



ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE

Uncorrected Minutes of August 23, 2019

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, August 23, 2019.

Members absent and excused were: Guihong Bi, Jenny Du, Patty Lathan, and Mark Welch.

Members absent were: Gregory Martin, Lyndsey Miller, and Angela Savage.

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

President Follett asked for any corrections to the minutes of the April 12, 2019 meeting. Hearing no corrections, President Follett accepted the minutes as presented.

GUESTS

Dr. Mark Keenum, University President

Dr. Keenum began by welcoming the Senators back for the fall semester.

Dr. Keenum said the fall convocation was held yesterday evening. There were nearly 6,000 students welcomed to campus. This year was the fourth convocation for all new students (freshman and transfer students). Prior to 2016, only the freshman attended the convocation. The convocation has been held for the last six years. The convocation gives the students an idea of what to set their sights on by being held in the Coliseum with faculty and administrators in full regalia.

The Maroon Edition book for this year is “Hold On with a Bulldog Grip: A Short Study of Ulysses S. Grant” by John Marszalek, David Nolen, Louie Gallo, and Frank Williams. Dr. Keenum said he approached Mr. Marszalek about two years ago and challenged him to put together a short biography of Ulysses S. Grant. Mr. Marszalek and the other authors completed the book and asked Dr. Keenum to pen an entry discussing the unique relationship between the families of General Grant and the first President of Mississippi State University, Stephen D. Lee.

Abraham Lincoln and Ulysses S. Grant were surprise guests at the convocation last evening and they had the opportunity to address the students. The two gentlemen impersonating President Lincoln and President Grant will be in the Grisham Room at 6:00 tonight for an Evening with the Presidents. Dr. Keenum invited the Senators to join him for the Evening with the Presidents event and hear these two great men discuss their lives and the impact they had on the country.

Dr. Keenum said enrollment numbers will not be official until after the 10th day of class, but enrollment is currently higher than this time last year. The way that students pay has recently changed. As of last year, every student must have made at least one payment prior to the start of classes or his/her schedule was automatically voided. This means that the current enrollment numbers reflect students who have paid something to attend. Growth does bring certain challenges with it. Dr. Keenum said he tells people that these are the good problems that we have. Our sister institutions in the IHL System are not all experiencing the same growth. Across the state of Mississippi, the number of high school graduates are decreasing. The projected number of high school graduates in the state between 2018 and 2022 shows a decrease of 10%. Dr. Keenum said this is directly attributable to a population decline in the state. Community college enrollment numbers have been declining for some time in Mississippi. The fact that enrollment is increasing at MSU despite the smaller pool of potential students speaks to the quality of our institution. In addition, the quality of our students is increasing. Last year, the average ACT score for incoming freshman was 25.6. This year, the average will be around 26. Dr. Keenum said this number puts MSU among some elite schools. This is even more impressive when you consider that we are an open enrollment institution bound by state law to accept any student with a high school diploma and a tuition check, regardless of ACT score. We will have 12 new students this fall with perfect ACT scores. Dr. Keenum said these students can go to college anywhere they want to, and they chose Mississippi State. The Shackouls Honors College numbers are up this year as well. Over 700 freshman will be admitted into the Honors College this year. This represents an increase over last year of over 100 students. Last year’s class was over 100 students more than the previous year. Dr. Keenum reiterated that we are recruiting a very high caliber of students. He said part of the enrollment success at MSU can be attributed to the various retention programs that have been instituted. The number of navigators in the Navigators program has just been increased. The navigators are mentors to a cohort of students. They answer questions and give

advice to help the students understand how to be successful at MSU. The Office of Student Success, under the leadership of Laura Dunn, and Dr. Jim Dunn from the Provost's Office is doing a wonderful job. The work that Rasheda Forbes and the Holmes Cultural Diversity Center is doing is paying tremendous dividends. The Promise program, designed for students from low income families, helps the students it serves not just financially, but through counseling and life skills as well. The students participating in the Promise program have a higher retention and graduation rate than the overall student body. This speaks volumes for the work that is being done. The Thrive program provides support for students coming from foster homes. We are seeing the fruits of the labor of some very dedicated people working to guide students down the path to success at MSU.

Dr. Keenum said MSU has reached an agreement with the Luckyday Foundation. Next fall we will be able to offer our first cohort of Luckyday scholarships. The University of Southern Mississippi and the University of Mississippi have been participants with the Luckyday foundation for several years. Dr. Keenum said he believes the foundation saw all of the great things we are doing, which led to us finally being able to come to an agreement. This agreement will help the recipients not only financially, but it will also provide counseling, mentoring, and life skills to make these students successful at MSU.

Dr. Keenum said 108 new faculty members were welcomed last week at the Mill. This is a record number of new faculty. Dr. Keenum said he is thrilled to have them join our faculty family.

