

**ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE  
UNCORRECTED MINUTES OF MEETING ON OCTOBER 10, 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, October 10, 2008.

Members absent and excused were Greg, Bentley, Hamid Barazjani, David Bridges, Dave Dampier, Ted Dobson, Bruce Ebanks, Jason Lueg, Jerry Mathews, Tom Matnely, Meghan, Millea, Julia Porter, Charles Palmer, Julie Sexton, Juan Silva, and Ray Vaughn

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 Gootee, seconded by Senator Bradshaw to accept the minutes of the September 12, 2008 as presented. Motion passed.

**Guests:**

**Dr. Vance Watson, Interim President,** Presented the following information:

- Thanked the members of the senate that attended the recent dinner hosted by Dr. and Mrs. Watson and Dr. and Mrs. Rabideau. He indicated that they enjoyed getting to know the members of the senate and hoped to do it again.
- Indicated that we had an all time high enrollment with a 4.6 increase over last year. There was a 9% increase in entering freshmen. He was most proud of the 84.5% freshmen to sophomore retention rate which was the highest of all IHL institutions in Mississippi. He praised those involved in planning indicating the models used had been very good in planning on an enrollment of 17,500.
- Discussed the new faculty tour which included the Nissan facility as well as other Mississippi industries such as catfish processing.
- Reported that MSU was receiving an award for minority access to education. MSU has 29% minorities, 20% African-American. MSU is number one in the nation of the 59 1862 Land-Grant institutions in the enrollment of African-American students which is the reason for the award for minority access.

- Announced that the Office of Institutional Research will now report to the Provost and VP Academic Affairs because of accreditation and the need for the offices to coordinate information.

**Dr. Peter Rabideau, Provost,** Provided the following information

- Reviewed his history with P and T problems he saw when he came to MSU, including: no college or department P&T committee sand the lack of required external letters, inconsistency in requirements and a lack of definition of excellence. The P&T document did not address early promotion. Early 5 year – trial time.
- The IHL average number of promotions is lower than MSU. Our success rate is as good or better than most.
- Reported the following data

2007/2008 – 39 cases; Total cases with only no vote from provost = 0

2006/2007 – 42 cases; Total cases with only no vote from provost = 0

2005/2006 – 42 cases; Total cases with only no vote from provost = 4 but none were mandatory tenure decisions. One was full professor, two were early promotion and tenure, and one was an early pre-5<sup>th</sup> year promotion to associate professor request.

2004/2005 – 33 cases; Total cases with only no vote from provost = 3. Two cases were promotion to full and the other was an early promotion and tenure case. (No denials of mandatory tenure decisions)

2003/2004 – 60 cases; Total cases with only no vote from provost no = 16. Ten cases were promotion to full professor and 6 were early promotion and tenure cases. (No denials of mandatory tenure decisions)

**Dr. Steve Turner, Faculty Athletic Representative** provided the following information

- Report on Colleges and Majors – comparison with university.
- Athletic Academic report Spring 2008 2.98 GPA (complete reports available)

**Greg Burn, Athletic Director** provided the following information

- Athletic Department is bringing in a consultant to work on mission, customer service with tickets, and Bulldog club.
- Discussed the 15 year contract with ESPN—for SEC and the good exposure for all of MSU. It will increase exposure for other smaller sports and academics

as well. He was not free to discuss the financial terms but felt the academic programs would benefit in addition to athletics.

- Five rules he has for the Athletic Department
  1. Graduate student athletes
  2. Follow the rules
  3. First Class on how we represent the university
  4. Fiscal integrity
  5. Compete for Championships

### **3. Report of the President David Nagel**

The university executive committee declined to rename the McComas theater.

Athletic Council reports that the athletic budget had a positive balance for the last fiscal year.

A meeting of the Southeastern Conference Association of Faculty Leaders (SEC AFL) included discussions concerning methods of President selection at the various institutions, faculty-athletic department interactions, faculty-governing board relationships, accreditation, and SEC AFL internal and external relations. Topics for future meetings included the role of faculty in large scale budgeting, the role of tenure, and planning and faculty relations with administration.

A large amount of time was spent concerning rumors attached to the presidential search process. Attempts to supply requested information to the Clarion Ledger were not successful.

Greg Davis proposal for a board for each university along with IHL- A meeting is scheduled October 6 to discuss a new method of university oversight and governance with state senators.

