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 11, 2016.

Members absent and excused were: Joey Burt, Cecelia Cook, Laura Grace, Jeffrey Haupt, Aaron Kiess, Rocky Lemus, and Rosangela Sebba.

Members absent were: Tom Carskadon.

The meeting was called to order by Senate President, Cody Coyne.

President Coyne asked for any changes to the October 21, 2016 minutes. Senator Follett moved that the minutes be accepted as written. Vice President Fountain seconded the motion. The motion to approve the October minutes passed by majority voice vote with one abstention.

President Coyne announced that both Senator Kelly and Senator Baldwin won the Director’s Award. Senator Marsh is now a Grisham Master Teacher. Senator Baldwin received the honor of being named a MSU Alumni Association Outstanding Student Mentor. Senator Strawderman receive the Jefcoat Excellence in Advising Faculty Award. Vice President Fountain is now a fellow of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics. Senator Sherman-Morris was named the Outstanding Researcher for the College of Arts & Sciences. Senator Clary was named the Mississippi Academy of Sciences 2016 Science Teacher of the Year.
Dr. Mark Keenum, University President

Dr. Keenum began by saying that he along with President Coyne and many of the past president’s took a group photograph in his office. Dr. Keenum said that as a result of the recent national election, the country has Republican leadership. The results of the election were unexpected. Dr. Keenum said that he was unsure of what the results would mean for higher education. Dr. Keenum said that he has been honored to serve as the chairman of SACSCOC and previously served as a board member for the Association of Public Land-grant Universities. During his tenure in these positions there has been a focus on the Higher Education Act reauthorization. Dr. Keenum said that he will be watching with great interest how the new Congress handles the reauthorization of the Higher Education Act.

Dr. Keenum said that this week was a very tragic week for the University. Two students, Joseph Tillman and Leona Prisock, perished this week. Any time that we lose students it is a very heartbreaking situation for everyone. Dr. Keenum said that one of the hardest things that he does is to try and comfort the loved ones that have lost a student. Dr. Keenum added that there was another student, Emily Case, that was tragically injured on Blackjack Road after being struck by a driver that was charged with a DUI. Dr. Keenum said that he is well aware of the safety concerns regarding Blackjack Road. The University has worked to secure funding to improve the Blackjack Road corridor. Several months ago the Board of Supervisors approved the planned improvements.

Student enrollment is at an all-time high with 21,622 students enrolled this semester. This is roughly 750 more students than last year. This shows that students across the state and country are realizing the quality of education that they will receive at Mississippi State University. This is a tribute to the faculty of MSU and the quality of instruction and prestige that they bring to the institution.

Dr. Keenum said that the state of Mississippi was selected as one of the regional test sites for unmanned aerial systems. MSU is the national center for research in unmanned aerial systems and was selected to oversee the test site for the entire state. Dr. David Shaw has worked tirelessly to ensure that Mississippi would be at the forefront for this selection.

Dr. Keenum said that recently he met with the President of East Central Community College and signed a Pathways to Success Partnership to help students at ECCC to have an easier transition to MSU.

Two weeks ago the newest facility on the Meridian campus was dedicated the Rosenbaum building. Alfred Rosenbaum was a former mayor of Meridian and was a tremendous leader in the community. Mr. Rosenbaum was also one of the original founders of the Riley Foundation. The building tremendously enhances the facilities as well as our campus presence in Meridian.
In the building, the Mississippi Department of Archives and History required that a lunch counter be preserved as it was. The lunch counter space was transformed to be a lounge for the students. MSU dairy products are also now being sold in the facility.

Dr. Keenum said that he was very honored to receive two Halbrook Awards for both the men and women’s athletic programs from the Mississippi Association of Colleges and Universities. Mississippi State has won these awards for the second year in a row. This is a tribute to our Academic Athletic Office as well as our faculty.

Dr. Robert West and his team of Phi Beta Kappa faculty members assembled and submitted our application to shelter a chapter at MSU. The application was submitted on November 1st. We have been assured of another site visit in February. Students can be inducted into Phi Beta Kappa after graduation. Phil Brown, our most recent Rhodes Scholar, is a prime candidate for induction into Phi Beta Kappa. Holly Travis and Natalie Jones are finalists for Rhodes scholarship. Having two Rhodes finalists is a testament to the work that the Shackouls Honors College does to prepare and inspire our students to compete for national and international recognition.

