

**ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE  
UNCORRECTED MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 13, 2009**

The Robert Holland Faculty Senate of Mississippi State University held its regular monthly meeting in the Coskrey Auditorium at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, November 13, 2009.

Members absent and excused were: Bruce Ebanks, Jerry Emison, and Tom Matney (the attendance list was taken, so please report additional absences to secretary).

The Senate voted to suspend to rules and accept the agenda as posted. The meeting was called to order by the Senate President, Hart Bailey.

The minutes of the October 9, 2009, meeting were approved.

**GUESTS**

**DR. MARK KEENUM, PRESIDENT**

Dr. Keenum discussed his visit with Nobel Laureate and MSU guest Dr. Stiglitz. He shared information about the national economy and how this affected the economy in Mississippi. Dr. Keenum stated that states economy lag behind federal recovery, so MS can anticipate several more years of economic turbulence. The MSU budget continues to be in flux with more cuts anticipated. Governor Haley Barbour has made numerous suggestions in his budget that could potentially impact MSU, specifically the Departments of Agriculture and consolidations of IHL institutes. State budget cuts will be effective July 1. Studies of the economic history of MSU reveal similar economic times in both the 1980's and early 90's. Dr. Keenum is studying the past solutions and results and encourages planning to avoid some of the detrimental decisions of the past. Dr. Keenum is pleased with the initial work of the Select Committee on Efficiencies and Innovation. VP McGreevy is the non-academic chair and VP Rabideau is the academic chair. Hart Bailey is the facilitator of the committee. The goal is to show IHL that we are making efficient cuts so that MSU continues to be "in charge" of the decisions. Tuition increases are currently "off the table", but Dr. Keenum suggests we may be able to make a case, if we can prove we are working to meet budget needs. Dr. Keenum answered several questions.

**DR. RABIDEAU, PROVOST**

Dr. Rabideau had just returned from the IHL Board Meeting. The Board has organized a Graduate Taskforce. Also, IHL is investigating the possibility of a Common Core across all Community Colleges in MS. This will require a lot of work as core classes vary widely across the state. The Academic sub-committee is investigating the larger structures of the IHL's. Many questions must be answered as we move forward with the budget cuts.

**DR. STEVE TURNER, ATHLETIC COUNCIL**

Dr. Turner shared the athletic reports on GPA, student-athlete graduation, and budgets. All of our teams have a 925 or higher on the Academic Progress Rate (APR). This is the first time in the history of APR that MSU has achieved this distinction. The ESPN contract with the SEC has positive effects for both the athletics and academics at MSU. We still have the smallest budget in the SEC.

**Blake Jeter, President of Student Association**

Mr. Jeter presented information on the rising cost of textbooks. He encouraged professors to carefully consider materials used for courses and to investigate alternative options to traditional textbooks. The internet, on-line options, and virtual classrooms have forced textbook companies to substantially raise the cost of their materials. Mr. Jeter conveyed that textbook costs were real issues to students.

## **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Faculty Senate Colleagues:

Last month, I had the honor to represent the Faculty in President Keenum's Investiture and I want to personally thank each Faculty member who participated. We had over 200 Faculty that committed to march which was a good representation for the MSU Academy.

In September, Dr. Keenum charged the Faculty Senate to conduct an election for Faculty representation on his Select Committee on Efficiencies and Innovations (SCEI). Last month, the election was held on line in three phases: nominations, first round and run off. The ITS personnel provided an invaluable service to the Faculty in providing the technical assistance that allowed the elections to be conducted securely and efficiently. Over 59% of our eligible Faculty participated in the runoff election voting. One representative was chosen from each of the eight colleges, the Library and Meridian Campus.

The level of importance Dr. Keenum has placed in the SCEI was evident in that the election was completed on October 19, he named the entire committee on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and he presented the charge to the group on the 26<sup>th</sup>. The Faculty are well represented on the 29 person committee, with 10 elected Faculty representatives and five appointed ones serving. Faculty members serving as SCEI members include:

- Dr. Keith Coble, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (elected)
- Professor Michael Berk, College of Architecture, Art and Design (elected)
- Dr. Kelly Marsh, College of Arts and Sciences (elected)
- Dr. Ronald Taylor, College of Business (elected)
- Dr. Jacqueline Edwards-Henry, College of Education (elected)
- Dr. Julia Hodges, Bagley College of Engineering (elected)
- Dr. Stephen Grado, College of Forest Resources (elected)
- Dr. Robert Wills, College of Veterinary Medicine (elected)
- Dr. Robert Wolverton, Library (elected)
- Dr. George Thomas, Meridian Campus (elected)
- Dr. Allison Pearson, Giles Distinguished Professor (appointed)
- Dr. Nancy McCarley, Grisham Master Teacher (appointed)
- Dr. Robert West, Phi Beta Kappa Committee chair (appointed)
- Dr. Meghan, Faculty Senate Vice President (appointed)
- Dr. Hart Bailey Faculty Senate President. (appointed)

