

ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE UNCORRECTED MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 8, 2013

The Robert Holland Faculty Senate of Mississippi State University held its regular monthly meeting in the Grisham Room of Mitchell Memorial Library at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, November 8, 2013.

Members absent and excused were: Joanne Beriswill, Matt Boggan, Stan Bullington, Anastasia Elder, Laura Grace, Jeffery Haupt, Lelia Kelly, Rocky Lemus, Rogelio Luck, Vivien Miller, Natasha Randle, John Michael Riley, Juan Silva, Cyprianna Swiderski, and Joe Wilmoth.

The meeting was called to order by the Senate President, Jerry Emison.

The minutes of the October 11, 2013 meeting were approved after correction of two errors.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Here are some specific activities you may find interesting.

Southeastern Conference Professor of the Year

As in previous years, the Faculty Senate is serving as the coordinator for MSU's identification of our nominee to be the SEC professor of the year. The call letter was issued to all faculty on October 14, with nominations due October 31. Nominees are currently preparing more detailed packages for a November 15 submittal deadline. The Giles Distinguished Professors will then review these and provide recommendations by December 6. The provost, with advice from the faculty senate president and vice president, will identify the MSU nominee by December 17.

Master Plan Development and Advisory Committee

The Master Plan Development and Advisory Committee is tracking a number of significant construction projects either underway or about to begin.

- The Mill at Mississippi State project was approved by IHL in October. It is now under review by the National Park Service for determination of eligibility for tax credits. Once this certification is received the project can move to groundbreaking, expected to be in December 2013.
- The New Classroom Building bids are expected to be opened in early November, with occupancy planned for January 2016.
- The Fresh Foods Facility scope was altered when initial bids were too high. Rebidding is expected in mid-November, and a notice to proceed with construction is expected in December 2013. Occupancy is projected for August 2015.
- Lee Hall renovations are projected to be complete in spring 2014 with occupancy in May 2014.
- The teams examining options for Aiken Village have submitted their reports to Don Zant, and the findings are under evaluation concerning next steps. Completion date for choosing a course of action was estimated to be late November 2013.
- The Chadwick Lake Walking Track is completed and is open for use.

- The university is initiating planning for an integrated Wayfinding Program to assist visitors in getting around campus. Expectations are to design the program in house before deciding the appropriate implementation approach, in-house or contractor. Randy Follett will represent the senate on this new program design committee.

Diversity Council

The Diversity Council's October meeting emphasized program expansion and consolidation. Offices will shortly be asked to assist in developing elements of a draft report card for diversity progress which IHL has requested. This is related to development of the university Diversity Strategic Plan; offices will also be asked to develop their own diversity plans, which should be modeled upon and reflect the university's diversity plan. The council also discussed the use of the new Branding and Marketing Committee as a means to communicate MSU's values concerning diversity.

Athletic Council

The University Athletic Committee was informed that MSU women's athletics has received the David M. Halbrook Award for academic achievement among athletes. This award goes to the public university in Mississippi with the highest graduation rate in the preceding cohort. The women athletics teams graduating in the 2012-2013 period attained an 85% graduation rate.

The committee was also briefed on the number of capital projects underway in the athletic department. Noteworthy among the projects was the football stadium additions (on time for August 2014), Pitts tennis court surface rebuilding (on time for January 2014), softball/ tennis facility (master plan for upgrading underway), and Dudy Noble baseball stadium (upgrading master planning initial stages underway).

Game Day Committee

The Game Day Committee approved guidelines for next year for commercial tent operators (>10 tents) during tailgating periods. These operators will be assigned spaces near conventional tailgating areas and allowed a dedicated set-up time in exchange for which they will pay to the university general accounts a fee of 10% of gross revenues.

OP 56.06 Research, Extension and Clinical Faculty Positions

Dr. David Shaw, responding for himself, Dr. Bohach and Dr. Gilbert, provided the Faculty Senate revisions to this OP based on our earlier comments. While the Faculty Senate's concurrence is not required, the changes overall appear to respond to our earlier expressed concerns, with three exceptions. Dr. Cody Coyne and I have a meeting scheduled with Dr. Shaw to review the remaining areas and discuss ways to meet all parties' concerns.

Senator Wise asked about the progress of the third-year reviews of department heads and when faculty could expect activity. President Emison said that they are underway and the Provost's office is managing that process.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

This month has been a relatively meeting-free month. Both of the regularly scheduled Deans Council meetings have been cancelled, so there is not anything to report from that front. The Ad Hoc Committee to Investigate the Summer School Budget is continuing to meet, and we are now in

Senator Sullivan asked about the uniformity within departments for summer school teaching pay. President Emison said that a task force is looking into summer school. Senator Coyne noted that it should be addressed with AOP 13.23 Faculty Workload that was passed last month by the senate.