Mississippi State is starting a new Physicians Assistant program. This new program will be maintained on the Meridian campus and is receiving support from the Riley Foundation and local hospitals in the area. The final accreditation approval should be received in September. Roughly 240 people have applied for the 20 seats available in the first cohort of the program. The program is two years in length and will engage the students from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. every weekday for the entire two years. The graduates will receive a master's degree as a licensed Physicians Assistant. The starting salary in this field is over \$100,000. MSU will be the only public university in the state to offer this program.

Last week, IHL approved the offering of a Bachelor in Applied Science degree system-wide. This means that a student holding an Associate Degree in a technical field can transfer the technical credit hours to MSU. The requirement for an Associate Degree is 15 hours of gen-ed. SACS requires 30 hours of gen-ed. Students in this degree program will take an additional 15 hours of gen-ed and 45 hours of upper-level course work to complete the requirements. Dr. Keenum said he believes this is going to have a huge impact for the state. Dr. Shaw will need the help of the Senators to develop a curriculum that can be tailored to industry needs in the state. Dr. Keenum said he will be meeting with the Board of Mississippi Economic Council and the

Mississippi Manufacturing Association Board to determine what types of upper-division education they need from their employees. This program will also be run through the Meridian Campus in partnership with Distance Education.

Dr. Keenum said he has aggressively pursued the ability to offer a nursing degree. He said he has been unsuccessful so far for various reasons, but he is going to continue to pursue it. Five state institutions are currently offering nursing. A large number of RNs only have an Associate Degree. These individuals represent the market for a Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree. The University is looking into developing a curriculum in applied health heavily populated with courses which are prerequisites for the Physician's Assistant program. This would allow MSU to capture some of this market and provide a way for these individuals to advance their careers in a way which no other university is currently offering.

Dr. Keenum said the alumni and friends of Mississippi State have been very generous over the last year. We have achieved another record giving year of over \$113 million. This is the sixth consecutive year with annual giving surpassing \$100 million. The percentage of alumni giving at MSU is the highest in the SEC by far. Dr. Keenum said he is proud of the fact that alumni believe in what we are collectively doing and are willing to invest back into our beloved University. The capital campaign began with a goal of \$600 million. This goal was met a full year in advance. The decision was made to expand the goal to raise \$1 billion by the end of 2020. This goal will be met before the end of this calendar year. The gifts that we have received have been toward our priority areas of scholarships, faculty support, and facilities. Much of our success in attracting the caliber of students which we are recruiting is due to the generosity and growth in scholarship numbers. The endowed professorship numbers are up significantly across campus as well. This helps with faculty retention and recruiting.

Dr. Keenum said the state ended the fiscal year with a surplus of over \$300 million over estimates. The legislature will convene in January. Due to deficit appropriations, the surplus will shrink due to items such as the miscalculation in teacher pay-raises across the state. Medicaid and state financial aid will also have to be examined. It will be incumbent on all of us to remind our leaders of the importance that higher education plays in the state.

This is an election year and as a result we will have new leadership. This election cycle will see a new Governor, Lt. Governor, Chairman of Senate Appropriations Committee, and Chairman of House Ways and Means Committee. Dr. Keenum said he has already been scheduling to meet with many members of the legislature between now and January. He will discuss the important role that the Institutions of Higher Learning play in this state, particularly MSU. Much like we have a strategic plan and businesses have a strategic plan, we need a strategic plan for the state. Dr. Keenum said that he would challenge our leaders to create a strategic plan for the state. Everyone ultimately wants high-tech, highways, and high paying jobs. We need to know

how we are going to get there. Dr. Keenum said one thing he knows for certain is that MSU will have a significant role in accomplishing our goals. We have unique and special needs on this campus which could transform this whole region. If supported, these investments could make a huge impact on not just the Golden Triangle, but the entire state. We will continue to inform our leaders of the greatly important role that all of us play. Dr. Keenum said he is tired of seeing our population shrinking and not having opportunities for our graduates in this state.

There have been several ribbon cuttings and ground breakings held in the last few weeks. The College View development exceeded expectations. Dr. Keenum said this is just phase I, and he believes phase II could begin in the not too distant future. A new road is slated to be constructed connecting University Drive by the new Vista complex to College View St. across from the College View development. Mr. Richard Adkerson generously donated a strip of land to make the road possible. Mississippi State is working closely with MDOT to fund the project. This project will increase the safety of the public, particularly those traveling from the College View area. The ground breaking was held for the new 500 space parking garage. This project has been in the works for quite some time. Parking structures are quite expensive, but we were able to arrive at a funding structure which allowed the project to move forward. In addition, a new 200+ space parking lot is being built adjacent to Critz Hall. The Blackjack Rd. project is awaiting the eminent domain process due to easement issues. We are continuing to work with the county weekly to help push this process forward. There are several projects on campus which are tied to the Blackjack Rd. project. These projects cannot begin until construction on Blackjack Rd. begins. The money which MSU raised is tied to the county. Legally, the county cannot disburse any funds until the entire project is initiated.

