

**ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE  
UNCORRECTED MINUTES OF MEETING ON NOVEMBER 8, 2002**

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, November 8, 2002.

Members absent and excused were Susan Bridges (sabbatical), Kathy Dooley, Homes Hogue, Don Jackson, Patricia Lestrade, Bill Maslin, Vincent McGrath, Linda Morse, Nancy Reichert, and Richard Still.

Members absent and unexcused were Robert Long, PC McLaurin, Kent Payne, 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.msstate.edu/Org/FS/faculty\\_senate.html](http://www.msstate.edu/Org/FS/faculty_senate.html).

Chair Walter Diehl called the meeting to order.

Chair Diehl referred to the minutes of the October 11, 2002, Regular Meeting as distributed. Senator Bryant moved, Senator Rogers seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate approve the minutes of October 11, 2002. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**GUESTS**

Chair Diehl introduced guests: Dr. Charles Lee, Interim President; Dr. George Verrall, Interim Provost; Dr. Jonathan Pote, Vice President of Research; and Dr. Leslie Bauman, Self-Study Director.

**CHARLES LEE, INTERIM PRESIDENT**

Dr. Lee provided the following information:

- Lee met with the Interim Accreditation Team for the College of Veterinary Medicine last week and reports that the team was (verbally) extremely complimentary about the degree of progress that has been made in the College of Veterinary Medicine.
- Last Friday, the publisher and new senior editor of the Clarion Ledger visited campus. Discussions affirmed that the Clarion Ledger staff are strong supporters of education and there was a commitment to help tell the story of higher education for the future of the state. MSU's media personnel will visit the Clarion Ledger in the near future to continue this relationship.
- Next week will be a great week due to the upcoming announcement of the largest gift ever given to MSU. It is to be used to achieve a margin of excellence for the College of Engineering.

- Also next week will be the visit from the Association of Research Libraries (ARL) Team in the MSU Libraries. Several IHL Board members and possibly the Lt. Governor will be among those on campus supporting the Libraries' efforts.
- MSU is taking a look at a new approach for public organizations that is related to federal tax provisions for tax credits. Under this provision, those in the private sector can write off 20-30% of the cost under the historic act if they agree to rehabilitate an old building. Lee is working with consultants to see if this is possible in the MSU public sector. Should this be possible, then plans are to consider a similar effort with some of the MSU on-campus buildings.
- The search committee for the Vice President for Research has begun their work. Lee has asked them to provide a short list of candidates by mid-March 2003 which may allow the new MSU President some input on the final decision for this position.
- MSU needs to take a look at the 21<sup>st</sup> century goals that have been in place for the past 3.5 years or longer, and update them. Various MSU bodies will be involved in this process.
- Interviews for the MSU Faculty Athletic Representative are being conducted today. There are six candidates and Lee hopes the successful candidate will be appointed before the end of the month.
- The most recent budget numbers will be out in about ten days.
- As a consequences of the times and the lack of any significant new money from the state; the K-12 institutions, the community colleges, and the presidents of the senior institutions have agreed to start a campaign based on the argument that they should try to hold on to what they have this year, including the salary provisions. Further reductions will pose real significant damage to the bone of education at all levels in this state. Public announcements are forthcoming.
- Senator Williams mentioned that he had asked Daniel Bryant about acquiring access to the University Vending Contract. At that time, Williams was told that he could have access to the document. Several days later Mr. Bryant state that, after reviewing the contract and noting that there were several confidentiality clauses in it, Williams would have to pursue access under the state's Open Records Law and send a letter to him stating his request. Williams indicated that he had submitted this request and asked Lee if he could presume that he will be given access to these legal, state documents after his letter goes through the channels. Lee stated that Williams would be granted access.
- Williams then asked if MSU has a long-term contract with a private vending corporation and if the contract contains pricing dimensions, does that arrangement not constitute a monopoly for the period of the contract? Lee responded that due to the dynamic market, some pricing dimensions are appropriate for certain contracts.
- Chair Diehl asked for an update on the status of the search for the Vice President for Student Affairs. Lee responded that the committee will meet this afternoon and he expects closure in the next few days.