Mississippi State will be hosting the very first SEC on campus academic conference. The name of the conference will be “The Future of Water: Regional Collaboration on Shared Climate, Coastlines, and Watersheds”. There will be some outstanding marquee speakers. The event will be hosted at the MSU Mill.

Dr. Keenum said that he wished he had good news to share regarding the state economy. Last month, the state economist gave a report that projects a slight increase in the second half of 2017. If this holds true the nation would have a 1.5% growth rate for 2016. Projections for 2017 and 2018 are a 2.4% increase in GDP nationally. Mississippi has struggled to gain momentum since the great recession. In Mississippi the GDP will grow roughly 1.5% for 2016, which is an improvement over last year. This will be the first time since 2008 that the state has had two consecutive years of growth. The predictions for 2017 and 2018 will have a modest growth, but will fall well short of the national average.

Last year, as of July 1, 2015, the Legislature gave a 2.2% increase for pay raises. In January of 2016 Governor Bryant cut 1.5% of our budget. The Legislature cut another .5% when they convened in the Spring of 2016. This means that 93% of the increase in funding was cut by the end of the fiscal year. To begin this fiscal year our budget was cut by 1.5%. In September 2016 the Governor cut an additional 1.7%. In just a little over a year, the University budget has been cut 5.2%. Dr. Keenum said that the current budget is substantially lower than when he arrived at Mississippi State eight years ago. The University is doing a lot more in teaching, research, and service with a lot less. This is a testament to the people at the University.

The first month of this fiscal year state revenues were 14 million dollars below estimates. Throughout August, revenues were 11.5 million dollars below estimates. Then a clerical error
was noticed that reduced the state budget by 56 million dollars. This prompted Governor Bryant to announce a 1.7% cut. The month of September only missed the estimate by $800,000. October fell 14 million dollars short of estimates.

IHL Commissioner, Glen Boyce, has been representing IHL in meetings with the joint committee responsible for examining all state agency spending. Dr. Keenum said that he welcomes the review by the joint committee. He feels that it will show what the University is able to accomplish with such little funding.

Dr. Keenum stressed that he will continue to speak to officials about the need of adequate funding for higher education. He said that he understands that competitive salaries are required to remain competitive. The faculty compression adjustments will be enacted at the beginning of January.

Senator Williams asked if there was anything that could be done to make Blackjack Road safer until the improvement project was begun. Dr. Keenum replied that Blackjack Road is a county road which means that we cannot just make improvements. Senator Williams asked if there was anything that could be done on MSU property to improve the situation. Dr. Keenum replied that he was doing everything in his power to make the area safe for students to travel to campus. Senator Wipf said that he believed that the students think that they can cross Blackjack Road freely as they can on campus. He suggested that some education could be beneficial to preventing future incidents. Dr. Keenum replied that he has seen the plans for the improvements and they address all of the concerns he has heard. He added that there is already funding for a fence along Blackjack. The fence project has been put on hold until the road improvements have been made. He added that the fence will help to direct foot traffic to designated areas.

Dr. Steven Turner, Faculty Athletics Representative

Dr. Turner passed out a handout that can be found at the end of these minutes. He then introduced Mr. John Cohen. Mr. Cohen was selected as the new Athletic Director for Mississippi State athletics on November 4th, 2016. Dr. Turner invited Mr. Cohen to address the Faculty Senate.

Mr. Cohen began by saying that he grew up in a professor’s home. His father was a law professor at the University of Alabama for 38 years. His mother and sisters all got their degrees from the University of Alabama as well. Due to this, when the topic of collegiate athletics comes up, his family agrees to disagree.

Mr. Cohen said that when he was growing up in Tuscaloosa he would attend the football games and sit in the faculty section. The visiting section was right next to the faculty section. When Mr. Cohen told his father that he wanted to attend Mississippi State, his father reminded him of
the annoying cowbells that the family had to endure when the bulldogs came to town. After his father passed away, Mr. Cohen was helping to clean out his father’s office and happened upon four or five cowbells that his father had stashed away.

