

**ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE
UNCORRECTED MINUTES OF MEETING ON February 10, 2006**

The Robert Holland Faculty Senate of Mississippi State University held its regular meeting in the Grisham Room of the Mitchell Memorial Library at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, February 10, 2006.

Members absent and excused were Michael Brashier, Terry Hanson, Keith Hodge, Randy Little, PC McLaurin, Meghan Millea, Bill Smyer, Jeanne Swafford, Rick Travis, and Paul Thaxton.

No members absent and unexcused.

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 Mark Goodman called the meeting to order.

President Goodman referred to the minutes of the January 13, 2006, Regular Meeting as distributed. Senator Wolverton moved, Senator Adams-Price seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate approve the minutes of January 13, 2006. Minor modifications were suggested. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

GUESTS

President Goodman introduced guests: Dr. Peter Rabideau, Provost, Dr. Colin Scanes, Vice President for Research and Graduate Studies, and Dr. Steven C. Turner, Faculty Athletic Representative.

PETER RABIDEAU, PROVOST

Provost Rabideau provided the following information:

- The first of the new Faculty Seminars was held the night before. Approximately 65 attended the recent presentation by Dr. Noel Polk. Rabideau anticipates couple more this year. He stated the interest expressed by individuals is encouraging.
- An update on the post-tenure review upon which his office is working with Peter Wood to resolve issues that have been raised.
- He has received the Promotion and Tenure for Research, Extension, and Non-Tenure Track Faculty document. He will be working on identified issues and concerns with Drs. Scanes and Watson. These will be addressed and incorporated into the document.
- He discussed the “nuts and bolts” of the Tenure review process.
- No questions were posed by the senators to Dr. Rabideau.

COLIN SCANES, VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH AND GRADUATE STUDIES

Dr. Scanes provided the following information on graduate education activities.

- The number of graduate students up by 1% over last year, and the number of graduates at the last graduation ceremony were also noteworthy. The diversity of graduate students is increasing (19.4% are African-American students – leading in the SEC and AAU schools). Additionally, the graduation rate at the doctoral level is numerically above that for Caucasians.
- Efforts have been made to enhance (quicker and more streamline) the graduate application process. Dr. Person reports 70% of the applications have been submitted electronically. Graduate Admissions is acquiring scanning equipment to transfer transcripts to PDF format to facilitate this process. Scanes hopes to eventually only send electronic applications to graduate coordinators to make the process speedier.
- Funding for graduate students had previously been restricted within internal RFPs. A message has been sent that the Office of Research is encouraging the funding of graduate students within the RFPs from that office. Other efforts have been directed toward funding of graduate students.
 - An RFP from the Department of Energy (\$11 million award) is anticipated and in a recent meeting about the RFP, with approximately 60 faculty in attendance, the issue of support for graduate students was also discussed.
 - The College of Engineering has put money into excellence awards to fund graduate students.
 - On a trial basis, two programs in Arts and Sciences will receive some assistance for graduate education.
 - The Office of Graduate Studies has completed 90% of the planning for their reorganization and he anticipates this reorganization will free up additional resources for funding.
- Scanes indicated a need for a corresponding increase in the percentage of graduate students as the University increases in the number of students. He indicated that there is a need to increase the quality of graduate students to enhance the reputation of the University.
- Questions posed to Dr. Scanes:
 - Senator D'Abramo asked about the plans to address upcoming departure of Tracy Arwood from the Regulatory Compliance Office, specifically if there will be a national search and the anticipated timeline. Scanes responded that it is too soon to have answers to those questions. He indicated that he was sorry to see Tracy go. He announced that, for now, Mark McGee and Casey Strickland in SPA will be taking over her responsibilities.
 - Senator Wolverton asked about an examination of the decentralized mode for Graduate Studies. Scanes responded that decision is on hold until he receives the upcoming graduate education report from Faculty Senate.
 - Senator Henington requested an update on plans for facilities for the offices of Regulatory Compliance. Scanes responded that the Faculty Senate had been helpful in pushing for improvement in the amount and quality of space. He stated that what was currently in place was not adequate and that this issue was a high priority.

- President Goodman asked that candidates for Tracy's vacancy meet with the Senate Executive Committee.
- Vice President Wood asked about funding for graduate studies from the Office of Research, specifically which two departments were provided funding. Scanes responded that they were Chemistry and Bio-Sciences. He stated that there were concerns about recruitment in these units and around the level of funding for graduate students. Wood asked if other departments could make a similar claim for a need. Scanes responded that was always a possibility.

