

**ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE  
UNCORRECTED MINUTES OF MEETING ON MARCH 21, 2003**

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, March 21, 2003.

Members absent and excused were Alan Blaine, Susan Bridges (sabbatical), Kathy Dooley, Carlen Henington, Ken Hood, Bill Maslin, Peter Ryan, and Clyde Williams.

Members absent and unexcused were Carolyn Adams-Price, Pearson Liddell, Robert Long, PC McLaurin, Paul Thaxton, Giselle Thibaudeau, Peter Wood, and Mark Zappi.

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 February 14, 2003, Regular Meeting as distributed. Senator Bryant moved, Senator Cathcart seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate approve the minutes of February 14, 2003, as amended. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

President Diehl's report included the following remarks:

- On pages 64-67 of today's agenda packet is a supplemental document entitled "Enhancing Coordination and Linkage Between the MSU Extension Service and the Division of Continuing Education." This is a draft document, and President Diehl is encouraging MSU administration to involve faculty in this process. To this end, Dr. Verrall has asked President Diehl to put together an ad hoc committee who will advise Dr. Verrall and Joe McGillberry pertaining to this document's subject. Members of this ad hoc committee are Melissa Mixon, Mark Binkley, Michael Berk, Evan Nebeker, David Nagel and one other person who has not yet agreed to serve.
- Senator Embree remarked that this matter seemed to be yet another occasion when faculty involvement was obvious, yet was not sought by MSU administration until after President Diehl's insistence.
- The Faculty Senate Executive Committee drafted a letter to President Lee (shown on page 68 of the agenda packet) requesting the President to conduct a formal search to fill the position of Vice President for Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine.

- Senator Embree remarked that it is unsettling that we, as faculty, should have to express opinion about what is already a university policy. Apparently faculty governance is so tenuous an idea in the minds of the MSU administration that it is not really university policy even though it is written in the "Principles for University Governance" document which is part of the Faculty Handbook. Embree asked if he was understanding correctly that the MSU administration was about to ignore the governance document unless we, the faculty, stated otherwise. President Diehl responded that it had not been stated to him in exactly that manner, but that there had been university personnel who were strongly suggesting to the President that he not follow the governance document in the search for a new Vice President for Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine.
- Senator Stuart remarked that there was a letter sent to President Lee from the Ag. faculty Senate requested that President Lee simply appoint someone to this position. Stuart assumed that this was an unsolicited action on the part of the Ag. Senate but was not sure.
- President Diehl reminded Senators that MSU has the Faculty Handbook which has a lot of policy in it, and if faculty and/or administrators are allowed to set aside portions of this handbook for convenience, then that weakens the entire set of guidelines under which MSU operates. Diehl stated that he is not worried about the outcome of this particular incident but is concerned about protecting the principles of governance that apply to the entire university.
- Senator Embree expressed his disappointment in any MSU faculty who would allow the governance document to be set aside. MSU faculty should follow the procedures and policies in place because the struggle to obtain them was too great to throw them away when it suits our purpose. Senator Cathcart agreed with Embree and asked if it would be appropriate for this Senate to enter into an informal discussion with the Ag. Senate to determine how this matter has developed. President Diehl stated that he felt that this discussion should take place with President Lee instead of the Ag. Senate to which Senator Cathcart agreed, but was making the suggestion in hopes that two faculty bodies would be in agreement rather than disagreement on how this particular search for a vice president should take place. President Diehl added that if this dispute of interpretation, then having the two Senates talk could possibly solve the issue, but this situation involves a matter of following university policy, and the university administration *must* follow policy regardless of the insistence or urging of anyone to do otherwise.
- On March 28, 2003, the Faculty Senate Executive Council will be meeting with the new Institution of Higher Learning's Commissioner, Dr. David Potter.
- On April 2, 2003, the Faculty Senate Executive Council will be meeting with Dr. Verrall to give faculty an opportunity to discuss the university budget.
- The new MSU Priorities and Goals have now been posted on the university's Web site. Many of the Executive Council's suggestions were incorporated into the revised document.
- President Diehl has received a letter from Jenna Shook, Administrative Secretary II for the Vice President for External Affairs, asking that all faculty participate and endorse the upcoming MSU Staff Appreciation Day scheduled for May 16, 2003.
- At next month's Senate meeting, elections for new Senate officers will be conducted. President Diehl recommended that Senators review the Charter and Bylaws of the Senate

for the rules and regulations for elections of officers. Nominations for President, Vice President and Secretary should be made in writing five days before the next Senate meeting. Individuals nominated must have served on the Senate for one year (the previous year) and only Senators for the 2003-2004 year may make nominations. If two or more nominations in writing appear for a particular office, then no more nominations will be taken from the floor at the April meeting. If only one or no nominations are received in writing for an office, then nominations will be taken from the floor at the April meeting. Candidates will have up to five minutes to campaign before voting takes place. Nominations made via e-mail will be considered as made "in writing" and are permissible.

- President Diehl asked that the Senate join him in thanking their fellow Senators who would be completing their 1-3 years of service: Mike Goatley, Nancy Reichert, Paul Thaxton, Robert Rogers, Carolyn Adams-Price, Homes Hogue, Patricia Lestrade, Clyde Williams, Pearson Liddell, Kathy Dooley, Kent Payne, Rudy Rogers, Stanley Bullington, Keith Hodge, Don Jackson, David Nagel, Ken Hood, PC McLaurin, and Bill Maslin.

