

ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE UNCORRECTED MINUTES OF MEETING ON MARCH 22, 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, March 22, 2002.

Members absent and excused were Alan Blaine, Susan Bridges, Stanley Bullington, Virgil Culver, Marita Gootee, Homes Hogue, Ken Hood, Patricia Lestrade, Rachel McCann, PC McLaurin, Linda Morse, Gary Myers, and Richard Still.

The member absent and unexcused was Kathy Dooley.

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 February 15, 2002, Regular Meeting and the March 1, 2002, Special Called Meeting as distributed. Senator Payne moved, Senator Cathcart seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate approve both sets of minutes. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

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

- The Senate term's for the following Senators will over after today's meeting: Sylvia Byrd, Marvin Salin, Rachel McCann, Marita Gootee, William Smyer, Douglas Marshall, Linda Cornelious, and James Thomas. On behalf of the Senate, Chair Embree expressed our thanks for their service.
- At the next meeting scheduled for April 12th, the Senate will be electing new officers. They will take office on June 1st and serve until July 30th, 2003. The three officers are the Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. Nominations may only be made, and votes casts, by Senators serving in the 2002-2003 term. Once Chair Embree has the final list of Senators serving during the new term, he will send out an e-mail call for nominations for officers. Nominations for Chair or Vice Chair must have served on the Senate for at least one year but nominations for Secretary may be from new members. Also nominations for Chair must be sent in writing five working days in advance of the April meeting making the deadline April 5th by 5:00pm. If there are two nominations in writing for Chair, then there will be no other nominations. If there is only one nomination in writing for Chair, then additional nominations will be taken from the floor of the April Senate meeting. Nominations may be taken from the floor, in any case, for the Vice Chair and Secretary.

According to custom, although not in the Senate Bylaws, Chair Embree will allow five minute speeches per candidate. Voting will be by paper ballot and there must be a majority of the entire Senate (not just those present).

- Vice Chair Diehl and Chair Embree attended the IHL Board meeting on March 21st. The IHL Board created a rule that fifteen students per professor is a minimum indication of viability of the "Productivity of Departments and Programs." They have a list of department or programs which should be placed on probation. They will follow up with a qualitative assessment of these programs and monitor them over the next three years although the Board could choose to take action at any time. In vain, the President of the University of Southern Mississippi, Aubrey Lucas, pointed out that their music program (and any other university's music program) can not meet this minimum of fifteen students per professor since piano lessons and violin lessons, etc. are given on a one-to-one basis. This minimum standard, which may work well for an English or Math departments, has very little in common with music programs. The Board stated that none-the-less, these music programs will remain on probation if they are unable to meet this standard. President Lucas also pointed out that it is very difficult to recruit good faculty if your program is on probation to which the Board replied that they must try harder.
- The IHL Board is reviewing all university Mission Statements and has directed the Presidents to compare their statements. A draft of MSU's Mission Statement was completed by the SACS Committee but has not been finalized. It was the intention of the SACS Committee for the Mission Statement to go through the Faculty Senate and other bodies before it was submitted to the Board, but the Board wants the statement now.
- The MSU Executive Council is in the process of re-thinking its "mission" and a small committee, of which Chair Embree is a member, is going to bring forth suggestions to make the MSU Executive Council function better.
- Vice Chair Diehl has been appointed by Chair Embree to a committee that the President has formed to re-define the job of the Affirmative Action Officer.
- At the urging of Leslie Bauman, past Chair of the MSU Promotion and Tenure Committee, Chair Embree took up a matter with Interim Provost Verrall pertaining to AOP 13.07 and the "Promotion and Tenure Document" which have some differences within them causing confusion to faculty. Both Embree and Verrall agree that AOP 13.07 should be eliminated keeping the main "Promotion and Tenure Document."
- Senator Williams asked if the "fifteen students per professor" rule meant fifteen Majors per professor. Vice Chair Diehl and Interim Provost Verrall responded that there were two "targets" being considered: student credit hours production per faculty member or fifteen majors per faculty member. If professors met either criteria, then the departments and/or programs were OK but if professors met neither criteria, the programs could be placed on probation, suspended or phased out.
- Senator Rogers asked if the "faculty" were faculty or FTEs. Interim Provost Verrall responded that he thinks it means FTEs.
- Senator Williams asked if the word "accreditation" or "SACS" ever enter this discussion and Chair Embree responded that it did, but in vain.
- Senator Crowell asked if the programs that had been phased out been notified. Chair Embree responded that their schools had been notified.

- Senator Cinnella asked which programs or departments at MSU were placed on probation. Interim Provost Verrall responded that Music Education was one and he couldn't remember the other but could get us the list. Senator Cinnella asked if it was a short list and Chair Embree responded that it was.

GUESTS

Chair Embree introduced the Senate's guest: Dr. George Verrall, Interim Provost.

GEORGE VERRALL, INTERIM PROVOST

Dr. Verrall provided the following information:

- He is not concerned about the two "units" which have been flagged at MSU for not meeting the fifteen majors per professor criteria because he feels there are reasonable explanations which the Board should accept.
- Interim President Lee was visiting family today.
- Wood College has been removed from membership from SACS. They were found in violation of standard thirteen which meant Wood College doesn't have enough money. Interim Provost Verrall stated that the issue for MSU is can MSU continue to accept students from Wood College. Officials will be looking at the SACS rules on this matter and he feels confident that MSU will be able to accept credit hours for students currently enrolled this semester at Wood College but after this semester, he is not sure.
- MSU is currently in the process of interviewing candidates for the Dean's position at Meridian. According to yesterday's IHL Board meeting, it is very possible that in late June 2002, MSU will be interviewing candidates on campus for the President's position.
- Senator Crowell asked if the Meridian "Memorandum of Understanding" had been review. Interim Provost Verrall responded this issue was put aside until the College of Business Accreditation Team was here and could make their comments. NCATE will be here in April and Verrall wants to get their comments about the situation and then he will work of reviewing the "Memorandum of Understanding."
- Senator Thaxton asked about the Campus Presidential Search Advisory Committee and how/when will the public know its makeup. Interim Provost Verrall responded that he assumed it would be announced in the newspaper.
- Senator Williams asked Verrall about a person in the Interim Provost's Office that has recently had a change in title and received a substantial increase in salary and was this action taken before or after he took office. Interim Provost Verrall responded that this was a decision that the previous administration had made and left on the table as they walked out the door.