Mr. Cohen said that he graduated from MSU, he coached at MSU, and now he is the Athletic Director of MSU. He said that he feels privileged and honored to have been selected as the Athletic Director of Mississippi State. Mr. Cohen told the Senators that he works for them and is available any time that they feel that something needs to be discussed or addressed.

Mr. Cohen said that this is the fifth athletic department that he has worked for. He said that he feels that there is a silo situation between campus and the athletic department. He said that he will do everything that he can to bridge the gap between the athletic department and the rest of campus. His number one focus is always going to be academic success.

**Susan Brooks, Policies and Procedures Committee Chair, Staff Council**

Ms. Brooks said that she wanted to involve the Senate in the discussion of educational benefits for spouses. She explained that during her committee’s review of the current policy, they discovered that many of the 14 SEC institutions had a policy in place for educational benefits for employee’s spouses. Her committee used the policies from those SEC schools as well as an existing state policy regarding dependent children to draft a proposed policy.

The draft policy allows for 50% remission for up to 140 hours for one degree. A clause was also added for “in case of death of employee”. The benefit would remain in effect for a period of five years after death.

The policy defines a “spouse” as “anyone legally married to an eligible employee or a same sex domestic partner”.

This summer the Staff Council voted on and approved the policy to move forward. In October, the Executive Council of Staff Council met with Provost Bonner who suggested meeting with President Coyne and Vice President Fountain to see if Faculty Senate would be interested in co-sponsoring the policy.

Senator Baldwin said that “same sex domestic partner” could be deleted due to the fact that there can be legal same sex marriages now. Ms. Brooks replied that the reason that the language was left for now was as a result of several policies from other institutions which allow for a one year period that a domestic partner could use the benefit without a legal marriage. Senator Baldwin replied that if you allow same sex domestic partners you must allow mixed sex domestic partners as well. Ms. Brooks replied that the issue was discussed and that a joint committee could alter the final language for the proposed policy.
Dr. Thomas Bourgeois, Dean of Students

Dr. Bourgeois said that Dr. Keenum had earlier mentioned the two student deaths that recently occurred. He said that he may be biased since he has been at MSU for so long, but he believes that we have one of the best protocols for dealing with student deaths. Dr. Bourgeois said that in the event of a student death, a degree or certificate of attendance is framed and presented to the family. If the student is currently enrolled at the time of death a tree is planted in their name with a plaque showing their name, date of birth, and date of death. Since the tree planting policy was put in place, there have been roughly 160 trees planted across campus in the memory of students that have been lost. Mississippi State averages six to eight student deaths per year.

Dr. Bourgeois said that in the event of a student death, the student counseling center is available to anyone who may need their services.

Dr. Bourgeois said that when Dr. Keenum was addressing the difficulties of Blackjack Road, he did not mention that the MSU police force has been authorized to perform their duties up to 500 feet beyond campus. This allows the MSU police to enforce speed limits on Blackjack Road to help keep pedestrians safe.

Senator Strawderman asked Dr. Bourgeois to comment on student comments and reactions post-election. Dr. Bourgeois said that there have been no major incidents. He accredits this to the resiliency of the students as well as the way that faculty handle issues like this in the classroom. Many employers say that Mississippi State students are sought after due to the skills that they have learned outside of the classroom.

Senator Krishnan asked if there could be some information given during orientation regarding the dangers of Blackjack Road and the fact that it is not a campus road. Dr. Bourgeois replied that disseminating information to students can be challenging. He said that his office starts every year from “ground zero” when informing students about pedestrian flow at orientation, and they continually try to inform students with regard to safety on campus. An example of this would be the use of bicycles on campus and the policies that govern them.

Senator Baldwin said that students need to know that vehicles are required to stop for pedestrians in the crosswalks, but not anywhere in the street. Dr. Bourgeois replied that Senator Baldwin was correct and that education of the rules would help alleviate some of the issues. He also said that the location of crosswalks is constantly being examined to improve vehicle and pedestrian interaction.

Senator Barefield said that the intersection by Dorman Hall can be very dangerous when vehicles are trying to dart between students to enter an opening in the traffic flow. Dr. Bourgeois replied that there will eventually be a light there to help direct traffic, but it is very difficult to time the lights correctly where they will not end up hindering traffic even more.
Senator Dodds asked how many tickets were written to bicycle riders not following the policy or pedestrians jaywalking. Dr. Bourgeois replied that there are only seven officers on duty on any shift. This makes it impossible to catch all offenders. He said that occasionally a campaign is initiated to educate regarding the policies.

