committee
President's Committee on Planning	Work-Life Balance Committee
Master Plan Development and Advisory Committee	

President's Reports from University Committees

Special Events and Game Day Operations (email votes 3/15 & 4/4)

March 15, 2014: The Game Day Committee received an expedited request from Athletics to approve a request from C-Spire to set up their Cellular On Light Truck (COLT) for the Women's

Basketball Tournament and baseball games. The committee voted to approve the request with a location that was acceptable to Facilities and Athletics, from now until the end of baseball season, for the purpose of providing fans with better cellular capabilities. C-spire agreed to pay MSU an amount of \$16,400.”

April 4, 2014: Three items were submitted for email votes:

Item 1: Proposed map changes including an updated version of last year’s Fan Guide Map was provided in advance of printing by the Ticket Office. Map changes included updated shuttle stops and construction areas that will be occurring during the 2018 football season. The item was tabled for future discussion of using the official parking lot numbering system to assist the University Police Department with any safety concerns and location.

Item #2: Vote to allow RV’s to park in the marked off area of Davenport Hall parking lot. Athletics would use the two outside bays with the rest of the parking lot would not be affected. This request is similar to the request approved last year. It was approved by the committee.

Item #3: Motion to move the Pig Cooking event this year from Howell Ag. to the Palmeiro parking lot. Times for the event would remain the same. The lot would be blocked off at noon on Thursday. The Pork Producers requested to stay in their spot from last year. The motion was approved by the committee.

Executive Enrollment Management Committee, March 20

College Ready Summer 2018-Rodney Pearson, Center for Student Success

- Special emphasis to grow the program this summer
- Initiative to have students with ACT sub-scores below 17 to meet requirements in summer school at MSU.
 - As of March 20, 2018
 - Admitted freshman: 10,818
 - 0 ACT sub-scores below 17: 9,705 (90%)
 - 1 ACT sub-score below 17: 784 (7%)
 - 2 or more ACT sub-scores below 17: 329 (3%)
- College Ready
 - Learning/Living Community
 - Students will take their one required intermediate class, and one LSK study skills class.
 - All students will live in Oak Hall.
 - College Ready will include numerous group events and activities.
 - MSU provides discounted tuition and housing for College Ready Students (\$793.00/student)
 - Dates: July 2 through August 2
- Important Dates

- College Ready: July 2-August 2
- New Maroon Camp: August 13-August 17
- Move-In Day: August 18

Distance Education-Susan Seal

Summer applications up 29% over last summer and up 15% for graduates
 Fall applications (early) up 9% undergraduate and 22% for graduates

Applications: John Dickerson (March 2018 data)

2018 Total First Time Freshman-Fall Applicants: 16,607 (+25% over this time last year)

Residence

In-State	7,190
Non-Resident	9,194
Foreign	223

Average ACT: 23.52

2018 Main Campus Transfers-Fall Applicants: 2,206 (+10% over this time last year)

Residence

In-State	1,628
Non-Resident	439
Foreign	139

Admits: John Dickerson (March 2018 data)

2018 Total First Time Freshman-Fall Admits: 10,945 (+15% over this time last year)

Residence

In-state	5,225
Non-Resident	5,683
Foreign	37

Average ACT: 24.39

2018 Main Campus Transfers-Fall Admits: 1,277 (+13% over this time last year)

Residence

In-State	1,009
Non-Resident	215
Foreign	53

Confirmed: John Dickerson (March 2018 data)

2018 Total First Time Freshman-Fall Confirmed: 2,079 (+4% over this time last year)

Residence

In-state	1,102
Non-Resident	973
Foreign	3

2018 Main Campus Transfers-Fall Confirmed: 561 (+15% over this time last year)

Residence

In-State	502
Non-Resident	58
Foreign	1

Athletic Council-March 21, 2018

The Athletic Council was introduced to MSU Head Football Coach Joe Moorhead and Director of Football Operations Andrew Warsaw. Coach Moorhead provided an update on Spring Football Practice and his vision for the Mississippi State Football Program. Christine Jackson, Athletic Academics provided an update on the different Athletic Team grade point averages as well as fall graduation and anticipated spring graduation. **Fall 2017, was the highest NCAA Graduation Success Rate in school history with a 90% (4th in the SEC).** Steve Turner, Faculty Athletic Representative will provide his update to the senate at the April meeting of Faculty Senate. Compliance Officer Bracky Brett discussed proposed NCAA changes to the transfer rules and when it might be permissible for an athlete to transfer without having to sit out a year.

