

**ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE
UNCORRECTED MINUTES OF MEETING ON FEBRUARY 13, 2003**

The Robert Holland Faculty Senate of Mississippi State University held its regular meeting in the John Grisham Room of the Mitchell Memorial Library at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, February 13, 2004.

Members absent and excused were Paul Allen, Lora Ballweber, Tim Chamblee, Allen Greenwood, Randy Little, Bill Stuart, Robert Wolverton, Peter Wood, and Mark Zappi.

Members absent and unexcused were Josh Blades and Vincent McGrath.

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.facultysenate.msstate.edu>.

President Walter Diehl called the meeting to order.

President Diehl referred to the minutes of the January 16, 2004, Regular Meeting as distributed. Senator Reichert moved, Senator Henington seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate approve the minutes of January 16, 2004. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

GUESTS

President Diehl introduced guests: Dr. Charles Lee, President, and Dr. Peter Rabideau, Provost.

CHARLES LEE, PRESIDENT

President Lee provided the following information:

- Lee appreciates everyone's efforts toward consolidating some degree programs and the report will go to the IHL Board this month to assist in answering some of their questions pertaining to productivity.
- There is a growing concern among University employees pertaining to the possible elimination of the state's contribution toward the health insurance plan. What is being discussed is just a proposal and may be changed many times before there is an end result.
- The Mississippi Arts Commission has approved a \$400 thousand dollar grant as part of the Meridian Project and Lee feels that this will greatly assist in making the Riley Education and Performing Arts Center a first-class reality.
- Comments and feedback have been received in the President's Office about the candidates for Vice President for Research and there seems to be a high level of agreement among opinions. Lee will be moving forward with this search in the near future.
- Lee expressed his gratitude to the city of Starkville alderman for their generous willingness to have an open discussion about the future of the 2-percent hotel and restaurant tax.
- In reference to the health insurance proposal, Senator Adams-Price asked what we could do to change the minds of key players so that the outcome would be more favorable for state employees. Lee responded that he and other MSU advocates are having discussions about

working toward this goal. The Mississippi Governor's vision has been very clear in term of higher education.

- Senator Goodman stated that at Monday's General Faculty meeting Lee described a system of evaluation in which the University's goals and objectives become the basis for annual evaluation of faculty. He asked if Lee this would change the process of annual evaluations and how they are conducted. Lee responded that he did not feel this would change the annual evaluation process, but should help everyone to be more accountable. Senator Goodman then asked as this process evolves, will the faculty be a part of it and Lee responded yes.

PETER RABIDEAU, PROVOST

Provost Rabideau provided the following information:

- The search for the Vice President for Research has gone very well.
- Fall Break – In discussions with President Diehl and the Faculty Senate Executive Council, Rabideau is under the impression that the Fall Break was not popular with the University faculty although they were willing to have one. He is also under the impression that the biggest problem with this past Fall Break was having the entire week of Thanksgiving off. The Student Association recently made a proposal that October 18-19 (a Monday and Tuesday) be designated as Fall Break and that the University only take the Wednesday off before Thanksgiving. This scenario is very close to what was discussed with the Faculty Senate Executive Council, therefore Rabideau is going to recommend this version of Fall Break to President Lee for the Fall of 2004. Rabideau wants Fall Break to still be considered experimental and re-visit it in the Spring of 2005.
- There may soon be a change in the total credits toward degree and the IHL Board has been discussing the 124-128 range with a provision for exceptions.
- Doctoral programs – there are three phases: (1) productivity, (2) university mission, and (3) importance to the state of Mississippi. The first phase has been reviewed and some programs have been combined as a result. The second phase, university mission, is being reviewed by the IHL Board.
- President Diehl asked if Rabideau knew when the reduction in degree programs would be implemented. Rabideau responded that he thinks the target date is next Fall although he is not sure of this and he is also not sure exactly how this will be implemented, will it have restrictions, or at who's/what's expense.
- Senator Embree asked what role was Rabideau, President Lee and the other provosts and presidents in the state playing in this process. Rabideau responded that he is not lobbying the legislature very hard at this time because it is not clear to him what is in the interest of the University at this point.
- Senator Embree remarked that the degree cuts are not going to be made in majors – the cuts are going to occur in history, in philosophy, and in literature, etc. which are the classes that are not job-related.
- Senator Kohers asked how the doctoral programs will be measured and Rabideau responded that the programs are measured by the number of PhD graduates over a five-year period.
- Senator Kohers asked if this meant that some doctoral programs would be eliminated and Rabideau responded yes.
- Senator Kohers then asked if we are regressing back to determining 'flagship status' of some schools and Rabideau responded no, that terminology has not been used.

