

ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE UNCORRECTED MINUTES OF MEETING ON FEBRUARY 15, 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, February 15, 2002.

Members absent and excused were Pasquale Cinnella, David Foote, Patricia Lestrade, Bill Maslin, PC McLaurin, Gary Myers, Nancy Reichert, and James Thomas.

No members were absent and unexcused.

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 January 18, 2002, Regular Meeting as distributed. Senator Rogers moved, Senator Montgomery seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate approve the minutes of January 18, 2002. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

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

- Chair Embree stated that Interim President Lee sent his apologies for not being at this Senate meeting. He understands that they are important and plans to attend as often as possible.
- Chair Embree apologized on behalf of ITS for not getting the electronic packets out on time and stated that it was due to network problems.
- Chair Embree mentioned the impending budget cuts for next year which are estimated to reduce the Senate's budget. He is trying to use the remainder of this year's funds as wisely as possible; thus the refreshments at each meeting will be less and are from a private donor. These cuts will also lead to the elimination of the chair's cell phone, cuts in some travel to IHL Board meetings (unless funded by individuals), and severe cuts in the purchase of paper which will force the use of electronic packets.
- This afternoon, the Faculty Senate Executive Council had a productive lunch with Carl Nicholson.

GUESTS

Chair Embree introduced guests: Mr. Carl Nicholson, IHL Board Member; Mrs. Scott Ross, IHL Board Member; and Dr. George Verrall, Interim Provost.

CARL NICHOLSON, IHL BOARD MEMBER

Mr. Nicholson provided the following information:

- Mr. Nicholson thanked the Senate for giving him the opportunity to attend this meeting and speak to them about the presidential search process.
- This IHL Board is working hard with the legislature to try to do some things about funding.
- Mr. Nicholson has been involved in about 11-12 searches for university presidents or Commissioners of Higher Education in Mississippi. It takes a “buy-in” of all constituent groups (e.g. alumni, faculty, staff) to make these searches successful.
- Mr. Nicholson also chaired the previous MSU presidential search and quoted Chair Embree as having said “It was a fair search and it was inclusive.”
- Mr. Nicholson stated that this process is a very fair process and the faculty’s input is sought from the very beginning to the very end of the entire search process. He feels that the faculty and alumni are the two most important constituent groups and wants to make sure that they are heard from first. Also there needs to be a very diverse group, both on and off campus, to make sure that persons from every background have an opportunity to voice their opinion.
- As chairman of the search, Mr. Nicholson cannot guarantee the Senate that if the faculty hold an election, that the Board will vote to allow all of the elected faculty to serve on the Advisory Committee. He stated that he and Scott Ross are going to do everything they can to make the MSU faculty feel good about this process.
- Senator Liddell asked what would be the IHL Board’s rationale for not letting the elected faculty serve on the Advisory Committee. Mr. Nicholson responded that the IHL Board has never used this process before in searching for a university president and, if they chose to allow elected faculty to serve on the Advisory Committee, it would be a change in procedure.
- Senator Liddell again asked, based on Mr. Nicholson’s knowledge, what would he say would be a rationale to persuade the faculty not to elect its constituents for the Advisory Committee. Mr. Nicholson responded that things with the IHL Board tend not to change very often. There are twelve members each serving twelve-year terms and “these” processes get developed over a period of time. He can’t say that these processes won’t change but he can’t guarantee that they will. He can’t answer Liddell’s question any better except to say that we are all going to have to trust each other to do the best job possible without “drawing lines in the sand.”
- Chair Embree addressed the Senate stating that Mr. Nicholson has asked the Executive Council to provide him with a plan for an election of faculty who would serve on the Advisory Committee. Embree will e-mail this plan to him immediately following this meeting. This plan would be for Dean Coleman, as chair of the Advisory

Committee, to ask the colleges to conduct elections. She would also ask the Interim Provost to conduct an “at-large” election and to have the Giles and Grisham scholars to hold elections. This would produce a body of 18 elected faculty apportioned as follows: one elected faculty per college totaling eight faculty, one elected faculty from the Library, one elected faculty from Extension, one elected faculty from Meridian, one elected faculty from the Grisham scholars, one elected faculty from the Giles scholars, and five “at-large” elected faculty. Note that the Faculty Senate would play no role in this election process. The names of these elected faculty would be given to the chair of the Advisory Committee, Dean Coleman. She would then appoint an additional number of faculty (probably six) to address any concerns she might have pertaining to diversity, etc. At this point, the faculty “pool” of Advisory Committee members would be sent to the IHL Board for its approval. Approval would mean that all members of the elected faculty would serve on the Advisory Committee unless the IHL Board had good reasons for denying a particular person’s service.