STEVEN TURNER, FACULTY ATHLETIC REPRESENTATIVE

Dr. Turner provided the following information with accompanying handouts:

- An update on the statistics for MSU athletes' grades and GPA (overall = 2.95, males, 2.75, females = 3.25), distribution of athletes by major, and other data, stating this was a record with data going back many years. He reminded that this was a snapshot in time. He explained various aspects of the information on the handouts with regard to specific sports. He outlined higher concentrations of athletes in business and education with some sports having differences in the number of majors. He stated he did not believe these differences were noteworthy.
- In data collected at exit interviews concerning athletes' perception of their tenure at MSU showed ratings for athletic experience (on a 1 – 10 scale) was 7.46. Turner indicated a need for a measure of education experience. Additionally, 92% of graduating athletes would chose MSU had they an opportunity to so again. On a scale of 0 – 4, athletes indicated 2.38 (between adequate and substantial) regarding their perception of integration with the other MSU students.
- Questions posed to Turner included:
 - Senator Wolverton asked about a recent news story on the basketball program. Turner responded that this issue was related to the national letters of intent where violations related to a visit to campus by a basketball candidate were found. He reported a penalty was assigned to the basketball team.
 - President Goodman asked about the news release about a Thursday night football game for next year's season and if Turner had been consulted. Turner indicated that he had not been involved, but was kept informed of the discussions. Turner stated the date was the August 31, 2006 game against South Carolina. Goodman asked if Coach Croom desired to have classes cancelled for players other that day. Turner declined to speculate on this, but stated he would ask about needed accommodations for classes held that evening.
 - Senator D'Abramo asked for clarification of the survey question on integration with the student body. Turner indicated information by team and by gender was available. Senator Blanchard followed up with a need to have a measure from the student body in general on this issue. Turner stated the questionnaire had about 40- questions with topics such as tutoring, classes missed, etc. He was reporting on areas he thought were of importance and interest to the senators.
 - Senator Henington indicated that there is a difficulty for athletes in scheduling afternoon classes such that some student-athletes were forced to choose

- between taking a class and missing practice. Turner also indicated that this problem was a factor with away games.
- Senator Wolverton reported that MSU had recently lost a student-athlete in tennis to UC, Berkeley.
 - President Goodman asked about NCAA regulations and the policy for students who are enrolled in afternoon classes. Turner indicated there was no excused absence for this, the student-athlete was no excused from class to go to practice.
 - Senator Wood asked about the purported new athletic academic facility that is to be constructed next to the M-Club. Turner responded that that facility was being supported by a donor, but that the project had not been finalized and little information has been released regarding the facility. Further discussion involved concerns about the facility (e.g., separation of athletes from the regular student populations, placement of the facility and integration into the MSU Master Plan).
 - Senator Wolverton asked about “Bass Affair” and any potential problems. Turner stated that he does not know much about the situation and that he anticipated having more information as it evolves.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Goodman gave the following report:

- He stated that the faculty had not been involved in the discussions about the Thursday night football game and asked if the Senate would want to invite Larry Templeton to discuss the situation. He stated that following the last weekday night game, Academic Affairs had received approximately \$100,000 from the funds the game had generated. Discussion included the need to have communication between Athletics and the faculty regarding such decisions (e.g., impact on Thursday classes, faculty work schedules) and infusion of funding for classroom improvement such an arrangement would offer. It was determined that Templeton would be invited to the next Senate meeting.
- There had been a compromise within the Presidential Search; with four members from the campus committee will attend the finalist interviews in Jackson. Goodman indicated that the committee members’ roll in the search process is uncertain. Goodman expressed a desire to have those members interview the candidates and consult with the IHL about their impressions of the candidates, rather than to be introduced to the new president after the decision is made.
- Senator Nagel asked about the poll conducted to determine whether to invite Dr. Tom Meredith to speak with Faculty Senate. Goodman clarified that the Senate has asked Meredith to the March meeting or possibly a future date at his convenience. He clarified that the vote was to determine whether to have a called senate meeting regarding the search process activities. The vote was 19 – 19. No meeting will be called.
- Senator Bird asked about the communications from other faculty senates within the state regarding the search. Goodman responded that he has had discussions with members of the Faculty Senate at USM and other universities. He stated that he had not heard from Old Miss, but he met with the USM Faculty Senate and they had issued a resolution in MSU’s Faculty Senate about the search process. He stated that other

university senate officers have had discussions on a listserv regarding the process. He stated that the consensus is that the current process is inadequate. He further stated that it is likely that Meredith will appoint all three presidents at the three major universities; and there is a need to have a strong president at the helm of each of the three to support the universities and faculty in a number of concerns that are possible (e.g., moving programs between the universities, a Shelby Thames scenario, a lack of understanding within IHL of the faculty and their role at the universities). Discussion involved the specifics of the search process, the input from other constituent groups (e.g., alumni, donors to the university), comparisons of this search with other recent presidential searches, timelines, and the forces behind the secrecy within the search.

