

**ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE
UNCORRECTED MINUTES OF MEETING ON November 14, 2008**

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 14, 2008.

Members absent and Excused: Greg Bentley (sabbatical), Gary Bradshaw, Ted Dobson (sabbatical), Jerry Emison, Dana Franz, Stephen Foster, Marita Gootee, Jason Lueg, Tom Matney, Vince McGrath, Janet Rafferty, and Julie Sexton

Members absent and unexcused was Shu-hui Wu.

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 David Nagel called the meeting to order.

Approval of Minutes:

Move by Senator Stewart, seconded by Senator Hamil to accept the minutes of the October 10, 2008 as presented. Motion passed.

Guests:

Dr. Roy Ruby, Interim President

Dr. Ruby discussed the process just completed of selecting the new president. He indicated his regret that the whole process was contentious and caused harm to the university. Faculty were encouraged us to get behind the new president to move the university forward. Great danger in a selection process such as we have just had is that some groups or individuals may expect their wishes be met. Dr. Keenum is aware of this concern as he becomes president and has indicated this would not be the case

The U.S. financial situation is affecting all areas of the economy including Mississippi. Administrators are worried about budget cuts that may be in addition to the 2% for this year. There is a projected additional 4% cut next year various options about where the money will come from are being considered. Senator Adebiyi ask how budget cuts were being handled. Dr. Ruby said an executive committee was working on that and the new budget. Some legislators feel the needed funds could come from the "rainy day" fund and would not call for additional cuts.

Dr. Ruby reported the good news that we have regained our momentum in recruitment. Applications are up over this time last year and we are at record enrollment this year for MSU. It is important that we not only get the best students, but more students because we are hooked on the tuition dollars.

He announced that The Honorable Martha Whitmarsh Blackburn, US Representative from Tennessee will speak at both commencements, she is an MSU graduate.

Dr. Ruby indicated that with the U.S. presidential elections over, it is not clear what that means for higher education and research funding in the future.

Dr. Peter Rabideau, Provost

Dr. Rabideau reported that the Promotion & Tenure Committee held a workshop November 8 and over 80 people were registered. This workshop looked at what was expected in organizing material for review and an overview of the process. The university P&T committee, the Center for Teaching and Learning and the Provost's office have all held workshops to aid faculty in the P&T process.

There was recently a luncheon introducing a central study abroad office which has been developed because MSU has the lowest number in the SEC of students studying abroad. The office in Memorial Hall will help students find opportunities for study abroad and assist faculty in setting up programs. The office will investigate best practices related to study abroad and share the findings with faculty. The office will provide safety information for countries of study and a link to parents concerned about their children studying abroad. Faculty with study abroad programs are not required to go through this office but are asked to register study abroad programs including student names so the office can assist in finding students in case of emergency. The office will also be able to respond to requests for information about the number and location of students studying abroad. Molly Watkins, in Continuing Education will lead the program.

Mississippi leads the nation in students not leaving their home state to go to college. This means MSU has a large responsibility to our best and brightest. Funds of \$50,000 have been provided to Math and Statistics to upgrade and modify programs.

Dr. Rabideau indicated that the current 2% budget cuts will not affect academic programs at this time. The potential 4% cut for next year is being given consideration with no directions to dean and directors yet. The major concern is that 90-95% of the budget is in personnel. Cut could be offset by increased enrollment or tuition increases. He believes some legislators want to transfer the

burden of higher education to students and their families and away from tax payers. He also believes we will have lead time to adjust budgets without doing damage to any departments.

Senator Brasher asked about what portion of budget goes to educating students and what portion goes to land-grant mission. Dr. Rabideau said he will provide that information at the next faculty meeting. Senator Coyne asked if any of the ESPN athletics contract money will be used for academics and if that could offset cuts. Dr. Rabideau said he believed so but was not sure how it was going to be done.

Senator Klein asked about new President Keenum's suggested enrollment figures of 22,000 by 2015 and how will we accommodate these large classes. Registrar Butch Stokes indicated that we have enough class rooms if we use our space for scheduling classes better and cause people to teach and take classes outside of the most desirable times. However there would also need to be an increase the number of technology classrooms and a look at departments that have several small sections to fewer larger sections. New software has been added to help schedule more complete room usage. However, there are not enough rooms for large classes. We will need more class room space if enrollment goes over 20,000. Any new construction on campus should include classroom space. Building a classroom building is another option because they are cheaper to build and could work very well. Enrollment of 22,000 would exceed current classroom and faculty capacity.