Dr. Keenum said this is Dr. Shaw's first Faculty Senate meeting as Provost. It is not, however, his first Faculty Senate meeting. He is a former Senator from his time as full-time faculty. Dr. Shaw has been with MSU for more than 34 years. He rose to the rank of a Giles Distinguished Professor. He has been serving this University admirably for the past 9+ years as our Vice President for Research and Economic Development. Dr. Keenum said he could not be more pleased to have Dr. Shaw take on the roll of Provost and Executive Vice President.

Senator Carskadon said the material presented was very exciting. He thanked Dr. Keenum for all he has done. Senator Carskadon commented on the new IHL rule 407.02 which requires some form of providing written comments from students to department heads and deans. He asked what the genesis of the creation of the rule was. Dr. Keenum replied tenure issues have been a topic of discussion for quite some time. The issues are not so much on this campus, but others in the system. The board is trying to obtain consistency throughout the system on how tenure is evaluated and administered. Dr. Keenum said he was surprised by the action of the board as well. He said he believes this topic of this discussion will continue.

Senator Tagert thanked Dr. Keenum for including the daycare in the College View project. Dr. Keenum said we were fortunate to be able to work with the developer to include the consolidation of two daycares on the site.

Senator Sebba thanked Dr. Keenum for the planned music facility. She said her department is sometimes forgotten and it is good to see administration treating everyone as equals. Dr. Keenum thanked Dr. Sebba for her comment and said he wished he could address these types of issues faster. The process to arrive at the groundbreaking stage of a project takes years. The goal is to keep moving forward with our strategic plans.

Vice President Jones thanked Dr. Keenum, on behalf of the library, for the additional funds for collection development in the library. Dr. Keenum thanked Vice President Jones for her comment. He added that he serves on the board for the Mississippi Department of Archives and History. One of the perks is getting a tour of many wonderful places, including the basement of the Mississippi History and Civil Rights Museums. While on one of these tours he encountered an 1841 brass Howitzer cannon. It was used as a smooth boar cannon in the Mexican War and as a rifled cannon in the Civil War. Ulysses S. Grant fought in both the Mexican and Civil Wars. He was commended for carrying a cannon up a tower, which turned the tide of the battle. It is possible that this was the very cannon hauled into the tower. Dr. Keenum asked the curator of the museum if they would loan the cannon to the Ulysses S. Grant Museum. The curator and the board agreed to loan the cannon. John Marszelak was able to secure a carriage for the cannon from the Shiloh National Military Park. Duffy Neubauer, a former MSU employee, has agreed to perform the restoration work on the carriage. Mr. Neubauer has gotten EMCC to do some of the welding required for the restoration process. When completed, the cannon will reside just outside the Ulysses S. Grant Museum.

Senator Zuckerman asked if there is a plan for the development of a centralized museum on campus to allow for the expansion and combination of different collections. Dr. Keenum replied there are ongoing discussions to address this involving both art and artifacts. He said his wife is a major supporter of enhancing the museums on campus. Dr. Keenum said he believes it would enhance the campus culture.

Dr. David Shaw, Provost and Executive Vice President

Dr. Shaw began by saying coming to Senate feels like he is coming home. He said he previously spent six years as a Senator, two of those years he was on the Executive Committee. During that time, a lot of effort was directed toward faculty governance issues. He said he has been looking forward to this day. Since he assumed his new role as Provost, he has met several times with President Follett and Vice President Jones. Dr. Shaw said he will continue to have a very regular meeting schedule with them. He said he would like the Provost's Office,

administration, and Faculty Senate to work hard to have an even better relationship than they have currently. Dr. Shaw said he came into his current position expecting and wanting to do a lot of listening. His schedule has been full of meetings every day so he can get up to speed with what is happening on campus and to learn of the concerns and challenges that we are facing. This will allow him to determine what the priorities are for campus. He said he will be at the Senate meetings regularly to listen, but he encouraged the Senators to contact him directly with any questions or input they might have. There are a number of items in the formative stages that will need Senate's input. One such item is the student evaluation of teaching. An ad hoc committee has been formed which is composed of a good cross-section of campus to discuss this issue. The committee has representation from faculty, department heads, associate deans, and students. The committee is not looking at this issue as a reaction to the new IHL policy, but they are addressing how we can do a better job of the evaluation of teaching, not just student evaluations. Jeff Dean has agreed to chair this committee and has already sent the committee links to national conversations on the subject. Dr. Shaw asked the Senators to use their representatives on the committee to convey their concerns and ideas. Dr. Shaw said he and Jake Manning, the President of the Student Association, have already engaged in discussions regarding not only this subject, but how we can view our relationships with our students in the very best way we can. Ultimately, student success is our success.

Dr. Shaw said he has entered this role asking a lot of questions. One of the questions is, are we doing the best that we can do to ensure student success. There are some phenomenal things going on currently. Dr. Shaw said he will be assigning a task force to look at student success in a wholistic manner to ensure that we are doing it in the best, most coordinated way. In two different cases in the last two weeks it has been identified that there is duplicative work being done in this area.

