

**ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE
UNCORRECTED MINUTES OF MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 13, 2002**

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 13, 2002.

Members absent and excused were Tim Chamblee, Randy Follett, Homes Hogue, David Huddleston, Don Jackson, Melissa Mixon and Mark Zappi.

Members absent and unexcused were Alan Blaine, Ken Hood, Randy Little, Nancy McCarley, Kent Payne, Michael Rice, Bill Stuart, and Peter Wood.

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 Walter Diehl called the meeting to order.

Chair Diehl referred to the minutes of the April 26, 2002, Special Called Meeting as distributed. Senator Rogers moved, Senator Lestrade seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate approve the minutes of April 26, 2002. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

GUESTS

Chair Diehl introduced guests: Dr. Charles Lee, Interim President, and Dr. George Verrall, Interim Provost.

CHARLES LEE, INTERIM PRESIDENT

Dr. Lee provided the following information:

- The upcoming MSU General Faculty meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2002.
- The first round of legislative budget hearings will begin in about ten days. MSU has about 9.5 million in its current budget which is one-time money. Revenue growth continues to lag and next year's budget will be even more challenging. MSU has anticipated this lag and should it lose this one-time money, MSU will not have to take it all out of its recurring budget. The lost amount would probably be about 3.5 million and most of this may be recoverable with the savings from the Early-Out Program.
- The request to the Legislature will be for some further increases in salary and restoration of operating funds. Another key element of the request will be to get the operating money for the Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems. Construction will begin in about one month on a facility for this Center and the MSU administration has been assured that the operating funds will be provided.

- Lee is confident that there will not be a tax increase due to upcoming elections.
- The MSU Fund Balance is where it should be. At least two institutions elsewhere in the state have had to dip into their fund balances this year in order to make their budgets.
- Lee expressed a very special thank you to everyone for the smooth start to this fall semester. He understands that it has been very difficult for all of us and then shared that he has not received any e-mails about students not being able to get into their needed classes or matters of this sort. He also shared that he has received numerous positive e-mails about how receptive the staff and faculty have been toward new students.
- The NCAA has made two visits and about 14 students have been interviewed by the investigators. No faculty or staff have been interviewed. Lee assumes that long before there is any serious course of action, MSU would receive an official letter of inquiry.
- At the upcoming General Faculty Meeting, the draft of the Post-Tenure Review Policy will be discussed. Lee asked Senators to encourage their colleagues to attend this meeting so a quorum will be met and a vote may be taken to adopt this policy. Lee added that MSU is the only institution in the state that does not have this policy on file with the IHL Board.
- Two candidates have interviewed for the position of Vice President for Student Affairs and there are three candidates remaining to interview. The interviews are complete for the position of Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Officer and the search committee is processing the gathered information. The interviews for the position of Vice President for Research have not yet begun.
- SACS Self Study report is terribly behind schedule in respect to when it should be completed. Lee encouraged all who have a part in creating this report to quickly complete and turn in their reports.
- Senator Embree remarked that in the Spring of 1999, the Faculty Senate passed a RIF (Reduction in Force for Contract Employees) document which was then sent to the administration and signed by the President. I have been told by the SACS Director, Leslie Bauman, that the administration asserts that the RIF document is invalid because it was signed by President Portera and he is no longer with the university. Is this the administration's position. Lee responded that this is not the administration's position. The RIF document is valid and will be submitted with the SACS report. Senator Embree again stated that Leslie Bauman recently received this information from the University Council. Embree also added that after the Faculty Senate approved the document, it should have gone before the general faculty for their approval, this did not happen and eventually should. In the meantime, the President's authority should be sufficient to make this document valid. Lee agreed. Lee asked Chair Diehl to work with Interim Provost Verrall to make sure there is no problem with the use of this document.
- Senator Williams asked if the funds from the Sanderson family have started flowing into the "coffers" for the Sanderson Center. Lee responded no.
- Senator Williams remarked that the personnel in the Air Craft Operations received substantial raises this year and asked if these funds came from E&G funds, development funds, or other sources. Lee responded that some funds came from E&G dollars, some from the Development Foundation, but mostly from the owners of the airplanes. MSU pays approximately 31% of the total operating budget and MSU logs about 40% of the miles.

