

**ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE
UNCORRECTED MINUTES OF MEETING ON DECEMBER 8, 2000**

The Robert Holland Faculty Senate of Mississippi State University held its regular meeting in Coskrey Auditorium of Memorial Hall at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, December 8, 2000.

Members absent and excused were Larry Anderson, Sharon Black, Susan Bridges, James Bryant, Stanley Bullington, Randy Follett, and PC McLaurin.

Members absent and unexcused were Thomas Fisher, David H. Huddleston, Rachel McCann, Nancy McCarley and Masoud Rais-Rohani.

The meeting was broadcast real-time over the World Wide Web. The file will be left active for a few weeks and can be reviewed by clicking on the Senate homepage at http://www.msstate.edu/Org/FS/faculty_senate.html.

Chair Dan Embree called the meeting to order.

Chair Embree referred to the minutes of the November 10, 2000, Regular Meeting as distributed. Senator Crowell moved, Senator Light seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate approve the minutes of November 10, 2000, as amended and corrected. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of the Senate.

GUESTS

Chair Embree introduced guests of the Senate: President Malcolm Portera; Dr. David Cole, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; and Dr. Leslie Bauman, Director of SACS Self-Study.

MALCOLM PORTERA, PRESIDENT

Dr. Portera provided the following information:

- < The Legislative Budget Committee each fall estimates how much money the state will have available for the coming year and recommends budget levels accordingly. Last week, pointing to slower than expected growth in the state economy and previous legislative commitments that require continued funding, the Legislative Budget Committee recommended budget reductions next year for state agencies including higher education. Those recommendations could lead to a decline of 14 percent, or \$11-12 million, in Mississippi State University's state funding for 2001-2002.

- < The estimated shortfall for the Agriculture budget is \$9 million.

- < The Governor has ordered a five percent budget reduction in state agencies excluding elementary, secondary and higher education in this fiscal year.
- < The Governor has also committed to go into the Rainy Day Fund to the tune of about \$50 million which would generate about \$95-100 million dollars to offset the shortfall in revenues. The shortfall in revenues for November 2000 was \$25 million.
- < Portera referred to his e-mail letter to the MSU faculty and staff stating that it is still early in the state budgeting process. State agency budgets for 2001-2002 will not become final until April, and we will work hard during that time to help our legislative leaders find ways to avoid the proposed budget reductions.
- < The Board of Trustees of Institutions of Higher Learning is well aware of the potential impact of the proposed cuts on the operation of the universities. Individual board members have pledged to work with us to mitigate the effects of decreased state funding and to seek ways to increase revenue from other sources.
- < MSU has ample time to develop contingency plans on campus to lessen the impact of a funding reduction next year. Portera is seeking innovative ways to operate more efficiently and reduce costs. Senators are asked to participate in developing these plans.
- < MSU has already made a substantial start on dealing with a likely reduction in next year's state funding. MSU is well on the way to completing a plan adopted earlier this fall to reallocate \$5.85 million in anticipation of a state budget cut during the current fiscal year. That permanent reallocation of funds can be used starting next July to help offset any reduction in state funding for 2001-2002 and beyond.
- < These are challenging times, but MSU will adapt to the circumstances and continue to move forward. Everything possible is being done to minimize the negative impact on teaching and research at this university. A possibility exists for increases in tuition and fees for the next fiscal year.
- < Senator Crowell thanked President Portera for visiting with the faculty of the History Department and referred to Portera's remarks about the possibility of shutting off the power and heat to certain buildings on campus during off-peak times. Senator Crowell reported that the faculty in his department view this as a universally destructive measure. They work during this time and need access to their offices, computers, telephones, etc. Portera's response was that a proposal has been brought to his attention to possibly leave the power to buildings on, but turn off the heat. This compromise would allow faculty access to their offices and computers, but they would

have to provide their own space heating. During Spring Break and the interim between the spring and summer semesters, the air conditioning would be turned off. The major concern is pipes freezing; repairs would be more costly than leaving the heat on.