The Campus Master Plan Committee is in preliminary discussions of the new master plan slated to go into effect in 2021. Dr. Shaw said faculty input will be needed to help form the new plan. It is really exciting to see what has gotten accomplished as a result of the last master plan. He said he is even more excited to see where we can go moving forward into the next ten-year planning cycle.

Dr. Shaw said former Senate President, Dr. Brent Fountain served as an intern in the Provost's Office last year. One of the projects he undertook in that position was to examine if we are doing the best we can with student advising. A student survey was created and administered around the beginning of the year. There were 1,200 responses collected. The survey provided some very good feedback. The results came back much more positive than administration was afraid they might. The survey showed 80% of respondents had a good or very good understanding of the course sequence that they needed. Ninety percent of respondents said

they had reviewed their CAAP reports in the last 12 months. Seventy eight percent said they always or usually followed their advisors' recommendations. The number one reason they did not follow the advisor's recommendation was that it was offered when they did not want to take the course. Dr. Shaw said he has shared a complete PowerPoint presentation with President Follett and Vice President Jones. He said if the Senators would like a copy of it, they should contact President Follett, Vice President Jones, or himself. Dr. Shaw said there is discussion ongoing about whether this survey should be re-done. He said there are some things that came up regarding the wording of the questions, the timing of the survey's release, and working with the Student Association to do a better job promoting the survey. He said he is open to feedback regarding the first survey in order to make the second one better.

Another project that Dr. Fountain worked on was Maroon U. This is a one credit-hour course that freshman and transfer students were automatically enrolled in. As of this morning, 5,430 students have been enrolled. Of these students, 4,213 students, or 77%, have completed at least one module. Thirty two percent of the students have already completed the course. Dr. Shaw said the first release of Maroon U went very well and they are receiving feedback in order to improve it in the future.

Dr. Shaw thanked the faculty and staff for putting up with the ongoing issues in Allen Hall. Dr. Shaw said this morning at 7:00 a.m. he was in Allen Hall trying to figure out not only what is going on, but what needs to be done as well. The report from the consultant that was hired to perform various chemical analyses of the different potential sources of the issue will be received next Wednesday. He said a number of measures have already been taken to address the issues. Dr. Shaw said the top priority is the safety of everyone. This is why there was the scramble to move classes out of Allen Hall right before classes began. Dr. Shaw said, on behalf of the administration, he apologizes for the disruptions this has caused. The remedy to the situation will be a solution that fixes the issue and not just a band-aid. Dr. Shaw said the air scrubbers are running non-stop and this morning is the best that it has been in the building. It has been discussed to use this situation to learn how to best handle these types of situations moving forward.

Senator Carskadon thanked Dr. Shaw for coming to address the Senate and said he was happy to hear he intends to regularly attend. Dr Shaw thanked Senator Carskadon and said he has the Senate meetings protected on his calendar.

Secretary Robichaux-Davis asked if classes would return to Allen Hall after if the problem is fixed this semester. Dr. Shaw replied the goal is to make sure the space is safe for faculty, staff, and students and move the classes back as soon as possible. Senator Alley asked if additional seating could be made available in the first-floor classrooms with fixed seats. She said some students are unable to sit in the seats and end up standing. Dr. Shaw replied the seating in

those classrooms was discussed this morning in his walk-through. He agreed with Senator Alley that something needed to be done. Senator Alley thanked Dr. Shaw for the fast response to the report of breathing difficulties.

Senator Pelaez said a formal response was not provided by the Provost's Office regarding the Senate letter discussing student evaluations. Dr. Shaw replied he could provide a formal response if the Senators wished. He said his plan is to tweak the existing policy to be in compliance with the new IHL policy and have the new ad hoc committee guide any further editing of the policy. Senator Pelaez asked if this means paper evaluations will be available this semester. Dr. Shaw said he will need to look further into the ability to offer paper evaluations before he can give a definitive answer. Senator Pelaez asked if faculty will be guaranteed that the results from the spring student evaluations will not be used for tenure review. President Follett replied Dr. Bonner told OIRE not to release the results of the spring evaluations to anyone except the faculty member. He said the statistical results of the spring evaluations will be made available to the ad hoc committee on the evaluation of teaching. Senator Pelaez asked that a communication be sent to the faculty notifying them that the results will not be made available for annual evaluations. Dr. Shaw replied he will work with President Follett to send a communication to faculty. Senator Ridner asked if she was correct in saying that the results of the spring will not be required to be included for faculty promotion. President Follett replied the results will not be required to be turned in for promotion. He added the aggregated data will be available for the University as a whole. Tim Chamblee and Jim Dunne are both performing an analysis of the data from different perspectives to provide a more comprehensive report. Senator Ridner said the petition approved by Senate in the fall specifically dealt with the violation of current policy by only offering electronic student evaluations. Dr. Shaw replied that Senator Ridner's point is really well taken. Senator Pelaez said the reason she is asking if paper evaluations will be available this semester to conform to the current policy is due to the fact that having paper evaluations available requires time to prepare them in advance of the administration of the evaluations. Dr. Shaw replied that Senator Pelaez's point is really well taken. Dr. Shaw asked for feedback regarding the release and closing dates of the evaluations.