The MSU administration asked a consultant to work with this private/public partnership to give advice toward solving certain conflicts. The budget has now been shifted over to a mode which fits the rest of the MSU budget operations and makes more sense. MSU's share of the increase was 8%. Substantial input must be given to the owners of the aircraft due to this unique partnership. The owners were making significant upgrades to the quality and complexity of the aircraft and felt the salaries were not sufficient to take care of the future plans of this partnership. These salaries were raised to a mid-point on the average across the south of persons in this profession. Athletics uses the aircraft 48%, the President's Office 11%, the Vice Provost 2% and all other MSU personnel 36%. Due to the September 11, 2001, events, the pilots have had to take additional training, security gates have been installed at the airport, the aircraft are no longer allowed to land at certain airports as well as other restrictions. Senator Williams thanked Interim President Lee for sharing this information.

- Senator Nebeker stated that when viewing the Internet version of the MSU budget, it shows no increase in personnel salaries and asked why. Lee responded that the IHL Board approved the existing budget and also approved the salary increases on the same day. Therefore the official MSU Budget is the copy which does not show the salary increases. Although the budget has been updated, the updated versions are not placed on the Internet site. The Deans and Vice Presidents have a CD version of the updated budget.
- Senator Embree asked if the CD version of the updated budget would be made available to any public citizen should they ask to see it. Lee did not respond. Senator Embree remarked that he was told by the Provost's Office that if he requested the updated version of the budget, he would receive a copy although he has made the request and not yet received it or an answer. Lee asked Verrall to work with Chair Diehl and Senator Embree on this matter.
- Senator Montgomery asked the status of the MSU Presidential search. Lee responded that a date has been set for the IHL Board to meet with the Advisory Committee on campus.
- Senator Cinnella asked if Lee anticipated another budget cut this fiscal year. Lee responded that the Governor does not anticipate another cut. MSU has escrowed approximately 5% and this would take care of such a cut. If there is no cut, then these funds could be used for some critical needs this year or held to see what the situation will be for the next fiscal year. Senator Cinnella asked if this was the 'Rainy Day Fund.' Lee responded that this was not the 'Rainy Day Fund.'
- Lee remarked on the cowbell situation. MSU will follow the same practice as followed in previous years – those entering the stadium carrying a cowbell will be asked to leave it in their cars and not bring them into the stadium. Should some cowbells make it into the stadium, the game officials will make the call as to when the level of noise interferes with play. If officials blow the first whistle which constitutes a warning, the MSU coaches and players will try to calm the crowd. If the second whistle is blown, then there is a five yard penalty, third whistle – fifteen yard penalty.

GEORGE VERRAL, INTERIM PROVOST

Dr. Verrall provided the following information:

- Verrall thanked everyone for getting this semester started.
- MSU needs to work on diversity. The deans have been given money and told to make every possible effort to present a diverse pool of candidates for positions.
- A study group underway looking at the use of Social Security numbers on campus.
- Verrall has sent a note to the President's Office on our behalf about Thursday football games indicating that faculty would prefer that football games not be scheduled during the week.
- Verrall is working on a project to define faculty and teachers uniformly across campus.
- The Phi Beta Kappa faculty will be getting together soon to determine what to do next. The number of Phi Beta Kappa faculty have increased across campus this past year.
- Meridian promotion and tenure issue. The Meridian faculty are working on a statement for the university to review which says they want to be treated like a "college." Tenure would only be at Meridian and not transferable to the main MSU campus.
- Senator Embree remarked that up to this point, relief has been given to the Senate Chair in the form of not teaching two courses during his term as Senate Chair. He also remarked that Chair Diehl is choosing to teach his courses and not take this relief but is doing so at Verrall's request, thus receiving no relief for serving as Senate Chair. Is this true? Verrall responded that he has not spoken with Scott Ross or any other IHL Board member about this matter but has spoken to Chair Diehl. Verrall stated that it is very difficult for Interim President Lee to defend MSU's position concerning teaching loads if the Senate Chair is teaching no classes. The document on record states that the Senate Chair's relief is one course (25%) and this needs to be changed to state half-time release. The problem is how this relates to research. Is research the primary responsibility of a faculty or is teaching. Verrall agrees that there is some cleaning up that needs to be done to the policy statement to accurately reflect what is release time and how is it calculated.
- Senator Embree directly asked Interim President Lee if this cutback in the Senate Chair's release time is in any way responsive to inquiries from the IHL Board. Lee responded yes. Senator Embree remarked that MSU will not be able to recruit senior faculty to serve as Senate Chair without any relief.
- Senator Nagel asked if there would be funds for recruiting personnel for this December. Verrall responded no, there are no funds to recruit for mid-year hires. The only funds available to be spent in January is that which has been set aside to fund the 'unfunded teaching liability' that MSU has throughout the university. The amount of one-time money is approximately one million dollars. These hires will not be tenure-track faculty, they will be lecturers, part-time instructors, etc.
- Senator Thaxton remarked that former President Portera stated that there could be a reduction in the number of students at MSU. There have been rumors from the IHL Board that certain programs may be reviewed as not being necessary. Is the MSU administration preparing a plan to address the possible reduction in students and/or programs. Verrall responded no. Senator Thaxton asked if this is because the administration doesn't feel a plan is necessary or is there another way. Verrall remarked that this is the topic of the

upcoming Senate Roundtable – how big do we want MSU to get, etc. Senator Thaxton remarked that he would like to see MSU determine its mission and stick to it as opposed to politicians dictating our mission to us.

- Senator Williams asked when Meridian's tenure document would be sent to the MSU main campus. Verrall responded that he had received a draft document today although he has not had time to review it. Senator Williams asked if this document would come before the Senate. Verrall asked if other college promotion and tenure documents came before the Senate for approval. He assumed not. Senator Williams remarked that this thinking presumes that Meridian will be treated as a 'college' and it was his understanding that this fact had not yet been determined. Senator Williams also expressed his concern about students taking the same courses at Meridian which he teaches at the main campus and their only doing a third of the work he requires and getting higher grades.
- Senator Embree remarked that the promotion and tenure document of a college is definitely the business of that college as long as it is consistent with that of the university, but the existence of said college is most certainly the business of the Faculty Senate.
- Senator Bryant asked what accrediting problems might occur if Meridian were considered to be a college. Verrall responded that administrators have spoken with two of the accrediting bodies, ACSP and NCATE, and doesn't seem to be any problems.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Diehl began his Chair's report by sharing the following remarks:

- Diehl welcomed new Senator, David Nagel, from the Extension Service. He also welcomed back Senator PC McLaurin who took a brief leave last spring.
- New Senator name tags have been created. If corrections need to be made, please give Delores the information.
- The search committee for the Vice President for Research is being assembled. The seventh committee member will be elected "at large" by the Faculty Senate via e-mail.
- The Roundtable is scheduled for next Saturday at Lake Tia O'Khata. The topic for discussion will be undergraduate issues especially problems associated with enrollment. Participants will be (from the administration) Charles Lee, Interim President; Jimmy Abraham, Student Affairs; Bob Taylor, Engineering; Daniel Bryant, Chief Budget and Finance Officer; George Verrall, Interim Provost; Phil Oldham, Arts and Sciences; Tom Hosie, Education; Harold Nichols, MSU Meridian Campus; (from the Senate) Michael Berk, Architecture; Tim Chamblee, Agriculture and Life Sciences; Walter Diehl, Arts and Sciences; Carlen Henington, Education; Homes Hogue, Arts and Sciences; David Huddleston, Engineering; Clyde Williams, Arts and Sciences; Nancy McCarley, Arts and Sciences; (from the faculty at large) Brian Baldwin, Agriculture and Life Sciences; Susan Diehl, Forest Resources; Paul Grimes, Business and Industry; Richard Harkness, Agriculture and Life Sciences; Bruce Leopold, Forest Resources; Gail Peyton, Library; Lynn Reinschmiedt, Agriculture and Life Sciences; and Roy Ruby, Education/Student Affairs.