Senator Jones asked if students are required to register their bicycles. Dr. Bourgeois replied that they are encouraged to register their bicycles, but it is not mandatory. Senator Jones said that by requiring students to register their bicycles, it could be used as an educational opportunity.

REPORT OF THE FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT

Robert Holland Faculty Senate President Committee Reports

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sports Council</th>
<th>Diversity Council</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Executive Council</td>
<td>Information Technology Council</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Enrollment Management Council</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Research Advisory Committee</td>
<td>Master Planning and Design Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anti-Bullying Policy Development Committee</td>
<td>Design Review Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistant Vice President for Multicultural Affairs</td>
<td>Sustainability Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maroon and Write QEP Advisory Board</td>
<td>Game Day and Special Events Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Traffic Committee</td>
<td>Campus Access Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Faculty Housing Appeals Committee</td>
<td>Game Day and Special Events Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual Faculty Review Form (ad hoc)</td>
<td>Traffic Committee</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Text Book Adoption Committee</td>
<td>Parking and Traffic Regulation Committee</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Executive Enrollment Management Committee

Meeting scheduled after Tuesday submission of Faculty Senate Agenda: Report pending

Maroon and Write Quality Enhancement Plan Advisory Board

CTL/QEP Brown Bag – Thesis Development & Your Writing Assignments
  January 30, 2017 at 11:30 to 1:00 in the Grisham Room

Maroon & Write Speaker Series: Dr. Terrance Doyle: Putting the Research on Learning into Practice
  February 3, 2017

CTL Seminar – Getting to the Point: Improving Clarity and Depth in Student Writing by Ed Dechert
  February 23, 2017 at 12:30 to 1:30 in the Presentation Room 1405

CTL Seminar – Writing the Rubric by Chelsea Henshaw
  March 6, 2017 at 2:00 to 3:00 in the Presentation Room 1405

Office of Institutional Diversity and Inclusion Faculty Writing Group: Ongoing Throughout Spring Semester

2017 Maroon Institute for Writing Excellence (MIWE) May 8-25, 2017
Information Technology Council  
November 8, 2016
Meeting held after submission or Faculty Senate Agenda: Report pending

Central Plant Pre-Planning Review  
October 10th, 2016
- Proposals have been reviewed for the next phase of expanding campus central plant capabilities

Design Review Committee  
October 11, 2016
- Partnership School: architecture, building orientation, traffic flow, building site

Master Plan Development and Advisory Committee (MPDAC)  
November 3, 2016
Canceled/Rescheduled

Sustainability Committee  
October 26, 2016
Cancelled/Organizing the energy model for Dudy Nobel Renovation
Solar panel installation plan for the new Math and Engineering building is under active review

Staff Council  
October 28, 2016
Tuition Remission Policy (spouse): Staff Council

Campus Access Committee  
November 7, 2016
Canceled/Rescheduled
MPPA Capstone Class is currently active with assessments being completed by undergraduate interns
- Deliverables from their findings will be distributed to committee members within a few weeks

Game Day and Special Events:  
November 2, 2016
- Golf Carts: turn signals, lights, driver’s license, insurance, parking away from Davis Wade stadium
- MSU trash receptacles purchased by GDSE utilized for advertisement (previous contact agreement)
- Billboard advertising on trailers pulled by trucks serially circulating through game day traffic
- Burn ban for grilling due to drought conditions

University Anti-Bullying Ad Hoc Committee  
April 12, 2016 / August 9, 2016
Sub-Committee 1: Training and Communications.................................................................Judy Spencer
Sub-Committee 2: Position Statement and Policy/Procedure......................................................C.P. Coyne
- Reference university anti-bullying notice statements have been assembled for committee review
- Definitions of the wide spectrum of different types of bullying behavior have been assembled
- Reference university policy and procedures has been assembled for design of the review process
- Recent recommendations have proposed drafting independent policy and procedure document
  ▪ OP 03.03 - Non-Discrimination and Anti-Harassment Policy
  ▪ OP 03.02 - Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action
  ▪ OP 60.401 - Guidelines for Employee Conduct
Faculty Senate Committee Resolutions/Revisions/Reports          October 21, 2016

Faculty Senate Committee Vice Chairs
Chairman of committees have been approached to select a Vice Chair that can automatically serve as a substitute at meetings and provide assistance in the revision of AOP assignments and their presentation on the floor of Faculty Senate.

