

**ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE
UNCORRECTED MINUTES OF MEETING ON NOVEMBER 9, 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, November 9, 2001.

Members absent and excused were Susan Bridges, Kathy Dooley, Patricia Lestrade, Bill Maslin, Vincent McGrath, Linda Pote, and Robert Rogers.

Members absent and unexcused were Keith Hodge, Homes Hogue, Ken Hood, Rachel McCann, PC McLaurin, Gary Myers, Evan Nebeker, Richard Still, 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 Dan Embree called the meeting to order.

Chair Embree referred to the minutes of the October 12, 2001, Regular Meeting as distributed. Senators made corrections from the floor. Senator Crowell moved, Senator Thaxton seconded, that the Senate approve the minutes of October 12, 2001, as corrected. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

GUESTS

Chair Embree introduced guests: Dr. Kirk Arnett, Faculty Athletic Representative, and Dr. David Boles, Associate Athletic Director.

**KIRK ARNETT, FACULTY ATHLETIC REPRESENTATIVE
DAVID BOLES, ASSOCIATE ATHLETIC DIRECTOR**

Dr. Arnett and Dr. Boles provided the following information:

- < Dr. Arnett reported that the Faculty Athletic Representatives of the Southeast Conference will be meeting on December 5th and 6th to discuss various topics such as the class attendance policy standard across institutions and the no-pass-no-play rule.
- < Dr. Boles referred to the handout distributed prior to the meeting. (Attachment #)
- < Dr. Arnett referred to the Procedure for Selection of Athletic Academic Study Committee and has written the attached letter to Chair Embree asking the Senate to review and make recommendations to the proposed Athletic Department policy statement regarding this procedure.
- < Dr. Boles referred to the NCAA Official 2001 Graduation Rates Report as distributed.

- < Senator Morse asked about student athletes transferring to the university from a junior college who have less than a 2.0 GPA. Dr. Boles responded that we will not see this occurrence after this year due to a policy change. This year two athletes were given special admissions.
- < Senator Morse asked about the advising of athletes. She was aware of a situation where a student had been placed in a major because the advisor put him there and not because the student had any interest in majoring in that field. Dr. Boles responded with an example of two students who entered the university last year wanting to be engineers with a 16 on their math ACTs; therefore the advisors did try to channel them in different directions. He then mentioned another student who wanted to change his major in his junior year and Dr. Boles reminded him that to be eligible for sports during his senior year, he would have to have 75% of a degree completed; therefore, if the student changed his major, he would not be eligible for football. The student decided not to change his major until after his senior year so he would be eligible for football, but it then took him six years to graduate in his new major. Dr. Boles stated that he would get with Senator Morse and look into the specific case to which she is referring.
- < Senator Goodman asked what the relationship was between the athletic academic advisor and the faculty academic advisor. Dr. Boles responded that the faculty academic advisor has to sign off on every schedule. Senator Goodman mentioned a particular case where this was not true. Dr. Boles stated that he would check into the situation.
- < Senator Morse stated that frequently when she asked a student athlete who his/her advisor is that the student does not know. The student might mention his/her athletic academic advisor but not the faculty academic advisor. Dr. Boles stated that this is not supposed to be the case.
- < Senator Crowell asked Dr. Boles if faculty should let him know of specific cases such as those which have been mentioned during today's discussion. Dr. Boles responded affirmatively.
- < Dr. Boles commented on amateurism rules and how they have affected three foreign athletes at MSU.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

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

- < There is one new member of the Robert Holland Faculty Senate, Alan Blaine.
- < Delores Hudson has been hired as the Faculty Senate Office Secretary.
- < President Portera will be leaving MSU for a position at the University of Alabama.
- < Chair Embree referred to Portera's outline for the future of MSU as presented at the Fall Roundtable. Portera gave three criteria for making the judgments listed in his outline: (1) the critical mass of faculty, (2) measures of success and (3) future potential for success. Embree asked Portera if the frozen positions (as listed on page 24 of the