- Diehl commented that he has not heard anyone state that the RIF document was not in place.
- The General Faculty meeting is scheduled for Monday, September 16th. If quorum exists, there will be a vote taken on the Post-Tenure Review Policy. Diehl urged Senators to attend this meeting. Senator Montgomery asked if this document would only affect new hires or would it affect all faculty. Chair Diehl reiterated that this document would not provide any mechanisms for terminating a tenured faculty other than what already exists. The only thing that it does is provide input by the faculty into this process which does not currently exist. Senator Montgomery remarked that this policy could alter ones original contractual agreement for existing faculty. Chair Diehl stated that since this policy has already been voted on and passed by the Senate, these concerns would need to be addressed at the General Faculty meeting.
- This Monday evening from 6:00-8:00 p.m. is the Faculty and Professional Staff Picnic to be held on the level above the Sky Deck of the Stadium. Auburn game tickets will be given away (while they last) by Larry Templeton.
- The Faculty Senate meeting's refreshments, cookies and drinks, are being provided via an honorarium received from the Division of Student Affairs.

REPORT OF THE VICE CHAIR

Vice Chair Pote referred to the Robert Holland Faculty Senate Vice Chair-s Report as distributed. She also remarked on a planning session of the Deans which she attended in August. Some of the highlights of this session were the replacement of faculty lost due to budget constraints, startup packages for new faculty, student advisement, space management, academic titles and the library. Vice Chair Pote also remarked that she had recently attended the taskforce meeting on tuition waiver.

BUSINESS SENT TO COMMITTEES

Letter from Dr. Altenkirch, re: Intellectual Property revision -- Chair Diehl assigned this issue to the Executive Committee.

Letter from Dr. George Rent, re: AOP 12.16 – Academic Suspension and Dismissal – Chair Diehl assigned this issue to the Student Affairs Committee.

Letter from Dr. George Rent, re: AOP 12.03 – Dead Days –Chair Diehl assigned this issue to the Student Affairs Committee.

BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEES

Letter from Dr. Leslie E. Bauman, re: Archiving Key Faculty Documents – Senator Goodman moved, Senator Rogers seconded, to refer this issue to committee. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. Chair Diehl assigned this issue to the University Resources Committee.

Letter from Dr. George Verrall, re: Core Curriculum and Criteria for Inclusion – Senator Bryant moved, Senator Thaxton seconded, to refer this issue to committee. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. Chair Diehl assigned this issue to the Academic Affairs Committee.

Letter from Dr. Peter Wood, re: Graduate Program Policies – Senator Embree moved, Senator Williams seconded, to refer this issue to committee. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. Chair Diehl assigned this issue to the Faculty Affairs Committee.

Letter from Dr. Charles Lee, re: Proposed Institute and Centers Policy – Senator Rogers moved, Senator Henington seconded, to refer this issue to committee. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. Chair Diehl assigned this issue to the Ancillary Affairs Committee.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Chair Diehl referred to the Executive Committee's report on the *Policy and Procedure Statement on Intellectual Property at Mississippi State University*. Senator Embree moved, Senator Henington seconded, that the Senate approve the changes to the *Policy and Procedure Statement on Intellectual Property at Mississippi State University – Version 1.14.02*.

The motion passed on a Senate vote of 29-0-1.

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.

AD HOC (COMMITTEE ON PRESIDENTIAL SEARCHES)

No report.

POINT OF PRIVILEGE

Senator PC McLaurin is returning to the Senate after having missed the Spring meetings due to a mild heart attack. He had open heart surgery and six bypasses but wanted the Senate to know he is feeling fine and appreciated their concern and friendship. He stated that it is was good to be back.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Submitted for correction and approval.

LaDonne Delgado, Secretary