Tenure and Promotion Process:
During Fall Semester of each year there is commonly an increase in questions received pertaining to the promotion and tenure process. Common questions and inquiries received include the following topics.

- Scheduling of requests for external reviewers/evaluators
- Monitoring receipt of external reviewer/evaluator letters
- Number of required external reviewer/evaluator letters
- Critical dates for submission and committee review
- Department committee letter of review/evaluation forwarded to college committee
- Optional letters of clarification for correction of factual misinterpretations
- When can documentation be added to dossiers post submission to department office
- Documentation forwarded to college compared to documentation forwarded to Provost Office

Academic Operating and Operating Policies In Review and Revision: External to Faculty Senate
AOP 12.09 - Class Attendance and Reporting Absences          final signature in progress

Executive Council                     October 24, 2016
OP 03.03 - Discrimination, Harassment and Retaliation .................. October 24, 2016
OP 70.09 - Financial Conflict of Interest in Sponsored Activities .................................. October 24, 2016
OP 80.08 - U.S. National Industrial Security Program .................................. October 24, 2016
OP 95.503 - Management of Traffic and Parking .................................. October 24, 2016

AOP 12.16 - Academic Dismissal and Suspension .................................. September 26, 2016
OP 31.01 - Definition of a Student .................................. September 26, 2016
OP 61.06 - Cost Transfer Policy .................................. September 26, 2016
OP 70.03 - Responsible Conduct of Research .................................. September 26, 2016
OP 91.208 – Hazing .................................. September 26, 2016
OP 91.352 - Use of Automated External Defibrillators .................................. September 26, 2016

Associate Deans Council
AOP 13.03 - Responsibilities in Instruction and Curriculum, Attendance at Classes .................. Pending
AOP 13.04 - Attendance at Classes: Teaching and Faculty (Merge/Rescind) .......................... Pending
AOP 13.24 - Faculty Workload (Executive Committee recommendation for text transfer) .......... Pending

AOP 12.17 - Undergraduate Academic Fresh-Start  November 9, 2016
AOP 12.19 - Undergraduate Academic Amnesty  November 9, 2016
Course Syllabus Posting  November 9, 2016
English Composition Redistribution  November 9, 2016

AOP 12.17 - Undergraduate Academic Fresh-Start  August 10, 2016
AOP 12.19 - Undergraduate Academic Amnesty  August 10, 2016
AOP 12.20 - Undergraduate Academic Forgiveness  
August 10, 2016

AOP 12.09 - Class Attendance and Reporting Absences  
April 13, 2016

AOP 13.03 - Responsibilities in Instruction and Curriculum, and Attendance at Classes  
April 13, 2016

Academic Operating Policies and Operating Policies in Review External to Robert Holland Faculty Senate

AOP 12.09 - Class Attendance and Reporting Policy

OP 91.120 - Possession of Firearms, Explosives, or Other Devices, Substances, or Weapons

OP 95.500 - Faculty/Staff Temporary Housing

AOP 12.29 - Undergraduate Entrance Requirements

Course Load for Readmission

Graduate Provisional Admission Policy and Appeal Process

Faculty Senate Committee Resolutions/Revisions/Reports  
November 11, 2016

Academic Affairs (Committee Chair: Senator Noel Addy)
  AOP 12.17 – Undergraduate Academic Fresh Start (September)........................................Nov 11, 2016
  AOP 12.19 – Undergraduate Academic Amnesty (September)........................................Nov 11, 2016
  AOP 12.20 - Undergraduate Academic Forgiveness (September)....................................Nov 11, 2016

Student Affairs (Committee Chair: Senator Stacy Haynes)................................................None Pending

Ancillary Affairs (Committee Chair: Senator Mary Ann Jones) ........................................None Pending

Faculty Affairs (Committee Chair: Senator Brian Baldwin)...................................................
  AOP 13.03 - Responsibilities in Instruction and Curriculum, Attendance at Classes..(August) Approved
  AOP 13.04 - Attendance at Classes: Teaching and Faculty (August: Merge/Rescind)............Approved
  AOP 13.24 - Faculty Workload (Executive Committee recommendation for text transfer).....Approved

Charter & Bylaws (Committee Chair: Senator Anastasia Elder)...........................................

