



ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE

Uncorrected Minutes of March 8, 2019

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, March 8, 2019.

Members absent and excused were: Noel Addy, Kathleen Alley, Jimmy Avery, Cecelia Cook, Brian Davis, Darrin Dodds, Jenny Du, Dipangkar Dutta, Charles Freeman, Joel Paz, Sol Pelaez, Lindon Ratliff, Raja Reddy, Rebecca Robichaux-Davis, Angela Savage, Barry Stewart, Robert Thompson, Samuel Winer, and Molly Zuckerman.

Member absent were: Guihong Bi, Patty Lathan, Lyndsey Miller, Fred Musser, and Judy Ridner.

The meeting was called to order by Senate President Randy Follett.

President Follett asked for any corrections to the minutes of the February 8, 2019 meeting. He noted that a correction from Secretary Coyne to add his name to the absent and excused list had been received. President Follett, hearing no corrections, accepted the minutes as amended.

GUESTS

REPORT OF THE FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT

I've had a really busy month in the time since we last met, and am happy to report that things are progressing well on many fronts. Each of you should have received an e-mail from Dr. Bonner in response to the concerns expressed in our last senate meeting. As she said in that e-mail, the proposed pilot of the separate student feedback program that was

described has been completely stopped. Also in response to the request, the formation of a committee of three associate deans, three department heads, three faculty, and three students is underway, and I hope to be able to announce that committee within the next week. I am very hopeful that this committee's work will provide a set of suggestions that can finally get this issue resolved.

In other news, you have likely seen the announcement of the Provost Search Committee, which had our first meeting on Monday of this week. There are already over twenty applicants in the pool, with a very large number of suggestions that are being contacted to see if they have interest in applying for the position. As mentioned in articles about it, Dr. Keenum is very hopeful that we will have our next provost identified before the end of the fiscal year. If you have suggestions of potential candidates, we've been asked to work on getting lists of such names gathered up for contact from the search company, rather than trying to contact them individually, in order to have as consistent a process as is possible. Please feel free to send suggestions to me or to anyone on that committee.

There is also a search committee that has been formed to work on identifying Judy Spencer's replacement in HRM. I have asked Mary Ann Jones to participate in that search on behalf of the senate, and am hopeful that we will be successful with that very important search, as well.

I was also able to participate in last week's annual Alumni Association National Board of Directors meeting, as well as a Leadership Conference. It is always extremely gratifying to see all of the Bulldogs out there working so tirelessly to help MSU recruit more students and improve in so many ways. It is really humbling to hear how much time and effort gets put in by so many volunteers on behalf of our university, particularly when I feel like I have been really busy.

One other recent opportunity I have had is to participate in the review of proposals in response to the recent RFP in the area of textbook sales, school supplies, in-venue athletic apparel and novelties, and a school spirit shop for MSU. We had our first meeting to review the submitted proposals on Thursday of this week. It is a very interesting process, and one more new thing that I've never gotten to do before.

The last thing I wanted to mention here is a recent discussion in the Faculty Senate Executive Committee, concerning the idea of changing the bylaws to specify that each unit for which we elect representation would be guaranteed at least two senators. As you may recall, we specifically decided to not pursue that option in the latest reapportionment report last month. However, the Executive Committee agrees that there should be a formal study specifically related to the pros and cons of such a change to the bylaws. Therefore, you will see that in the new business section of the agenda, there is a directive to the Charter and Bylaws committee to address this question. It is also anticipated that such a discussion will inevitably result in a consideration of the precise mechanism that would be used to identify the number

of senators to be elected from each unit, with a comparison of the results that might be obtained under the various possibilities that exist for such a choice.

Status of AOPs:

The following AOPs are not under review to the best of my knowledge, but are past the four-year review cycle:

AOP	Title	Date
10.03	Deans Council and Associate Deans Council	4/12/2012
10.05	Nepotism	12/5/2012
11.04	Split Level Combined Undergraduate/Graduate Courses	3/19/2014
12.23	Cooperative Education Program	6/9/2013
13.16	Establishment of Academic Centers and Institutes at Mississippi State University	6/9/2014
13.23	Faculty Workload	12/12/2014
21.01	Graduate Admission Criteria	4/12/2012
31.02	Legal Resident Status	2/5/2013

Reports from committees on which I serve:

Athletic Council – The last meeting of this committee was held at Dudy Noble Field, for a tour of the new facilities. Unfortunately, I was out of town during that time, so was unable to participate.

Diversity Council – hasn't met since my last report

Executive Council – Our last meeting was on February 25, at which time we approved OP 01.07 Whistleblower Policy, and agreed to rescind OP 91.177 Extended Orientation for International Students, as well as OP 91.302 AIDS Policy. There were minor revisions to OP 01.07 for readability, but no content changes. Neither OP 91.177 nor 91.302 were current or necessary, so they were both rescinded.