## **REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT**

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

- At the March Dean's Council meeting, Luther Epting remarked that many graduating seniors needed faculty guidance/instruction in composing their resumes.
- Dr. Verrall mentioned that he wants the deans to look at faculty productivity and decide what is meaningful and how it should be measured.
- Dean's Council is meeting twice a month starting with the March 2003 meeting.
- The Faculty Senate Roundtable will be held next Saturday, March 29, 2003, and Pote will e-mail the list of participants on Monday. She thanked all Senators who volunteered to participate in this roundtable.

## **REPORT FROM FACULTY SENATE DESIGNATES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES**

**University Benefits Committee** – Senator Nebeker referred to his report as distributed and added the following remarks:

- The committee is in the planning stages for two fairs: Savings Seminar to be held later this Spring and a Health and Wellness Benefits Fair to be held next Fall.
- Ann Bell reported on a presentation by the American Cancer Society designed to help state employees understand the wellness benefits offered under the State Employees Health Plan.
- Bell also reported on a Clarion Ledger article which stated that the deductible may increase to \$1,000 for the State Employee Health Plan.

## BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEES

**Letter from Ms. Liddell, re: Mentoring for Diversity in Academia** – Senator Bryant moved, Senator Cathcart seconded, to refer this issue to committee. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. President Diehl assigned this issue to the Ancillary Affairs Committee.

**Letter from Taha Mzoughi, re: Guidelines for Excellence in Teaching** – Senator Rogers moved, Senator Reichert seconded, to refer this issue to committee. The motion passed on a majority voice vote. President Diehl assigned this issue to the Student Affairs Committee.

**Letter from Dr. Verrall, re: Robert W. Harrison, Jr. Distinguished Faculty Award** – Senator Nagel moved, Senator McCarley seconded, to refer this issue to committee. The motion failed on a majority voice vote.

## STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

### FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Senator Goodman, Chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, referred to this Committee's report initiated by Dr. Charles Lee on promotion and tenure document for the MSU-Meridian campus. Senator Goodman moved, Senator Rogers seconded, that the Senate approve the *Mississippi State University – Meridian Promotion and Tenure Procedures* with the modifications suggested by the Committee as indicated.

The motion passed on a Senate vote of 29-0-1.

### ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Senator Montgomery, member of the Academic Affairs Committee, referred to this Committee's first report on AOP 12.09: Class Attendance. Senator Montgomery moved, Senator Light seconded, that the Senate approve AOP 12.09 as presented.

The motion passed on a Senate vote of 30-0-0.

Senator Montgomery, member of the Academic Affairs Committee, referred to this Committee's second report on AOP 12.17: Academic Fresh-Start. Senator Montgomery moved, Senator Follett seconded, that the Senate approve AOP 12.17 as presented.

The motion passed on a Senate vote of 30-0-0.

Senator Montgomery, member of the Academic Affairs Committee, referred to this

Committee's third report on AOP 12.19: Academic Amnesty. Senator Montgomery moved, Senator McGrath seconded, that the Senate approve AOP 12.19 as presented.

The motion passed on a Senate vote of 30-0-0.

Senator Montgomery, member of the Academic Affairs Committee, referred to this Committee's fourth report initiated by a letter from Mr. Parker Wiseman dated January 8, 2003, requesting a review of Resolution 4, which outlines a recommended academic forgiveness policy proposal which was passed by the Student Association Senate. Senator Montgomery moved, Senator McGrath seconded, that the Senate endorse Resolution 4 to create an academic forgiveness policy at Mississippi State with the following changes:

- a. The original grade will remain on the transcript but will not be counted in calculating the grade point average (GPA). Only the second grade will count in the computation of the GPA regardless of whether it was higher or lower than the original grade. For the computation of the GPA, the original grade will be used in computing the GPA until the second grade is issued.
- b. The number of hours eligible for this policy should be limited to a total of 6 undergraduate semester hours.
- c. The student should obtain permission from his or her faculty advisor and academic dean and have it placed on file in the Registrar's Office no later than 5:00 p.m. on the last day to add classes for the semester.
- d. All reference to classes are changed to courses or semester hours.

Senator Light proposed a friendly amendment changing the number of hours eligible for this policy be limited to a total of eight undergraduate semester hours instead of six. The Committee did not accept this amendment.

The motion failed to pass on a Senate vote of 9-20-01.

## **STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Senator Light, member of the Student Affairs Committee, referred to this Committee's report on AOP 11.06: Changes in Academic Major and College/School. Senator Light moved, Senator Rogers seconded, that the Senate approve AOP 11.06 with the following modification to the last paragraph:

Students are required to declare a major upon the accumulation of sixty (60) credit hours. New transfer students with sixty or more credit hours are allowed

one semester as an undeclared major and will be advised by staff in the University Academic Advising Center during that period.

Senator Embree offered a friendly amendment asking the committee to omit "(60)" from their modified last paragraph. The committee agreed to this amendment.

The motion as amended passed on a Senate vote of 31-0-0.

## **ANCILLARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

No report.

## **CHARTER AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE**

Senator Reichert, Chair of the Charter and Bylaws Committee, referred to this Committee's report initiated by a letter from Mr. Charles Guest dated October 2, 2002, requesting the Senate review the current Faculty Grievance Policy (AOP 13.05) and make recommendations for its improvement. Senator Reichert moved, Senator Bryant seconded, that the Senate approve the 3/98 draft of the Faculty Grievance Policy with the modifications indicated to replace AOP 13.05.

The motion passed on Senate vote of 28-0-1.

## **UNIVERSITY RESOURCES**

No report.

## **AD HOC (COMMITTEE ON PRESIDENTIAL SEARCHES)**

No report.

Senator Embree asked the status of AOP 12.12: Credits, Grades and Academic Standing which dealt with grade appeals. President Diehl responded that he would check and let the Senate know.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Submitted for correction and approval.

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LaDonne Delgado, Secretary