

ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE November 9, 2007

The Robert Holland Faculty Senate of Mississippi State University held its regular meeting in the Coskrey Auditorium of Memorial Hall at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, November 9, 2007.

Members absent and excused were John Baily, Mike Brown, Jacque Deeds, Dana Franz, Terry Hanson, Jason Lueg, Joe Massey, Meghan Millea, Julia Porter, Noel Polk, Julie Sexton, Becky Toghiani, Peter Wood, Shu-hui Wu, Jeremy Johnson

No members absent and unexcused

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 Robert Wolverton called the meeting to order. Wolverton noted the recent passing of former Senator J. Paul Thaxton. A moment of silence was observed in his honor.

President Wolverton referred to the minutes of the October 12, 2007, Regular Meeting as distributed. Senator Hamil moved, Senator D'Abramo seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate approve the minutes with modifications. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

GUESTS

President Wolverton introduced guests: Dr. Peter Rabideau, Provost; Dr. Cade Smith, Director Appalachian Leadership Honors Program; and Mr. Michael Cervantes, Executive Director MSU Dining Service. Several minutes into the meeting, Dr. Robert Foglesong, MSU President, also arrived and asked to present an issue to obtain Senate input.

ROBERT FOGLESONG, PRESIDENT

President Foglesong provided the following information:

- Two months ago, the University of Mississippi presented a claim to IHL that, based on their growth, they had been under resourced through state funds. Their resources had, in fact, been flat. Although similar claims could be made by MSU for years in the mid-1990s through early 2000 that resulted in a shortage of funding to MSU, Foglesong noted a change in previous years' funding would require a complete rewrite of fiscal history. However, MSU would request this be examined if the current request is considered. Data will be collected and a decision will be forthcoming. It is possible that the current claim may be honored. If an adjustment is made, the funds would come out of the current higher education allocation and would potentially impact next year's plans.

- All tickets for football games have been sold for the first time since 1999.
- Questions posed to Foglesong:
 - How much money is involved in the adjustment? Foglesong responded that the amount is unknown, but may be \$12 to 13 million. The current formula used to compute compensation based on courses provides MSU with a higher compensation; currently Old Miss gets 1.0 and MSU receives 1.065. Foglesong stated that if the number changes, it would take all of last year's money that had been provided. It is known that the change would be done in phases. It was noted that \$1 million has already been taken from MSU under current policies.
 - A comment that this concern highlights the issue of growth without sufficient number of class sections/resources was noted. Foglesong responded that MSU has hired 31½ new faculty. He reiterated that MSU's biggest shortage is faculty. He did agree that this will impact the University.
 - In response to thanks for his attendance and encouragement to return, Foglesong indicated that a significant amount of his time is spent in fund raising and public relations work for the University away from campus.

PETER RABIDEAU, PROVOST

Provost Rabideau provided the following information:

- In a response to a question at a previous senate meeting about the Parental Leave recommendation, Rabideau indicated that he has had a discussion with department heads about the policy and urged them to be as family friendly as possible.
- The African American Studies, lead by Dr. Steven Middleton, recently had a grand opening in 289 Bowen. He urged faculty to stop in and get to know Dr. Middleton.
- Regarding campus art, a new statue has been located on Stone Boulevard that was formerly located at the Sara Lee plant. There are plans for Landscape Architecture to design wetland and a sidewalk in the area.
- The IHL Board meeting will be meeting and will have before it the two new online programs (Masters of Arts in Interdisciplinary Science and the Masters in Science in General Biology) proposed by MSU; both should be approved. The next day, a course redesign workshop will be offered. There will be approximately nine MSU attendees in a group of about 100 from across the state. The presentation will involve the same technique as that which is used in the MSU Math Domain. The hope is to extend this learning tool to other areas across the University (e.g., sciences).
- Questions/issues posed to Rabideau:
 - A senator noted the Counseling Center appears to have changed roles and the predominant current role appears to be outreach (e.g., depression awareness) and concern was expressed that there is no place to send students (undergraduate and graduate) with mental health issues and there is a waiting period for appointments. Furthermore, services in addition to the Student Health Center are needed and there may not be enough counselors to handle the needs of the campus community. Rabideau stated he will look into the issue.
 - In appreciation of Dr. Thaxton's passing, Rabideau was urged to develop a program to honor faculty who pass away each semester.

- In response to a question as to whether the Parental Leave guidelines will be extended to personal/medical leave, Rabideau stated that under state law that is likely to be the case, particularly in the case of the tenure clock. Of course, documentation will be needed.
- Recent news articles have highlighted a new initiative to address minority recruitment/graduation, a senator asked if there has been discussion of the issue by the Vice Presidents. Rabideau stated that this may be a topic at an upcoming meeting and noted it is, of course, an important commitment of the state and the University.
- Referring to the “dividend check” provided to MSU units, will the Provost’s Office be taking funds away to cover lapsed classes? Rabideau stated he did not believe this would be the case and there will be a net gain. Dr. Jerry Gilbert indicated the funds should have been transferred yesterday, but no announcement would be sent. The delay is due, in part, to Mike McGrevey’s recent illness. Rabideau stated there was also an issue with cross listed courses, but the funds have only been delayed not taken away.