Senator Bora asked how the new Bachelor of Applied Science would be run. He asked if it would be tied to a specific campus, department, or college. Dr. Shaw replied the discussion of the mechanics of offering this degree are still in the preliminary stages. As of now, the program would be housed on the Meridian Campus due to the nature of it. Delivery will probably be primarily or exclusively done online. He said there is no interest in the development of a new college. The degree is meant to be tailored to student specific needs. Dr. Cruse, Dr. Ryan, and Dr. Seal are in conversations discussing the ins and outs of having a program like this. Dr. Shaw said some really good ideas have already been percolated up. Senator Bora asked if it would be

like the 2+2 program with one side of the 2+2 being technical courses. Dr. Shaw replied it would. Senator Freeman said his college has a program that would be interested in being a part of this program. He asked how they should go about initiating the discussion. Dr. Shaw replied Dr. Peter Ryan would be the individual to contact expressing interest in involvement in the program. This program development will follow the UCCC process. One thing that will need to be worked out with IHL is the structure of the program, whether it be a concentration or new degree programs.

Senator Sebba said she is currently the mentor of an Assistant Clinical Professor. She said there is very little information available regarding clinical positions. She said it is difficult to find funds to support the teaching and research of clinical faculty. Senator Sebba said she believes this needs to be addressed before a clinical faculty member is penalized due to a lack of properly outlining these new positions. Dr. Shaw replied there are questions about the research portion of clinical faculty. He said the question is whether the limited research dollars need to be distributed to clinical faculty when research is not their primary activity. He said he would like feedback which will codify what the requirements are for clinical faculty promotion. Senator Sebba said in some areas teaching and research are inter-linked. Dr. Shaw said he will take Senator Sebba’s comment as an action item. Senator Wipf said his department is facing the same challenge.

REPORT OF THE FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT

There has been a lot of activity over the summer, on a variety of fronts. As you are aware, David Shaw was selected to be our new provost, and Julie Jordan was selected as the interim VP for Research and Economic Development. Mary Ann Jones and I have already begun our regular meetings with the new provost, and I am personally looking forward to a great collaborative working relationship with Dr. Shaw.

As is always the case when we move into a new academic year, there are many committee assignments to be made. There are many committee representatives that are specifically identified, which is the case for the ones on which I currently serve. However, others are just designated as being a seat filled by a current senator. Our current list of representatives for each university standing committee for which we’re assigned one or more seats is shown here:

Committee	2019-20
Academic Accommodations Committee	Deborah Eakin
Academic Deans Council	Mary Ann Jones
Academic Review Board	Rebecca Robichaux-Davis

Associate Deans Council	Judy Ridner
Athletic Council	Randy Follett
Calendar Committee	Judy Ridner
Commencement Committee	Brian Davis
Committee on Campus Access	Mary Ann Jones
Committee on Courses and Curricula	Kathy Sherman-Morris
Community Engagement Committee	Mary Ann Jones
Dining Advisory Committee	Patty Lathan
Dining Advisory Committee	Mary Ann Jones
Diversity Council	Randy Follett
Employee Benefits Committee	
Executive Council	Randy Follett
Executive Enrollment Management Committee	Randy Follett
Faculty Research Advisory Committee	Dipingkar Dutta
Faculty/Staff Housing Appeals Committee	Randy Follett
Galleries and Museums Committee	
Gerontology Committee	Lyndsey Miller
Information Technology Council	Randy Follett
Institutional Effectiveness Committee	Marina Denny
Instructional Improvement Committee	Tom Carskadon
Instructional Improvement Committee	
Instructional Technology Advisory Committee	Kathleen Alley
Library Committee	Molly Zuckerman
Master Plan Development and Advisory Committee	Randy Follett
Master Plan Development and Advisory Committee	Mary Ann Jones
Parking and Traffic Regulation Committee	Randy Follett
President's Commission on the Status of Minorities	Patty Lathan
President's Commission on the Status of Women	Mary Ann Jones
President's Committee on Planning	Mary Ann Jones
Registration and Scheduling Committee	
Special Events and Game Day Operations	Randy Follett
Sustainability Committee	Randy Follett
Teaching Evaluation Committee	Darrin Dodds
Textbook Committee	Mary Ann Jones
Undergraduate Research and Creative Discovery Committee	Mary Ann Jones
Work Life Balance Committee	Stacy Haynes

As you can see, most of the assignments have been made, which was accomplished by giving the option to the previous representative to continue in that position before asking for new volunteers. However, there are currently four committees needing representation from the

senate. Please consider these service opportunities, and let me know if you are interested in representing senate on one of these. I'm hoping to get this finalized within the next week, though, so I'll start recruiting if no volunteers emerge.