  Senate Bylaws Revision: College Senator Election Completion Date (April).......................Nov 11, 2016

University Resources (Committee Chair: Senator Laurie Grace).......................................None Pending

  AOP 13.09 – Credential for Teaching (Distance Education Certification Addition: Oct Assign)....Pending
  AOP 10.16 – Distance Education (Distance Education Certification Addition: Oct. Assign)......Pending
  AOP 34.01 – Special Teaching Programs (Distance Education Certification Oct. Assign)........Pending

Executive Committee (Committee Chair Senator C.P. Coyne)

Senate Bylaws Revision: College Senator Election Completion: Attributes and Advantages

-1- Proposal does not change the process of electing new Senate Officers
-2- Allows outgoing senators with knowledge and familiarity vote on AOP revision and approval.
-3- Provides more time to colleges to schedule elections for new faculty senate representatives.  
  Traditionally, not all academic colleges have completed this process in time to have representatives  
  attend the April meeting.
-4- Newly elected senators are not responsible at the April for AOP review, revision, and approval
-5- Newly elected college representatives can become familiar with Robert Rules of Order and meeting  
  process prior to being responsible for AOP review, revision and approval.
-6- When colleges fail to elect college representatives for the April meeting, those faculty senators that  
  are eligible for re-election are still eligible to vote on AOP review, revision and approval but technically are not eligible to elect new senate officers.
-7- Outgoing senators can be acknowledged for their dedicated term of service at the April meeting.
-8- Senators newly elected by their college can be introduced by their representative they are replacing.

Senator Ridner said that Department Heads are instructing department committees to provide them the letters. President Coyne said that the department committee chair should directly forward the letter to the college committee. Senator Ridner said that the P&T document does not say where the letter goes and that it should. Senator Haynes said that the P&T document needs to say that the decision but not the letter needs to go to the Department Head. President Coyne said that when Senate sent the document on it had stronger language regarding the handling of the letter.

Senator Randle asked what the log was for. President Coyne replied that the log was to ensure that if four independent reviews were not received, the communication log would show that an effort was made to get all four reviews and the dossier could move forward.

Senator Thompson asked why Senate did not receive the modified document for review after other changes were made. President Coyne said that several Senators are on committees that would be able to see if substantial changes were made.

**Faculty Handbook**

III. The Faculty

A. Organization of the Faculty: Charter
B. Organization of the Faculty: Bylaws
C. The Robert Holland Faculty Senate

The Bylaws of Robert Holland Faculty Senate

*Internal Affairs:* Motions and resolutions pertaining to internal matters of the senate, which are not otherwise provided for by these bylaws or by the senate’s charter, can be initiated and passed upon in a single meeting. A majority vote of those senators present and voting "aye" or "nay" is required for adoption of such motions and resolutions.

*Amending the Bylaws:* Each proposal for an amendment to these laws shall follow the procedure of a proposed recommendation, except that for any amendment to be adopted it must receive a two-thirds vote of the senators present.

**REPORT OF THE FACULTY SENATE VICE PRESIDENT**

Due to the compressed schedule between the October and November Faculty Senate meetings, there is no report. Below is a list of upcoming meetings that will occur prior to the January Faculty Senate meeting. Results of these meetings will be reported during the January meeting.
Upcoming meetings

- Blue Cross Blue Shield Quarterly Meeting  November 9
- Work-Life Balance Monthly Meeting  November 15
- Health and Wellness Committee Strategic Planning  November 17
- Deans Council Meeting  November 21
- Master Plan Development and Advisory Committee  December 8

Respectfully submitted,

Brent Fountain
RHFS Vice President

FACULTY DESIGNATES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

Academic Affairs

1. AOP 12.20 Undergraduate Academic Forgiveness

Senator Addy, on behalf of the Academic Affairs Committee, presented AOP 12.20 to the Senate. He explained that the Academic Affairs Committee re-examined the AOP since presenting it in October.