CADE SMITH, DIRECTOR APPALACHIAN LEADERSHIP HONORS PROGRAM

Dr. Smith introduced himself and provided the following information:

- A number of programs are underway in the leadership program:
 - Appalachian Leadership Honors – Program provided across several years (second and third year students) to approximately 30 students each year to address several goals (e.g., impact the students view of role in the world) and to help them shape their communities, transform their view of their role in the world, promote self and peer awareness, and apply their leadership skills. The second class of about 57 is now in progress with 57% females, 34% minority students, across all majors with communication and business majors the majority.
 - Young Guns Summer program - \$450,000 has been provided by the Riley Foundation for 153 diverse students from 75 schools. This year’s activities included ROPES course at the Choctaw Indian Reservation where the two teams stayed for two days, and they visited the Riley Center in Meridian. The teams were also provided a challenge to produce a plan, as consultants, to address the declining diversity in students in a school districts. The student then made a presentation to community leaders in Meridian.
 - Day One program – this program for freshmen, is a learning community of 225 students who are housed in Creswell Hall. These students are divided into pods of 25 students in which the students in a pod are enrolled in the same core courses to give them an academic anchor. Within each pod, four action teams with a faculty/staff leader are formed and will be required to do a service learning project. Students learn leadership skills, build character, and do community service. There will be a showcase on November 29 the of this semester’s action plans.
 - Another emerging program is a Graduate Student Leadership program – Smith noted students at this level are more interested in a conference style learning experience.

- Questions posed to Smith:
 - Will there be a course release for individuals who serve as action team leaders in the freshman program. Smith responded that the work would be voluntary. However, faculty who teach in the courses are provided a release.
 - The Young Guns program was further discussed:
 - In response to a question about evaluation of the Young Gun program, Smith indicated that short term evaluation was conducted before and after the summer activities. There is a hope for further follow up evaluation.
 - There was concern expressed by faculty at the University about the name.
 - On a recent trip to Jackson, the President offered 4H winners the promise of a scholarship, will that recognition continue? Smith responded he did not know.

MR. MICHAEL CERVANTES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MSU DINING SERVICES

Mr. Cervantes provided the following information:

- A Faculty Dining Advisory Committee will be formed in the future and Cervantes asked faculty (about 10 to 15) to participate to facilitate communication. The committee will meet monthly with lunch provided. More information about the committee will follow.
- There is a faculty/staff dining meal plan available with two plans: (a) 50 meals with \$100 flex dollars, and (b) 30 meals with \$100 flex dollars. The plan is intended to be available for a semester, but a roll over from fall to spring will be available for faculty and staff only. The plan can be paid for through payroll deduction and the cost of the plan is based on the price of a maroon plate. Without a rollout or much advertisement, about 25 to 30 individuals this semester are participating in the plan. At this point, few if any problems have been identified.
- Questions/discussion:
 - The attributes of the current, all you can eat plan, versus the previous ala carte policy were discussed. Concerns included: (a) Perry has not always focused on the students; (b) the health and nutrition of students, particularly with the requirement of all freshmen to purchase a meal plan; and (c) the removal of free access to Perry.
 - Cervantes indicated there will be a listing of food choices online and the nutritional values of food; a “green paw” on the menu will indicate healthy choices; and students will not have access to Perry unless they pay the fee.
 - Comfort (temperature of the location) of Burger King and Einstein’s was expressed. Cervantes reported on progress of ventilation of both units.
 - There was a follow-up discussion concerning the “all-you-can-eat” policy and the mandatory requirement for freshman enrollment in the meal plan. President Foglesong, who had joined the meeting, stated that the decision for freshmen participation came from him. Cervantes indicated that the all-you-can-eat plan has not been formally polled, but the policy is common across campuses. He also indicated that he could provide additional information about requested facts. Concern about the health and nutrition of students was reiterated. Cervantes indicated no poll of

parents had been taken, but the current dining plan had been discussed during recent orientations. The most frequently chosen plan is the unlimited meal plan.

