

ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE CORRECTED MINUTES OF JANUARY 17, 2014

The Robert Holland Faculty Senate of Mississippi State University held its regular monthly meeting in the Grisham Room of Mitchell Memorial Library at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, January 17, 2014.

Members absent and excused were: Jerrold Belant, Michael Brashier, Sylvia Byrd, Tom Carskadon, Mike Cox, Ted Dobson, Jeffery Haupt, Rocky Lemus, Rogelio Luck, Rachel McCann, Edward Potter, Debra Prince, Juan Silva, Joe Sullivan, Chip Wade, Dwayne Wise.

The meeting was called to order by the Senate President, Jerry Emison.

The senate observed a moment of silence in memory of Dwight Hare.

After a correction of spelling to the minutes of the November meeting, the minutes were approved.

GUESTS

DR. MARK KEENUM, PRESIDENT

President Keenum noted that the state economist's briefing to the state legislature was positive. He expects 2% growth during FY14. December 2013 state revenues were up 20% above December 2012 revenues and 13% above its estimate.

IHL has met with the House Appropriations Committee to request a 5.5% increase for system funding. With the new funding formula in effect, MSU's share would be \$7 million. Dr. Keenum's priority for additional funding is faculty and staff salaries. His funding priority for a bond bill is to expand the library.

He gave updates on building projects: The new classroom building project will begin this month; Lee Hall construction is behind schedule but should be completed this semester; Bids will open on the Division of Ag classroom building on February 27. Work will begin this summer on the new Meats Laboratory. The new Dining Facility proposal should go to IHL for approval in March. Evans Hall is planned to be demolished and new housing set on that location.

A formal working relationship with Food and Agricultural Organization was signed in 2010. Dr. Keenum and other administrators recently went to Rome to expand that partnership to have a global aquaculture center at MSU to address the critical challenge of global hunger. Faculty and students from MSU have already participated in their programs.

He invited faculty to attend the annual Unity Breakfast, Monday, January 20. Keynote speaker will be MSU Rhodes scholar, Phil Brown.

He also noted the upcoming visit from Phi Beta Kappa and the Spring General Faculty meeting.

MR. JOHN RUSH, VP FOR DEVELOPMENT AND ALUMNI

Mr. Rush said that the MSU Foundation has begun MSU's 3rd capital campaign. Each prior campaign has generated more funds than the goal amount. He noted that MSU donors are largely former alumni. He asked for faculty support in the campaign, and noted that the Foundation is looking for support through percentage rather than amount. He added that gifts can be designated to any area of the university. The staff council has unanimously supported this campaign.

Mrs. Asya Cooley asked for faculty advice in how to proceed with the campaign. In mid-February, there will be a six week drive for which they need champions in each department.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Here are some specific activities you may find interesting.

Southeastern Conference Professor of the Year

As in previous years, the Faculty Senate has served as the coordinator for MSU's selection of our nominee to be the SEC professor of the year. The call letter was issued to all faculty on October 14, with nominations received by October 31. Nominees submitted detailed packages for a November 15 deadline. The Giles Distinguished Professors reviewed these and provided their assessments by December 6. The provost, with advice from the faculty senate president and vice president, identified the MSU nominee, who will be announced shortly.

Master Plan Development and Advisory Committee

The Master Plan Development and Advisory Committee is tracking a number of significant construction projects either underway or about to begin.

- The team examining options for Aiken Village submitted their reports to Don Zant, and the committee recommended to the president that new construction occur for housing devoted to graduate students and temporary faculty housing, along with some potential mixed uses of commercial/office. The MPDAC endorsed this approach. A request for proposals for proceeding with a development along these lines is planned to be developed and issued early in 2014.
- The classroom building will begin to be constructed this semester. As a result, some portions of George Perry and Barr Avenue will be closed to cars for the duration of the construction. Bell Island has been converted into a one-way circle with access through Tracy Dr.

AOP 12.29 Undergraduate Admission Requirements

The provost's office requested an expedited review of this AOP in order to have it in place for the next admission cycle. As a consequence, the Faculty Senate Executive Committee reviewed it at its December 6 meeting and authorized approval. The substantive change was a tightening of admission standards for nonresident undergraduate students in order to improve retention and graduation rates.

AOP 13.14 Grade Appeal and Academic Review Board

The provost's office requested an expedited review of this AOP. The Faculty Senate had previously approved it, and the Office of General Counsel subsequently requested that some time lines be more clearly spelled out. The Faculty Senate Executive Committee reviewed it at its December 6 meeting and authorized approval. The changes from what the Faculty Senate had approved earlier were ministerial, not substantive.