- < Senator Crowell asked about why numerous student activities occurred during dead days when the policy concerning dead days prohibited such activities. Provost Cole said he would check into the matter and report back to the Senate.
- < Senator Diehl asked about vacant faculty positions in both the current and upcoming fiscal years and how they might be impacted by budget cuts. Provost Cole responded that faculty positions during the current fiscal year have not been touched. As for the next fiscal year, he does not yet know whether vacant faculty positions will be protected. Portera commented that by April, the administration should have sufficient information to make a decision about budget cuts.
- < Senator Gootee again asked about the possibility of shutting off the power and heat to certain buildings on campus during off-peak times. Portera responded that nothing definite has been decided, but the administration is only considering this option for about one-third of the buildings on campus (for example, the Student Union).
- < Senator Thaxton asked if it would be possible to ask Alumni and Friends of the University to make donations for operating expenses under these extreme budget conditions. Portera responded that yes, this could be a possibility and that the administration would be looking into such options.
- < Senator Crowell asked about the tennis court lights and whether they could be turned off after midnight and on rainy days. Portera responded that he would look into this.
- < Senator D-Abramo asked when faculty could hear about the possible tuition increase. Portera responded that the decision would probably be made in March 2001.
- < Senator Embree asked about the Ag budget and how much has already been reserved for possible budget cuts. Portera responded that about \$4 million towards the anticipated \$9 million budget cut has been reserved.

DAVID COLE, PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

Provost Cole had no additional comments.

LESLIE BAUMAN, DIRECTOR OF SAC STUDY

Dr. Bauman referred to the handout on the SACS Institutional Self Study for Mississippi State University emphasizing the charge to committees and requested nominations for membership on the various Proposed Self Study Committees.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Embree began his Robert Holland Faculty Senate Chair's Report by sharing the following remarks:

- < Larry Anderson has resigned from the University and therefore from the Robert Holland Faculty Senate.
- < Embree reported that Portera and Cole state that their top priorities will continue to be the protection of teaching and research as MSU faces budget cuts. This priority is not to say that departments and faculty won't be affected. The goal will be to try and figure out how to make budget cuts that will hurt but not cause permanent damage. For example, when considering the possibility of shutting off the electricity and heat in buildings, but maintaining the ability to work in them, if the compromise is to leave the power on but turn off the heat, then faculty could still access their offices and computers but would have to provide their own space heating.
- < Embree encouraged the Senators to read the Budget. It is located on the Internet.
- < Embree remarked that the \$5.85 million that Portera has saved this fiscal year is cash. It is not the same \$5.85 million which will be saved out of next year's fiscal budget. Since this money was saved by not replacing personnel, or by zero-ing out positions, the wages that generated the first \$5.85 million will still be there next year. Therefore if the Governor should not ask MSU for the first \$5.85 million that has already been saved, the University will have the original \$5.85 million plus the second \$5.85 million as of July 1, 2001. Portera is fairly certain that this will not happen and that the Governor will probably ask for both pools of money.
- < The Robert Holland Faculty Senate Executive Committee had two very successful meetings with members of the IHL Board of Trustees: a working luncheon with Carl Nicholson, President of the Board of Trustees and a working/social dinner with several members of the Board at Portera's home. These meetings promoted real exchanges of information and were substantive, academic, frank, and encouraging. They covered matters such as the budget, tuition increases, relations between the faculty and the Board, and tenure--including post tenure review. After these meetings, Nicholson

remarked to Portera that he had never had such a good meeting with faculty in his eight years on the Board.

- < MSU will be hosting next year's IHL Board of Trustees President, Bill Crawford, on January 25, 2001, and Embree encouraged suggestions from Senators on possible activities that would educate the Board about those parts of MSU's mission which they seem not to understand well (i.e., the importance of graduate instruction versus undergraduate instruction; the importance of travel...particularly foreign travel; the importance of research to the undergraduate mission).

