

**ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE
APPROVED MINUTES OF MEETING ON SEPTEMBER 8, 2000**

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 8, 2000.

Members absent and excused were Sharon Black, Susan Bridges, Thomas G. Carskadon, Kathy Dooley, Randy Follett, Homes Hogue, Ken Hood, Bill Maslin, Nancy McCarley, Sue S. Minchew, James Thomas, Rick L. Travis and Clyde Williams.

Members absent and unexcused were David H. Huddleston, and Paul Thaxton.

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.

The minutes of the April 28, 2000, Regular Meeting were approved as distributed.

Chair Embree introduced the new members of the Senate: taking Dr. Randy Follett's place is Dr. Masoud Rais-Rohani, Aerospace Engineering; and Student Association President (non-voting member) Jenny Reeves.

GUESTS

Chair Embree introduced guests of the Senate: President Malcolm Portera; Dr. David Cole, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs; and Ms. Paula Jernigan, Affirmative Action Officer.

MALCOLM PORTERA, PRESIDENT

Dr. Portera provided the following information:

- < Enrollment situation - record high enrollment, over 15,750 students; task group to address issue of enrollment and admissions policy; admission standards as possible roundtable topic.
- < Research Activity expanded - IHL Board approved the Library fee which is now a Library and Technology Fee giving the Library an additional one million dollars again this year. Sponsored and unsponsored research continues to grow at MSU. MSU ranked in top 100 among Public Universities. External research funding for 1999-2000

is up 30% over last year.

- < Infrastructure of the University -- Hilbun is done; moved in. Vacating McCain next semester and will begin work which should take about 18-24 months. Lee Hall external work continues and is progressing -- about half through and should be done by the end of next semester. The second phase of the Lee Hall renovation comprises adding air-conditioning to the Auditorium. Vacating Montgomery Hall in the Spring semester and will bid the work during the Fall. The contract for the North Entrance has been awarded and work will begin this month. Work has begun on the Bike Path. The second phase of renovating Hand Lab has begun concentrating on putting a new roof on the building. The bids will go out this Fall for work on the Chapel Bell Tower and for the Landscape Architecture Building. Bids for work on Bowen Hall will go out in late Spring. Sessums and McKee are completed. 770 students on the waiting list to get in to these dorms.

- < Budget -- The state of Mississippi finished the last budget year, 1998-1999, \$79 million below projections. Income Tax Withholdings for the state of Mississippi for the month of August 2000 were down 15.8% from projections. The shortfall for the state of Mississippi was \$20 million dollars just for the month of August. MSU has been formulating a plan which will allow the university to address a 5% budget cut by the state of Mississippi and to address the House Bill 400 shortfall of about \$1.8 million. Part of this plan is the freezing of vacant staff positions. Plans are not to touch faculty positions and not to effect departmental operating expenses. Plans are to take the money from the frozen positions (about \$5 million) and add that to the dollars generated from the growth in enrollment and offset the budget cut and House Bill 400 shortfall. If the possible budget cut by the Governor is less than 5%, Portera wants to take the extra funds and address the critical needs of departmental operating budgets and staff support salaries.

PAULA JERNIGAN, AFFIRMATIVE ACTION OFFICER

Paula Jernigan referred to attachment two of the agenda entitled "Affirmative Action Compliance Program, Executive Summary, Presented to Executive Council, July 10, 2000." This document is still a draft document and is not yet on the web but, once it is approved possibly in late Fall, the official document will be accessible via the web.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair Embree referred to the Robert Holland Faculty Senate Chair's Report as distributed. He commented on that full copies of the minutes are on the Senate web page. The Administrative Secretary to the Faculty Senate Office has been cut to half-time with her remaining time serving in the University Curriculum Committee. Due to the University's budget reallocation, the Senate budget lost \$1,920 last year and again this year although half of this year's lost amount is scheduled to be returned. Next Senate meeting, October 13th, will be held in the President's Conference Room of the Coliseum.

REPORT OF THE VICE CHAIR

Vice Chair D=Abramo referred to the Robert Holland Faculty Senate Vice Chair=s Report as distributed. He commented on the Traffic Policy Committee report saying that this would be a busy year and for Senators to please ask him questions if they arise and he will bring them before this committee. Questions pertaining to the Band now reporting directly to Academic Affairs; Dave Boles half-time appointment as Director of Academic Support and Student Retention; and Dr. Cole=s remarks pertaining to move up the deadline for submission of P & T packets arose and Vice Chair D=Abramo made notes to follow up and get clarification.