Parking and Traffic Committee-March 22, 2018

The committee discussed proposed revision to the appeals policy based on previous discussion. Considering there were several potential changes that could be considered, the committee decided to have Jeremiah Dumas and his staff to offer proposed revisions to the policy and bring it back to the committee for consideration.

Garage and gate fines-The committee voted to institute a fine for breach of any gated parking lot or garage. A gate breach is defined as manually raising the gate without proper access or tailgating, which is trailing the legal car as it exists the gate. If the trailing vehicle is too close to the car in front, the gate will not close allowing the person the opportunity to leave without paying. Both instances can cause damage and unnecessary wear and tear on the gates. The cost for a gate breach will be \$200.00 per incident plus the daily rate. Damage to the gates will be a \$200.00 fine plus the cost of any repairs necessary.

Animal Dairy Science, Meat Science Lab and Poultry Science complex on Blackjack Road asked that the new parking lot be zoned as staff. The committee asked for the number of faculty and staff that will be housed in the three building before determining the request.

Executive Council-March 26, 2018 (cancelled)

Joint meeting of the Department Heads Executive Committee and Faculty Senate Executive Committee-March 28, 2018

The two committees met to discuss incentives that may increase the success rate of recruiting and retaining faculty. Several ideas were discussed that would be considered beneficial by members of the faculty and staff of the university. Examples included spousal tuition remission, Sanderson Center membership, University-level awards and travel funds. The next step was to request a meeting between the leadership committees of the Depart Heads, Faculty Senate, and Staff Council with President Keenum and Provost Bonner to further discuss the ideas presented by the committees.

Sustainability Committee-March 28, 2018

The committee was provided with the MSU Sustainability Policy Draft Revision. Revisions included a language change under recycling materials. It also directs all divisions to implement a recycling program that complies with the recycling guidelines. Office space containers will function as recycling receptacles only. All non-recycling items are to be disposed in common area garbage cans.

Sustainability Update

1. Sustainability Coordinator, Christine Lashley met with all custodians in small groups on March 2 to discuss policy guideline and to review recycling procedures.
2. Sustainability Coordinator and Director of Facilities Management presented the guidelines with the manager operator on 3/7
3. It was noted that 10 blue crates have been placed at campus buildings that do not have a conveniently located blue dumpster for recycling disposal.

Regarding blue bags located in office garbage receptacles. All trash placed in those containers should be items that can be recycled. It was also noted that custodians help with quality control-separation of blue bags between contaminated and clean recyclables, which can be time-consuming. The recycled blue bags are made from reclaimed irrigation tubing that have higher strength capabilities and are made from recycled materials.

Building audits locating the garbage/recyclable containers has begun. It was noted that the process of reaching all campus buildings will take time. The proposed plan will be to include linked garbage and recyclable containers and that they should be located around the building within line of sight from entrance points for ease of accessibility.

Compost Data

Fall 2017 = 495lb of pre-consumer “green” waste from the Fresh Foods Dining Facility was collected and delivered to the compost area located behind the Landscape Architecture building. From January to March, 271lbs have been collected and sent to the compost area. Currently, they are collecting pre-consumer waste 5 days a week at Fresh Foods. Currently, no other dining locations have collections and no post-consumer waste is collected. The Community Garden leadership are working with Campus Landscape to provide the “brown” compost component through the collection of brush waste.

Additional updates presented to the Sustainability Committee

- Greek House recycling
 - 5 sorority houses are now recycling.
 - Collection bins for inside the sorority houses have been ordered.
 - Additional sororities have indicated that they are interested in participating.
- SA Green fund winners
 - 10K to Community Garden, Phase 2
 - 10K proposal for bottle fillers to be installed in the Library
- Earth Day Fair-April 16th
 - Waldorf Speaker-April 17th 2pm in Old Main-Room 1220
 - MSU Sustainability is working with MSU TV Station to produce a video promoting entire campus participation

Design Review Committee-April 5, 2018 (attended by Senator Cody Coyne)