Embree is keeping a log of activities he performs as Chair of the Robert Holland Faculty Senate which resemble activities of an ombudsman. Within the last month, he has logged nine items, totaling about one hour's work, which could pass as such activities. Embree will make this log available to a committee should the matter of an ombudsman formally reach the Senate.

REPORT OF THE VICE CHAIR

Vice Chair D=Abramo referred to the Robert Holland Faculty Senate Vice Chair's Report as distributed. He commented on the sample offer letter which is being developed. D=Abramo is also working toward developing a description of an ombudsman. Presently the term is defined as ~~A~~ a third party arbitrator who investigates complaints or resolves appeals between faculty and administrators.@ As a member of the Traffic Policy Committee, D=Abramo is developing a request for a policy that, during football games, would provide faculty with access to the parking lots where their offices are located.

Senator Crowell remarked that the football parking money started by charging on a couple of lots and was a temporary arrangement to get money to pay for parking. Since then it has expanded and seems to have become permanent. Where does this money go? D=Abramo responded that it goes to the Athletic Department. Senator Crowell asked that D=Abramo double-check on this matter and determine the rationale for charging as well as why it has become a permanent practice. D=Abramo agreed.

Senator Diehl asked where the funds come from that pay for the damage created by the RVs. Embree responded that such damage is paid for by the Athletic Department.

REPORT FROM FACULTY SENATE DESIGNATES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

No reports.

BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEES

Letter from Dr. David Cole re: Grade Inflation -- Senator Crowell moved, Senator Diehl seconded, to refer this issue to committee. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of the Senate. Chair Embree assigned this issue to an ad hoc committee which he will chair and which will include members from the Provost's Office.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

No report. Chair Donohoe did request that if any Senators had horror stories about student evaluations of teaching or grade appeals to please forward them to him via e-mail. This information would be very beneficial to his committee as it considers matters it is currently studying.

ANCILLARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Senator Morse, Chair of the Ancillary Affairs Committee, referred to this Committee's report on Dr. Lorenzo Crowell's letter dated August 30, 2000 regarding Staff Cuts. No recommendation made. No action required by the Senate. No questions.

CHARTER AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

Senator Diehl, Chair of the Charter and Bylaws Committee, referred to this Committee's report pertaining to the letter from Dr. Lawrence Zuercher dated August 28, 2000, regarding Governance Questions relevant to DAFVM.

Senator Diehl moved, Senator Thaxton seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate endorse the proposed recommendation that whenever new positions are created or whenever existing positions are altered in title, scope or responsibility, the Robert Holland Faculty Senate be consulted to ensure adherence to the spirit of governance.

The motion passed on a Senate vote of 35-0-0.

Senator Diehl moved, Senator Crowell seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate endorse the proposed recommendation that in recognition that an administrative reorganization can have as far-reaching effects as standard hiring, the Robert Holland Faculty Senate encourage the administration to apply the spirit of governance by consulting the affected faculty prior to such reorganizations.

Senator Crowell offered a friendly amendment changing the word *encourage* to *expects*. The Committee did not accept this amendment.

Senator Marshall moved a substitute motion, Senator Crowell seconded, that the Provost, Vice President for Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine; and the President be reprimanded for ignoring the Governance Document in the appointment of the new Dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

Senator Crowell moved, Senator Kelly seconded, to table the motion. The motion failed by a voice vote of the Senate.

Senator Marshall's substitute motion failed on a Senate vote of 7-25-1.

Senator D-Abramo offered a friendly amendment changing the original motion to read that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate endorse the proposed recommendation that in recognition that an administrative reorganization can have as far-reaching effects as standard hiring, the Robert Holland Faculty Senate states that the administration must not violate the spirit of governance and therefore must consult the affected faculty prior to such reorganizations. The Committee accepted this amendment.

The original motion as amended passed on a Senate vote of 32-1-0.