OP 56.06 Research, Extension and Clinical Faculty Positions

Dr. David Shaw, responding for himself, Dr. Bohach and Dr. Gilbert, provided the Faculty Senate revisions to this OP based on our earlier comments. While the Faculty Senate's concurrence is not required, the changes overall appear to respond to our earlier expressed concerns, with three exceptions. Dr. Cody Coyne and I met with Dr. Shaw to review the remaining areas and discuss ways to meet all parties' concerns.

University Sustainability Committee

The University Sustainability Committee at its November meeting approved the use of \$40k from the sustainability revolving fund to support ITS in a power reduction program that is expected to yield \$100k savings in ongoing power purchases by ITS.

Information Technology Council

The shift from Novell to Microsoft for the university's email system is expected to begin in earnest in the first quarter of 2014. Based on feedback from business managers at the VP/college levels, ITS plans to migrate entire offices at once. Currently testing of the migration software is taking place; migration is planned to begin with the first office in late February/early March and proceed throughout the following six or so months. Emphasis is being placed on avoiding service disruptions during the transition. Expect to hear particulars for individual units over the spring.

Spring General Faculty Meeting

The General Faculty Meeting for the spring is scheduled for February 10 at 3:00 pm in the Union Ballroom. At this meeting vice presidents will report to the faculty on matters within the vice presidents' areas of responsibility.

Dr. Steve Turner has asked for 2 members of the faculty senate to serve on a committee to review the Academic Athletic Department. Please let President Emison know of your interest.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

Since my November report, things have been relatively quiet. In the meetings of the Academic Deans Council, one item of interest was a preview of the mechanism for viewing the results of the three-year reviews of administrators. The reason that the process hasn't moved forward more quickly is the need to maintain anonymity for the faculty and staff who participate in the review, yet provide the most complete results possible to those who supervise the reviewed administrator. As the details of this process of delivery of the results get finalized, there should be better dissemination of results of the reviews. In this week's meeting, a new policy was approved to cover the annual review of Lecturers. Since the position of Lecturer is not within the ranks of the general faculty, this policy will be solely administered by the Provost's Office, and is based on the need for consistency in the reviews of these employees.

The Ad Hoc Committee to Investigate the Summer School Budget has established a set of recommendations regarding the overall Summer School process, including Maymester. One of the recommendations is to establish a Maymester budget, similar to that for Summer School. Additionally, it was recommended that compensation for teaching in Maymester or Summer School would be at the rate of 3% per credit hour, with a cap of 33.3% for all classes taught. It would then be necessary for someone who is teaching more than three courses to receive a reduced rate of pay for the additional course in order to stay within this limit. With this increase in compensation, it may be necessary to follow minimum enrollment standards more strictly.

The Ad Hoc Committee to Develop a Required Freshman Seminar Course has met a few times since my last report, and is getting close to a formal recommendation. The basic thought is that existing seminar courses would be retained, but those students who are not currently covered by one of these courses would be required to take this proposed new course. The primary intent of this seminar course is to get freshmen and transfer students to have a better understanding of the university's history and help them to be more involved and successful in their studies.

President Emison asked if the senate should expect the summer school policy to return. VP Follett anticipates it will.

Senator Peacock asked if the seminar course would be a 1 or 3 hour course and how would this work for curriculum committees? VP Follett said that the course would be 1 hour and would not infringe departments from having a required seminar course. The intention is to enhance student retention. Senator Peacock asked if there are instances where this would reach the limit of credit hours. VP Follett said there are. The committee is looking at this issue. However, if the course is not required, it will not serve its purpose. Senator Elder asked about how this would be handled by departments heavy with transfer students. VP Follett said that the issue was also being looked at by the committee.

FACULTY DESIGNATES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

No Reports

BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEES

6.1 AOP XX.XX DISTANCE EDUCATION

Senator Robichaux made a motion to send the item to the University Resources Committee. Senator Rude seconded the motion. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

NO REPORT

ANCILLARY AFFAIRS

7.1.1 AOP 10.02 Academic Administrators and Directors

Senator Elder presented the Ancillary Affairs report on AOP 10.02 and highlighted the changes made by the committee. She made a motion to accept AOP 10.02 as amended by the Ancillary Affairs committee and presented to the senate.

