

ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE UNCORRECTED MINUTES OF JANUARY 8, 2010

The Robert Holland Faculty Senate of Mississippi State University held its regular monthly meeting in the Coskrey Auditorium at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, January 8, 2010.

Members absent and excused were: David Bridges, Sylvia Byrd, Mike Cox, Dave Dampier, Jim Dunne, Jerry Emison, Jason Lueg, Greg Munshaw, Rebecca Robichaux, Peter Ryan, and Ray Vaughn.

Members absent were: Michael Brashier, Eric Dibble, Bruce Ebanks, Robert Harland, and Vince McGrath.

The meeting was called to order by the Senate President, Hart Bailey.

The minutes of the November 13, 2009, meeting were approved.

GUESTS

DR. MARK KEENUM , PRESIDENT

Dr. Keenum spoke of the budget challenges facing our state legislature. He shared information about the differences in the governor's budget plan and the legislative plan. The governor plans to cut 15.5% in fiscal year 11 while the legislative plan cuts only 10%. Governor Haley Barbour says that additional cuts are coming, but Dr. Keenum mentioned that we cut an additional 3% beyond what was asked earlier in the year, so from a financial standpoint, "we're in good shape this year." Dr. Keenum feels that the increase in tuition should help us reach our objectives. He said he was thankful for our leadership and that he feels good about where we are and where we are headed. Dr. Keenum also shared that he is opposed to an IHL proposal to modify tenure track for faculty. Dr. Keenum answered several questions.

DR. W. GLENN STEELE, JR., INTERIM PROVOST

Dr. Steele spoke of the Select Committee on Efficiencies and Innovation. He stated that the faculty had a strong presence on the committee. They are looking at things that will help MSU with budget reductions and that would set us up for the future. All recommendations have reached a consensus thus far.

DR. GARY MYERS, PROVOST SEARCH COMMITTEE

Dr. Myers gave an update on the search for a Provost. In July, the committee began the search on their own but received less applications than desired. In December, the committee felt the need to hire Academic Search, Inc. to help in the process. They will meet with the search firm representative in February to see the list of candidates and begin interviewing. They are presently developing questions for interviews. The first round of interviews will be via video conferencing to save on costs and the second round will be campus interviews to be held by the first week of March. The committee will then send recommendations to the President. Dr. Myers shared that it was essential to hire the search firm to generate a larger applicant pool to form a credible list of candidates.

MR. BLAKE JETER, STUDENT ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Faculty Senate Colleagues:

The last two months, since our last meeting, has been spent dealing with the issues of the president's Select Committee on Efficiencies and Innovations (SCEI). Your faculty representatives, as well as the other members, have worked 3-4 days a week, including Saturdays, to address the budgetary issues that MSU is facing. There was a tremendous learning curve for the group and the amount of material to read and digest has been significant. The openness and transparency demonstrated by Dr. Keenum and his administration is certainly unprecedented in my tenure here at State. Whatever information the committee has requested has been provided. There have been many professional staff in the different offices on campus that have contributed greatly to the success of the effort by pulling together numbers and other information requested. The online mechanism for providing efficiency and innovation ideas to the committee has worked very well and produced over 500 entries from the campus community. There is still much hard work ahead to complete the task of the SCEI. However, with the availability of information and facts that have been provided, and the spirit of cooperation that has been exhibited by those involved, the opportunity to ensure a successful completion of the SCEI effort is greatly enhanced. I would encourage you to thank your elected SCEI faculty representative for all their effort on the behalf of MSU.

This New Year, 2010, has many opportunities and challenges for our university family. I look forward to working with each of you to ensure that we make this the most successful possible year for State.

Respectfully submitted January 5, 2010

R. H. "Hart" Bailey

President

Faculty Senate

VICE CHAIR REPORT

President's Select Committee on Efficiencies and Innovations:

Most of the work I have done since our last meeting in November has been directly related to the President's Select Committee on Efficiencies and Innovations. We submitted a preliminary report from the academic and non-academic working groups to President Keenum December 18th. I was assigned to the non-academic working group, but attended the dean's presentations to the academic working group. I would like to take this opportunity to thank President Keenum for the level of involvement the faculty, staff, and students had in this process and for the level of openness and transparency that he facilitated. The two groups worked very hard last semester, meeting for several hours multiple times every week. Both groups met this week. I encourage you all to continue to be involved with the process by providing feedback and comments via the website on the University homepage or through your senate or college faculty representatives.

Academic Dean's Council met January 3rd.

Deans were asked to review and gather feedback on

- Time limits for graduate degree document passed by the Graduate Council. This document extends the time for graduate degrees. This has become an increasingly important issue as part-time enrollment and distance enrollment in the graduate program is increasing.

- Overhead Distribution Focus Group report was distributed to the deans. This group was formed under then VP Dr. Schultz. The recommendations of this group are available from your dean. This report will be discussed at the next Council meeting.
- Research Faculty document will be distributed to the deans in advance of the next Council meeting.

AOP 12.16- Academic Suspension and Dismissal which authorizes the academic dean of the college to which the student is seeking readmission to approve readmission was approved.

AOP XX.XX Substantive Changes which provides instruction for reporting substantive changes to SACS was approved. The term “substantive changes” is defined in the AOP.

Butch Stokes reported that the December graduation was 2 hours and 20 minutes and that they will probably do the same thing next December. They are currently considering the possibility of combining the May graduation.

Planning for the spring roundtable has begun.

Respectfully Submitted,
 Meghan Millea
 January 5, 2010

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS COMMITTEE No Report

BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEES None

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS NO REPORT

ANCILLARY AFFAIRS NO REPORT

CHARTER AND BYLAWS NO REPORT

FACULTY AFFAIRS

7.1.1 Student Honor Code

The new document is one that no action can be rendered for until further clarification is obtained from campus administration. Joint discussions were proposed to be initiated between Dr. Glen Steele, Interim Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs; Dr. Bill Kibler, Vice President for Student Affairs; Dr. Jerry Gilbert, Associate Provost for Academic Affairs; and members of the Robert Holland Faculty Senate Executive Committee to review the administrative oversight of the Student Honor Code by the Student Honor Code Office. Such clarification in part is required in order for the information contained in the final version of the corresponding AOP document to be described accurately and in as concise a manner as possible.

STUDENT AFFAIRS NO REPORT

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES NO REPORT

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

The meeting was adjourned at 3:40.

Submitted for correction and approval.

Dana Pomykal Franz, Secretary