Mr. Sam Manning and Ms. Mary Vaughn, Professional Support Staff Advisory Council President and Vice-President respectively and Mr. Blake Jeter, Student Association President were also appointed. Dr. Keenum is to be commended for his leadership in ensuring that university governance is being followed by insisting that all members of the MSU campus community are seated at the table and involved in these very serious discussions. He named Dr. Peter Rabideau and

Mr. Mike McGrevey to serve as co-chairs and asked me, as Faculty Senate President, to be committee coordinator.

As the work of the SCEI begins, I strongly encourage all Senators to facilitate the discussion at your college level in collaboration with your college's SCEI representative. Hopefully, the administration of all the colleges and units will follow Dr. Keenum's leadership concerning university governance by engaging the affected faculty and staff in the budgetary discussions. The College of Architecture, Art and Design has already held departmental and college level deliberations on these issues. Please let me know of any similar discussions in your area to allow for sharing of those activities with the rest of campus.

Dr. Steve Turner, Chairman of the Athletic Advisory Council will be addressing the Senate this month on issues related to the Council and student athletic oversight at MSU.

Respectfully submitted November 8, 2009

R. H. "Hart" Bailey

President

Faculty Senate

### **VICE CHAIR REPORT**

Academic Dean's Council met October 19<sup>th</sup> and November 2<sup>nd</sup>.

AOP 13.13 Extended Leave Guidelines for Tenure and Workload Modification Extended Leave which came through the Senate last year was discussed. The tenure clock stoppage needed further review as it relates to IHL policy.

Peter Ryan is working with Mississippi community colleges to improve the mechanism to transfer students to MSU. He is also heading a group reviewing course fees.

Units are to submit plans for 3% cuts for the current fiscal year.

New programs being submitted to IHL should consider withdrawing consideration.

From the Traffic Committee, October 22:

Bollards on south entrance to Butler are being installed to eliminate cut-through traffic.

New crosswalk on Creelman

Parking at the Wise Center will be restricted in the lot to Wise Center tags. Overflow parking should be directed to the Scales lot. When the change occurs, in the spring term, a new bus stop will be added to pick up in the Scales lot.

MSU now has a car rental contract with Budget Rental. Rental cars will be staged in the Palmerio lot.

ITS worked with us to develop a new Faculty Senate website. The Priorities and Planning reports from 1992 that are referenced in the budget discussions are available on the new site. There are three components of this report. Phase I refers to Academic Operation. Phase II is comprised of specific recommendations to President Zacharias. Each recommendation is either accepted, reviewed further, or rejected by the President. Phase III refers to Operations in the Agricultural units. These three documents are posted to the Senate site for your review.

I am also serving on the President's Select Committee on Efficiencies and Innovations. I strongly encourage you to work closely with your representative to identify cost savings and transformative changes within your units. ITS is working with that committee to develop a website where current employees and students can offer suggestions and comments to the committee. While the site requires a log in to access the site, identifiers are not linked to the comments. ITS has designed the process to ensure anonymity. Please be involved in the process either through your representative or the website that will be posted to the university homepage.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meghan Millea  
October 5, 2009

**EMPLOYEE BENEFITS COMMITTEE**

No Report

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

**6.1 AOP 12:35: ACADEMIC ACCOMMODATIONS FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES**

**6.2 AOP 12.09: CLASS ATTENDANCE AND REPORTING ABSENCES**

**6.3 AOP XX.XX: FACULTY CREDENTIALS**

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS**

**7.1.1 AOP 11.04:** Combined Undergraduate/Graduate Courses was presented for consideration. The motion to accept was made by Senator Bridges and seconded by Senator Palmer. Motion passed.

**7.1.2 AOP 12 .04** Final Examination policy was presented for consideration. The motion to accept was made by Senator Bridges and seconded by Senator Follett. Motion passed.

### **ANCILLARY AFFAIRS**

**7.2.1 No report**

### **CHARTER AND BYLAWS**

**7.3.1 No Report**

### **FACULTY AFFAIRS**

**7.4.1** Annual Faculty Review is still in discussion. There are multiple drafts, so clarification will be sought.

### **STUDENT AFFAIRS**

**7.5.1 No Report**

### **UNIVERSITY RESOURCES**

**7.6.1 No Report**

## **OLD BUSINESS**

**9.1 NONE**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**10.1 NONE**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Submitted for correction and approval.

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Dana Pomykal Franz, Secretary