Academic Operating Policies (AOP) Extended Beyond 4-year Cycle Review

<u>Number ▲</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Attachment</u>
10.03	Deans Council and Associate Deans Council	04-12-2012	None
10.05	Nepotism	12-05-2012	None
10.15	Substantive Changes	08-13-2013	None
11.05	Requirements for Shortened-Format Courses	11-21-2013	None
11.06	Study Abroad	11-06-2012	In Process (3/5)
12.02	Withdrawal from the University	06-01-2010	None

<u>Number ▲</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Attachment</u>
12.08	Requirements for Degrees, Academic Minors, and Certificate Programs	12-05-2012	In Process
12.12	Credit and Grades	08-12-2013	None
12.23	Cooperative Education Program	09-20-2013	None
12.25	Pass-Fail Option	02-05-2013	In Process
12.38	Undergraduate Academic Advisement	04-23-2012	None
13.05	Faculty Grievance Procedures	05-18-2012	In Process
13.07	Academic Promotion and Tenure	08-27-2013	None
13.20	Exit Interviews of Departing Faculty	05-11-2012	Approved by Senate
13.21	Faculty Released Time for Specified Committee Chairs	09-15-2011	Approved by Senate
21.01	Graduate Admission Criteria	04-12-2012	None
32.01	Mississippi State University Library	12-01-2006	None
34.01	Special Teaching Programs	12-01-2006	None

Operating Policies (OP) Extended Beyond 4-year Review Cycle

<i>Number ▲</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Attachment</i>
01.07	Whistleblower Policy	08-04-2009	None
01.09	Principles for University Governance	09-12-2013	None
01.20	Use of Copyrighted Works for Education and Research	02-14-2008	None
60.103	Recruitment and Selection	10-02-2012	None
60.104	Employment Authorization	10-02-2012	Attachment
60.320	Office Hours-Work Schedule	10-02-2012	None
60.401	Guidelines for Employee Conduct	10-22-2012	None
60.501	Workforce Development	10-02-2012	None
91.109	Dissent, Disruption and Academic Freedom	09-26-2011	None
91.150	Satisfactory Academic Progress Policy	01-23-2012	None
91.177	Extended Orientation for International Students	07-16-2012	None
91.178	Policy on University Scholarship Programs and Procedures	05-23-2013	None

Academic Operating Policy Extended Beyond 4-Year Review Cycle (Currently in Review??)

10.02	Academic Administrators and Directors	04-28-2009	None
10.07	Veterans Administration: Students	11-26-2005	None
13.01	Emeritus Appointments	09-15-2011	None
13.14	Grade Appeal & Academic Review Board	04-28-2009	None
13.15	Evaluation of Teaching Performance	08-02-2006	None
13.24	Annual Faculty Review Process	10-14-2011	In Process (2/18)

Academic Operating Policy Revision of Listing

12.21	Veterans Academic Status	09-20-2013	None
-------	--	------------	------

Respectfully Submitted,

Brent Fountain, RHFS President

REPORT OF THE FACULTY SENATE VICE PRESIDENT

Spring 2018 Faculty Senate Roundtable – The Faculty Senate Roundtable was held yesterday, and was a great success! (I am betting that it was, at least...) Look for a wrap-up report to be sent out in the near future.

Academic Deans Council –

The April meeting of Deans Council was cancelled, due to a lack of business.

Community Engagement Committee (CEC)–

We are in the midst of reviewing the survey results, and are also working to expand the outreach and engagement facets of the strategic plan to better reflect involvement by faculty and staff throughout the university. One relatively new activity is in terms of developing feature stories/videos of faculty-led community engagement activities across campus. These will be

used to better advertise the involvement that exists, and promote understanding of what “community engagement” really means.

Textbook Committee –

The first meeting of this committee for this academic year has not yet been scheduled.

Undergraduate Research and Creative Discovery Committee –

The first meeting of this committee for this academic year has not yet been scheduled.