- Concern was expressed that individuals who had previously used Perry Cafeteria as a meeting place over coffee for faculty and students had been turned away and that, unless individuals pay the fee at the door, they are currently denied access to this facility. A senator noted this was a significant loss to faculty and they are unhappy with these circumstances. Cervantes indicated that there are a number of other locations across campus (e.g., Burger King, Einstein's) but these types of issues are why the Advisory Committee is necessary.
- The roll over of the meal plan into summer was discussed, Cervantes indicated that the plan would be ended at the end of the academic year. He stated that a paper application for the payroll deduction for the meal plan is required because of the deduction, but that the plan only takes one day to process.
- The delay in opening the Union was discussed, Cervantes indicated that his facilities have been built. It was further discussed that the delay is primarily due to problems in completing the exterior of the building which may have been based on the contract award with Aramark.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

President Wolverton gave the following report:

- An update on the activities of the Executive Committee was provided. He stated that Wayne Bland had provided the EC with information about accounting for grants and contracts. There has been a problem in that some departments have experienced difficulty and a new policy has been passed.
- Questions/discussion:
 - Concern was expressed regarding the relationship of Faculty Senate with President Foglesong. Discussion of the relationship followed.
 - Wolverton stated that he has urged Foglesong to attend the Senate meetings, but stated that Foglesong may not understand the role of the Senate or the importance of the governance document to the faculty.
 - The need for a dialogue between the Senate and Dr. Foglesong over a number of serious issues was emphasized. Wolverton stated that the President has urged individual faculty who have concerns to contact him via email; and, this may be a mechanism to express this concern to him. Additional discussion included emphasis that the EC should also communicate this need for dialogue. Comparison of meetings with previous meetings MSU Presidents with senate presidents and the Senate was made. Some senators expressed concern was that Foglesong disregards the important role of the Senate and that email exchanges are not a dialogue. Wolverton stated that Foglesong's responsibility is for the entire University.
 - Further discussion included problem-solving about how to encourage dialogue with President Foglesong on important issues: (a) assemble a

list of top issues for discussion, (b) alter the questioning attitude of the senators, and (c) reduce the confrontation posed by the senators as an inhibitor of communication.

REPORT OF THE VICE PRESIDENT

Vice President David Nagel gave the following report:

- The most recent Deans' Council meeting was cancelled.
- The Traffic Committee has met and will have a report coming out soon.
- Questions posed to Nagel:
 - Concern was expressed over the parking situation and the continued violations in faculty/staff parking areas. Senator D'Abramo, a member of the Parking Committee, stated a number of solutions have been explored, with consideration of a graduated fine schedule for subsequent violations and repeat offenders. Issues and concerns related to this policy were discussed.

REPORT FROM FACULTY SENATE DESIGNATES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

Employees' Benefits Committee – No report

Info-Technology Committee – No report

Faculty Research Advisory Committee – Senator Henington stated that at the most recent monthly meeting, the committee was provided with a presentation by Dr. Lynne Cossman on a NSF advance grant in which science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) units will be the focus. Female faculty issues (e.g., advancement, recruitment, retention, promotion) are central to the grant.

Instructional Improvement – No report

Calendar Committee – No report

Facilities Use Committee – No report

Athletic Council – No report

Campus Planning and Development Committee – No report

BUSINESS SENT TO COMMITTEES

None

BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEES

Letter from J. Gilbert regarding AOP 12.08—Minors and Certificate Programs – Senator Bridges moved, Senator Brassard seconded, to refer this issue to committee. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. President Wolverton assigned this issue to Academic Affairs.

Letter from G. Adebisi regarding Class Attendance and Teacher Evaluations – Senator Goodman made a Point of Order that this issue should be sent to Teacher Evaluation Committee. Senator Adebisi agreed and President Wolverton sent this issue to committee.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE - No report

ANCILLARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE - No report

CHARTER AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE - No report

FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

An interim report was provided by Senator Brashier, Chair:

- With regard to the salary discrepancy issue brought up following a news article, the numbers were reported correctly according to Old Miss sources. A request was sent to MSU Human Resource Management for additional breakdown by unit, but has not been responded to at this point.
- The issue of time extension during the promotion and tenure process following a leave is being examined by others across campus. There is no response yet from those committees.
 - Senator Goodman, a former member of the committee who examined the leave issue, stated that there was a decision to not make a formal policy that would precipitate IHL involvement in the decisions. The discussion involved provision of guidelines versus policy. It was noted that the Provost has left decisions to the unit and the individuals; thus, there is no need for an AOP. Furthermore, extraordinary circumstances in which leave is required is covered under state regulations; however, the timeline for tenure is another issue. Meghan Millea is the current chair of that committee, but is out of the country.
 - Concern was expressed for the inconsistency across units and implementation of these guidelines, and whether the guidelines will still be implemented when the Provost leaves. Discussion included the need: (a) to have these guidelines and the policy distributed, (b) for flexibility in the guidelines/policy for the timeline for Promotion and Tenure and workload policy for individual circumstances, and (c) to not place a greater burden on faculty or have the policy be discriminatory.
 - There will be a report of the committee to come out in the future.

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE - No report

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES - No report

OLD BUSINESS

Wolverton thanked faculty and senators for their input into the letter that went to IHL concerning the plan to address the cost of textbooks.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Adebisi moved, Senator D'Abramo seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of the Senate. The Senate adjourned at 4:20 pm.

Submitted for correction and approval.

Carlen Henington, Secretary