

**ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE  
UNCORRECTED MINUTES OF MEETING ON MARCH 12, 2003**

The Robert Holland Faculty Senate of Mississippi State University held its regular meeting in the M-Club at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, March 12, 2004.

Members absent and excused were Alan Blaine, Allen Greenwood, Keith Hodge, Randy Little, Paul Thaxton, Robert Wolverton, Peter Wood, and Chein Yu.

Members absent and unexcused were Josh Blades 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 13, 2004, Regular Meeting as distributed. Senator D'Abramo moved, Senator Chamblee seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate approve the minutes of February 13, 2004, as amended. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**GUESTS**

President Diehl introduced guests: Provost Rabideau.

**PETER RABIDEAU, PROVOST**

Provost Rabideau provided the following information:

- Credit hours for graduation – Rabideau has never been involved in any discussions about credit hours for graduation. If any discussions have gone on among the Chief Academic Officers, they happened before Rabideau starting working at MSU. There have been comments that the IHL Board is considering a change in the credit hours for graduation. At one meeting, the IHL Board did furnish information on paper on the changes that were made in the state of Florida. The Chief Academic Officers have not discussed this issue. This topic is on the agenda for the next meeting.
- The top candidate for the Vice President for Research has withdrawn his application. Plans, at the moment, are to invite Colin Scanes back to campus for a second round of interviews.
- The proposal for a BA in Music – Rabideau has been involved in this controversial issue. It was pulled from last month's IHL Board meeting agenda, however there was a discussion. Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, Roy Klumb, had particular questions about whether or not such a program fits MSU's mission. Rabideau stated that every other SEC land-grant institution has not only a Bachelor's in Music, but many of them also have Master's and PhD's in Music. The program has received endorsement from the Commissioner, David Potter. At the moment,

this topic is on the agenda for the next meeting with a positive endorsement from the Commissioner.

- Senator Embree remarked that two members of his college had recently talked to him about the following problems: (1) one colleague remarked that her department head had criticized her in writing on her annual review for missing one department meeting and for being absent on one occasion from her office during her scheduled office hours. This was specifically identified in her annual review as meriting termination if it continued. (2) A second faculty member in a different department says that there is a person on his department's faculty that does not live here anymore – he sold his house and moved to California. He teaches on the Internet. When he does come to MSU, he lives in his office, sleeps in his office, and eats in his office. This was last term – this term he is simply not in the state (of Mississippi). The problem with these two very different scenarios is that the latter can never hold office hours or attend department meetings and, if this is permitted, how can any department head say anything about a faculty missing any meetings or office hours. Rabideau responded by saying that, in the first situation, he would not want to second guess how an administrator might manage a department, however he would say that a department head does not have the authority to terminate anyone and he would spend fifteen seconds reading a memo that suggested that MSU should terminate someone for missing one department meeting or who occasionally his/her office hours. Rabideau stated that he hopes all faculty take office hours very seriously because student do and, as a department head and as a dean, students make it known when they are unhappy. As far as missing department meetings, he has known several faculty with whom he was delighted that they missed a department meeting when he was the chair. [This was meant to be lighthearted and was responded to with laughter from the Senators.] Rabideau stated that there is a flip side to this issue. Are departments meeting regularly to discuss issues of concern. If so, their faculty should be in attendance to voice their opinions. Rabideau then remarked on the second scenario presented by Embree by saying he remembered an instance years ago where a faculty held two full-time positions at two different institutions and this was very embarrassing to those institutions. Rabideau then stated that he hoped that Embree or the other faculty member would bring this instance to the attention of the department head so that it could be looked into and resolved.
- Senator Damms asked if Rabideau could provide any insights or more information on the discussion pertaining to the PhD program in history. Rabideau stated that he is not sure what is going to be discussed about PhD programs at the upcoming IHL Board meeting. The most recent information he has received is that there is some interest in history, chemistry, biology and education. His office is preparing some additional information which will enter into the discussion. Rabideau stated that he does not know what will happen at this upcoming IHL Board meeting. There is a lot of concern about duplicated programs. He thinks that there is a real driving force at the moment to do away with some duplicated programs. Whether or not this will have the attention of the IHL Board at this next meeting, he is not sure. This is still an issue and “we” are continuing to move forward on it.
- Senator Ryan asked what has become of the recommendations which were brought forth from the Roundtable discussion on graduate education which was held last Spring 2003. Rabideau stated that this is an important issue that a lot of “us” have talked about and thought about, yet he confessed that he hasn't worked as hard on that (since he wasn't at MSU at that time). He admits that he has probably paid more attention to things that have happened since his arrival to MSU because a lot of things have happened. One of the concerns is the general management and overall health of the graduate program – both are very important. One of the things which