Since this is my last report as Vice President, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank each of you for the active role that you have accepted as a senator. It is sometimes a dull, monotonous job, but at other times it is fast-paced and incredibly demanding. Being willing to accept a job like that tells me that each one of you are working to help advance the university, and aren't afraid to commit to some hard work in order to accomplish that. While this isn't my first time to be VP, I would like to mention that I have learned at least as much this time around as I did last time. Some things have changed considerably in the four years since my first time in the position, while others have been fairly constant. Maybe it is just the fact that I knew more about what to watch out for, but it has been a great experience. Brent Fountain has been an outstanding Faculty Senate President, and I would like to publicly thank him for his assistance through the year, and his strong leadership that he has shown. I know that he takes the slogan “Service Above Self” to heart, and he has also demonstrated his use of the “Four-Way Test” in every situation in which I have seen him. I would also like to thank each member of the Executive Committee for their efforts throughout the year. There have been some distinct challenges, and everyone has been thoughtful and genuine in their responses. As for the future, I am looking forward to whatever comes in the next year, because I know that the senate and administration are both working towards the same goals that drive the rest of the university, and that together we can make a positive impact on things. Thanks again to all of you for the opportunity to be here in this role.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Follett

FACULTY DESIGNATES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs

Included in report with Faculty Affairs

Ancillary Affairs

1. Videotaping of Lectures (Update)

Secretary Jones, on behalf of the Ancillary Affairs Committee, gave an update on the videotaping of lectures. She said the committee is currently generating recommended statements for syllabi.

2. Faculty Senate Confidence Survey (Update)

Secretary Jones, on behalf of the Ancillary Affairs Committee, explained the Faculty Senate Confidence Survey has been delayed due to staff members being on vacation. The hope is to have the survey activated on April 23rd.

3. Letter for Study and Recommendation, Blended Delivery Method at Meridian campus (Update)

Secretary Jones, on behalf of the Ancillary Affairs Committee, said the committee is in communication with an individual from the Center for Distance Education.

Charter & Bylaws

1. AOP 13.24 Annual Faculty Review Process

Senator Coyne, on behalf of the Charter & Bylaws Committee, reported on AOP 13.24 Annual Faculty Review Process.

President Fountain asked that the revisions be discussed and voted on in sequential order. Senator Coyne accepted the procedural change on behalf of the Charter & Bylaws Committee.

1.1. Revision #1

There was no discussion of revision # 1. The motion to accept revision #1 passed by unanimous hand vote.

1.2. Revision # 2

Senator Stewart asked if any other departments have units other than the Division of Agriculture. Senator Coyne replied other departments have centers.

President Fountain asked if a unit had faculty with different appointments such as predominantly teaching or research, what would the individual faculty members do within the department. Senator Coyne replied the faculty member would delete the sections that do not apply to their position.

Senator Musser asked why there was great concern to have uniformity since the bulk of the review packet does not go past the Department Head. Senator Coyne replied the University form

states that sections one through four move forward. This includes the signature page and the faculty submissions. The Division form differs from this process.

Senator Thompson said he did not understand why a universal form was being created that included the items that only the Division needed and the rest of campus would have to discard. Senator Coyne replied the ad hoc committee recommended one universal form, but the ultimate fate could be two different forms. The process followed by the different forms is not consistent at this time; a uniform document would correct this discrepancy

The motion to accept revision #2 passed by unanimous hand vote.

1.3. Revision #3

The motion to accept revision #3 passed by unanimous hand vote.

1.4. Revision #4

The motion to accept revision #4 passed by majority hand vote.

1.5. Revision #5

The motion to accept revision #5 passed by unanimous hand vote.

1.6. Revision #6

The motion to accept revision #6 passed by unanimous hand vote.

1.7. Revision #7

Senator Musser asked if the appropriate Vice President's signature line was in one form and not the other. Senator Coyne replied the signature line was in one form and not the other. Senator Musser asked if it could be "Vice President (if appropriate)." Senator Follett said that the Provost is a Vice President. Senator Wipf said the word "appropriate" is open to interpretation. Senator Alley asked who in the signature sequence would decide which individual was "appropriate". Senator Coyne replied it is straightforward in the DAFVM form. The statement is in the University form and that is where the question arises. Vice President Follett said everyone is in a division. There is the DAFVM and the Division of Academic Affairs. He said there should be a way to have it consistent on both forms except tenure track faculty in DAFVM have to additionally be sent to the Provost. President Fountain suggested it could say "appropriate Vice President(s)". He added this is just a copy that is sent. President Fountain said the line could be struck. Senator Wipf said legally, it should remain.

The motion to accept revision #7 passed by majority hand vote.

1.8. Revision #8

The motion to accept revision #8 passed by unanimous hand vote.