Executive Enrollment Management Committee – The monthly meeting of this committee was last held on February 18, at which time we got several updates focused on admissions, recruitment, student success, and other aspects of the focus on bringing in more students. One of the perhaps surprising results has been the associated increase in academic performance. Several things have contributed to this, including a more active and “social media” type of interaction with the potential students, as well as continuing these active communications after they are enrolled. Included in this area is a new process of tracking website contacts, with the idea of working towards continued contact with each individual, as well as analysis of what they do on web pages, and working on improvements to the process. Additionally, the recent

changes in requirements regarding account balances has been linked to increased retention of close to 2%.

Game Day and Special Events – hasn't met since my last report

Information Technology Council – This committee last met on February 5. We received updates on several projects, and notice of the Canvas Users Group, which will be meeting on the 4th Friday of each month, to discuss various aspects of Canvas, and the associated technologies. Everbridge, our new Emergency Management System has replaced our previous setup, and new capabilities are still being rolled out on that. The VoIP Migration process is continuing, with 2,231 active lines as of Feb. 5, with the remaining lines to be converted before the end of the semester. The deployment of Office 365 for handling the university's e-mail system is also continuing, with the new junk e-mail handler that also included Advanced Threat Protection with Safe Links, and anti-spoofing technology. (The ECE department and the Faculty Senate Office were part of the Monday evening conversion this week.) As you get switched over, you should have access to the OneDrive for Business drive, which will allow you to share folders with MSU and non-MSU users, with Data Loss Prevention policies in place.

Master Plan Development and Advisory Committee – This committee has not met physically since my last report, and had a limited consideration of business from the Design Review Subcommittee this month. The first item concerned a preliminary design for a South Terrace Cover for the Colvard Union. The other item considered was the details of specific road closures at Humphrey Coliseum and at Dudy Noble field, and the use of collapsible bollards versus removable bollards. Both of these items were then presented to the MPDAC for consideration via an e-mail vote. The overall committee approved the preliminary design for the Union Terrace Cover, and approved the installation of the collapsible bollards in order to ensure emergency vehicle access. The use of removable bollards is only approved during times when there will be personnel available to remove them in case of emergency vehicles needing access to the area.

Parking and Traffic Regulations Committee – This committee last met on February 28, at which time we discussed an additional section of parking at Dudy Noble Field. Approximately 70 spaces are being added, with the "Any Valid Permit" designation. In other business, the committee decided to not make a change to the "Any Valid Permit" designation under the Mize Pavilion. (A request had been made to convert that to Staff parking.) Additionally, a request was made to convert the Service parking spaces at the Generation Plant to Staff spaces, which was approved. Previously, it was only Service vehicles that were parking there, but now there are full-time staff employed at that location. The last item of business was a consideration of

the 2020 Permit Allocations for campus. The decision was made to cap the sales of Commuter North and to introduce a new type of permit that is at a 25% cost reduction, but is only valid for lots labeled "Any Valid Permit". One final note is that a discussion was held regarding the level of complaints when they introduced the new sticker format this year as a replacement of the hang tag.

Sustainability Committee – hasn't met since my last report

President Follett said nominations for Faculty Senate representation are open. Senator Sebba asked how to nominate. President Follett replied nominations are being accepted via email. He said to reply to the call for nominations email sent from Faculty Senate. President Follett said this year, Faculty Senate is handling all the college elections. This idea was proposed to the deans and they did not have any comment. The purpose of handling the elections internally is to ensure all elections are anonymous. If voting is handled through email, it is not anonymous. The voting system was based on the same system used for electing members to the Provost Search Committee with the addition of the units that were not represented on the search committee.

President Follett said Dr. Mohsen Razzaghi in the Department of Mathematics and Statistics had a visitor from Romania. Dr. Radu VasIU from the Polytechnic University of Timisoara serves as the President of the University Senate. Dr. Razzaghi thought it would be of interest for Dr. VasIU to visit with the Faculty Senate President. President Follett said the experience was very illuminating. Around the world faculty worry about the same issues such as tenure and salary.