## **GEORGE VERRALL, INTERIM PROVOST**

Dr. Verrall provided the following information:

- The Institutional Research search is very near its end. There is a “trailing spouse” opportunity being considered and those involved will meet on Monday to report to Verrall. Verrall hopes to complete this by Tuesday and move on to the Registrar’s search.
- Verrall has been talking to Continuing Education, the Deans and the Division of Agriculture about where we want Continuing Education to go, what we want it to be in the future, and we are looking at several opportunities that would perhaps increase or enhance that unit’s ability to respond to academic units, faculty, etc. and do its mission.
- Verrall is continuing to work on responding to the students’ request for a Fall holiday. The leading recommendation appears to be to extend the Thanksgiving holiday to include the entire week.
- A number of faculty have raised issues with their deans about students having difficulty getting classes in other departments’ disciplines. Verrall is aware of this problem which is largely caused by the budget cuts and is working with the deans on possible solutions.
- Several months ago at a meeting in Jackson, the Chief Academic Officers were asked by an IHL Board member for a list of the top 25% of their institutions masters’ programs and a list the top ten PhD programs for discussion purposes. Verrall has reluctantly compiled said list, noting that this is an unofficial list.
- Chair Diehl asked if Verrall would provide the Senate with a copy of this list. Verrall stated that he would prefer not to but would do so if Lee asked him.
- Senator Embree stated that he feels it would be a good idea for the everyone to see this list because one would assume that if his program is on the list, then it is OK, and if his program is not on the list, then it is a target. Everyone deserves to know if their programs are targets and potential victims for being cut. Verrall again stated that he will share the list if requested.
- Senator Nagel asked if a similar list has been requested from the other state institutions. Verrall responded yes.
- Senator Little asked if Verrall was asked about the suspension of the Masters Program in Agricultural Economics. Verrall stated that this has been treated as if it were a “typographical error.” It is an active program.
- Senator Pote asked when Verrall thought that the Faculty Senate should be proactive about this requested programs lists and go on record stating that numbers are not enough. Verrall stated that this was a good questions and every department is going to have to determine how to address productivity program by program in the future. This Senate should have a constant dialog, at some committee level, about how do we react to duplication, how do we react to low productivity, and how do we react to “supposed” duplication.

## **DENNIS PRESCOTT, VICE PRESIDENT FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS**

Prescott did a power-point presentation on the Campaign Planning Update. A copy of the complete presentation is on file in the MSU Faculty Senate Office. Major points highlighted were:

- Three Step Campaign Strategy: Preparation/Quiet Phase 2001-2002, Quiet Phase/Leadership Gifts 2002-2004, and General Campaign Phase 2004-2007
  - Set of Recommendations
  - Campaign Organization Chart
  - Campaign Steering Committee
  - Campaign Operational Committee
  - \$300,000,000 Gift Table
  - Five-Year Fundraising History, FY1998-FY2002
  - MSU Foundation Revenue Sources
  - Needs Development Fee was Designed to Address....
  - MSU Foundation E&G Budget chart showing the reality of a dramatic decline...
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- Senator Embree asked about the last slide shown and whether Prescott viewed it as a positive thing. Prescott stated that he did but would have liked to see the change happen over a ten year period rather than a four year period.
  - Senator Embree then asked about the slides showing the Campaign Steering Committee and the Campaign Operational Committee and asked if the Faculty Senate Chair was on either of these. Prescott responded that the MSU Executive Council would be members of the Campaign Operation Committee which includes the Chair of the Faculty Senate.
  - Senator Embree then asked if the Campaign Steering Committee included any faculty members and Prescott stated that it did not although there is room for "at large" members which could be faculty.
  - Senator Embree asked if the collective experience and wisdom of the faculty was simply not a factor. Prescott stated that this was not true and that there should be many opportunities for the faculty to be beneficial to this campaign. For example, in helping to identify prospective gift donors.
  - Senator Embree stated that in the past, the Faculty Senate requested its Chair be placed on the Foundation's Development Board and this has never happened. He then asked Prescott if he felt this to be a bad idea. Prescott stated that he was not sure.
  - Senator Williams stated that for some time, he has felt as though he were getting mixed signals from the Foundation. For example and most recently, the move into the Hunter Henry Center, the Foundation bought that property with money given to the University (\$200,000) and now the Foundation seems to be severing their relationship with the University. For example, the Foundation is outsourcing custodial services while continuing to use other University services. The newspapers state that the Foundation raised \$8 million dollars last year. From this figure, how much actual money came in, how much is deferred, how much is in an annuity, how much of this figure is pledged through wills, etc.? Prescott addressed the custodial aspect of the Hunter Henry Center first and stated that there were three bids entertained and the bid from Campus Custodial Services was more than double the bid which was awarded. The awarded bid is only a one year contract and it remains to be seen if the level of service will be satisfactory. Senator Williams asked if they were all bidding on the same RFP and Prescott responded yes.
  - Prescott stated that the figure was about \$74 million that was given and/or pledged last year. The news release stated how this figure was broken down and it showed that \$8