Rabideau did, and has been doing, has been to talk to the Deans as well as the Vice Provost for Research candidates about the graduate school and the graduate program. Everyone that Rabideau has spoken to is in agreement that it is probably not in MSU's best interest to put in resources to do a national search for a dean of the graduate school – to re-establish that position. One of the other concerns, he thinks, is does MSU have a strong advocate for the graduate school.

- Senator Ryan stated that one of the points that emerged from the Roundtable discussion was that the graduate program does not have a strong advocate and the Roundtable participants felt the decision of re-establishing a person responsible for the graduate program at a dean level should be made. A college dean is more than just a graduate dean. This person is primarily focused on undergraduate education making his or her role a divided one. Senator Ryan feels that MSU is very wanting in leadership pertaining to the graduate program and that this is unsatisfactory.
- Senator Diehl asked if the IHL Board was also looking at the PhD programs in chemistry, biology and education and were they also in jeopardy. Rabideau responded that he does not know if they are in jeopardy. He then stated that he thinks there are five PhD programs in chemistry in the state and this gets the attention of the IHL Board members. There are probably at least four biological science programs in the state.
- Senator Deeds asked about AOP 10.14 which was passed by the Senate two years ago and wanted to know where and why it was stalled. Rabideau responded it was received but not signed by the President or University Council, therefore it is not official. He could not comment as to why they did not sign the AOP.
- Senator Nagel referred to the Articulation Agreement between IHL and the Mississippi Community Colleges which was discussed at the January 12, 2004, Deans Council and then asked Rabideau to please explain to the IHL Board the difference in a community college and a junior college. Rabideau responded that he doesn't think that the term junior college is used anymore but that the main problem is if an articulation agreement doesn't work – change it.

### **REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

President Diehl's report included the following remarks:

- President Diehl began his report by recognizing fellow Senators who were ending their term as Senators with today's meeting: Richard Damms, Dan Embree, Giselle Thibaudeau, Robert Wolverton, Richard Still, Vincent McGrath, Linda Morse, Pasquale Cinnella, Allen Greenwood, David Huddleston, Bill Stuart, and Linda Pote.
- Diehl called for nominations for Senate leadership for the next year. Nominations will be open from now until five days before the April meeting. Submit any nominations for the office of President, Vice President or Secretary in writing to the Senate office secretary, Delores Hudson. The only requirement is that a nominee must have served on the Senate for at least one year. If two or more nominees for any given office are received in writing by the deadline, then there will be no additional nominations accepted from the floor at the April meeting. If only one person or no persons have been nominated for a given office, then nominations will be taken from the floor at the April meeting. Senators may nominate themselves. If nominating someone else, please make sure they are willing to serve.
- Beginning as soon as school ends in May, there will be a major modification to Five Points. This modification will eliminate Five Points as it is now known by eliminating Creelman Street and Darden Avenue in front of the M-Club. Five Points (which is actually 7 points) will be

reduced to 3 points and the entrance from Highway 12 coming onto campus will terminate making drivers have to turn either right or left and will no longer provide easy access to the center of campus. This will be replaced by a single two-way, two-lane road. The word from Gaddis Hunt is that this will be completed before September 1<sup>st</sup> – the first home football game (not the beginning of classes). Persons using this route to enter campus are encouraged to start thinking of an alternate route. For more information, visit the Master Plan on the Internet at <http://msuinfo.ur.msstate.edu/campusplan/> and click on Access (Transportation).