- Senator Adams-Price asked how this would effect new doctoral program and Rabideau responded that generally there is a grace period for such programs before they are reviewed.
- Senator Huddleston asked if Rabideau would comment on how his involvement in the promotion and tenure process is going. Rabideau responded that he thinks the promotion and tenure system currently in place at MSU needs help. He feels that this system has major inconsistencies such as one faculty having external letters and another faculty within the same college or department not having external letters. He feels that all promotion documents should include external letters and that all faculty should be developing national reputations.
- Senator Embree asked if Rabideau would be making his recommendations on this year's promotion and tenure applications based on his opinions about these criteria even though they are not currently required in the existing promotion and tenure document. Rabideau responded that it is very important for him to pay careful attention to the policies that are currently in effect at MSU. If external letters are not required then applicants should not be penalized for not having them. Rabideau feels that if an applicant is not going to have external letters, then he/she needs to go to great lengths to document the quality of journals, the books, the reviews, etc. about their work.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Diehl's report included the following remarks:

- Diehl thanked Dean Coleman for making the Grisham Room available for the Senate's meeting.
- Diehl stated that the term 'flagship status' was used many years ago when he first joined the university, but that he has never heard this term discussed at any IHL Board meetings which he has attended.
- Diehl remarked that 'the devil is in the details' and it seems apparent that the IHL Board has not begun considering the details pertaining to degree requirements or program reductions and, if this is to be implemented this Fall, then this is a very scary issue which could involve huge changes in programs. These decisions should involve the Faculty Senate and the Curriculum Committee at minimum.
- Academic Forgiveness Policy – The recommendation of the Senate as well as the resolution of the Student Association went to the Provost and others. There were some issues that were not covered by the recommendation or resolution such as when this policy would start and to what extent any previous courses would be affected by this policy. It has been suggested that only courses dating back to Fall 2003 will be eligible.
- If a professor awards a student a zero on a test or project for dishonesty which pulls the student's final grade down, but not to an "F" – this policy does not apply. The "D" will be a forgivable grade.
- The Faculty Senate Executive Council made recommendations pertaining to the Vice President for Research search the these were consistent with other recommendations President Lee received across campus.
- Interviews have begun for the Vice President for Student Affairs.
- The University Faculty Senates Association will likely draft a letter to Gov. Barbour, Lt. Gov. Tuck, and appropriate leadership of the legislature concerning restoring the IHL budget, requesting support for pay raises and the health insurance concerns.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Vice President Reichert referred to the Senate Vice President's report as distributed and added the following remarks:

- Roundtable topics are being received such as faculty retention, salaries, etc. E-mail to Reichert.
- Senator Morse asked about Rabideau's comments pertaining to sabbatical leave and did he meant that if you wanted to take such leave and stay in Starkville, that he would be inclined to not approve it and Reichert responded that this was true.
- Senator Huddleston asked about the letters of invitation as they apply to a sabbatical leave and did this only apply to future sabbatical leave. Reichert responded that she assumed this was correct.

REPORT FROM FACULTY SENATE DESIGNATES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

Employee Benefits Committee – Senator Nebeker referred to the Committee's report as included in the agenda packet with no additional comments.

BUSINESS SENT TO COMMITTEES

None.

BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEES

None.

PRESENTATION OF RESOLUTION

Letter from Lou D'Abramo, re: Governance Resolution – Senator D'Abramo moved, Senator Embree seconded, that the Senate endorse the resolution as stated on page 21 of the meeting's Agenda.