million was deferred, \$30 million was “cash through the door” and the balance was pledges and/or Gifts-in-Kind.

- Senator Diehl stated that one of the complaints often heard is that the Development Foundation and the Development Officers are only interested in big-time donors and are not particularly interested in the average donor. Can you assure us that the average donor will be taken seriously in this campaign and not simply ignored? Prescott responded that it was true that the Development Officers are encouraged to focus on larger gifts because it is more cost effective to do so. Smaller gifts are addressed through the annual fund program called the Fund for Excellence. His opinion is that the Development Foundation does very well at addressing the “high end” and the “low end” but that there is a gap in the middle, between the \$1,000 gifts and the \$20,000 gifts, which is being missed. A new Director for the Fund for Excellence has just been hired and his job description was re-vamped to specifically address this gap.

## **JONATHAN POTE, VICE PRESIDENT OF RESEARCH**

Dr. Pote provided handouts to the Senate and discussed the following information:

- Pote discussed the Research and Scholarship Program and the grant proposals which have been funded.
- One of the issues that has been raised pertaining to this program is its name. No one likes it because Research and Scholarship does not “ring any bells.” Pote asked if anyone had suggestions for changing the name to let him know.
- The second issue raised is the number of repeat applicants. Those approving the grant funding obviously did not stick to the \$100,000 limit. If they did, they could serve only about fifty faculty per year. What Pote is considering doing in the future is not capping the number of awards per faculty member, but capping the total dollar amount awarded at \$2,000 per faculty member.
- Some departments have nicknamed this program the “travel grants” fund and this is not true.
- This program is not for the funding needed for graduate students to attend conferences or meetings.
- Senator Berk was one of the recipients whose grant was awarded and he spoke to the Senate about his experience. He saw this funding as seed money to travel to very specific places to document his work and to fund a local show.
- Senator Henington asked if this funding was only for faculty or could it be for other individuals on campus. Pote responded that it is only for faculty.
- Senator Embree thanked to Pote and his office for implementing this program and stated that this serves as a model of cooperation between the Senate and the Administration.
- Senator Adams-Price asked if equipment could be purchased with these funds and Pote responded yes.
- Senator Embree asked if Pote was going to send out another call for more applicants soon and Pote responded yes.

- Senator Embree stated that an annual reminder works well and Pote agreed and hopes to do this in early Fall each year.
- Senator Embree asked if the ERC now has a permanent director or only an interim director. Pote responded that ERC will be defined as a group of centers and each of those centers will have a head. There will not be anyone carrying the title of Director of the ERC.

## **LESLIE BAUMAN, SELF-STUDY DIRECTOR**

Dr. Bauman did a power-point presentation on the SACS progress. A copy of the complete presentation is on file in the MSU Faculty Senate Office. Major points highlighted were:

- MSU's Past Accreditation
  - Reaffirmation Process is Based Upon Peer Evaluation
  - Five Stages of the Self-Study
  - Principal Committees
  - Stage Three Status
  - [www.library.msstate/selfstudy](http://www.library.msstate/selfstudy)
  - Self-Study Results
  - Stage 4: Preparing for and Receiving the Visiting Committee (April 6-9, 2003)
  - Stage 5: Preparing for Review and Action by the Committee on Colleges
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- Bauman request that everyone read the draft and send comments to her.
  - Senator Diehl noted that the Committee on Institutional Effectiveness had two chairs listed with one person having done most of the work and the other person no longer employed with this university. Bauman agreed and noted that she would make the change to reflect more accurately the work completed by Nancy Reichert.
  - Senator Embree stated that he has heard from several members of the Steering Committee that one of the problems in preparing for this visit has been the lack of documentation. Bauman stated that the fault lies with everyone on campus for not keeping good written records and not filing the same with the Library Archives for historical purposes.
  - Senator Pote asked what effect, if any, will all of the interims on campus have during this SACS process. Bauman stated that it has already impacted the process. Pote asked if the impact would be negative and Bauman stated that it should not.