- Mr. Nicholson stated that the IHL Board is not yet aware of the plan and has not agreed or approved it in any way. He will bring this plan before the IHL Board to see what happens. He stated again that the IHL Board will be fair and that he wants the faculty to be happy with this process. He also stated that the next university president is doomed for failure if the faculty are not “on board” with the process.
- Senator Wood asked what the IHL Board’s timetable is for the search and when does the Board envision a new president taking office. Mr. Nicholson responded that the first and most important thing to be done is to name a consultant so that he can start developing a pool of candidates. Three firms are in the running for this process, and the IHL Board will probably name the successful consulting firm this Wednesday or Thursday. Then the MSU Advisory Committee will narrow the list of candidates from 70-100 to about ten or twelve. The IHL Board Committee will then interview this short list of candidates and cut the list down to three or four candidates. These candidates will then visit and interview on campus with all constituent groups who will report their thoughts and opinions to the IHL Board Committee. At this point, the IHL Board will make the final decision for selecting a new MSU President. Mr. Nicholson stated that this process has always worked in the past and that the “cream always rises to the top” and the best candidates will appear on the short list.
- Senator Wood again asked what the IHL Board’s timetable is for the search and when does the Board envision a new president taking office. Mr. Nicholson responded that March and April will be for the MSU Advisory Committee to narrow the list of candidates to 10-12, the IHL Board will interview those candidates in May and cut the list to 3-4, these candidates will be brought to campus in June, and he hopes a new president would take office on September 1st. This would be the quickest that the process could be done although Mr. Nicholson has his doubts that the process will work this quickly in reality especially since many faculty are off in the summer.
- Senator Rogers asked if the IHL Board will be able to make sure that the successful candidate knows, understands and supports the land grant institution concept. Mr. Nicholson responded that the MSU alumni and the people on this search committee believe that MSU needs a president that understands the land grant mission which is

why he (Nicholson) leans toward a particular consulting firm which specializes in land grant institutions.

- Senator Montgomery asked if, in his (Nicholson's) years of experience with IHL Board, that the IHL Board has always gone along with the campus advisory committee's short list. Mr. Nicholson responded that this has been true in most every case – that he seems to remember one search where the IHL Board did add one candidate to the list after the Advisory Committee had made its recommendations.
- Senator Montgomery asked if this meant that the Advisory Committee would be involved throughout the entire search process and not just the initial steps. Mr. Nicholson responded that this would be true.
- Senator McCann asked Mr. Nicholson if he was an advocate of having elected faculty serve on the Advisory Committee. Mr. Nicholson responded that this is why he wants to see Chair Embree's plan in writing so that he could properly understand our request. He stated that he "wants us to have our election."
- Senator McCann again asked Mr. Nicholson if he was an advocate of having electing faculty serve on the Advisory Committee. He stated that he could not answer that question until he had seen the plan in writing. He again stated that he wanted the faculty to "be happy" and that he wanted this resolved quickly.
- Senator Crowell asked if the IHL Board should give a candidate a "litmus test," that it test for a candidate that has had significant experience in the classroom within the last ten years so this person would understand the problems that MSU faculty are dealing with, rather than using the CEO model. Mr. Nicholson responded that he agreed with Senator Crowell's choice of test and remarked that the IHL Board understands this too.

SCOTT ROSS, IHL BOARD MEMBER

Mr. Ross had no remarks for the Senate, and no questions were asked by the Senate.

GEORGE VERRALL, INTERIM PROVOST

Interim Provost Verrall provided the following information:

- The university administration is in the process of preparing a master plan for the campus. As soon as Verrall gets a "general flavor" from the consultant of what MSU should consider for this plan, then he (Verrall) will bring this information before the Senate. Together the Senate and Verrall will determine how this group, as an elected, organized body, will have input in developing the master plan. Probably by next week, Verrall will have this information to the Senate and will determine how to schedule interaction between the Senate and other parties involved in this process. Verrall will also seek input from the Deans about their colleges, etc. He is optimistic that a master plan can be developed that everyone will be familiar with and that everyone understands will be reviewed periodically and changed if necessary. Verrall stated that he does not feel as though the Senate has been part of the planning process over the past twenty years.