- Senator Diehl asked about the possibility of an invitation by the faculty to meet with the finalists. Goodman responded that it would be uncertain if that would be possible given the unknown specifics of the process and when the finalist would be offered position.
- Senator Dunaway asked if Goodman would be able to report how many applications had been submitted. Goodman stated that he would not be able to disclose names, but he believed he would be able to provide some information about general characteristics. He stated some candidates are actively campaigning. He stated that the bottom line is the process is a blatantly inefficient search.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Vice President Wood gave the following report:

- With regard to post-tenure review process, the ad hoc committee of senators and faculty expressed concerns regarding the policy to Dr. Rabideau. Wood stated that there had been several recommendations to clarify the process. Wood stated that Rabideau had responded to those recommendations and that agreements had been reached. These agreements will be presented at the next Senate meeting and will be given at the next Deans' Council. Wood stated that the recommendations are not a revision of the policy, but a clarification. He summarized the following key points:
 - The faculty member and the departmental faculty committee will be provided a written statement from the dean regarding the nature of the concern for low performance.
 - If a determination of insufficient evidence of low performance is found by the department faculty committee, the process ends and no development plan will be developed.
 - A concern about arbitrary and capricious reviews has been brought forward, such as repeated call for reviews for a faculty member, the criteria for prima facie low performance are unclear. Rabideau has agreed to engage a discussion with the appropriate group about the criteria to be used across departments.
 - The aim is to assist in implementation with no change in the policy, but those clarifications are still under review.
- There has been some interest in exploring graduate education at the spring Round Table. Wood stated that Graduate Education would be a headliner in the morning and several other topics would be discussed in the afternoon. He stated that the Round Table would be held on a Saturday in April at the Plymouth Bluff Conference Center.

The round table typically involves eight administrators (President, Provost, V.P. for Research), eight senators, and eight interested faculty.

➤ Questions posed to Wood:

- Senator Ryan asked about a past round table regarding graduate education and any existing report concerning that discussion. Wood responded that it was held about four years ago and he was unsure of a report on outcome. Senator D'Abramo reported there should be a report on the web. Wood stated that changes have occurred since then (e.g., decentralization of the graduate education). Ryan stated that discussion had included concerns about a lack of direction in projecting an image and no spearhead for funding specifically for graduate education.
- Senator D'Abramo asked when individuals would be told about their post tenure review. Wood responded that notification would occur after the fact and results would be provided at that time. Discussion involved concerns regarding uniformity across colleges. Wood stated that individuals should be notified of the outcome in writing following the review. He stated there had been four unsatisfactory reviews during the last cycle and that the cases are presumably being reviewed or remediated, depending on the process within the respective college.
- Goodman stated that round table minutes were posted on the Faculty Senate webpage. He clarified that the post tenure review process had been initiated by IHL and not MSU administration.

REPORT FROM FACULTY SENATE DESIGNATES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

Information Technology Committee – Senator Yu reported on the new ID and cards to begin in April and be completed by October 8th when the all old cards will be deactivated. The new ID will consist of nine digits beginning with the number 9 to distinguish the MSU ID number from social security numbers.

Campus Planning and Development Committee – Senator Deeds stated that there will be a review of the plan on March 1 and encouraged members to contact her with any concerns they desired to have discussed.

BUSINESS SENT TO COMMITTEES

None.

BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEES

Letter from Dr. Roy Montgomery, re: Faculty Senate Bylaws – Senator Montgomery moved, Senator Bridges seconded, to refer this issue to committee. Goodman indicated the Executive Committee had no recommendation regarding this letter. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. President Goodman assigned this issue to Charter and Bylaws.

Letter from Dr. Roy Montgomery, re: DAFVM – Senator Montgomery moved, Senator Wolverton seconded, to refer this issue to committee. Discussion involved the conflict between the two tenure review calendars, that there should be acknowledgement that individual units make their own decisions, and the possible appearance that Faculty Senate would be challenging the legitimacy of other senate bodies on campus. The motion was defeated on a 7-28-0 vote.

