

**ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE  
UNCORRECTED MINUTES OF MEETING ON NOVEMBER 10, 2000**

The Robert Holland Faculty Senate of Mississippi State University held its regular meeting in the President's Reception Room at the Humphrey Coliseum at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, November 10, 2000.

Members absent and excused were Sharon Black, Stanley Bullington, Kathy Dooley, Chris Duncan, Jim Heitz, Homes Hogue, and Linda Pote.

Members absent and unexcused were Keith Hodge and Pearson Liddell.

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 Chair Dan Embree called the meeting to order.

Chair Embree referred to the minutes of the October 13, 2000, Regular Meeting as distributed. Senator Crowell moved, Senator Kelly seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate approve the minutes of October 13, 2000. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of the Senate.

**GUESTS**

Chair Embree introduced guests of the Senate: President Malcolm Portera and Dr. David Cole, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs.

**MALCOLM PORTERA, PRESIDENT**

Dr. Portera provided the following information:

Mississippi State's partnership with Nissan will not include spending millions on training as mentioned in a recent newspaper article. Instead what MSU plans is to offer some graduate engineering education programs to the site, engage in joint research and development activities, be involved in some faculty exchanges between the University and the corporation, and develop an additional sister university relationship with a Japanese university. The state bond package included funds to support the MSU activities for this partnership. No monies will come from the MSU existing budget. Other institutions in the state will also be involved with MSU as the lead institution.

Portera commended Senator Lou D'Abramo for his efforts with the

Roundtable held on November 10, 2000. Portera also thanked Chair Embree for his instigation of the replication of the Pew roundtables. The Spring Roundtable's topic will be standards at MSU. Items discussed on November 10th included:

Promotion and tenure. Provost Cole will provide the faculty with a summary relative to the promotion and tenure process at MSU and to include within it some of the recent experience as to the number of people recommended, accepted, rejected, etc.

Planning on campus. Portera has asked the Provost, the Vice President for Research, and the Vice President for Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine to convene a group of the Deans and Department Heads and to begin a serious discussion of "bottoms up" planning this institution.

Communication. Portera will consider creating a position of "ombudsman" at Mississippi State University and has asked Chair Embree to gather pertinent information and meet with him to continue the dialogue on this matter. Portera plans to spend a great deal of time during the remainder of this fiscal year looking into what can be done to enhance communication at MSU. Plans are for Cole and Portera to attend two departmental faculty meetings before the end of this semester and to attend four departmental faculty meetings in the Spring semester.

Portera ended his remarks pertaining to the Roundtable by saying that it was a very productive session and, by the end of the day, he felt that everyone had developed some consensus about the directions which needed to be taken particularly pertaining the issues of communication and promotion and tenure.

Portera will soon start to receive recommendations for Honorary Degrees.

Portera mentioned that the Governor had previously indicated he was going to exempt higher education from the first five-percent budget reduction, come back in the Spring semester and then make some determinations as to what the budget will resemble. Portera will continue to hold the resources that he has been able to re-allocate and, if the budget cut does not come in at the anticipated level, these resources will be used to address the issue of departmental operating expenses and the first phase adjustment of the Buck Study.

Senator Carskadon asked if the faculty were expected to apply higher standards when evaluating promotion and tenure applications. Provost Cole

remarked that the standards have not changed. The University document is the same and there are no increases in the standards for promotion or tenure. Senator Carskadon asked again if Cole was expecting the faculty to do anything differently than in the past. Cole responded no - just do what you have always done, but be sure to apply the standards. Senator Nebeker asked what if our department puts forth a promotion or tenure application to which they feel the standards have been properly applied and then Provost Cole rejects it. How does the department and faculty know where they stand and how did the criteria change? Provost Cole responded by saying that if the departments and faculty don't police themselves, he will. President Portera reminded the Senators that he has asked Provost Cole to provide in writing to the faculty with a summary relative to the promotion and tenure process at MSU and to include within it some of the recent experience as to the number of people recommended, accepted, rejected, etc. Senator Marshall asked Provost Cole if he would entertain having an elected faculty on his committee which reviews the promotion and tenure applications. Cole responded no. Senator Marshall then asked Cole to explain his reluctance to having this addition. Cole responded that he feels he receives sufficient advice from the current committee members. He then added that he would be happy to visit any department and explain the promotion and tenure policies and procedures and how they are administered.

Senator D'Abramo commented that in the Report to the Robert Holland Faculty Senate which he submitted at the beginning of this meeting pertaining to the November Roundtable contains a segment on promotion and tenure which could clarify some of these issues.

## **DAVID COLE, PROVOST AND VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

Provost Cole had no additional comments.

## **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Embree began his Robert Holland Faculty Senate Chair's Report by sharing the following remarks:

Spring Roundtable is scheduled for March 3, 2001, which is the week before Spring Break. The location, food, agenda, etc. will be the same as the November Roundtable with Embree serving as the chair and participants selected as before.