REPORT FROM FACULTY SENATE DESIGNATES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

Employee Benefits Committee -- Senator Tom Fisher reported on the (1)PERS change, (2) the Health Care Plan Update Newsletter recently distributed, (3) the Sams Club membership memo, (4) the new Banner AWeb for Employees@site, and (5) that Aflac will offer an ICU benefit to go with the cancer benefit.

BUSINESS SENT TO COMMITTEES

AOP 11.05 - Shortened Format Courses and Contact Hours -- Chair Embree assigned this issue to the Academic Affairs Committee.

AOP 12.05 - MSU Policy for ATuition Remission Policy/Procedure for Undergraduate Students who are Sons and Daughters of MSU Faculty and/or Staff -- Chair Embree assigned this issue to the Student Affairs Committee.

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

AOP 12.01 - Academic Add/Drop Policy -- Chair Embree assigned this issue to the Student Affairs Committee.

AOP 12.07 - Academic Misconduct -- 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 12.29 - Freshman Entrance Requirements -- Chair Embree assigned this issue to the Student Affairs Committee.

BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEES

Letter from Dr. Crowell re: Personnel Matters at Meridian Campus -- Senator Bryant moved, Senator Kelly 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 Faculty Affairs Committee.

Letter from Dr. Crowell re: Budgeting to Support Scholarly Activities -- Senator Kelly moved, Senator Duncan 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 University Resources Committee.

Letter from Dr. Zuercher re: Governance Questions relevant to DAFVM -- Senator Crowell moved, Senator Cathcart seconded, to allow Dr. Zuercher to speak to the Senate pertaining to his letter. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of the Senate. Dr. Zuercher made his comments. Open meeting in Bost Extension Center, South Auditorium on Thursday, September 14, 2000, to discuss this issue.

Senator Crowell moved, Senator Salin 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 Charter and Bylaws Committee.

Letter from Dr. Adebisi re: AOP 13.15 - Teaching, Performance, Evaluation -- Senator D=Abramo moved, Senator Rogers seconded, to refer this issue to committee.

Senator Cinnella moved, Senator Crowell seconded, to review the AOP 13.15 first and not the letter. Senator Crowell made a friendly amendment stating to review both the AOP and the letter. The motion to substitute Senator Cinnella's motion in place of Senator D=Abramo's original motion failed.

Therefore Senator D=Abramo's original motion to send the Dr. Adebisi's letter to committee was before the Senate. A friendly amendment by Senator Crowell was accepted to also request that the committee review AOP 13.15. The motion passed on a majority voice vote of the Senate. Chair Embree assigned this issue to the Academic Affairs Committee.

Letter from Dr. Crowell re: Staff Cuts -- Senator Duncan moved, Senator Gootee 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 Ancillary Affairs Committee.

Letter from Dr. Laughlin re: Agribusiness Institute Cut -- Senator Rogers moved, Senator McLaurin 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 Charter and Bylaws Committee.

Letter from Dr. Williams re: Budgeting Practices -- Senator Kelly moved, Senator Crowell 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 University Resources 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 COMMITTEE

No report.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

No reports.

OLD BUSINESS

No old business.

NEW BUSINESS

Letter to Senate from Dan Embree re: Senate-Sponsored Roundtable -- Senator Marshall moved, Senator Salin seconded, to support the Round-Tables with the Fall topic being faculty/staff morale and the Spring topic being admission standards. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of the Senate. Probable date for the Fall Round-Table is November 4, 2000.

POINT OF PERSONAL PRIVILEGE

Senator Chris Duncan took a point of personal privilege to comment on the September 8, 2000, Reflector article pertaining to a colleague being accused of misdemeanor child abuse. Several points in the article suggest a rush to judgement and a sensationalistic approach to defaming faculty without a true attempt to investigate the facts. Senator Duncan urges his fellow Senators to talk to their student about the integrity of what is being published about our faculty members and colleagues so that this does not become a forum for ripping someone's reputation to shreds.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Submitted for correction and approval.

LaDonne Delgado, Secretary