Dr. Kirk Schulz, VP Research

Dr. Schultz indicated that it had been an interesting fall. Research funding is doing well, \$90 million in first four months of the fiscal year related to \$60 million at this time last year. He indicated that all Mississippi institutions were down last year, MSU had \$150 million external funds last year second in the state was U of Miss at \$100 million including the medical center.

The Office of Research is developing an entrepreneurship center which will centralize the MSU efforts and provide information to faculty. Dr. Schultz indicated that it will be patterned after the MIT center and plans that the center will be funded by private funds.

Dr. Shultz indicated the need for qualitative data on the economic impact of research and Higher Education on the economy of the state especially in times of financial cutbacks.

ORED earmark requests are being reviewed by committee will be presented to President Keenum when he begins in January.

Dr. Schultz indicated that MSU is seeking accreditation for the IRB to assure high quality review.

ORED is striving to engage and communicate with faculty. Faculty are encouraged to provide feedback on their experiences with the office.

ORED completed several focus groups on strengths in research. Reports from the focus groups were handed out to the Senators. The focus groups were seeking input on research focus areas, overhead distribution, research related to faculty promotion procedures. Focus group information will be available to the faculty on the ORED website. The ORED December newsletter will provide detailed information.

Senator Ervin asked for more information about the overhead distribution report wanting to know if real numbers were used for the examples. Dr. Schultz indicated they were and that this was to look at projects where departments were working with centers or other departments and not meant to have any effect on the current formula.

Senator Coyne asked about earmark proposals and the process that was being used. Dr. Schultz indicated that the DAFVM used a different procedure than the rest of the university and the total number of proposals had to be cut to 30 for the congressional wish book.

Report of the President:

President Nagel indicated that most of his time had been spent with the presidential search and that we knew the results of the search. However, he did report driving to Hattiesburg for the IHL board meeting to deliver the resolution passed at the October senate meeting. He was allowed to distribute the resolution but not speak to it.

Report of the Vice President:

Vice President Bailey reported that the Dean's council had several issues and most were being presented later in the agenda. He noted Dr. Keenum's remarks about faculty governance and the role of faculty in the university during his interview and took that as a positive sign.

Report from Faculty Designates on University Committees:

No reports

Business sent to Committees:

Faculty Senate Reapportionment was sent to the Charter and Bylaws committee.

THE ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE

Composition

“Senate representation shall be refigured at two-year intervals or as necessitated by a change in the number of units represented. The units to be represented are as follows: College of Agriculture and Life Sciences and associated personnel of the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, College of Architecture, College of Arts and Sciences, College of Business and Industry, College of Education, College of Engineering, College of Forest Resources and associated personnel of the Forest and Wildlife Research Center, College of Veterinary Medicine, Mississippi State University Extension Service, Mississippi State University-Meridian Campus, and the Library. Other units composed of members of the General Faculty may be represented upon the recommendation of the Robert Holland Faculty Senate and the approval of the General Faculty. Faculty equivalent individuals who report to various administrative entities but do not hold appointments in one of the units listed above, shall be assigned to one of the above units by the appropriate Vice President.”

Business to be sent to Committees:

Letter from J. Gilbert, re: AOP 13.13 Faculty Leave—Moved by Senator Stewart, seconded by Senator Byrd to refer the AOP 13.13 to the Faculty affairs committee. Motion Passed.

Letter from J. Gilbert, re: AOP 12.08 Academic Minors—Moved by Senator Hamil and second by Senator Silva to consider the request as committee of the whole. Senator Brashier asked if groups effected by the changes in the AOP had provided input. Secretary for the Senate Hudson pointed out the new material in the AOP came out of the student catalog. The changes put in policy form what currently exists at the university. Motion failed. Senator Vaughn moved and Senator Porter seconded the motion to AOP 13.13 to send to academic affairs committee. Motion passed

Letter from J. Gilbert, re: AOP 13.14 Grade Appeal--Moved by Senator Millea and seconded by Senator Brashier to consider the request as a committee of the whole. Motion Passed. There was a discussion of the changes in AOP 12.08 which includes changes in the time of the appeal process. Senator Dibble wanted to know what the changes in time were and why. The main change was three working days rather than just three days. This change was made to be more fair to appeals filed at the end of the week. Senator Millea moved that AOP 13.14 be approved as presented, seconded by Senator Dampier. Motion passed

Letter from J. Byrd, re: Parking Services—Moved by Senator Seal seconded by Senator Reynolds to refer the letter to the University Resources committee. Motion passed.

