

**ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE  
UNCORRECTED MINUTES OF OCTOBER 8, 2010**

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, October 8, 2010.

Members absent and excused were: Ioana Baniscescu, Mike Brown, Mark Crenshaw, LaDonne Delgado, Jeffery Haupt, Ken Hood, Julia Porter, Dan Reynolds, Rebecca Toghiani, Xiangsheng Xu.

The meeting was called to order by the Senate President, Hart Bailey.

The minutes of the September 3, 2010 meeting were approved.

**GUESTS**

**DR. DAVID SHAW, VICE PRESIDENT FOR RESEARCH AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

Dr. Shaw presented information on the Cotton Mill Development. The project will be sent to the IHL meeting this month for approval.

Plans for renovation include a state-of-the-art conference center and ball room space for 950 people and 37,000 ft. of office space. Additionally, two structures will be built to the south: a freestanding restaurant and 125 room full service hotel. The plans have been made in accordance with guidelines to maintain historic feeling and to allow the Cooley building to remain on the National Register of Historic Buildings. Plans also include street improvements and a parking garage and will total \$64 million in costs.

MSU will retain ownership of the Cooley building and the land it is located on. Cotton Mill Development Group (CMDG) will lease the building for 41 years then ownership will revert back to MSU. CMDG will purchase the surrounding land needed to build the additional structures. They estimate 18-20 months to complete the project.

The Physical Plant will be moved, but currently there are a couple of locations available to them.

**DR. JEROME A. GILBERT, PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT**

There are currently two dean searches underway. Dr. Myers is leading the search for a new Dean of the Shackouls Honors College and Dr. D'Abramo is chair of the search for a new Dean of the College of Business and Industry.

Dr. Gilbert said that the StatePride checks have been distributed to the various colleges on campus.

The Auburn game earned MSU \$200,000. \$150,000 has been returned to campus in recognition of the fact that Thursday night games are an inconvenience. Dr. "Hart" Bailey will head a committee to develop a proactive plan for Thursday night games.

Dr. Gilbert will name the Technology Taskforce to study the SCEI recommendation of consolidation. This Taskforce will begin their work in early November.

Dr. Gilbert is exploring the potential of providing bus transportation for events at the Riley Center. Many have expressed their desire to attend events, but the distance hinders their decision. However, there is evidence that many would take advantage of the bus. Details of how this will work in under discussion.

**DR. LOUIS R. D'ABRAMO, ASSOCIATE VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS AND DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDENTS**

Dr. D'Abramo shared a slide show about the Office of the Graduate School's roles and responsibilities. He said there are currently 3,785 graduate students (17.2% minority students, 14.2% international - representing 61 countries, 28.9% distance education), which is 20% of the total student population. The number of graduate students has increased by 14% in the last 5 years.

**REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT**

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee is in the process of preparing a resolution to honor the life of Dr. Mike Couvillion.

The month of September presented a number of opportunities for the Faculty Senate to interact at many different levels at MSU. The continued support for and practice of University Governance by the University Administration has created a demand for regular input of the Faculty's views on many issues. The Faculty Senate has represented those views, as well interacted with different collaborative groups across campus.

There are a number of different committees or taskforces that have been assembled as a result of the work of the President's Select Committee on Efficiencies and Innovations (SCEI). I have been appointed to represent the Faculty Senate on these committees which are studying a variety of different recommendations from the SCEI. The committees meeting weekly are studying matters related to, Benchmarking of Academic Efforts, Academic Outreach and Continuing Education, and Special Events and Campus Auxiliaries. There has been a tremendous learning curve associated with each of these working groups. Other specially appointed committees that I am serving on include the SCEI Advisory Committee, Fleet Management Committee, the Campus Master Planning Committee, and the Campus Housing Committee.

Recently I had the privilege of representing the Faculty by speaking to the Reunion of the Former National Alumni Board Presidents, as well as to the fall meeting of the National Alumni Board of Directors. This past summer I was able to represent the Faculty at five MSU Alumni Send-Off Parties in Alabama, Mississippi and Texas. Dr. Jimmy Abraham is to be commended for organizing these events, of which 59 of our 89 Alumni chapters participated this summer.

Recently, Thomas Sellers, Student Association President, Mary Vaughn, Staff Council President, Dr. Jimmy Abraham, Associate Vice President of Development and Alumni Association Director and I met to discuss issues common to each of our constituencies. I have deemed this group the "University Governance Council", in that each of us represents the primary parties that need to be represented at discussions concerning campus policies. We plan to continue to communicate and meet through the year to ensure that we are aware of each group's concerns and needs.

Over the last month, I have been able to meet with different Vice Presidents to discuss matters of concern to them. Dr. David Shaw and I met to discuss the development of the Cotton Mill Project. He will be attending the October Faculty Senate meeting to discuss the plans for the development of

the project which includes the Cooley Building and some surrounding areas. Dr. Greg Bohach and I discussed plans he has for the colleges in his division and university governance issues that are pertinent to the realignments of different groups.