Senator Wilmoth expressed concern with the requirement for the Provost to meet with faculty in a public forum and made a friendly amendment to strike the word “public.” The friendly amendment was accepted.

The motion to accept AOP 10.02 as modified passed with unanimous voice vote.

7.1.2 AOP 10.14 Textbook Adoption Policy

Senator Elder presented the Ancillary Affairs report on AOP 10.14 and highlighted the changes made by the committee including the recommendation to combine and then rescind AOP 10.13

Senator Foster asked how student satisfaction of textbooks (section 3) is surveyed. It was discussed that there is a question on the class survey regarding teaching materials.

Senator Rodgers asked if the use of clickers is covered in the AOP. Senator Elder confirmed that it would be part of the AOP. She explained that the wording allows for future technology developments to be included and noted that there are Textbook Guidelines in addition to this AOP put forward by the Student Association.

The motion to approve AOP 10.14 as modified and to rescind AOP 10.13 passed with unanimous voice vote.

FACULTY AFFAIRS

7.2.1 Dr. Kelly et al. Letter re: Promotion and Tenure

President Emison noted that per Senate bylaws, business dealing with the Faculty Handbook should be addressed in two consecutive meetings. The Faculty Affairs recommendation will be discussed this meeting and voted on at the February meeting.

Senator Coyne presented and summarized the Faculty Affairs report on the request to modify the Promotion and Tenure document. He made a motion to accept the committee's recommendation to take no action.

Senator Kelly in a response to the Faculty Affairs Committee Report indicated that she and a majority of the faculty in the DAFVM who responded to a poll disagree with the committee's recommendation. The main reason being the change in the P and T document wording that only allows tenured faculty to vote on the promotion of untenured, tenure track faculty. She noted that comprehensive departments in the division have been allowing non-tenure track faculty to participate in this vote without any legal issues arising, which seems to be a major concern in the committee's report. She listed how the insertion of this wording resulted in several illogical scenarios including the assertion that non-tenure track full professors have the capacity to vote for promotion of a tenured associate to full professor; yet do not get to participate in the vote for promotion of an untenured/tenure track faculty from assistant to associate professor. She concluded her remarks by saying this is not about non-tenure track faculty voting on tenure. She indicated these faculty have never voted on tenure.

Senator Coyne said that the tenure decision is made by tenured faculty and pointed out that there is no separate vote on promotion. Senator Swiderski said that promotion and tenure are linked but there are examples within the university with which decisions were not made together. She also pointed out that the concept of tenure to preserve academic freedom, so it is conceivable that having non-tenured members on the committee who do not have that freedom could be subject from external pressures to sway their decisions.

Senator Grace pointed out that the faculty committee be different from year to year due to elections and turn-over. She requested to see the data referenced in the report.

Senator Coyne expressed concern with objectivity of this document compared to OP 56.06. Senator Nagel pointed out that tenure track discussions have to be discussed at two meetings and non-tenure track discussions do not have to take place at all. President Emison said that that the approval process for OPs does not traditionally include the Faculty Senate. The senate reviewed OP 56.06 because we requested it.

Senator Wilmoth said that it is clear that promotion and tenure are linked when it happens simultaneously, but when they are separated time-wise he doesn't see that there is a problem with having non-tenure track faculty on the committee. Senator Coyne explained that the committees should be the same or one could choose which committee would be more favorable.

Senator Stewart made a motion for Brian Baldwin to address the senate. The motion was seconded by Senator Kelly. The motion carried by hand vote.

Dr. Baldwin, professor in Plant and Soil Sciences, said that his department is the largest comprehensive on campus where he has served on the department and college P&T committees. He

said that in 90% of cases promotion and tenure are linked. In cases where faculty are hired from industry, qualified but with no teaching experience, the committee separates their promotion and tenure clocks. The committee has never had a split vote. While the opinions of the non-tenured members on committee are solicited, only the 3 on the committee with tenure report on tenure decisions. He noted the fact that non-tenured faculty members could serve on the Faculty Senate but not P&T committees. He added that there is movement as a division toward tenure (or similar process) and what has been typically overlooked is starting to be addressed.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

NO REPORT

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

NO REPORT

OLD BUSINESS

Senator Nagel asked about last month's tabled discussion on the probation of undergraduate students. He asked if anyone had contacted the registrar. Senator Grace said that they have not received the information yet.

NEW BUSINESS

None

Senator Rude made a motion to adjourn. Senator Radin seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 3:40 p.m.

Submitted for correction and approval.

Brian Rude, Secretary