Next Friday, November 17, 2000, the Robert Holland Faculty Senate Executive Council will have lunch with Carl Nicholson, the President of the Institution of Higher Learning's Board of Trustees, and then schedule one or two activities to promote MSU and its faculty. The Senate will try to have similar events with Board members in the Spring. On January 25, 2001, Bill

Crawford, the Vice President of the Institution of Higher Learning's Board of Trustees. If Senators have suggestions for possible activities that would serve to education the Board about those parts of MSU's business which they seem not to understand well (i.e., the importance of graduate instruction versus undergraduate instruction; the importance of travel...particularly foreign travel; the importance of research to the undergraduate mission), please contact Chair Embree.

Portera has asked Embree to collect information pertaining to the idea of an "ombudsman". If Senators are familiar with other universities who have such an official, any information would be welcome. Embree will be trying to determine "what does an ombudsman do?"; "how busy are they?"; "who selects them?"; "do they get paid?"; "how well do such systems work?"; etc. At this point the Senate does not have a formal request to undertake a proper Senate study. Chair Embree assumes that will be forthcoming and he will then turn over the information to the appropriate committee.

Embree reminded the Robert Holland Faculty Senate Executive Council that their next meeting would be on Monday, November 27, 2000, which is not their normal meeting time.

Senator Williams remarked he believes that three years ago the Senate dealt with the issue of an ombudsman. Embree will check the records and, if so, make note of those recommendations.

### **REPORT OF THE VICE CHAIR**

Vice Chair D'Abramo submitted no formal report although he called the Senators' attention to the Summary of the Roundtable on Campus Morale which he distributed before the meeting and asked Senators to share it with their faculty.

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

Employee Benefits Committee -- Senator Tom Fisher reported that pertaining to MSU dental care, Blue Cross, Blue Shield canceled their two-year contract at the end of its two year period. Blue Bonnet created a new dental plan for MSU and the is an open enrollment going on now. The Cancer and Intensive Care Plan is an optional health plan and the enrollment period is November 13-22, 2000. The Health Center has given 1500 flu shots within the last two days for \$10.00 each in the Union.

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

Letter from Terry Obert and Mark Goodman re: Reporting Student Evaluations B Senator Crowell moved, Senator Marshall seconded, to refer this issue to committee. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of the Senate.

Chair Embree assigned this issue to the Academic Affairs Committee.

Letter from Robert Altenkirch re: Proposed revisions to Policy OP 56.06 in the Division of Agriculture, Forestry and Veterinary Medicine and Policy OP 80.1 in the Division of Research -- Senator McLaurin moved, Senator Crowell seconded, to suspend the rules and bring this matter before the Senate immediately.

The motion passed on a Senate vote of 37-0-0.

Senator McLaurin moved, Senator Rogers seconded, to refer this issue to committee. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of the Senate.

Chair Embree assigned this issue to the Charter and Bylaws Committee.

### **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

Chair Embree ruled that Dr. Nancy Cox is, for the day, an "ad hoc" member of the Senate solely for the purposes of presenting the following report.

There were no objections from the Senate.

Report from Dr. Nancy Cox, Chair, Intellectual Property Committee - Dr. Cox moved, Senator Rogers seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate accept the report from the Intellectual Property Committee. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of the Senate.

Dr. Cox moved, Senator Diehl seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate adopt the Intellectual Property Committee's recommendations that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate approve the Intellectual Property Policy and that the Administration, in corporation with the Intellectual Property/Technical Licensing Officer, the Chair of the Senate, and appropriate faculty members, develop a university policy for the recovery of university expenses associated with Intellectual Property.

The motion passed on a Senate vote of 32-2-4.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Senator Pat Donohoe, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, referred to

this Committee's report pertaining to AOP 11.05 -- Shortened Format Courses and Contact Hours. Senator Donohoe moved, Senator McLaurin seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate endorse the proposed changes to AOP 11.05.

The motion passed on a Senate vote of 37-0-0.

#### **ANCILLARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

No report.

#### **CHARTER AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE**

No report.

#### **FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Senator Williams, Chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, referred to this Committee's report pertaining to AOP 10.14 -- Divisions, Colleges, Departments, Schools and Programs. No motion presented.

#### **STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

No report.

#### **UNIVERSITY RESOURCES COMMITTEE**

Senator Crowell moved, Senator Kelly seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate accept the report from the University Resources Committee. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of the Senate.

Senator Crowell referred to this Committee's report pertaining to the letter from Dr. Lorenzo Crowell on April 18, 2000 regarding proposed increased parking fees at MSU. No recommendation made. No action required by the Senate.

#### **SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS**

No reports.

#### **OLD BUSINESS**

No old business.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Senator Travis moved, Senator D'Abramo 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