Senator Addy presented the changes to the wording of AOP 12.20 and explained that the new wording brought the policy into line with what is practiced.

Senator Wipf asked how this policy would apply if a student is simultaneously seeking two undergraduate degrees. Senator Addy replied that a student in that situation, as long as a degree has not been conferred, has this policy available to them. Once there is a degree conferred this policy would no longer apply to the student.
Senator Musser asked if academic forgiveness was available to graduate students. Senator Addy replied that it was not.

The motion to adopt AOP 12.20 by the Academic Affairs Committee passed by unanimous hand vote.

2. **AOP 12.17 Undergraduate Fresh Start and AOP 12.19 Undergraduate Academic Amnesty**

Senator Addy, on behalf of the Academic Affairs Committee, presented AOP’s 12.17 and 12.19 to the Faculty Senate. Senator Addy explained that in an effort to reduce the number of academic operating policies, the Academic Affairs Committee combined both AOP’s into one policy.

Senator Boyd asked how grades given for academic misconduct were treated under this policy. Senator Williams said you could not apply for academic forgiveness for a course which had a grade of XF. Senator Baldwin replied that every course a student takes will appear on a transcript. He further explained that the only bearing this policy would have is for MSU’s calculation of the GPA.

Senator Krishnan asked how the time constraints of the policy were enforced. Senator Baldwin replied that it is a federal law that all transcripts must be provided upon enrollment.

The motion to adopt AOP 12.17 Undergraduate Fresh Start and Academic Amnesty passed by unanimous hand vote.

**Ancillary Affairs**  
No Report

**Charter & Bylaws**

Senator Elder, on behalf of the Charter and Bylaws Committee, presented a proposed update to the Faculty Senate bylaws. She explained that her committee was asked to look at the deadline for college elections, review term lengths of Senators, and look at adjusting the election of officers. Senator Elder explained that previously the Senate voted to move the deadline for elections to March 1st. She explained that due to the re-apportionment schedule, her committee motions that the deadline for college elections be moved to March 15th.

The motion to move the deadline for college elections to March 15th passed by unanimous hand vote.

Senator Elder explained that the second proposed change to the Faculty Senate bylaws is to extend the terms of Senators to the end of Old Business during the April meeting. She explained that there was wording added as a result of the discussion last month that excludes outgoing Senators from voting in officer elections.
Senator Spain made a friendly amendment to change “at the April meeting” to “during the April meeting” where it appears in the handbook. Senator Elder accepted the friendly amendment on behalf of the Charter & Bylaws Committee.

Vice President Fountain made a friendly amendment to add “during the April meeting” after “they are not eligible to vote on old business.” On p. 22 in the Faculty Handbook. Senator Elder accepted the friendly amendment on behalf of the Charter & Bylaws Committee.

Senator Follett asked if they would be excluded from voting on New Business.

Senator Musser said that if an outgoing Senator is an officer, they are an officer and not a Senator since the officer terms end on June 30th. Senator Elder replied that in the current bylaws the same is true. Senator Follett said that the bylaws do state that an officer retains their voting rights until their term of service is over.

Senator Williams asked if there was a May meeting last year. Senator Elder replied that there was a special session called that the newly elected Senators attended.

Senator Follett asked how the order of business could be modified if the new Senators are seated at a specific point of the meeting. President Coyne replied that since the voting rights were outlined, the committee felt that the issue was handled. Senator Herd said that the committee discussed the issue and feel that the Executive Committee would have to have a procedure to handle the change during the April meeting. Senator Follett said that the determining factor on whether or not you can vote is if you are seated as a Senator. President Coyne replied that there is language available that outlines the voting rights.

Senator Thompson asked why it was necessary to change the order of business. Senator Elder responded that the original proposed changes did not allow the order of business to be changed. Senator Randle said that if quorum was lost elections could not occur if the order was not changed unless there was a special session.

Senator Potter said that it would be easier to just strike the sentence allowing the changing of the order of business. Senator Herd made a motion to strike the sentence allowing the Executive Committee to change the order of business. Senator Potter seconded the motion. The motion to strike the sentence passed the motion by majority hand vote.

The motion to accept the motion to accept the change to the Faculty Senate Bylaws as amended passed by majority hand vote.

