

ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE UNCORRECTED MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 3, 2010

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, September 3, 2010.

Members absent and excused were: Ben Blair, Mike Brown, Sylvia Byrd, Mike Cox, Bruce Ebanks, Robert Grala, Richard Hopper, Charles Palmer, Janet Rafferty, and Keith Walters.

Members absent were: Ioana Banicescu, John Byrd, Gregg Munshaw, Susan Seal, and Tom White.

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

The minutes of the April 9, 2010, meeting were approved.

GUESTS

DR. MARK KEENUM, PRESIDENT

Dr. Keenum welcomed the Faculty Senate members back to MSU for the 2010-2011 academic year. He said we had a record number of undergraduate and graduate students enrolled at MSU this year and he appreciates the dedication of the faculty for their service. He said that we had a lot to be thankful for, but also a lot of challenges to face in this academic year. MSU has had a thirteen percent total reduction in budget, but thankfully, the SCEI committee recommendations are helping to weather the budget reduction. Also, currently the state of Mississippi has a budget surplus due to overcuts. There are no plans for any cuts this fiscal year, but FY12 will bring another 11% loss in university budget due to a loss of federal stimulus monies. However, we have prepared through SCEI recommendations and tuition increases. Additionally, MSU expects growth in enrollment again next year so Dr. Keenum said he feels confident about our financial standpoint for FY12.

There are currently 19,644 students enrolled, 1,043 more than last year, which have put strain on our system including faculty. Over the summer, 47 faculty members, including 30 instructional faculty members, left due to the retirement incentive, but Dr. Keenum said the process has begun to remedy that deficit. He has the Dr. Gilbert and the Benchmarking committee looking at faculty needs.

Because parking on campus is such an issue, Dr. Keenum said that he received IHL approval to move forward in an initiation process to build a parking garage on campus.

At the next Mississippi Legislative session, Dr. Keenum plans to ask for \$7 million to use in addition to private funds to build a 50,000 square foot state-of-the-art classroom building and bond money to complete the Lee Hall renovation which would convert the lower floor offices into classrooms.

Dr. Keenum said there was also a need for additional residential facilities in the future with the planned growth of the university.

Dr. Gilbert is beginning a formal process of working with the Faculty Senate on Strategic Planning for the campus as a whole, building on the strengths of our campus and deciding where resources should be focused to support our mission.

Later this month, the University Deans will announce recipients of StatePride Award. 400 Faculty colleagues will be recognized with monetary awards for their outstanding commitment to service.

There were four outstanding candidates for Vice President for Budget and Planning. An announcement of a decision is planned to be made possibly next week. The new VP will serve as the C.F.O. for budget and budget analysis for the entire campus.

Dr. Keenum expressed excitement for the first football game weekend and hope for a successful season. He said that there was a sense of confidence and organization on the practice field. He also mentioned the new “Respect the Bell” campaign, hoping it would be a success.

The floor opened for questions.

Dr. Keenum was asked about the possibility of closing Creelman St. to President’s circle during the academic day to help with student flow to classes and to initiate shuttle transport from community apartment complexes to minimize traffic and parking concerns on campus. He responded saying that Dr. Kibler plans to initiate shuttling students from complexes in the future.

Dr. Keenum said he would request input on classroom needs in the new classroom building once the architectural planning stage begins after funding is secured.

After being asked about the use of the University seal on business cards and letterhead, Dr. Keenum said any MSU department has the authority to use the University seal and it is up to the individual departments to decide which emblem they would like to use.

Dr. Keenum said the new iron fencing along Hwy 82 was a project proposed by MDOT for campus beautification. MSU was asked to pay 20% of the cost which ended up being \$50,000.

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

Dr. Gilbert expressed excitement about financial commitments to build a new classroom building and concern about this year’s increase in students and deficit in faculty members. Additionally, he has requested Dr. Myers to chair a search for a new Dean of the Shackouls Honors College and Dr. D’Abramo to chair a search for a new Dean of the College of Business and Industry.