Letter from Dr. Jerry Gilbert, re: AOP 12.25 (Pass-Fall Option) – Senator Nagel moved, Senator D’Abramo seconded, to refer this issue to committee. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. President Goodman assigned this issue to Student Affairs.

Letter from Dr. Jerry Gilbert, re: AOP 12.31 (Freshman Course Loads) – Senator Deeds moved, Senator Allen seconded, to refer this issue to committee. A question was asked about the move to a 14 from 13 credit hour limit. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. President Goodman assigned this issue to Student Affairs.

Letter from Dr. Jerry Gilbert, re: AOP 12.10 (Recognition of Undergraduate Academic Achievement) – Senator Nagel moved, Senator Bridges seconded, to refer this issue to committee. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. President Goodman assigned this issue to Student Affairs.

Letter from Dr. Jerry Gilbert, re: AOP 12.21 (Veterans’ Academic Status) – Senator Wolverton moved, Senator Adams-Price seconded, to refer this issue to committee. Discussion involved the need to review small changes to these AOPs. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. President Goodman assigned this issue to University Resources.

Letter from Dr. Jerry Gilbert, re: AOP 12.27 (College-Level Examination Program - CLEP) – Senator Wolverton moved, Senator Bird seconded, to refer this issue to committee. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. President Goodman assigned this issue to University Resources.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A report is being prepared on Graduate Education to be presented at the next senate meeting.

ANCILLARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

No report.

CHARTER AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

No report.

FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

No report.

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Senator Hogue, Chair of the Student Affairs Committee, referred to this Committee's report on **AOP 10.13 – Adoption and Sales of Textbooks**. Senator Hogue moved, Senator D'Abramo seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate approve AOP 10.13 – Adoption and Sales of Textbooks as revised by the Associate Deans' Council with discussions held between Faculty Senate and Student Association Senate, and the Academic Affairs Committee of the Faculty Senate. Major changes include: review every five years, formation of a department adoption committee to examine conflict of interest in text selection, and prohibition on faculty to receive direct payment from students for textbooks within departments (monies to directly purchase texts are to be handled by the department secretary). The motion passed 36-0-2 vote.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

No report.

NEW BUSINESS

Goodman referred to the submitted **Open Letter to the Next President of MSU**. Senator Wolverton moved, Senator Diehl seconded, to approve the letter to the next president of MSU as presented. Discussion involved the following: the intent of the letter, minor wording changes, the importance of the phrase that the Senate desired to not be viewed as an adversary to MSU administrators, and where the letter would be released (e.g., website, media). Goodman stated that he believes that he has a good working relationship with the MSU administration, that Senate leaders do not consider themselves to currently have an adversarial role with them, and that he believes the administration appreciates the good relationship and the position of Faculty Senate on governance.

The motion passed 35-0-2.

Senator Berk moved, seconded by Senator Bird, that the letter be posted on the website and sent to media outlets. Discussion involved the intent of the letter, the communication of the importance for the Faculty to have input on the selection of the next MSU President to a wider audience, the timing of the release of the letter with minor modification (typos) and to which newspapers (member are to send a list of desired papers to Goodman), and strength of the letter as it is written.

The motion passed on a 31 – 3- 1 vote.

Goodman referred to the **Presidential Search Resolution**. Senator D'Abramo moved, seconded by Senator Diehl, to accept the resolution sent forward by the Advisory Committee for the Presidential Search and that the resolution is to be read into the minutes only. Discussion involved releasing the resolution and slight wording changes. D'Abramo stated that the intent was for the record and not intended to be viewed as adversarial. Discussion involved the need to have a record of the Senate's displeasure over the selection process, the perception of support from other invested constituents, possible dissemination of the resolution to individuals outside the Senate, and acknowledgement of the work of the search advisory committee to the Senate President.

The motion passed on a 33 – 2 – 1 vote.

Goodman announced that he has a website on the server in his office which he plans to use as a bulletin board for "filtered" input from faculty. He stated there is a blog site and there is considerable controversy over the search process. There is a link from the Senate website to the server. Goodman reported that he has been provided with statements of support from many sources, as well as statements from those who have expressed concern for his actions during the search process.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Wood moved, Senator Adams-Price seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of the Senate.

Submitted for correction and approval.

Carlen Henington, Secretary