- The SACS Town Hall meetings started yesterday and Verrall encouraged everyone to attend future meetings and express their opinions.
- Senator McCann asked if he was referring to a physical master plan versus a policy master plan. Verrall responded that this would be a physical master plan although certain changes in academic and/or research programs could play a factor in the physical master plan and those creating this plan would need to know these factors too.
- Senator Williams asked about Meridian. Verrall responded that the process for selecting the new dean at Meridian is moving ahead. The committee has shortened the list of candidates and preparing to start the interview process.
- Senator Williams asked about the Meridian Memorandum of Understanding and what was the status of it. Verrall responded that he had not yet reviewed the Memorandum of Understanding, and at the moment, he was concentrating on talking to the Meridian faculty and trying to get an understanding of what is disturbing them. He is concerned about the Memorandum of Understanding as well as other Meridian issues and he is looking in to all of them.
- Senator Payne asked what MSU's monetary role is in the Opera House in Meridian. Verrall responded that money is on the table to restore the two buildings. A small amount of money is set aside that will generate some yearly income from the trust to pay for utilities, but not enough to operate programs. The thought was that these operating dollars would be generated through revenue from conferences, clinics, workshops, performances, etc. to pay for programs and retire any operational costs. Verrall does not support the idea of using MSU main campus dollars to support the Opera House in Meridian.
- Senator Crowell remarked that Verrall's predecessor once stated the need to teach "24/7" and spread the load out over the day, five days a week and then asked if this was also the policy of his (Verrall's) administration. Verrall responded that he was not aware of any such policy and feels better about allowing the faculty and their departments doing their own scheduling because they know best what is needed and when.
- Senator Crowell asked about the access road that has been placed on agricultural research land on Highway 82 near the Shell station and that now guard houses are at both ends of this stretch of road. He asked how these were paid for. Verrall responded that he did not know but would find out and report back.
- Verrall stated that Mr. Nicholson would be meeting with the Vice Presidents at 3 pm and that he (Verrall) will be very interested to hear if Nicholson says anything different from his remarks to the Senate because it would be most disturbing and that he would state so to Mr. Nicholson and report such differences to the Senate.

REPORT OF THE VICE CHAIR

- Vice Chair Diehl reminded Senators that the Spring Roundtable would be held on February 23rd at the Enology Lab and the topic for discussion will be University Governance. The slate of participants is nearing completion. At this point, those participating are for the non-Faculty Senate faculty: Steve Klein, Psychology Head;

Susan Hall, Library; Dawn Luthe, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology; Lou D'Abramo, Wildlife and Fisheries; Wayne Bennett, Engineering Dean; Deborah Lee, Library; and Leslie Bauman, Physics. Those participating as Faculty Senate faculty are Walter Diehl, Biological Sciences; Dan Embree, English; Linda Pote, Veterinary Medicine; Clyde Williams, English; Roy Montgomery, Veterinary Medicine; Susan Bridges, Computer Science; and Kathy Dooley, Counselor Education and Ed. Psychology.

- Vice Chair Diehl referred to the Robert Holland Faculty Senate Vice Chairs Report as distributed. He pointed out the listing on page two of the packet for the SAC's Town Hall meetings and encouraged everyone to participate.
- Senator Crowell referred to the Traffic Policy Committee's report for January 31, 2002, which states that the Committee declined to add handicapped parking spaces to the east side of Allen Hall and asked why. Vice Chair Diehl responded that the Committee first asked Physical Plant if this really was a problem; stated that the handicapped spaces around Allen Hall are adequate. The request specifically asked for handicapped spaces on the east side of Allen Hall, but it was pointed out that this would actually be more inconvenient when handicapped persons tried to access elevators, which are on the west side. Diehl also noted that if Physical Plant determines the need for a handicapped parking space, they usually go ahead and create it without going through the Traffic Policy Committee and simply inform the Committee afterwards.
- Senator Embree asked to whom does one talk about needed spaces. Diehl responded that persons could bring specific written requests to him or to Andy Gillentine, Chair of the Traffic Policy Committee.
- Senator Crowell asked who at the Physical Plant dealt with parking spaces. Vice Chair Diehl stated that he did not know but would find out and report back.
- Senator Pote referred to Interim Provost George Verrall's report on performance measures and targets and asked what discussion took place on this topic. Diehl stated that the discussion was about as long as those two sentences with no additional remarks but that he would talk to Verrall and get some clarification.

REPORT FROM FACULTY SENATE DESIGNATES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

University Benefits Committee – Senator Nebeker reported the following:

- Universal Fitness is preparing a plan so that MSU personnel can buy a home gym at a discount.
- The Committee is trying to determine if it needs to conduct another campus-wide survey on benefits. Two issues for which it would like information are vision care and long term disability care.

- *Hollywood Premier Cinema* is allowing MSU personnel and students to purchase movie tickets at the MSU Union's Information Desk for \$4.00 per ticket. The tickets have no expiration date and can be used for any movie except during the opening weekend of that particular show.
 - MSU employees will not have Spring Break off this year.
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Senator Williams moved, Senator Montgomery seconded, that the Senate suspend the rules to allow business since the agenda packet did not reach all Senators before the three-day deadline. The motion passed on a Senate vote of 44-0-0.

BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEES

Letter from Andy Gillentine, re: Parking Problem -- Senator Crowell moved, Senator Williams seconded, to refer this issue to committee. The motion passed on a Senate vote of 35-7-0. Chair Embree assigned this issue to the Ancillary Affairs Committee.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Senator Cornelious moved, Senator Liddell seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate accept the report from the Academic Affairs Committee. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Senator Cornelious, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, referred to this Committee's report initiated by a letter from Dr. Kirk Arnett requesting that the Senate review and make recommendations to the proposed Athletic Department policy statement on procedures for the Athletic Academic Study Committee. Senator Cornelious moved, Senator Cathcart seconded, that the Senate endorse the policy statement on procedures for the Athletic Academic Study Committee submitted by the faculty athletic representative:

MSU Athletic Department Policy Selection of Athletic Academics Review Committee

The purpose of the Athletic Academics Review Committee is to provide a review of athletic academics by authorities outside the athletic department. A review must take place each academic year. A written review report is submitted to the President, Provost and Athletic Director before July 1 of each year. The scope of the report is left to the discretion of the committee, but

should address major services of the Athletic Academics Office such as academic advising, tutoring, study hall, and life skills counseling.

The faculty athletic representative (FAR) serves as chair of the review committee. In consultation with the faculty senate chair, the FAR selects three faculty members who will serve a one-year term. Efforts are made to see that the committee membership represents the diversity of the student athletes.

The motion passed on a Senate vote of 42-0-0.

ANCILLARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Senator Morse moved, Senator Crowell seconded, that the Senate accept the report from the Ancillary Affairs Committee. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Senator Morse, Chair of the Ancillary Affairs Committee, referred to this Committee's report resulting from a letter received from Dr. Lorenzo Crowell, dated November 29, 2001, inquiring about changes in the fall 2001 exam schedule, particularly the change of Reading Day to Saturday. Senator Morse moved, Senator Pote seconded, that the Senate recommend that:

1. Reading Day be reinstated as occurring the day after classes end and before exams begin, and should not occur on Saturday.
2. Final grade submission occur on Mondays by noon following exam week.

The motion passed on a Senate vote of 40-0-0.

Senator Morse moved, Senator Rogers seconded, that the Senate accept the report from the Ancillary Affairs Committee. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Senator Morse, Chair of the Ancillary Affairs Committee, referred to this Committee's report resulting from a letter from Dr. Jan Chambers, 2001/2002 Chair, University Promotion and Tenure Committee, requesting review of revisions made to the *Faculty Handbook* by her committee and appropriate action. Senator Morse moved, Senator Crowell seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate:

1. Endorse the changes to the *Faculty Handbook* described in the report.
2. Recommend the sentence "Administrative officers at or above the Department Head level (or equivalent) at Mississippi State University shall not be eligible for elected membership." be repeated in section F.2.a after the first sentence.

The motion passed on a Senate vote of 38-0-0.

CHARTER AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

No report.

FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

No report.

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Senator Hodge moved, Senator Smyer seconded, that the Senate accept the report from the Student Affairs Committee. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Senator Hodge, Chair of the Student Affairs Committee, referred to this Committee's report on AOP 12.11: Degree Requirements-Undergraduate. Senator Hodge moved, Senator Crowell seconded, that the Senate accept the changes suggested for AOP 12.11 Degree Requirements-Undergraduate.

The motion passed on a Senate vote of 37-0-0.

Senator Hodge moved, Senator Follett seconded, that the Senate accept the second report from the Student Affairs Committee. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Senator Hodge, Chair of the Student Affairs Committee, referred to this Committee's report on AOP 12.12: Credits, Grades and Academic Standing. Senator Hodge moved, Senator Crowell seconded, that the Senate recommend:

1. That a sentence on grade appeals that references AOP 12.14 should be added to AOP 12.12. A suggestion is that "AOP 12.14 Grade Appeals and Academic Review Board contain the grade appeal procedure for students." This sentence could be inserted on page 2 of AOP 12.12 near the middle of the page at the end of the paragraph starting "The quality-point average..."
2. That an AOP on the grade change procedure should be initiated and started through the review process.

The motion passed on a Senate vote of 38-0-0.

Senator Hodge moved, Senator Crowell seconded, that the Senate accept the third report from the Student Affairs Committee. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Senator Hodge, Chair of the Student Affairs Committee, referred to this Committee's report on AOP 12.37 Academic Advisement. Senator Hodge moved, Senator Crowell seconded, that the Senate recommend the following changes be made to the draft version of AOP 12.37:

1. The title should reflect that only undergraduate advising is addressed,
2. Transfer students with fewer than 60 credit hours should be permitted to remain in an undecided status, and
3. Only Item 8 should deal with advisor training.

The motion passed on a Senate vote of 39-0-0.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

No report.

NEW BUSINESS

Resolution from Mark Goodman, re: Advisory Committee for the President Search --
Senator Goodman withdrew his resolution.

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