The motion passed on a secret ballot vote of the Senate of 35-5-0.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Senator Morse, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, referred to this Committee's report on AOP 13.14: Grade Appeal and Academic Review Board. Senator Morse moved, Senator Adams-Price seconded, that the Senate approve AOP 13.14 with the following changes:

1. *Under Section A, Composition of the Board.* The Dean of Students and the Director of Graduate Studies serve as ex-officio members of the Academic Review Board.
2. *Under Section A.* The process for electing the member and the alternate who

- represent Graduate Studies be clarified.
3. *Under Section B, Statement of Policy.* Appeals associated with the fairness of grades must be filed with the instructor's department within 45 days; The recommended number of days should be **30** rather than 45.
 4. *Under Section C, Appeal Procedure. I.* The student is to take the complaint to the instructor involved. Our recommendation suggests that this should read "The student is to take the complaint **in writing** to the instructor involved."
 5. *Under Section C. 2.* Our recommendation is for the appeal to be filed within **30** days after the beginning of the next semester.
 6. *Under Section C. 4.* Our recommendation is that the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs should refer the case to the Academic Review Board **within two weeks.**
 7. *Under Section C. 5. b.* Our recommendation is that the instruction **and student** may request additional time by showing cause.
 8. *Under Section C. 5. g.* Our recommendation is that both student and instructor should have to provide a list of witnesses they intend to call.
 9. *Under Section C. 5. i.* Our recommendation is that the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs shall transmit the recommendations and the Provost's decision to the instructor and student **within 30 days of receiving the recommendation of the Board.**

Senator Embree offered a friendly amendment changing point C.5.i. to read as follows and the Committee agreed to accept it:

Recommendations of the Board and the *factual* basis upon which the recommendations are made will be issued in writing to the Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs for a final decision. The Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs shall transmit the *report* and the Provost's decision to the instructor and the student.

Senator Deeds moved, Senator Ryan seconded, that the Senate should vote on the acceptance of this friendly amendment. The motion did not pass on a Senate vote of 8-28-0, therefore the friendly amendment was accepted.

The motion as amended passed on a Senate vote of 36-1-2.

ANCILLARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Senator Mixon, Chair of the Ancillary Affairs Committee, referred to this Committee's first report originally initiated by a memo from Interim President Charles Lee dated September 5, 2002, requesting endorsement of the proposed Institutes and Centers Policy; and subsequently referred to the Committee as OP 01.18 "Policy and Guidelines for the Establishment and Operation of Research Institutes, Centers, and Related Facilities." Senator Mixon moved, Senator Dunaway seconded, that the Senate endorse the following recommendation:

That the Centers and Institute Policy be reclassified as an Academic Operating Policy, modified to consider the points as addressed in the Committee's report, and

be sent through the appropriate review process.

The motion passed on a Senate vote of 38-0-0.

Senator Mixon, Chair of the Ancillary Affairs Committee, referred to this Committee's second report initiated by a letter from Dr. George Rent, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs, regarding AOP 12.32: Refund and Course Credit Policy for Student Members of the Military Called to Active Duty or Deployed. Senator Mixon moved, Senator Adams-Price seconded, that the Senate approve AOPO 12.32 with the following modification:

That the graduate students receiving a grade of I under the conditions of military duty should be allowed to complete all the work no later than the last day of class of the next semester (excluding summer) of the student's next enrollment.

The motion passed on a Senate vote of 37-0-0.

CHARTER AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

No report.

FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

No report.

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

No report.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

No report.

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON FACULTY WORKLOAD

Senator D'Abramo, Chair of the *ad hoc* Committee on Faculty Workload, referred to this Committee's report on AOP 13.23: Faculty Workload. Senator D'Abramo moved, Senator Henington seconded, that the Senate approve AOP 13.23 as revised by the *ad hoc* Committee on Faculty Workload.

Senator D'Abramo moved, Senator Reichert seconded, to table the motion. This motion passed on a unanimous Senate voice vote.

OLD BUSINESS

The new draft of the University's Promotion and Tenure Policy was discussed in preparation for the vote to be taken at next month's Senate meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Reichert moved, Senator Embree seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of the Senate.

Submitted for correction and approval.

LaDonne Delgado, Secretary