Status of AOPs:

The following AOPs are not under review to the best of my knowledge, but are past the four-year review cycle:

AOP	Title	Date
10.05	Nepotism	12/5/2012
12.23	Cooperative Education Program	6/9/2013
13.06	Sabbatical Leave for Faculty Members of State IHL	6/9/2014
13.09	Credentials for Teaching	7/27/2015
13.22	Guidelines for Adjunct Faculty, Visiting Faculty, Visiting Scholars/Scientists, and Visiting Executive Appointments	3/6/2015
31.02	Legal Resident Status	2/5/2013

Reports from committees on which I serve:

Athletic Council – This committee last met on April 24th, after our last senate meeting of the spring. There were a number of updates, including a presentation from the new women's soccer coach James Armstrong, and updates on the financial aspects of athletics. It was noted that in FY19, over \$4M was transferred to campus from athletics, which is up over \$1.1M from the previous year.

Diversity Council – has not met since my last report

Executive Council – This council met on July 22, to consider several items that had been through the review process.

OP 01.12 Use of Information Technology Resources

AOP 12.12 Credit and Grades

AOP 13.23 Faculty Workload

AOP 12.25 Pass-Fail Option (Rescind)

OP 56.07 The Safe Shipping, Storage, and Handling of Pesticides and Other Toxic Chemicals

OP 79.06 Controlled Substances Used in Research (new policy)

Each of the policies presented were recommended for approval by the council, with the exception of AOP 13.23. This was pulled from consideration after I pointed out that the latest revisions from senate were not incorporated in this modification. After further investigation, it was determined that there had been two considerations by senate since the last approval, and the Associate Deans Council and Deans Council had only seen the first of the two.

Additionally, Wes Berger gave a presentation on a proposal for MSU to achieve Bee Campus certification. Approval was given by Dr. Keenum, and our Bee Campus Committee is now applying for certification through the Xerces Society.

Executive Enrollment Management Committee – This committee meets every month, so we have had several meetings since the April senate meeting. The primary types of information that are conveyed in this meeting relate to recruitment and comparisons of enrollment over time. As of our last meeting (on August 13), there were a total of 15,722 returning students, plus 5,845 new students (including freshmen, transfers, and new graduate students) making the total enrollment at that time 21,974. Many detailed comparisons are provided, but overall, we were down about 407 students from the same point in time last year. There are also presentations made at each of these meetings about what strategies are being used to encourage higher enrollment, and to track and help in a variety of ways when it is determined that students are at risk. The Office of Student Success has a large group of students who are “Navigators” for the new students, and stay in contact with them throughout the year. Another interesting tidbit of information presented is that for the first time ever, it appears that there will be a larger number of female students than male students. (As of the time of that meeting, there were about 60 or so more females than males.) Finally, information presented during the summer indicates that our 4-year graduation rate is still increasing, and that the 5-year rate is also increasing now.

Game Day and Special Events – There have only been a few meetings of this committee since the April meeting of senate, with most of the attention focused on approvals of requests for space and discussions about trash pick-up in the Junction. The biggest new request was for sales tents in the Junction, involving Barnes and Noble, Aramark, and Dyehard. They will each have space for a 20'x20' tent, near the Gate 8 area, and will have sales operations in place for each of the home games. There was also an extended discussion of ideas to help encourage tailgaters to clean up after themselves after each game. In recent years, there has been a significant increase in the amount of trash left in the Junction from private tailgaters, and there is significant support at the upper levels for strong accountability measures for this season. The suggested approach is to monitor areas, with significant signage ahead of time about the need to leave your area clean. If there is evidence of non-compliance, there will be consideration of shutting that area off for one or two subsequent games. One other change that was agreed to

was a staggered parking price rate, where interior campus lots would begin charging \$30, with the price decreasing to \$10 for peripheral lots, such as at Research Park.

Information Technology Council – This committee meets monthly, so we’ve met four times since the April meeting of senate. A substantial portion of the reports presented at each of these meetings is in regard to completion rates of the major programs being conducted, such as the VOIP switchover, the O365 migration, and upgrades to classroom technologies. I am planning to invite Steve Parrott to speak at the September meeting of senate, in order to get his take on how things are progressing, as well as what we can look forward to over the next several months. In the meantime, there are several items that you have likely heard something about over the summer. MDITS (the Mississippi Department of Information Technology Services) has mandated that we (along with other IHL entities) undergo an IT Risk Security Assessment, which is ongoing here at MSU. As you likely have noticed, there is a new Cloud Email Security product from Cisco being used in O365, and AMP (Advanced Malware Protection) has been adopted to replace our previous product, SOPHOS. Note that AMP is not available for personally owned computers, so you should configure those computers to take advantage of some other protection software, such as Microsoft’s built-in product, Windows Defender.