Standing Committee Reports

Executive Committee – no report

Academic Affairs – no report

Ancillary Affairs – no report

Charter & Bylaws – no report

Faculty Affairs – no report

Student Affairs – no report

University Resources – Susan Seal reported for the committee related to Dining Service/Aramark -

Robert Holland Faculty Senate

University Relations Committee Report

Background:

Dr. Gary Ervin wrote a letter requesting that the Faculty Senate investigate as to where the unused dollars from the meal and FLEX plans.

Discussion:

On September 29th, the committee met with Mr. Bill Broyles to discuss the issue. Mr. Broyles stated the all unused meal plan dollars do go to Aramark.

Mr. Broyles did state that the University does receive 12% of all meal plans sold.

Upon request of the committee he provided the following as it related to dollar amounts:

Flex dollars remaining on meal plans at the end of the spring semester are as follows:

Spring 2007 - \$13,830.80

Spring 2008 - \$15,067.53

During the discussion the issue of catering costs was brought up and the committee stated its concern about the high charges for items. Through this dialog Mr. Broyles stated the one could out source vendors for special events except for a few buildings on campus that were restricted to using the campus dining services. Upon further investigation the committee discovered that OP 64.02 does in fact limit certain building on campus to using only the campus dining services. It states as follows:

“MSU Dining Services will cater all events for sponsoring University departments, organizations, or individuals cleared through the Facilities Use Office and scheduled in the Cafeteria Building, Colvard Student Union, A.B. McKay Food Enology Laboratory, Wise Center, McArthur Hall, and the Leo Seal M

Club/University Club Building. Events scheduled at all other locations on University property, or in off-campus building where University departments are permanently housed, may be catered by MSU Dining Services or other sources."

The committee feels that OP 64.02 needs to be updated to reflect that the present dining service is contracted (not ran by the university) and these restrictions should be lifted. OP 64.02 was last updated 2/7/97, this was at a time when the university ran and maintained the dining services. Now with an external corporation running the dining services it seems unfair to not allow those departments located in the buildings above to select the service provider of their choice.

Recommendation:

The University Resource Committee recommends that OP 64.02 be reviewed and updated to reflect the current dining services provider.

Discussion – Senator Ervin asked why flex dollars run out and are not rolled over to the next contract?

Senator Brashier indicated that according to the report flex dollars was a small amount. His concern was with blocks possible versus blocks used. Students are being forced to purchase the plans and only half the blocks are used and the food quality is poor. His felt the students were being taken advantage of in the process.

Senator Millea asked what control the faculty senate has over the food services. The answer was none, however we could have influence and can at least express our concerns.

Senator Stewart indicated that there was a comments board in cafeteria. Senator Adebiyi suggested a satisfaction survey of some type be completed. Senator Ervin noted that Aramark has a 10 year contract questioned why they should care because they get their money up front.

Senator Brashier asked if IHL approve the requirement for all freshmen to have meal plans. He felt that the requirement was basically a tax or tuition increase on these students.

Senator Klein asked if we needed to sound the alarm about how few meal plans being used.

Student Association President Braxton Coombs commenting for students said there is a concern about food quality and a lack of variety. He believed that the IHL board approved requirements of on campus housing and required meal plans. President Coombs indicated that student senate will look into the concerns.

Athletic meal plans were questioned by Senator Toghiani. The information shows that less than 40% of the meal blocks are being used. Does this mean that athletic scholarship dollars are being wasted buying meal plans the students don't use?

Senator Gootee noted that the figures presented came from AraMark and felt it was time for the senate to do something.

Senator Millea moved that faculty senate send a letter to President Keenum requesting that the effectiveness of AraMark at meeting the students needs be revisited and a report made to faculty and student senates. Seconded by Senator Brashier. Motion passed. Moved by Senator Millea and second by Senator Adebiyi that the Executive Committee write the letter for the senate. Motion passed.

No motion was made related to the committee report and/or recommendation.

Senator Seal moved, seconded by Senator Deeds that the faculty senate send a letter to Dr. Keenum of congratulations and offer our support in the transition. The letter as follows was approved:

The Robert Holland Faculty Senate would like to congratulate you on being selected as Mississippi State University's 19th president. We offer our full support as you begin your transition period and as you assume the presidency in January.

We appreciate your commitment to an open and accessible administration as well as your passion for Mississippi State and your desire to move us forward. We are also encouraged by your support of the principles of the University governance document and your desire to work with the faculty and faculty leadership. Together, we can continue to build on the successes that Mississippi State has achieved.

In our role as a communication channel between the faculty and the president, we look forward to working with you to achieve the mutual goals we have for our university. Congratulations and welcome back to Mississippi State University.

Senator Adebiyi moved to adjourn seconded Senator Carskadon. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned 3:52

Jacquelyn Deeds, Secretary