Senator Spain said she felt the composition of the committee being formed to determine how to better address classroom issues as they arise is stacked in favor of administration. She said the deans and department heads want to receive comments and the students seem to want the release of comments as well. This means 9 of the 12 committee members are against the wishes of the Faculty Senate. President Follett replied the committee will not be looking at whether comments go forward. The committee will be tasked with identifying a mechanism which addresses the concerns of egregious behavior in the classroom. He said the committee results are not binding as he understands it. The hope is to have unanimous results presented by the committee. Anyone should feel free to provide input to the representation on the committee once it is finalized. Senator Eddy asked if the chain of command is made clear to the students when they enroll at MSU. President Follett replied he did not know if the students were made aware of the function of department heads and deans. He said many students would be too timid to approach these authority figures. Senator Bora said the committee could have a faculty representative from each college. This would represent the different teaching

styles that are utilized across campus. President Follett said there are 11 colleges and the other groups would want equal representation which would make a committee of 44 people. A committee of this size would most likely not function. President Follett said he will try to select faculty representation that can represent all colleges and the different methods of teaching. The committee members will be responsible for communicating with others to represent all the different aspects of teaching. The committee will represent a gathering of administrators, faculty, and students to discuss this subject, which has not happened before.

Secretary Coyne asked for the letter of response composed by the Executive Committee of the Robert Holland Faculty Senate in spring 2016 and forwarded to the college deans addressing a request to acquire access to text comments contained within teaching evaluations be presented to the committee. He said this would help to represent the sentiment of Senate. President Follett said he would provide the letter to the committee. Senator Coyne requested that educational research references and other documentation utilized by the Executive Committee in drafting their letter of response be employed to illustrate the position of the Faculty Senate. Senator Williams asked if it would be fair to say that any change to the evaluation process would have to come before Senate for approval. President Follett replied any changes to the policy on the evaluation of teaching would have to come through Senate. Senator Spain said the Senate never received a response to the changes that were suggested. She asked if the receipt of feedback to department heads and deans was being disassociated with the finding of a mechanism to address issues in the classroom. President Follett replied he believes Senator Spain is correct as he understands it.

President Follett said he would do everything in his power to ensure any valid concerns from a group are addressed. He said one such concern is a faculty member acting egregiously in the classroom and a method to identify that behavior. President Follett said he hopes addressing the issue of identifying poor behavior in the classroom will break the log jam and allow the policy to move forward. Senator Spain said that assumes identifying poor behavior is the only motivation for the deans wanting comments. Senator Eddy said the mechanism to deal with he concerns of the deans should be completely separate from the evaluation process. President Follett replied Senator Eddy's comment was the intent of forming the committee. To address concerns without releasing comments from evaluations.

REPORT OF THE FACULTY SENATE VICE PRESIDENT

Academic Deans Council –

March 2019 meeting was canceled

Committee on Campus Access –

March 2019 meeting was cancelled

Community Engagement Committee –

MSU CE Survey summary results:

<https://www.ccel.msstate.edu/news/article.php?id=6110&year=2018&itk=1002e58315fb75dd7d049498489b1815>

MSU CE/ES White paper:

<https://www.ccel.msstate.edu/news/article.php?id=6109&year=2018&itk=8ebee96dd219f893b7871ef0828a8c2>

CE Awards Ceremony:

March 25, 2019 4:30 – 6:30 pm at The Mill

President's Commission on the Status of Women –

Spring PCSW awards (<http://www.committees.msstate.edu/pcsw/awards/>) deadline in today, March 8, at 5:00 pm. Please consider nominating someone for one of the following awards:

- Outstanding Faculty Member
- Outstanding Staff Member
- Outstanding Graduate Student
- Outstanding Community Member
- Student Leadership Awards (Undergraduate)

- March 19th – Clothing Drive for Bully's Closet, 9:00 – 4:00 Colvard Student Union northwest entrance
 - Donations of new or gently used professional clothing are being accepted

- March 25th – Negotiation Skills for Women luncheon
 - Corskrey Auditorium 11:30 – 2:00
 - Speaker is Stephanie Mallette, College of Business Instructor, Attorney-At-Law

President's Committee on Planning –

State of Excellence: 2019-2025

<https://www.president.msstate.edu/communications/state-of-excellence-strategic-plan/>

Committee has not met yet to discuss the feedback gathered at the Fall and Spring town hall meetings

Textbook Committee –

Has not met since I have been assigned to the committee

Undergraduate Research and Creative Discovery Committee –

Has not met since I have been assigned to the committee

Vice President Jones said the spring Undergraduate Research Symposium will be held on April 16th at 3:30 p.m. in the Union Ballroom. They are looking for judges, so if faculty are interested in judging, please contact the Center for Community Engaged Learning.