Dr. Gilbert said an application has been sent to the Carnegie Community Engagement classification process to see if MSU could be classified as a Carnegie Community Engagement University. He thinks we have an excellent application and a good chance of receiving a positive evaluation.

He has asked Glenn Steele and his Advisory Committee to advise the Provost’s Office to decide which mergers proposed in SCEI report should begin only if significant savings occur. The merger process developed in the Spring Faculty Roundtable will be used in proceeding with any mergers.

The Human Resources Management Group is evaluating staff vacancies due to the retirement incentive and Faculty evaluations are being done by the Provost’s Office with input from the Benchmarking committee. The plan is to refill half of both staff and faculty vacancies.

Dr. Gilbert said that he had two proposals before the Faculty Senate for review and feedback – one regarding Instructional Professors and another regarding electronic feedback evaluating Department Heads and Deans.

This fall we will begin a Strategic planning process to develop a plan for the future including metrics to chart progress. The planning process may take at least 1 year.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Welcome to the 2010-2011 academic year and thanks to each of you for serving your colleagues through the Mississippi State University R. H. Holland Faculty Senate. On behalf of the veteran Senators, I want welcome each new faculty representative and we look forward to getting to know over this next year.

Your Faculty Senate officers are Dr. Megan Millea (Vice President), Dr. Dana Franz (Secretary), and the Committee Chairs are Dr. Jerry Emison, University Resources, Dr. Tom Carskadon, Student Affairs, Dr. Janet Rafferty, Charter and By-Laws, Dr. Cody Coyne, Faculty Affairs, Dr. David Bridges, Academic Affairs, and Dr. Brian Rude, Ancillary Affairs. Over the summer your Executive Committee met a number of times including a very useful meeting with Dr. Jerry Gilbert, Provost and Executive Vice President. I have also continued to meet with President Keenum to discuss issues of importance to the Faculty.

It is my personal honor and privilege to have the opportunity to serve a second term as your Faculty Senate President and represent the Faculty at many different venues on Campus. Over the past year I have learned how varied the many aspects of the university are. Further, the relevance and importance of following the Principles for University Governance have been demonstrated many times over. By the Senate ensuring that all MSU parties related to an issue are represented at the table, we all can expect the best chance for a favorable outcome to any issue that presented.

Last year the President's Select Committee on Efficiencies and Innovations presented 59 recommendations for further study in an effort to meet the budgetary shortfalls MSU will be facing over the next few years. As a result of the report, a number of different task forces were established to further study the applicability of the recommendations. I was appointed to serve on a number of different groups representing the Faculty's viewpoint. A diligent effort is being put forth by all involved to find the best solutions to our budgetary issues and I have been most impressed by the level of commitment of all those involved. I feel confident that through this proactive initiative, MSU will emerge from the process much stronger and positioned to continue to excel in the future.

Because of the proactive efforts of many different people on the across campus this past year, there is now a collection of institutional knowledge and memory, the likes of which have not existed in my time at MSU. This unique set of conditions, coupled with the transparency and collaboration that President Keenum and Provost Gilbert are insisting upon in their administration, has created a sense of optimism on campus. 2010-2011 will surely present MSU and the Faculty Senate with many issues of importance. As we work to meet the challenges ahead, let us all strive in the continuance of our traditions of an atmosphere of collegiality, cooperation, civility and mutual respect in all our deliberations.

Submitted August 31, 2010

R. H. "Hart" Bailey
President
Faculty Senate

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

Academic Dean's Council met through the summer. I have reports for the August 2nd, 16th, and August 30th meetings.

August 2nd

- The Office of Institutional Research and the Office of Institutional Effectiveness were merged. Dr. T. Chamblee is the Director of that new office—Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness, which is still located in Allen Hall.
- We have had 4 excellent candidates for the Vice President for Budget and Planning come to campus for interviews.
- Two revisions to the Promotion and Tenure Application
 - No longer a non-mandatory tenure decision option
 - Now a question addressing U.S. citizenship and permanent residency
- Dr. P. Ryan, Dr. R. Vaughn, and Joan Lucas were working on international travel forms related to travel warnings.
- Discussion began about the Instructional Faculty Proposal and the following recommendations were made:
 - Use same salary raise for promotions as used for tenure track faculty
 - Develop specific guidelines for promotion.
 - A lower ratio of instruction faculty to tenure track faculty.
- Dr. G. Jackson discussed the Benchmarking Committee's recommendation to reallocate some of the retirement incentive funding to the colleges and departments based on benchmarking data.