President Coyne asked the Senate to vote on the entirety of the proposed changes to the Faculty Senate Bylaws as amended. The motion to accept the amended changes passed by majority hand vote.
Executive Committee

Senator Haynes, on behalf of the Executive Committee, presented a letter of response to the college Deans request to have access to the written comments on student evaluations. She explained that the Executive Committee, with input from their respective committee members, decided unanimously to deny the request to allow College Deans to view written comments on student evaluations.

Senator Krishnan asked if the references were a part of the response letter. Senator Haynes replied that the references were to be included, but are not cited in the text. She said that resources should be the title and not references.

President Coyne explained that at the March meeting AOP 13.15 was presented for approval. The Senators were notified that a letter of request would be coming from the Deans and had the opportunity to wait to approve 13.15. Unanimously, the Senate decide to move forward with the approval of 13.15.

Senator Elder asked if the letter was coming from the Executive Committee. Senator Haynes replied that it was. Senator Elder suggested that the letter should come from the Senate as a whole. Senator Haynes replied that she agreed with that. Senator Follett said that the letter should come from the Senate President on behalf of the Senate.

The motion to approve the letter of response to the academic deans as amended passed by majority hand vote. (33-1)

Faulty Affairs

Student Affairs No Report
University Resources No Report

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

PENDING BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

Senator Lathan made a motion to adjourn. Senator Baldwin seconded the motion.

After a unanimous voice vote, the meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.
Submitted for correction and approval.

__________________________
Kent Marett, Secretary

Jason Cory, Administrative Assistant II
Student Athlete Grades – Spring 2016 (Fall 2015)

The Spring 2016 All Sport (Men and Women) GPA was 2.99 (2.93), with a Men’s Sports GPA of 2.76 (2.75) and a Women’s Sports GPA of 3.32 (3.18). The highest semester All Sport GPA (since data was recorded in 1993) was in the Fall of 2012 (3.04). Football had a Spring 2016 GPA of 2.60, its highest GPA since 2008 and 2nd highest semester GPA since data began being recorded. There were 91 scholarship student-athletes (SA) who made the Dean’s or President’s Scholar list, 182 scholarship SA earned a Spring 2016 GPA of 3.00 or higher, and 33 SA earned a 4.0 during the semester. The Spring 2016 (Fall 2015) GPA for each team was:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>GPA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Baseball</td>
<td>2.68 (3.00)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Basketball</td>
<td>2.13 (2.69)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Football</td>
<td>2.60 (2.55)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Golf</td>
<td>3.34 (3.29)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Tennis</td>
<td>3.25 (3.25)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Men’s Track</td>
<td>3.07 (2.77)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Basketball</td>
<td>3.27 (2.90)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Golf</td>
<td>3.34 (3.18)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Softball</td>
<td>3.30 (3.30)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Soccer</td>
<td>3.27 (3.26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Tennis</td>
<td>3.42 (3.26)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Track</td>
<td>3.27 (3.20)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Volleyball</td>
<td>3.32 (3.14)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Additionally, Mississippi State recently won the Halbrook Award for the second year in a row. The Halbrook award recognizes the athletic department of the public universities with the highest student-athlete graduation rate (Women’s – 87%, Men’s – 72%).

John Cohen

John Cohen became the 17th athletic director at Mississippi State University on November 4, 2016. He has been the head baseball coach at MSU since 2009. A Tuscaloosa, Alabama native, John graduated from MSU with a degree in English in 1990 and received a master’s degree in sports management from the University of Missouri in 1994. At MSU, he has led the Bulldogs to a College World Series finals appearance, an SEC regular season championship and an SEC Tournament championship. Since 2009, MSU baseball has had 133 players selected to the SEC Academic Honor Roll, including three straight SEC Scholar Athlete of the Year winners from 2013-15.

As a baseball player at MSU, John played on the Bulldogs’ 1989 SEC championship team and 1990 College World Series team. After a six-year stint with Missouri as a graduate assistant and assistant coach, Cohen was the head coach at Northwestern State University from 1998-2001. He then spent two seasons as an assistant baseball coach at the University of Florida before becoming the head coach at the University of Kentucky in 2004, a position he held for four seasons before returning to Mississippi State.