Executive Committee

1. Letter for Study and Recommendation from Dr. Matthew Little

President Fountain explained the letter of request asking the Faculty Senate to urge Dr. Keenum to announce that the existing policy on firearms on campus will continue. Due to recent events in the state legislature, the resolution is no longer needed. Dr. Little has agreed to allow the Faculty Senate Office to retain his request and bring it back up if the need arises. The Executive Committee will take no action at this time.

Faculty Affairs

Student Affairs

1. AOP 11.06 Study Abroad

Senator Haynes, on behalf of the Student Affairs Committee, presented the report on AOP 11.06.

Senator Pelaez asked why so much of the document was being deleted. Senator Haynes replied the deleted portion will be included as an attachment. Senator Pelaez said that over time the Study Abroad Office could say they do not have to do something since it is not in the AOP. Senator Musser said the second paragraph states the Provost will designate which office performs the procedures. Senator Haynes added international travel may fall under this as well.

Senator Grace said that some courses under study abroad occur in Mississippi. She said some of the summer field courses fall under study abroad. Senator Alley said the policy will only be for travel outside of the United States. Senator Musser said the old policy said the same thing.

Senator Pelaez said the policy will put all of the responsibility on the Provost and take away the definition of study abroad. Senator Haynes replied other offices will be involved to handle things such as risk management.

Senator Musser made a friendly amendment to delete “and procedure” in the first sentence. President Fountain said the title of the third section has “procedure” as well. Senator Haynes accepted the friendly amendment on behalf of the Student Affairs Committee.

Senator Pelaez asked how the policy changes how study abroad is defined and approved currently. Vice President Follett replied he did not believe it would change, except for specific things that relate to international travel and threat levels. This will allow quicker action in response to situations and will allow the University to comply with federal regulations. Senator Haynes agreed with Vice President Follett. She said this will allow any changes at the federal level to be immediately addressed without having to change current policy.

The motion to accept AOP 11.06 Study Abroad as amended passed by unanimous hand vote.

University Resources

1. Letter for Study and Recommendation Regarding Course Scheduling Software

Senator Grace, on behalf of the University Resources Committee, presented the report on Course Scheduling Software.

The motion to accept the recommendation of the University Resources Committee passed by unanimous hand vote.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

1. Academic Affairs/Faculty Affairs Joint Committee

1.1. AOP 13.05 Faculty Grievance

Senator Strawderman, on behalf of the Academic Affairs/Faculty Affairs Joint Committee, presented the report on AOP 13.05.

Senator Potter asked why some steps were being removed from the process in revision #2. He said sometimes it takes a while to get the truth of a situation. Senator Strawderman replied none of the steps of the formal grievance process are being removed. The steps being removed are currently required before the formal process may begin. Senator Potter asked if the steps prior to the formal grievance procedure would possibly resolve the issue. Senator Strawderman replied that they could. She added the policy also states the faculty member may withdraw their grievance at any time.

Senator Wipf made a friendly motion to strike the word “tape” in 3.c. of the policy. Senator Strawderman accepted the friendly amendment on behalf of the committee.

Senator Potter made a motion to vote on the revisions separately. Senator Pelaez seconded the motion. The motion to take the revisions separately failed by hand vote.

The motion to accept AOP 13.05 Faculty Grievance, as amended, passed by majority hand vote.

1.2. AOP 12.08 Requirements for Degrees

Senator Sherman-Morris, on behalf of the Academic Affairs/Faculty Affairs Joint Committee, presented the report on AOP 12.08.

Senator Thompson asked if a Dean can disband a concentration without going through the UCCC. Senator Sherman-Morris replied she did not believe a Dean could do that as it is written. Senator Thompson asked if there is an administrator that can disband a concentration without IHL or UCCC approval. Senator Sherman-Morris replied that IHL is only involved with a degree program. She also stated her understanding that administration can not supersede UCCC to delete a concentration. She stated an instance of this occurring has not happened while she has been a part of UCCC and she has not ever heard of it happening. She also stated it is not currently part of policy and the way it is operating now, it would not be allowed.

Senator Pelaez said she has seen courses and concentrations on the UCCC report that appear to have come directly from the Provost. Senator Sherman-Morris said she was not aware of this occurring. Senator Larson said once UCCC has approved something, it still has to go to the Provost. She said she is not saying the Provost can supersede the UCCC, but the Provost can still agree or disagree.