August 16th

- Revision to International Travel Form was announced. Traveler must sign International Travel Statement (A-04) before travel will be approved which basically certifies that there are no warnings or restrictions associated with the requested travel.
- Oil Spill Conference on September 23rd on the coast was announced.
- Greg Mortenson will be on campus on September 23rd.
- Dr. Gilbert led a discussion concerning faculty offer letters regarding start-up and course loads.
- Human Resources Management Interim Director, Judy Spencer, was conducting evaluations of staffing related to the retirement incentives.
- Memorandum of Understanding Agreements should be sent through the Provost's Office for approval. Dr. P. Ryan and Nancy Fultz are the contact people for questions.
- Dr. J. Hodges discussed the Benchmarking Committee's metrics and suggested that MSU solicit external reviewers from peer and peer-plus institutions to make comparisons of our units to national norms.

August 30th

- Dr. Gilbert reviewed enrollment impacts on the faculty. We have 1,000 new students, so we are 50 faculty members down associated with increased enrollment. In addition there were 30 retirements, at a 50% replacement rate, we are an additional 15 faculty down.
- Department Heads are reviewing the data from the Benchmarking Committee.

- The Provost's Office is tying positions to departments and making recommendations to the deans on how positions should be allocated, but deans can discuss any changes they would like to make in the implementation with him.
- General Faculty meeting will be held September 17th at 2:00 in the Union.
- MSU Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness submitted an application for the institution to be recognized for hits community engagement.
- The VP for Budget and Finance search is reaching its final stages with Dr. Gilbert meeting with President Keenum this week.
- The Athletics Department would like to work with the campus to facilitate better planning for potential Thursday night games. One consideration is to alter the academic calendar so that games are incorporated into the schedule.
- Interim Director of Human Resources Management discussed issues related to filling staffing positions.
- Dr. L. D'Abramo mentioned changing the wording on graduate degrees to reflect the re-institution of the Graduate School.

Respectfully Submitted,

Meghan Millea
August 31, 2010

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS COMMITTEE

No Report

BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEES

6.1 LETTER FROM DR. GOODMAN RE: PROMOTION AND TENURE PROCEDURES (FACULTY AFFAIRS)

6.2 LETTER FROM DR. GILBERT RE: PROMOTION AND TENURE APPLICATION FORMS (FACULTY AFFAIRS)

6.3 LETTER FROM DR. GILBERT RE: PROPOSAL FOR THE CREATION OF A NEW CATEGORY OF FACULTY AT MSU: INSTRUCTIONAL PROFESSORS (FACULTY AFFAIRS)

6.4 LETTER FROM DR. RYAN RE: AOP 12.11- DEGREE REQUIREMENTS – UNDERGRADUATES (ACADEMIC AFFAIRS)

6.5 LETTER FROM DR. RYAN RE: AOP 12.13 – ACADEMIC RECORDS (ACADEMIC AFFAIRS)

6.6 ONLINE SUBMISSION FROM DR. GU RE: TUITION REMITTANCE FOR SPOUSES (ANCILLARY AFFAIRS)

6.7 LETTER FROM DR. GILBERT RE: ANNUAL EVALUATION FOR ADMINISTRATORS (ANCILLARY AFFAIRS)

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS	NO REPORT
ANCILLARY AFFAIRS	NO REPORT
CHARTER AND BYLAWS	NO REPORT
FACULTY AFFAIRS	NO REPORT
STUDENT AFFAIRS	NO REPORT
UNIVERSITY RESOURCES	NO REPORT
SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS	None
OLD BUSINESS	None
NEW BUSINESS	None

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35.

Submitted for correction and approval.

Dana Pomykal Franz, Secretary