- agenda) were frozen forever or whether they might be reinstated. Portera responded that they are frozen forever.
- < Senator Williams commented on the American History and Counselor Education positions and asked how Portera arrived at this list of frozen positions. Embree responded that he had asked a month in advance about where these numbers came from and was not given an answer.
- < Senator Thaxton commented that agriculture seems to have been deleted from Portera's plan and asked why. Embree responded that Portera's underlying idea is to reinforce success and that programs which are doing well and bringing in research dollars should be given the stimulus to do even better. On the other hand, Embree reminded Portera that we should not give up on any of MSU's programs so that we will have the best program in every discipline in the state. This shows a contradiction between Portera's previously-stated plans for MSU's future and the currently-stated goals and objectives of the University.
- < Senator Thaxton commented that MSU needs to change the stated mission of the University if we are going to accept Portera's plans for the future. Embree responded that he is on the SACS committee that is rewriting the mission of the University and he will bring this to the committee's attention.
- < Senator Diehl commented that the first list is designed to show where graduate enrollment will increase, and the second list is designed to show substantial growth in research.
- < Senator Greenwood asked about the relationship between the positions listed on page 24 and 25 of the agenda. Embree responded that the positions listed on page 24 are gone and the positions listed on page 25 were given permission to be filled as new positions.
- < Senator Morse asked about the Meridian Campus request. Embree was not sure about this and would check on it.
- < The Student Association sent Chair Embree two resolutions: (1) it plans to petition for an off-campus shuttle and (2) it plans to petition for an academic forgiveness policy. No action from the Senate needs to be taken.
- < The University and the Board of Alderman have started having a breakfast together once a month, and Embree attends these. One productive idea was to consider a traffic light at Highway 12 and the Highway Patrol Station.
- < Embree attended the October IHL meeting, and a discussion took place about periodically evaluating university presidents. Embree remarked to Board members that they should talk to university faculty about this evaluation and other topics.
- < The Educational Building Corporation met to approve the bonds for the power generator system for MSU.
- < Senator Cathcart asked about the power generator system, and Embree responded that it was an interruptible system allowing MSU to save money.
- < Senator Payne asked if the list of new facilities as shown on page 22 of the agenda was in priority order. Embree responded that he was not sure because it was never discussed.

REPORT OF THE VICE CHAIR

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

- < On October 24, 2001, Senator Diehl and representatives from each of the IHL institutions met with Governor Musgrove to discuss the two resolutions listed in the Vice Chairs report.
- < Senator Marshall asked why the number 4% was chosen, and Senator Diehl responded that it was probably chosen because it was the percentage that the IHL was going to request from the legislature.
- < Senator Crowell commented on the 84 parking spaces behind Cresswell Hall and asked if discussion occurred about allowing fifteen slots to remain faculty slots. Diehl responded that as soon as the renovations are completed on Cresswell, the parking spaces will revert back to being Cresswell parking spaces. Diehl stated that he would pass this request along to the Traffic Policy Committee.

REPORT FROM FACULTY SENATE DESIGNATES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

University Research Council -- Senator Cinnella referred to his reports as distributed and shared the following comments:

- < The November meeting was scheduled concurrently with this Senate meeting; therefore, Cinnella was not able to attend.
- < Senator Marshall asked about the possibility of MSU's Human Resources using the Mississippi State Employment Service in part of the hiring process. Senator Cinnella responded that this was mentioned in bullet one of his report on page 26 of the agenda. Senator Diehl commented that this process is meant to streamline the application phase of the employment process for non-exempt support staff at MSU by leveraging the referral and screening services available through the Mississippi State Employment Service. It is meant to save time and encourage more applicants.
- < Senator Marshall asked exactly what staff positions are going to be screened as opposed to those that will not. Senator Cinnella responded that he would check and report back.

UNIVERSITY BENEFITS COMMITTEE

Senator Nebeker reported that American National Insurance is pulling out of the state. After reviewing several different company proposals, a recommendation to the President is to ask Unum to provide supplemental insurance. The dental insurance will be switched to Delta Insurance, and Blue Bonnet will be dropped due to an upcoming rate increase.

BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEES

Letter from Dr. Lorenzo M. Crowell, re: Faculty Salaries -- Senator Bryant 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 University Resources Committee.

Letter from Dr. Clyde V. Williams, re: Curriculum Approval Process -- Senator Crowell moved, Senator Goodman 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. Lorenzo M. Crowell re: Mississippi License Tags -- Senator Montgomery moved, Senator Williams seconded, to refer this issue to committee. The motion failed on a Senate vote of 13-23-0.

Letter from Dr. Kirk Arnett re: Athletic Department policy changes -- Senator Crowell moved, Senator Marshall seconded, to suspend the rules and bring before the Senate Dr. Kirk Arnett's letter. The motion passed on a Senate vote of 35-0-0. Senator Crowell moved, Senator Thaxton 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 Salin moved, Senator Thaxton seconded, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of the Senate.

Submitted for correction and approval.

LaDonne Delgado, Secretary