Senator Coyne said if the courses are not offered, the concentration is not deleted, but there is no way for it to exist. Secretary Jones said if this was done, it still would not allow for a non-renewal of a contract based on concentration deletion. Senator Strawderman said policy cannot cover all possible scenarios. She said the Senate should be focusing on whether or not these changes help clarify the policy and make it more useful. Senator Sherman-Morris said if a concentration was gone by virtue of not offering the classes, the faculty member would have the grievance process to say the UCCC did not delete the concentration.

Senator Larson asked how often the UCCC does not approve the deletion of a concentration. Senator Strawderman said UCCC will ensure that the department and the faculty agree with the deletion. Senator Sebba said she has never seen the deleting of a concentration, but for the addition of a concentration there is a financial component. To add a concentration, how the concentration will be supported financially is examined as well. Senator Sherman-Morris said if there is a deletion of a concentration, the impact of other programs across campus is examined as well.

Senator Wipf asked what courses and curriculum are subject to the Graduate Council's review. Senator Sherman-Morris replied all graduate level courses and programs are subject to Graduate Council review. Senator Wipf said he did not like "when appropriate" in revision #1. Senator Sherman-Morris said the document later states that all courses and curricula at the graduate level must be reviewed by the Graduate Council. Senator Wipf said the Graduate Council's purview should be defined in this paragraph.

Senator Pelaez stated she found an example on the UCCC memorandum of Change Notice 01-2017 in the column 'Actions by UCCC' it states n/a on the deletion of a degree program. Appendix 9c states deletions will be sent from the Provost's Office to IHL. She asked what is

happening in that situation. Senator Larson said everything that comes from UCCC goes to the Provost's Office.

Senator Addy asked Senator Wipf if his last statement was meant to be a friendly amendment to change the sentence about graduate courses to a new sentence. Senator Wipf said yes, that his intention was to make the sentence clearer and remove the comma splice. Secretary Jones made a friendly amendment to change the last sentence in paragraph 1 of section 1 to "All courses and curricula are subject to review and approval of the University Committee on Courses and Curricula; additionally, the Graduate Council will review and approve courses and curricula at the graduate level". Senator Sherman-Morris accepted the friendly amendment on behalf of the committee.

The motion to accept AOP 12.08 Requirements for Degrees as amended passed by unanimous hand vote.

1.3. HRM 60.405 Separation from Employment/Change of Position

Senator Eakin, on behalf of the Academic Affairs/Faculty Affairs Joint Committee, presented the report on HRM 60.405.

Senator Coyne asked if the policy should contain something that says the new position should be related to the faculty member's discipline or field of specialization. Senator Addy said the faculty member could reject the transfer. Vice President Follett said ability is in the eye of the beholder. Senator Eakin said the committee felt if it is limited to a specific area, it makes it less flexible. Senator Sobaskie said it could say "similar duties". Senator Strawderman said she likes the flexibility of the policy now. She said this way a faculty member can be moved from an academic unit to Extension, the Office of Research, or outreach. Senator Eakin said there is no way to close every loophole if someone wants to use the policy maliciously or out of context. Senator Coyne said the same verbiage is used in the Faculty Handbook, the promotion and tenure document, and the annual review process. Secretary Jones said the language would prevent her from moving from the library to outreach. Senator Addy said the topic involves an extraordinary event in someone's career. Senator Eakin commented that closing the door for abuse might also be closing the door for a creative solution. Senator Coyne said the wording "every attempt" is contained in the document, meaning it is flexible. Senator Addy said this involves many levels of approval at the University and it would have to be a conspiracy at many levels, not just malicious intent of one person. that would have to occur to abuse the policy.

Senator Musser said the policy states faculty members and does not include staff. President Fountain said there are internal and external training options available to employees when requested. He said he felt staff should be included in the discussion. Senator Eakin said the policy does state the availability of those resources.

Senator Larson said she believes there are individuals that do not do a good job, and therefore there should be a way to encourage employment elsewhere. Vice President Follett said the statement “when reductions are made necessary by changing needs” precludes that. It does not involve the release of an employee for cause.

Secretary Jones reminded the Senate this is just a recommendation and there is no guarantee that anything the Senate recommends will make it into an Operating Policy.