A meeting was held with Dr. Bill Kibler to discuss the formation of a committee to study the housing requirements on campus. This committee will have an important role in evaluating the needs assessment for campus housing and helping in future planning. This group is especially timely given that we are in the middle of a campus master planning effort and the particular economic times we face. I heard from a number of Faculty members concerning the planned closing of Aiken Village and there were very impassioned responses from them, which were shared with upper administration. I also attended the Town Hall meeting that was held with the residents of Aiken Village to voice their concerns.

Dean Frances Coleman hosted the Faculty Senate officers at the Library for a lunch meeting to highlight the services they provide. Following a discussion with Dean Coleman and her staff, we assured them that the Faculty Senate would work with them in any way we could to assist in their support of MSU's mission.

The Faculty Senate is taking the lead in assembling a committee to study the issues associated with a Thursday night Football game event on campus. The nature of hosting a Thursday night game presents many different challenges to our campus and warrants a thorough examination of all concerns. Along with these challenges comes an opportunity for additional resources to be utilized by the campus. As a result of financial resources realized from our most recent Thursday night game, Dr. Keenum was able to distribute funds to different units across campus. We applaud the collaborative leadership of President Keenum, as well as Provost and Executive Vice President Gilbert and Athletic Director Stricklin, in working to change the culture at MSU and make this unique event a benefit to the entire campus.

Since our last meeting, Mr. Don Zant has been named a Vice President of Budget and Planning. The Faculty Senate welcomes Mr. Zant to the MSU administrative team and looks forward to his leadership in financial matters.

At the request of Provost Gilbert, to assist him in assessing the Faculty's thoughts and opinions on the creation of a classification of Instructional Faculty at MSU, the Faculty Senate will be hosting open forums on campus in the near future. The purpose of these meetings will be to give Faculty an opportunity to enter into a dialogue on this matter. More information will be forthcoming as the plans are finalized.

Submitted October 4, 2010

R. H. "Hart" Bailey  
President  
Faculty Senate

## **VICE PRESIDENT REPORT**

**Academic Dean's Council**

September 13th

- StatePride announcements will be made via press release.
- There are two dean searches ongoing 1) New position in the Shackouls Honors College and 2) College of Business as Dr. Richardson returns to the marketing faculty. Dr. Myers is chairing the search committee for the Shackouls Honors College Dean and Dr. D'Abramo is chairing the College of Business Dean Search committee.
- Dr. Bailey is chairing a committee to plan for Thursday night football games. The university is one of only four SEC schools willing to host Thursday night games, the other schools are Vanderbilt, South Carolina, and Kentucky. The university is paid \$200,000 from the SEC's ESPN contract to accept this responsibility. This year, the President, Provost, and Athletic Director divided the \$200,000 across the campus.
- Dr. Bonfanti reported on enrollment.

From last year:

- University enrollment increased by 5.6% from last year to 19,644.
- Undergraduate entering class increased by 9.7% to 4,389—first-time freshmen (62% of the entering class) and new transfers (38%) of entering class).

From 2004 to 2010:

- university enrollment increased 23%,
- undergraduate entering class increased by 33%,
- Mississippi residents increased 36%, but fell from 74% of the freshman class in 2004 to 65% in 2010.
- Average ACT score remained stable at 23.4.
- High school GPA increased from 3.16 to 3.24
- Freshman retention rate increased from 79.5% to 81.9%

- With a 4% enrollment growth assumption, enrollment will exceed 22,000 in 2013; with a 3% assumption enrollment will exceed 22,000 in 2014.
- Distribution of enrollment across the colleges changes from year to year.
- The deans reacted reinstating the signature line for the Dean of the Graduate School on graduate degrees. When the Graduate School was abolished in 1999, the signature line for the Graduate School Dean was removed.
- The deans also discussed the closing of Aiken Village with concern about the decision making process and the implications for academic units.

## Housing Committee

I will be serving on a housing committee that will contribute to the planning process of residence halls.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meghan Millea  
October 4, 2010

## **REPORT FROM FACULTY SENATE DESIGNATES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES**

University Promotion and Tenure Committee is interested in having a committee member attend a Faculty Senate meeting.

The Traffic Committee has met only once this semester to discuss a parking issue at the Wise Center.

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

**6.1 Letter from Dr. Ryan, re: AOP XX.XX Academic Amnesty for Graduate Students (Academic Affairs)**

## **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Academic Affairs** **No Report**

**Ancillary Affairs** **No Report**

**Charter and Bylaws** **No Report**

**Faculty Affairs**

**7.1.1 Letter from Dr. Goodman re: Promotion and Tenure Procedures**

The committee is still working on this and will bring a report forward at a future meeting.

**7.1.2 Letter from Dr. Gilbert re: Promotion and Tenure Application Forms**

The committee is still working on this and will bring a report forward at a future meeting.

**Student Affairs** **No Report**

**University Resources** **No Report**

**SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS** **None**

**OLD BUSINESS** **None**

**NEW BUSINESS** **None**

The meeting was adjourned at 4:05.

Submitted for correction and approval.

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Dana Pomykal Franz, Secretary