Additionally, a presentation was given about Maroon U, which is a zero credit hour required course for all new students in Canvas, with a number of items being covered. One big area that is covered is Title IX training, but there are also other modules related to finances, Honor Code, Health and Wellness, Student Success, and “Resilience and Grit”. Students are auto-enrolled in this course, and are able to complete it before classes start for the semester. They also have continued access to the material during the entire time that they are students.

During the August meeting, mention was made of the migration from Skype for Business to the new Microsoft Teams. (This is based on the upcoming discontinuation of Skype for Business.) While it was necessary to migrate to Teams despite it not being a fully mature product, it is expected that improvements will continue to be made to it, greatly increasing its utility. Another item that was discussed is an upcoming migration to use of Fastly for our web offerings. This service will greatly improve our latency issues around the world, due to the large number of servers that will operate as repeaters for our website. This also improves our robustness, particularly in the event that serious weather issues were to take down the local servers on campus. We have gotten a very good price on this, based on the fact that Fastly is trying to move more into the educational market. They also have the ability to support sudden increases in demand, which helps keep our network from breaking down under heavy loading. There was also a preliminary discussion of DMARC (Domain Message Authentication Reporting & Conformance), which is a new standard for e-mail authentication. With this standard in

place, there is a tremendously reduced chance of anyone spoofing addresses. Finally, ITS is starting up a process of developing a strategic plan, and is hoping to get that complete in the next several months. Faculty Senate was asked to provide a representative for that process, and Kent Marett (Management and Information Systems) has agreed to serve in that capacity.

Master Plan Development and Advisory Committee – (During the summer, there was one meeting of MPDAC in person, although the Design Review Subcommittee (DRC) had multiple meetings. The result of these meetings of the DRC allowed the full MPDAC to conduct e-mail votes in regard to the consent agendas presented.) For the May 9th meeting of MPDAC, there was a motion from the DRC to approve the initial renderings of the Indoor Tennis facility, approve construction of the new Steak and Shake facility in the Roberts Building, approve the new Pizza Hut in the Union, and discuss signage questions for Moe’s and Subway. In the e-mail discussions, it was determined that the signage questions for Moe’s and Subway, as well as some signage questions related to Steak and Shake, would be tabled until there was a face to face meeting of the full committee. In the meantime, the rest of the items were all approved by e-mail vote.

During June, the DRC met to consider the presentation related to an Orientation Leader and Road Runner Park, by John Dickerson. The subsequent e-mail vote of the MPDAC resulted in approval of this as a concept, which will mean that it now can be designed and returned to committee for full approval. In addition, the site location of the future Kinesiology building was approved, as were some modifications to the current work being done by AT&T in the Junction area.

The July meeting of MPDAC was in regard to a HAILSTATE installation and a proposed new Alpha Delta Pi sorority house. The proposed new HAILSTATE installation between Montgomery Hall and Perry Cafeteria as a photo-opportunity site was presented, and the site and conceptual design were approved. An Alpha Delta Pi house is being developed, with approval being sought for the external plan, as well as site plans, sustainable construction and accessibility. Since this is going to be constructed with private funds, the approvals are related primarily to exterior appearances and location. (Alpha Delta Pi House Corporation is directly involved in the interior planning of the facility.) This item was also approved as presented.

Due to a lack of business being submitted, the August DRC meeting and the MPDAC meeting were both cancelled.

Parking and Traffic Regulations Committee – This committee normally meets every month, but the April and May meetings were cancelled due to a lack of business this summer. In June, there were a couple of items brought up for consideration. First, there was a resolution from the Student Association (Resolution #1 for the 58th Senate) to request a three way stop sign at

the intersection of Greek Drive, and Clyde Sheely Circle (adjacent to the Sigma Chi Fraternity house). After some debate, it was decided that once classes start this fall, a review of traffic should be conducted, as well as discussions with Interfraternity Council and the Pan-Hellenic Council. Additionally, there was a proposal to install No Parking signage on College View Street, so that it is clear that this is a no parking zone. This will allow University PD the authority to tow any car parking illegally. This will enhance safety in the area of the new College View Development, and was approved by the committee.

The July meeting focused mainly on a request to change some staff parking spaces to service spaces, behind Cresswell and Hathorn Halls. This motion passed, after verification that a sufficient number of staff parking spaces would still be available in that area.

Sustainability Committee – This committee last met on May 29th, and considered several items, mostly along the lines of sustainability with regard to construction. There was a presentation of the Energy Model for the new Indoor Tennis Facility, which will actually be about 30% above the ASHRAE 90.1 Standard that we’re operating under at this time. We also saw a rendering of the new Music Building. Next, it was announced that for the ASHRAE 90.1 Standard, we have been operating under the 2010 code, but we are now moving to the 2013 standard. (There is some significant lag in dates that are approved, and the most current version is only at 2015.)