Senator Diehl moved, Senator Salin seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate endorse the proposed recommendation:

- (1) that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate applaud the decision of Vice President Charles Lee to terminate the search for an Executive Associate Dean where questions of university governance were at stake
- (2) that if the position of Executive Associate Dean is to be filled, then Vice President Lee should establish a search committee that contains a majority of elected representatives of the faculty and staff, as appropriate, drawn from the affected on-and off-campus units as stated in the *Principles for University Governance*, and
- (3) that Vice President Lee explain the relationship among the positions of Vice President, Dean, and the proposed Executive Associate Dean to the faculty of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences.

The motion passed on a Senate vote of 31-1-1.

FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Senator Williams moved, Senator D-Abramo seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate accept the report from the Faculty Affairs Committee. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of the Senate.

Senator Williams moved, Senator Kelly seconded, to allow Ann Bell to speak to the Senate pertaining to Proposed HRM Policy #60-117. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of the Senate. Ann Bell presented her comments.

Senator Williams, Chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, referred to this Committee's report on Proposed HRM Policy #60-117. Senator Williams moved, Senator Crowell seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate endorse the proposed recommendation:

(1) that the Senate accept proposed policy HRM #60-117, and

(2) that the Senate and HRM work jointly to explore the specific areas in which faculty and staff concerns about existing IHL Board Policy on matters affecting Outside Employment can be brought, through the Senate and MSU administration, to the Board's attention. This effort will be designed also 1) to ensure the integrity of such a policy while taking into account a range of conditions and circumstances not contemplated under the current policy and 2) to reduce reporting and paperwork requirements for enforcing such a policy.

Senator Marshall offered a friendly amendment 1) that the Senate reject HRM #60-117, and 2) that the Senate implore the President to bring our concerns to the IHL Board of Trustees. The Committee did not accept this amendment.

Senator Travis offered a friendly amendment to rescind the first point "that the Senate accept the proposed policy HRM #60-117" and keep only the second point. The Committee agreed to accept this amendment.

Senator Marshall moved a substitute motion, Senator Rogers seconded, 1) that the Senate reject HRM #60-117, and 2) that the Senate implore the President to bring our concerns to the IHL Board of Trustees.

Senator Marshall withdrew his substitute motion.

Senator D-Abramo offered a friendly amendment to add to the original motion, in place of point one which is already deleted, that the Senate states that the proposed policy HRM #60-117 is invasive, illegal, and arbitrary. The Committee did not accept this amendment.

Senator Light moved, Senator Thaxton seconded, to table the original motion. The motion passed on a majority voice vote of the Senate.

Senator Williams moved, Senator D-Abramo seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate accept the report from the Faculty Affairs Committee. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of the Senate.

Senator Williams, Chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, referred to this Committee's report on AOP 10.14 regarding Divisions, Colleges, Departments, Schools and Programs. Senator Williams moved, Senator Hood seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate approve AOP 10.14 with the endorsement of the following recommendation:

- (1) that, at the end of the Definitions section, a sentence be inserted: All colleges without departments or schools-and contingent upon IHL Board approval-the tenure home- for the faculty resides at the college level.@
- (2) that Academic Affairs personnel include in their next revision of AOP 10.14 definitions and procedures affecting Divisions and Centers.

The motion passed on a Senate vote of 24-0-2.

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Senator Duncan, Chair of the Student Affairs Committee, referred to this Committee's report pertaining to AOP 12.07 regarding Academic Misconduct. Senator Duncan moved, Senator D-Abramo seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate approve AOP 12.07.

No vote taken due to lack of a quorum.

Senator Duncan, Chair of the Student Affairs Committee, referred to this Committee's report pertaining to the letter from Dr. Paul Grimes dated September 25, 2000, regarding the Sanderson Center hours of operation. No recommendation made. No action required by the Senate.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Crowell moved, Senator D-Abramo seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of the Senate.

Submitted for correction and approval.

LaDonne Delgado, Secretary