Few Senators replied to a request for volunteers to serve on various University committees. The following appointments were made  
Stephen Foster on Faculty Research Advisory Committee  
Jacque Deeds Instructional Improvement Committee

#### **4. Report of the Vice President Hart Bailey**

Highlights of the Dean's council included:

- Discussion of the New Faculty Mentoring Program in the Division of Agriculture Forestry and Veterinary Medicine Faculty by Dr. Melissa Mixon.
- A presentation concerning the Riley Foundation Center in Meridian and the resources it has available for meetings.
- Announcement of a joint agreement between MSU and The University of Zagreb (Croatia). The Social Science Research Center is promoting this collaboration.
- The Southeastern Conference Academic Leadership Development Program (SEC ALDP) Fellows program was discussed. MSU SEC ALDP Fellows for 2008/2009 are Dr. Lori Bruce, Dr. Sadik Artunc, and Dr. Barbara Spencer.
- Discussion of changes in Academic Operating Policies (APO) 10.02 – Academic Administrators and Directors and AOP 13.03 Faculty Responsibilities in Instruction and Curriculum by Dr. Jerry Gilbert.
- It was announced that the MSU Library is to receive some money from the profits generated by Aramark from campus food service.
- A faculty forum concerning the registration process is being planned by I.T. Dr. Lisa Harris will also discuss New Student Orientation.

Highlights of the Traffic Committee

- The question of whether or not to take minutes of the proceedings of the committee meetings was discussed and passed on to the next meeting.
- Discussion was held on the request to close one entrance to McArthur Hall parking lot.

#### **Report from Faculty Designates on University Committees:**

Resources Committee - Remind faculty that October is the month to make changes in benefits.

#### **Business sent to Committees: none**

#### **5. Business to be sent to Committees:**

Senator Bradshaw, moved seconded by Senator Seal to send the letter from Tim Chamblee related to the university core to committee. The motion passed and it was assigned to Academic Affairs committee.

Senator Dibble moved and Senator Reynolds seconded the motion to refer the letter from Jerry Gilbert, re: AOP 13.03 & AOP 10.02 to committee. The motion passed and the letters were assigned to the Faculty Affairs Committee.

In discussion of AOP 10.02, Senator Adebisi, discussed the differences between chairs and department heads and asked the question is this something we should discuss. Senator Toghiani asked if a three year interval adequate on evaluation or should it be one then three? The motion passed and the AOP was referred to Academic Affairs

The letter received from Juan Silva, related to P&T, and MSU presidential search was handled as follows: Question one related to P&T had been answered by provost today and will be in the minutes.

It was moved Senator Adebisi to refer question 2 related to the presidential search to a committee of the whole, seconded by Senator Carskadon. Motion passed. Discussion was to include possible resolutions submitted by President Nagel.

President Nagel discussed the two resolutions. Senator Seal discussed her concern about the fairness of the process as it exists. Senator Adebisi raised questions about the search method and if it has been shown to be ineffective why do we continue it? Senator Deeds indicated that resolution needs some background some Whereas statements before the resolved. Senator Coyne asked if secrecy really a trend and how do we know how effective it has been because we know of other institutions that are not doing the same thing. Senator Emison, indicated he opposed the proposed resolution against the process because we have clearly stated our position in the past both in writing and verbally to the search committee so the resolutions would be pointless at this time. Senator Bradshaw saw merit with Senator Emison's point but because it is out in the press and individuals breaching confidentiality it is damaging MSU's reputation. The system is not working – it is not secret but not open. Senator Emison indicated that it was deplorable what has happened with the process. Senator Foster indicated that we need to reiterate that we were opposed to the process. Senator Toghiani indicated that those who are being hurt (MSU family) have no real input in the process. There was a resolution related to the search process passed in 2006, however the resolution not given to anyone, just entered in to the record. Senator Donohoe suggested Executive committee, write and get approval, for a resolution, and that we include that that secrecy is new and not worked in the pass. Senator Carskadon moved that the executive committee draft a resolution with the points discussed and submit it to the senate by Tues using email and get response. Senator Byrd, seconded the motion which passed by voice vote.

The following resolution was proposed by the Executive Committee and approved by the full Senate and submitted to the IHL Board.

Whereas, the Intuitions of Higher Learning Board has conducted a search process for the Presidency of Mississippi State University that was designed to be entirely confidential and

Whereas, the process has failed to maintain secrecy, and

Whereas, this lack of secrecy has allowed attempts to unduly influence the process outside the original intent, and

Whereas, the failure of the process is counter to the welfare to MSU, its friends, alumni, students, faculty and staff and

Whereas, an open and transparent process with broad input from MSU constituents would generate confidence in the final selection and

Whereas, the Robert Holland Faculty as elected representatives of the general faculty has the chartered responsibility to consider “matters dealing with the welfare of the University,”

Therefore be it resolved, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate urges the IHL MSU Presidential Search Committee to identify publically the finalists for the position; and to bring all final candidates to campus for public interviews with the MSU constituents and consider these constituent views in the final selection.

#### **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 – no report

Moved by Senator Adebisi and seconded by Senator Brashier to adjourn the meeting.  
Motion passed.

Minutes submitted by Senator Jacquelyn Deeds, Secretary