- AOP 12.16 – Academic Suspension and Dismissal was recently approved by the Senate without any instructions pertaining to implementation. Jerry Gilbert suggested a plan of gradual implementation with full implementation being reached by 2006. The Senate Executive Council agreed to this plan, but the Associate Deans Council did not. They wanted it completely grandfathered in so that it only applies to students with beginning enrollment this Fall 2004 meaning that the AOP would not be fully implemented until 2008. If Senators have an opinion on this issue, please notify Diehl immediately so that he can determine whether or not to sign the AOP or request that it be sent back to the Senate for the Senate's endorsement.
- Senator Montgomery referred to the resolution passed by the Senate at its last meeting pertaining to the President and asked if the media were invited to report on this issue. President Diehl responded that all Senate meetings are open meetings which are broadcast real-time over the Internet and open for anyone to attend. Reporters have routinely attended meetings without invitation and are welcome. Senator Montgomery stated that he agreed to sign the resolution, but might have been less willing if he had known that the press were going to cover the issue. He felt that this took the Senate's action to a higher level than was intended.
- Senator Morse asked if Diehl has received a response from the President pertaining to last month's resolution. Diehl responded that the President did receive a copy of the resolution and he has discussed it with him in their meetings, but that it is up to the President whether or not he wishes to respond further.

### **REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT**

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

- The Spring Roundtable topic is going to be faculty retention. There have been several individuals who have expressed interest in participating, but there are still no representatives from Extension, Architecture, Business and Industry, Forestry, or the College of Veterinary Medicine. Also there are no volunteers from Meridian at this moment.

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

Senator Cinnella made a few remarks about the recent University Research Operations Council meeting and said that written comments would be in next month's agenda.

### **BUSINESS SENT TO COMMITTEES**

None.

## **BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEES**

None.

Senator Goodman moved, Senator Reichert seconded, that the Senate suspend the rules to allow business since the following information did not reach all Senators before the three-day deadline. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Senator Embree moved, Senator D'Abramo seconded, that the Senate endorse the following resolution:

The Robert Holland Faculty Senate of Mississippi State University expresses its support for the faculty and faculty senate of the University of Southern Mississippi in their defense of the right of professors to engage in responsible and professional criticism of the administration of their university.

The motion passed on a Senate vote of 27-10-3.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Senator Morse, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, referred to this Committee's report initiated by a letter from Dr. Tom Cathcart on Graduate Students' Stipends, Tuition Remission and Fees. Senator Morse moved, Senator Bryant seconded, that the Senate endorse the following recommendations:

1. That MSU offer 100% of tuition and fee waivers to those students who will be offered graduate assistantships.
2. That MSU increase the minimum stipend to be competitive with its peer institutions.

The motion as amended passed on a Senate vote of 36-3-1.

### **ANCILLARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

No report.

### **CHARTER AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE**

No report.

### **STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

No report.

## **UNIVERSITY RESOURCES**

No report.

## **FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Senator Goodman, Chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, referred to this Committee's report on the draft document written by Dan Embree, Eual Coats, and Ruth Prescott; submitted to the University Promotion and Tenure Committee; and then forwarded to the Senate with the P&T Committee's opinions. The Committee withdrew its recommendation to approve the promotion and tenure document presented at the January 2004 meeting. Senator Goodman moved, Senator Reichert seconded, that the Senate approve the new proposed promotion and tenure document as presented at this March 2004 meeting.

Senator Montgomery moved, Senator Ryan seconded, that this motion be tabled. This motion passed by a Senate vote of 17-14-0.

Senator Adams-Price moved, Senator Cathcart seconded, that this motion be removed from the table and discussion continue. This motion passed by a Senate vote of 24-12-5.

Senator Deeds moved to amend the motion by adding a statement that this promotion and tenure document not go into effect until the 2005 cycle. This motion failed for lack of a second.

Senator Montgomery moved, Senator Henington seconded, that this motion once again be tabled. The motion failed by a Senate vote of 11-26-2.

Senator Embree called for question. This passed on a Senate vote of 33-3-1.

The original motion passed on a Senate vote of 23-14-3.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Submitted for correction and approval.

---

LaDonne Delgado, Secretary