In addition, it was mentioned that there is a battery recycling program operating out of the ground floor lounge in Swalm, and that the Maroon Volunteer Center in Mosely is working on bag woven mats (using plastic shopping bags). The new parking garage that was just started is planned for almost total solar powered operation (excluding the elevators), and there is significant solar power capability that will be installed on the Rula Building. The final topic of discussion centered on OP 91.354, the Facilities Use Policy, which at this time doesn’t contain any sustainability terms of use, and the need for changes to occur in that policy.

Senator Pelaez asked how to utilize the battery recycling program. President Follett replied he is not sure of the mechanics of the program, but he will find out. Senator Pelaez asked if there is a recycling program for plastic bags. President Follett replied he did not know, but would find out and report back.

Senator Counterman asked if the University Sustainability Officer position will be filled. Jake Manning, Student Association President, replied he spoke to George Davis and was told the position will be filled.

REPORT OF THE FACULTY SENATE VICE PRESIDENT

Academic Deans Council –

Did not meet over the summer

Committee on Campus Access –

Did not meet over the summer

The Hand Lab accessibility ramp project has begun.

Community Engagement Committee –

Did not meet over the summer

President's Commission on the Status of Women –

Disbanded. I don't have an update on the merging of the diversity committees on campus. I will provide an update as soon as I have additional information.

President's Committee on Planning –

Did not meet over the summer

Textbook Committee –

Has not met since I have been assigned to the committee

Undergraduate Research and Creative Discovery Committee –

The URCD committee met in early May and discussed the need for better organization and dissemination of the undergraduate research happening on campus. The committee is working on updating the website and Dr. Jim Dunne will be looking for any college-level undergraduate research programs to add to the website.

The summer Undergraduate Research Symposium was held on August 2. There were 48 projects in Biological Sciences & Engineering; 40 projects in Physical Sciences & Engineering; 7 projects in Social Sciences; and 1 Arts & Humanities project.

2019 Faculty Senate Spring Roundtable:

Final report has been submitted to Dr. Keenum. The report will be available on the Faculty Senate website soon.

Open Educational Resources (OER):

Dr. Shaw has asked me to work with the Student Association on a campus OER proposal. If you are using OERs or know a colleague who is using OERs, please have them contact me.

The Z Degree call for grant applications is expected soon. Be on the look-out for a campus announcement for the opportunity to apply for grant funding to write, remix, or use OERs.

Senator Wipf asked if open educational resources have to be under an open access license. Vice President Jones replied they would have to have at least a creative commons license. She said this initiative is geared toward saving students money. The students at the University of Arkansas have saved over \$800,000 over the last three years due to their open access initiative.

Senator Pelaez said she is concerned about the disbanding of the President’s Committee on the Status of Women and the President’s Committee on the Status of Minorities to form one all-encompassing committee. Vice President Jones replied there is direction from IHL suggesting they would like to see one all-encompassing committee with regard to all minorities. Rasheda Forbes can be contacted with suggestions for the new committee.

FACULTY DESIGNATES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEES

1. AOP 10.03 Deans Council and Associate Deans Council(University Resources)
2. AOP 11.04 Split-Level Combined Undergraduate/Graduate Courses(Academic Affairs)
3. AOP 12.15 Academic Probation for Undergraduate Students(Academic Affairs)
4. AOP 12.16 Academic Suspension and Dismissal(rescind) (Academic Affairs)
5. AOP 12.37 Graduate Student Academic Grievance Procedures(Academic Affairs)
6. AOP 13.14 Grade Appeal and Academic Review Board(Student Affairs)
7. AOP 13.16 Establishment of Academic Centers and Institutes(University Resources)
8. AOP 21.01 Graduate Admission Criteria(Academic Affairs)
9. Letter of Request: Student Honor Code(Student Affairs)

Secretary Robichaux-Davis made a motion to send the items to their respective committees. Senator Bora seconded the motion. The motion to send the items to their indicated committees passed by unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs **No Report**

Ancillary Affairs **No Report**

Charter & Bylaws **No Report**

Faculty Affairs **No Report**

Student Affairs **No Report**

University Resources **No Report**

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Senator Carskadon asked the Senators to send any thoughts they have for the ad hoc committee on the evaluation of teaching to either President Follett or himself. Senator Denny said the Teaching Evaluation Committee made recommendations regarding the student evaluation of teaching. She asked what was happening with these recommendations. She said she does not want the work that the standing committee did to have to be re-done. President Follett asked Senator Carskadon to send the results of the prior examination to discuss with Dr. Shaw.

Senator Bora asked what the ad hoc committee was charged to do. President Follett said the committee was charged to develop revised language for AOP 13.15, determine if adjustments are needed in the questions asked on the student evaluations of teaching, strengthen the language that requires evaluations other than student evaluations, and develop plans to optimize online evaluations with special thought on how to engender faculty support on the fairness of this evaluation mechanism.

Vice President Jones made a motion to adjourn. Secretary Robichaux-Davis seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed by unanimous voice vote at 4:25 p.m.

Submitted for correction and approval.

Rebecca Robichaux-Davis, Secretary

Jason Cory, Administrative Assistant II