## **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Diehl's Chair's report included the following remarks:

- Chair Diehl introduced Parker Wiseman, President of the Student Association, and an ex officio member of the Senate.
- The December Faculty Senate meeting is cancelled.
- Two assignments have been made to the Charter and Bylaws Committee: (1) to conduct a census of the faculty to apportion Faculty Senate representation from each of the

divisions and (2) to modify the Charter and Bylaws of the Faculty such as the title series, the Faculty Senate Chair to President and Vice Chair to Vice President, and any other changes. These will then need to be voted on by the faculty at large next Spring.

- Next year is the 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of MSU.
- Lee mentioned the Vice President for Student Affairs search and Diehl mentioned that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee enjoyed an extensive degree of participation in this search process. This was an excellent model for the Senate's degree of participation at the highest levels that Diehl hopes will be followed for future searches.
- The Vice President for Research search is underway.
- Interviews for the MSU Faculty Athletic Representative were conducted this morning.
- Future Senate issues include the concept of a Fall Break, Academic Forgiveness Policy, and an Honor Code or Honor System.
- Senator Embree stated that the IHL Board has clearly indicated its indifference on the contact hour question and other administrations have instituted a fall break.

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

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

- A committee has been formed called "The Faculty Recruitment, Selection and Screening Focus Group."
- On Dr. Verrall's report, the first sentence should be corrected to read "...top 25% Master's and top 10 Doctoral programs at MSU,..."
- The Task Force on Recruitment Policy has met and forwarded their recommendations to Lee and the Senate should see this document in the near future.
- Senator Williams asked why administrators must continually be reminded that there need to be faculty on committees which deal with faculty issues. Pote stated that in the case of "The Faculty Recruitment, Selection and Screening Focus Group," administrators assumed that because there were center directors and deans on the committee, that these individuals were serving as faculty. Pote agrees that this is not the case and it should be changed.
- Senator Wood asked why this committee (listed above) was needed, doesn't the EEOC Officer see to it that these things are done correctly? Pote responded that MSU does have an EEOC Officer but that each search committee needs this knowledge.

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

No reports.

### **BUSINESS SENT TO COMMITTEES**

None.

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

**Letter from Faculty Affairs Committee, re: Graduate School Policy** – Senator Rogers moved, Senator Wood seconded, to refer this issue to committee. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. Chair Diehl assigned this issue to the Faculty Affairs Committee.

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

No report.

### **ANCILLARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

No report.

### **CHARTER AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE**

No report.

### **FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Senator Goodman, Chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, referred to this Committee's report initiated by a letter from members of the Sociology faculty dated September 13, 2002, requesting an investigation of the actions of the Dean of Arts and Sciences regarding a graduate policy. Senator Goodman moved, Senator Stuart seconded, that the Senate accept the report.

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

Senator Goodman moved, Senator Wood seconded, that the Senate endorse the Committee's report and send a copy of the Committee's report with the following determinations to the Provost and President as requested by the Sociology faculty in their letter:

1. That Dean Oldham became involved in the graduate appeals process before all departmental avenues of recourse had been utilized by the parties making the appeal. This includes taking a vote of all graduate faculty in the department. Only after such a vote had been taken should the dean have invoked the Academic Status policy or other Graduate School appeals policies.

2. That the dean involved should have met with all members of the dissertation committee involved in the dispute before issuing a final decision. Further, the dean should have conferred with the department's director of graduate studies before issuing a final decision.

Senator Nagel called for question, Senator Bryant seconded. The motion passed on a Senate vote of 27-0-1.

The original motion passed on a Senate vote of 25-1-2.

#### **STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

No report.

#### **UNIVERSITY RESOURCES**

No report.

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

No report.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Senator Henington moved, Senator Adams-Price 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