Senator Strawderman called the question. Senator Williams seconded the motion. The motion to call the question passed by unanimous hand vote.

The motion to accept the report from the committee and provide it to HRM for consideration of HRM 60.405 Separation from Employment/Change of Position passed by unanimous hand vote.

PENDING BUSINESS

None

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

President Fountain recognized the new senators and the senators whose terms have expired.

1. President

President Fountain asked for any nominations from the floor. No nomination were made. Senator Grace made a motion to accept Randy Follett by acclamation. Senator Williams seconded the motion. The motion to accept Randy Follett as Faculty Senate President passed by unanimous hand vote.

2. Vice President

President Fountain asked for any nominations from the floor. No nomination were made. Senator Follett made a motion to accept Mary Ann Jones by acclamation. Senator Williams seconded the motion. The motion to accept Mary Ann Jones as Faculty Senate Vice President passed by unanimous hand vote.

3. Secretary

President Fountain asked for any nominations from the floor. No nomination were made. Senator Follett made a motion to accept Cody Coyne by acclamation. Senator Larson seconded the motion. The motion to accept Cody Coyne as Faculty Senate Secretary passed by unanimous hand vote.

NEW BUSINESS

Senator Follett presented a plaque on behalf of the senate thanking President Fountain for his service. Secretary Follett said the plaque was made from native pecan wood by Senator Grace. President Fountain thanked the Senate for the gift.

President Fountain read a statement to the Senate:

“As a final act of our last regular meeting of the 2017-2018 session of the Robert Holland Faculty Senate, I would like to take a Presidential privilege and take a moment to say thank you.

It has been my pleasure to work alongside each of you as we seek to advance Mississippi State University. Through your work on Senate committees, University Committees and various other interactions, I have personally witnessed how invested you are, how thoughtful you are, and how caring you are. You recognize the decisions we recommend are not for ourselves, but for the good of the whole and as a faculty member at Mississippi State, I am truly thankful for your commitment and your dedication.

I want to especially thank President Mark Keenum and Provost Judy Bonner for their leadership and availability. Their sincere recognition of this body and our role in the overall success of this university is something that I have personally witnessed and will always value.

I want to extend a special thank you the members of the Executive Committee, chairs Noel Addy, Academic Affairs, Lesley Strawderman, Faculty Affairs, Stacy Haynes, Student Affairs, Cody Coyne, Charter and Bylaws, Laurie Grace, University Resources, and Debra Prince, Ancillary Affairs. I appreciate you saying yes, to my request to serve and I thank you for your counsel, your advice, and your leadership. It is a pleasure to have gotten to know each of you better this year.

To Secretary Mary Ann Jones, thank you for your leadership and your service to this office. Congratulations, to you as you move into your new role. And finally, to Vice President Randy Follett, thank you. There were so many times I leaned on your knowledge and past experience and it has been a pleasure to work with you. Congratulations to you on yet another term as leader of this prestigious body.

To Jason Cory, thank you for keeping me straight and for all of the good work you do on behalf of the Senate. With all that you do behind the scene, you keep this ship afloat, which at times is a big task.

To the new members of the Senate. Thank you for committing the next three years of your career to serving the faculty of Mississippi State University. You have been elected by your colleagues to represent them, please don't forget that. It is an awesome responsibility and one that I know you will take seriously.

To those leaving the Senate, like myself. Thank you! Know that your fingerprints are etched in the history of this great university. The seeds that you have planted will continue to bear good fruit. I thank you and this body thanks you for the commitment you made years ago. A commitment that was confirmed by your peers. Know that you have done your job well.

Finally, it has been my pleasure to serve the senate and it has been an incredible honor to have the opportunity to serve as President this year. It will be a little hard, getting used to having the second Fridays of each month available again. But, I will continue to watch with keen interest at your efforts to further advance the accomplishments of Mississippi State University.

In closing, I would like to share a quote from Pope Francis with you “Every man, every woman who has to take up the service of government, must ask themselves two questions: 'Do I love my people in order to serve them better? Am I humble and do I listen to everybody, to diverse opinions in order to choose the best path?' If you don't ask those questions, your governance will not be good.”

Thank you and with no further business we stand adjourned.”

President Fountain adjourned the meeting at 5:07 p.m.

Submitted for correction and approval.

Mary Ann Jones, Secretary

Jason Cory, Administrative Assistant II