REPORT OF THE VICE CHAIR

- Vice Chair Diehl referred to the Robert Holland Faculty Senate Vice Chair's Report as distributed.
- Senator McCarley asked about the nature of the discussion on AOP 13.03. Vice Chair Diehl responded that the most recent reason for tabling the AOP was due to academic honesty and whether or not professors should tell students in the classroom that these standards must be upheld.
- Senator Montgomery asked about the interruptible power situation. Interim Provost Verrall responded that MSU is currently a "Category C" user which cuts the utility bill one million dollars per year. This means that there might be some times when TVA will ask MSU to turn off its power for approximately 3-4 hours. MSU will be given at least one hour's notice although the notice could be more and will probably not be asked to turn its power off more than once or twice a year.
- Phase Two is the "V-12 Program" which means that at TVA's option, they would turn MSU's power off up to twelve days per year and give MSU an additional one million dollar's saving on the utility bill. MSU has determined that *if* they agreed to the "V-12 Program," MSU would have to be able to generate its own electricity for those approximate twelve days. The problems with agreeing to this option are (1) the cost of the generator, which is seventeen million dollars, and (2) the local gas company stating that there is not enough gas in Starkville to provide MSU with the needed amount to run such a generator. At this point in time, MSU has not agreed to become a "V-12 Program" customer.
- Senator Pote asked about the statement that said there would be a forthcoming announcement to provide copies of departmental and college Promotion and Tenure documents to Charlie Guest for review. Interim Provost Verrall responded that the intent is simply to protect MSU legally. Charlie Guest would only be looking for words or phrasing that could trigger legal action.

REPORT FROM FACULTY SENATE DESIGNATES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

University Benefits Committee – Senator Nebeker reported the following:

- Paul Armstrong from the Statewide Credit Union stated that the Union is trying to become a full service statewide facility. A recent addition to their service is thirty-year mortgages at fixed rates. For this particular credit union, 25% of the deposits are from the Starkville area.
- The Universal Fitness proposal where MSU personnel can buy a home gym at a discount is still being considered.
- Bose will be presenting a proposal soon.
- The Committee should be selecting a long term disability vendor by July 1st of this year, with an open enrollment period starting December 1st.
- The Human Resources are moving toward being more of a "service center" and Corporate Services will be handling some services for new employees.
- Unum will provide supplemental insurance.

- *Hollywood Premier Cinema* is allowing MSU personnel and students to purchase movie tickets at the MSU Union's Information Desk for \$5.00 per ticket and not \$4.00 per ticket as reported at last month's meeting. This is due to an overall increase in ticket cost. The tickets have no expiration date and can be used for any movie except during the opening weekend of that particular show.
- Senator Marshall asked about the new long term disability program. Senator Nebeker responded that MSU does currently have a program but this would be in addition to that with new options.

BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEES

Letters from Dr. Rachel McCann and Dr. George M. Thomas, re: Meridian Campus Senators -- Senator Montgomery 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 Charter and Bylaws Committee.

Letter from Dr. Dan Embree, re: Senate December Meeting -- Senator Light 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 Charter and Bylaws Committee.

Letter from Dr. Dan Embree, re: Contact Minutes -- Senator Crowell moved, Senator Pote seconded, to refer this issue to committee. The motion passed on a majority voice vote of the Senate. Chair Embree assigned this issue to the University Resources Committee.

Letter from Dr. Keith Belli, re: Core Curriculum Criteria -- Senator Crowell moved, Senator Bryant 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

Senator Cornelious, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, referred to this Committee's report on AOP 12.13: Academic Records. Senator Cornelious moved, Senator Crowell seconded, that the Senate accept AOP 12.13: Academic Records as amended.

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

ANCILLARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

No report.

CHARTER AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE

No report.

FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Senator Williams, Chair of the Faculty Affairs Committee, referred to this Committee's report on a proposed clarification of the University's overload compensation policy. Senator Williams moved, Senator Smyer seconded, that the Senate reject the "Clarification" paper and affirm the positions outlined below:

1. Any committee which drafts or redrafts an overload compensation policy must include faculty from appropriate units and Continuing Education representation.
2. Any overload compensation emerging from such a committee must consider equity and ensure that overload compensation in fact consistently reflects this equity.
3. Any overload compensation policy must take into account emergency situations within and among units, must make clear distinctions between contract/grant vs non-contract/grant research and must consider current and near-future relationships with the MSU-Meridian Campus.
4. An overload compensation policy which cites OMB circulars or state law must cite case law or administrative case decisions which support the proposed policy.

The motion passed on a Senate vote of 35-0-0.

STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

No report.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

Senator Cathcart, Chair of the University Resources Committee, referred to this Committee's report initiated by a letter from Dr. Lorenzo Crowell regarding MSU faculty and administrator salaries. Senator Cathcart moved, Senator Rogers seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate accept the report from the University Resources Committee. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote of the Senate.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Submitted for correction and approval.

LaDonne Delgado, Secretary