FACULTY DESIGNATES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

Faculty Research Advisory Committee (FRAC)

February, 21, 2019

The Office of Research and Economic Development (ORED) Responsibilities and Program Proposals

- Development of a system that could be readily accessed to facilitate the identification of faculty that possess knowledge and expertise associated within specific fields of specialization.
 - The Faculty Expert sites were originally developed as a resource that could be utilized by the media so they could locate experts associated with a topic they were composing articles about.
 - Currently the site functions as an “opt-in only” service, which means that the list is limited; many faculty will not show up in the list. Given that this is an opt-in program the “expertise” is not based on experience or publications.
 - ORED, OPA, and the Library are presently attempting to determine a more automated way to find experts across campus
 - A suggestion was put forth that “expertise” should be based on publications and presentations.
- Development of an improved system that more effectively announces and notifies faculty about special seminars, guest visits or other events that you would like to share with the entire University
 - A notification request can be submitted online through the link towards the middle of the Office of Public Affairs page <http://www.opa.msstate.edu/>
 - After OPA reviews them, the event or announcement will show up on the university calendar.
- ORED emphasis has been focused on the following responsibilities:

- Research seminars / faculty leadership programs / assistance with identifying opportunities for funding, limited submissions / research award programs (College & University) / travel grants (ORED grants) / undergraduate research (Fall awards) / Cross-college (next Fall with new format) / startup funds (in conjunction with departments/college)
- A concern was presented to ORED that the university releases substantial amounts of research discovery into the public domain without first capitalizing on capturing intellectual property that could be enhanced as a source of self-generated funding.
 - A suggestion was offered that ORED should inform faculty that have generated research intellectual property about the advantages of generating draft U.S. Patent applications that contain descriptions of their discoveries; results from establishing "proof-of-concept"; documentation of all relevant prior art; listings of supporting references; and results from searches for existing and pending U.S. Patents. Composition of such a draft application diminishes costs from patent attorney fees and expedites the submission process.
 - A suggestion was offered to consider that decisions and funding not come from the department, but rather at the level of the university level and be based on marketability.
 - Currently the Office of Technology Management reviews prior art, identifies existing and pending U.S. Patents; performs market analysis; and attempts to negotiate non-disclosure agreements with corporations and private industries.
 - U.S. Patent applications must be filed within one year after the publication of research findings enter the public domain or rights to capturing intellectual property will be lost.

Partnership School

- ✓ Current estimated completion date is Dec. 2019 (but will probably be Fall 2020.)

Senator Wipf said he heard the submission of intellectual property was not a recommendation, but a requirement. Secretary Coyne replied the requirement to submit intellectual property is in faculty contracts, at least it is in his contract.

BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEES

1. AOP 12.03 Awarding of Degrees Posthumously (Academic Affairs)
2. AOP 12.07 Student Honor Code (Student Affairs)
3. AOP 13.08 Travel by Faculty and Staff -Suggested Rescind- (Ancillary Affairs)

Senator Spain asked if there was a quorum present. President Follett replied 27 Senators are present and therefore there is a quorum. Senator Larson made a motion to send the policies to their recommended committees. Secretary Coyne seconded the motion. The motion to send the policies to the recommended committees passed by unanimous voice vote.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs	No Report
Ancillary Affairs	No Report
Charter & Bylaws	No Report
Faculty Affairs	No Report
Student Affairs	No Report
University Resources	No Report

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Senator Spain asked for an update on the committee formed to examine the grievance policies for faculty. Senator Sherman-Morris said both of the AOP's in question are stuck in the process somewhere. She said that one of them is being reviewed by legal counsel. The status of the OP involved is unknown at this time. President Follett said he would follow up on the status of the committee recommendations and report back to Senate at the next meeting.

Senator Tagert asked about the Partnership School completion date contained in Secretary Coyne's report. Secretary Coyne said the anticipated completion date was formulated by ORED. President Follett said he believed the weather delays have pushed the completion date past December and they will move to the facility for a full semester instead of moving in the middle of a semester. Senator Tagert asked President Follett if the information he is providing came from ORED and not the school district. President Follett replied he has heard this from several sources. Senator Williams said it was reported in the newspaper that the original completion date would not be met, but they did not report the December date would not be met. President Follett said the date being presented is speculative.

Vice President Jones said the Spring Faculty Roundtable will be held on April 4th. This time it will begin at noon with lunch being served before the Roundtable discussion begins. A reception will follow the discussion. The topic will be “Pushing Toward Open Access and Open Data at MSU: What can we Learn from the Presidents United to Solve Hunger.” Dr. Keenum is the chair of the Presidents United to Solve Hunger. This group is pushing for the open release of data and research associated with hunger. A report has been developed on how universities are implementing the initiative from Presidents United to Solve Hunger. The report will be used to discuss how MSU can implement open access and open data on campus.

Vice President Jones made a motion to adjourn. Senator Denny seconded the motion. The motion to adjourn passed by unanimous voice vote.

President Follett closed the February meeting of the Robert Holland Faculty Senate at 3:04 p.m.

Submitted for correction and approval.

Cody Coyne, Secretary

Jason Cory, Administrative Assistant II