

**ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE
APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 14, 2001**

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, September 14, 2001.

Members absent and excused were Alan Blaine, Thomas Cathcart, Nancy Reichert and James Thomas.

Members absent and unexcused were Kathy Dooley, Bill Maslin, Roy Montgomery, Stephen Schoenholtz and Bill Stuart.

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.msstate.edu/Org/FS/faculty_senate.html.

Chair Dan Embree called the meeting to order.

Chair Embree called for a moment of silence to reflect on the September 11, 2001, attack on America.

Chair Embree referred to the minutes of the April 20, 2001, Regular Meeting as distributed. Senator Pasquale asked that the spelling of his name be corrected. Senator Marshall moved, Senator McGrath seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate approve the minutes of April 20, 2001, as corrected. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of the Senate.

GUESTS

Chair Embree introduced the guest of the Senate, Mr. Larry Templeton, Athletic Director.

LARRY TEMPLETON, ATHLETIC DIRECTOR

Mr. Templeton provided the following information:

- < The Southeastern conference made the decision not to play football during the upcoming weekend. A staff member of the White House called and asked that everyone go ahead and play football and go about their normal business. The final decision was not to play due to circumstances.
- < MSU football players that do not attend class will not play.

- < Thirty-seven MSU athletes have used up their eligibility and can no longer play but sports are still here getting an education. Sixty-five percent of these athletes are female.
- < The Academic Center has moved under the leadership of the Provost's Office with David Boles in charge.
- < Before the school year began, all 268 student athletes were brought together for convocation to discuss the student handbook, drug testing, gambling, academic dishonesty, and similar topics.
- < Senator Goodman commented that he has had trouble with some of his student athletes being bumped from upper level classes by their academic advisors and placed in lower level classes because the student "won't have to work as hard." Mr. Templeton asked for specific information on this and said that he would follow up on this matter and report back to the Senate.
- < Senator Embree asked that if it is inappropriate for a coach to call a professor, who is allowed to call. Mr. Templeton responded that the academic counselors that report to David Boles are allowed to call.
- < Senator Embree asked that if a faculty had concerns they wished to take to the Athletic Department, they should not call the coaches but should call the academic counselors that report to David Boles. Mr. Templeton responded affirmatively.
- < Senator Pote asked Mr. Templeton if he had stated in his earlier comments that fewer female athletes graduate than male athletes. He responded that his comment was that there are more females at MSU finishing up their degrees that can no longer play sports. The current ratio of student athletes that are allowed to play sports is about 53% male to 47% female.
- < Senator Williams asked when those contracted to complete the stadium renovations were supposed to finish the entire job. Mr. Templeton responded that the entire contract was due to be completed on October 15, 2001, but that he had asked the Roy Anderson Company to help MSU get the club level and sky boxes ready for the first game in September, and if they did so, that any time in November would be sufficient for completion.
- < Senator Williams commented that MSU has a tendency to allow contractors to continue working past deadlines without enforcing penalties. Mr. Templeton responded that in this case, it was very important to have certain portions completed for the September third game and that MSU will honor the incentive clauses.

- < Senator Embree commented that MSU was not originally scheduled to play football on October 27th and asked if that had changed. Mr. Templeton responded that everything is in a state of confusion but that MSU will probably not play on that date.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Embree began his Chair's Report by sharing the following remarks:

- < Chair Embree referred to attachment eight pertaining to the Manufacturing Technology program at the Meridian Campus. President Portera appointed a committee and this is their report.
- < Attachment nine was sent to Chair Embree by the Joint Committee on Performance Evaluation and Expenditure Review for distribution.
- < Attachment ten is a letter from Matthew Little about the lead content around Lee Hall. Chair Embree requested President Portera to take action and he has hired a consulting company to look into the matter.
- < Senator Williams asked why Portera has hired an outside firm to check the lead content around Lee Hall when there are people on this campus who are qualified to do this work. Chair Embree responded that he had not asked Portera this but would do so and report back.
- < Senator Morse asked if there were any safety concerns in having events near Lee Hall, such as Discovery Day. Chair Embree responded that he would ask about having such events moved.
- < Gail Bishop has vacated the position of Faculty Senate Office Secretary. No one has been hired in her place at this time. Search continues.
- < Senator Crowell moved, Senator Marshall seconded, for Chair Embree to convey the Senate's sincere appreciation to Gail Bishop for her service. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of the Senate.
- < Senator Cinnella asked if this staff position remained that of a 1.75 employee. Chair Embree responded in the affirmative.
- < Senator Reichert asked if Chair Embree was being allowed to fill the position and he responded affirmatively, but that no one wants the job.
- < There is one vacant Faculty Senate position in the College of Forest Resources and they need to elect a replacement.

- < President Portera and Chair Embree have set the date for the fall Senate Roundtable. The date is October 27, 2001. The topic suggested by Embree and agreed to by Portera is the direction of Mississippi State University. Hearing no objections from the Senate, Embree will proceed making the direction of MSU the topic.
- < Embree received a complaint from a faculty member stating that he had witnessed an administrator trying to get complete access to e-mail files of another faculty member from ITS personnel who refused to comply. Embree reported this situation to President Portera asking if MSU had a policy which addressed this situation. Portera responded that he thought we did but has since then appointed Brad Carter to head up a taskforce to write such a policy.
- < Senator Williams asked why the legal council at MSU had not already dealt with this matter. Embree responded that he did not know but was happy knowing that Brad Carter will be correcting the situation.

REPORT OF THE VICE CHAIR

Vice Chair Diehl referred to the Robert Holland Faculty Senate Vice Chair's Report as distributed.

REPORT FROM FACULTY SENATE DESIGNATES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

University Research Council -- Senator Pasquale Cinnella referred to his report as distributed. Chair Embree asked if there had been any meetings of this council recently and Senator Cinnella responded that there had been one but it was so close to the deadline of submitting written reports for distribution that it was not in this packet. Embree asked if there was anything from that meeting that the Senate needed to know about immediately and Senator Cinnella responded that MSU is on course to become number 50 in terms of research expenditures as reported to NSF.

Benefits Committee -- Senator Nebeker reported that American National is pulling out of the state. There are 623 employees currently on this plan. There are proposed changes in the state health plan with coverage going down and a seven percent increase in premiums next year. 0.6% of the state of Mississippi's budget is contributed for health care as compared to the national average of 2.0%. Fringe benefits will be calculated now at 28.52%. There is a new Nissan plan and Sam's Club option that are now benefits.

BUSINESS SENT TO COMMITTEES

AOP 12.08 - Certification of Recognition -- Chair Embree assigned this issue to the Student Affairs Committee.

AOP 12.11 - Degree Requirements-Undergraduate -- Chair Embree assigned this issue to the Student Affairs Committee.

AOP 12.12 - Credit, Grades, and Academic Standing -- Chair Embree assigned this issue to the Student Affairs Committee.

BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEES

Letter from Dr. Bauman re: University Promotion & Tenure -- Senator Crowell moved, Senator Bryant seconded, to refer this issue to committee. The motion passed on a majority voice vote of the Senate. Chair Embree assigned this issue to the Academic Affairs Committee.

Letter from Dr. Uzoigwe re: Policy on Grade Summaries -- No motion for Senate consideration was made.

Letter from Dr. Crowell re: Class Sizes -- Senator McCann moved, Senator Williams seconded, to refer this issue to committee. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of the Senate. Chair Embree assigned this issue to the Academic Affairs Committee.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

No report.

ANCILLARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

No report.

CHARTER AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

No report.

FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

No report.

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

No report.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

No report.

ADJOURNMENT

Senator Follett moved, Senator Crowell seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of the Senate.

Submitted for correction and approval.

LaDonne Delgado, Secretary