Senator Foster suggested a friendly amendment to change 32% to “one-third” in the policy/procedure statement defining the maximum portion of the nine-month salary for full-time teaching in summer school. The friendly amendment was accepted by the Faculty Affairs Committee.

Senator Rogers asked if there is a minimum percentage. VP Follett confirmed that a floor comes into play for instructors and GTAs. He has found that if there are a sufficient number of students enrolled in a course, departments typically do 8%.

The motion to accept the revised AOP 13.12 with friendly amendment passed by hand vote 33-1.

7.1.3 OP 01.21 Post-Tenure Review Policy

Senator Coyne presented OP 01.21. He commented that the committee recommended for the policy to be changed to an AOP. It was originally an OP because it was mandated by IHL. He summarized changes made by the committee and made a motion to accept OP 01.21 as revised.

Senator Peacock expressed concern that revision 7 could open the potential for the committee to read personal files and dig into the personal life of faculty members. He said that there was a need for a procedure. Senator Coyne said that the intent was not to assign authority to this body to do so, but to allow for reporting if anything is found. Senator Brashier commented that the paragraph above in the policy gives boundaries of access to the committee. Senators McCann, Sullivan and Foster made a friendly amendment to add “...including but not limited to those which may be provided by the faculty member...” The amendment was accepted by the Faculty Affairs committee.

Senator Wise made a friendly amendment to add the word “overall” in the section regarding unsatisfactory post tenure evaluations. The friendly amendment was accepted.

Senator Wise asked if post tenure reviews could be used in promotion packets for tenured professors. Senator Coyne said they would be viewed the same as annual reviews. Senator Peacock noted that there may be nothing to include. Senator Sullivan added that there is no documentation created as a result of this policy.

Senator Belant asked for an example of qualitative criteria as proposed in revision 5. Senator Coyne gave an example of a faculty member who had only one manuscript but of great quality and with a great impact on medicine.

The motion to accept the revisions as amended passed unanimously by voice vote.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

7.3.1 AOP 12.15 Academic Probation for Undergraduate Students

Senator McCann presented and explained changes made by committee. Senator Nagel asked why permitting students to take courses from another institution is unenforceable. Senator Rude said that Senator McCann used the terminology “not police-able” in the Executive Committee meeting. There is not a mechanism for checking for it. VP Follett said that he suspects not enforceable because of articulation agreements.

Senator Byrd made a motion to add a statement preventing dual enrollment during academic probation - “A student on academic probation cannot dual enroll at another four-year university or

community college during their academic probation period.” Senator Peacock said that we cannot tell them that they cannot sign up; however, we can say they cannot get credit. Senator Carskadon asked if a student wanted to take 2 courses here and 2 courses somewhere else and their total would not exceed 14 hours would that be allowable. Senator McCann noted that the portion struck from the policy prior to senate review had similar purpose. VP Follett said that the senate needed a clearer reason about why it was deleted.

Senator Nagel made a motion to table, seconded by Senator Wise. The motion to table passed by voice vote.

7.2.2 AOP XX.XX Graduate Student Academic Grievance Procedures

Senator McCann presented Graduate Student Academic Grievance Procedures and summarized the several revisions made by the committee She made a motion to approve the revised AOP.

Senator O’Neill made a friendly amendment to strike “informal” when preceding meeting in the Informal Grievance Procedures section. The friendly amendment was accepted.

After conversation about the use of the term performance, Senator Riley noted that the committee had issue with the term behavior so they chose to use performance. President Emison suggested “conduct.” Senator Carskadon made a motion to substitute “conduct” in place of performance. The motion was seconded and passed in a voice vote with 1 nay.

Senator Sullivan made a motion to add requirements to the composition of the investigating committee – “at least one faculty member from the student’s department and no more than two from the student’s college.” The motion was seconded. Senator Carskadon asked about the limit of two from the college. Senator Sullivan said impartiality. Senator Foster noted that college culture varies and would prefer the majority of the committee to be from the college. Senator Sullivan amended his motion by striking the limit of two from the college. The motion to adopt the amendment failed by voice vote.

Senator Coyne noted that the last sentence in that paragraph should say “Dean of Graduate School.”

Senator Brashier noted that the addition to the first paragraph of the Formal investigation protocol should begin with “that” instead of “which.”

Senator Dunne made a friendly amendment to add “and will be” to the first addition to the Investigating Committee paragraph. This amendment was accepted.

The motion to adopt as amended by the committee and the committee of the whole passed by unanimous voice vote.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

7.4.1 AOP 13.16 Establishment of Academic Centers and Institutes at Mississippi State University

Senator Dobson presented AOP 13.16 and summarized his committee’s report and revisions. He made a motion to accept AOP 13.16 as amended. The motion passed by unanimous voice vote.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

None

The meeting was adjourned at 3:41.

Submitted for correction and approval.

Brian Rude, Secretary