

**ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE  
UNCORRECTED MINUTES OF MEETING ON OCTOBER 11, 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, October 11, 2002.

Members absent and excused were Susan Bridges, Randy Follett, David Huddleston, Roy Montgomery, Evan Nebeker, Peter Ryan, Paul Thaxton, and Mark Zappi.

Members absent and unexcused were Mike Goatley, Pearson Liddell, PC McLaurin, Kent Payne, 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](http://www.msstate.edu/Org/FS/faculty_senate.html).

Chair Walter Diehl called the meeting to order.

Chair Diehl referred to the minutes of the September 13, 2002, Regular Meeting as distributed. Senator Bryant moved, Senator Rogers seconded, that the Robert Holland Faculty Senate approve the minutes of September 13, 2002. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote.

**GUESTS**

Chair Diehl introduced guests: Dr. Charles Lee, Interim President; Dr. George Verrall, Interim Provost; Dr. Kirk Arnett, Faculty Athletic Representative; Butch Stokes, Interim Registrar; and Judge Jim Brantley.

**CHARLES LEE, INTERIM PRESIDENT**

Dr. Lee provided the following information:

- The IHL Board remains concerned about the budget situation for the state of Mississippi.
- The charge has been given to the search committee for the Vice President for Research. The chair of this committee is Bruce Leopold.
- The fifth candidate for the Vice President for Student Affairs is interviewing on campus today. The Committee will meet later today and made recommendations soon.
- The successful candidate for the Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Officer is Carson C. Cook, Jr., who will begin employment on November 1, 2002.
- Kirk Arnett will be stepping down as the MSU Faculty Athletic Representative at the end of this year. There is a list of four candidates, and Lee feels confident that a successor will be appointed and in place by the first of 2003.
- There will a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony at McCain Hall tomorrow morning.

- The Association for Research Libraries' representatives will be visiting MSU on November 12-14, 2002. Dean Coleman states that by the first of the year the Library should know formally if MSU's candidacy is successful.
- Sanderson Family Contributions – MSU has not received contributions within this fiscal year but has received overall contributions of about one-half million dollars.
- Master Plan – over the past Spring and Summer, MSU has been working on a Master Plan which will provide a reference point when speaking to others about facilities, infrastructure, etc. Lee hopes to have this plan completed by the end of November 2002.
- Lee remarked that the Senate Roundtable was very productive and was one of the broadest based discussions that he has been involved in on admission standards, scholarship funds, etc.
- Senator Williams asked when did the IHL Board decide to sell the land where the new Alumni Building is located, what was the sale price and is there a provision in the sale for the Alumni Association to cede the property and building back to MSU at some future point. Williams also asked if alcoholic beverages will allowed at future events at this location. Lee responded that he could not recollect the specific date of the sale, but that the Foundation purchased the land from the university based on an appraised land value of approximately \$200,000. Lee also responded that he was unsure if there was a reversion clause in the sale or not, but that Dennis Prescott could probably answer that question. Lee did state that alcoholic beverages would be allowed at this facility in the future.
- Senator Embree referred to the upcoming document on Meridian's Promotion and Tenure Procedures and remarked that the document refers to Meridian as a campus and not a college. Recently Interim Provost Verrall has referred to Meridian as a college. The document also refers to the unique mission of the campus. Embree asked if it is the university's intentions to ask the IHL Board to change the definition or status of Meridian to a college. Lee responded that the IHL Board policy states that one is tenured to a department unless otherwise provided by the Board. Meridian has divisions. The question which the IHL Board will have to address is – Is Meridian different? Lee has tried not to speculate about what the Board's decision will be. Senator Embree asked if it didn't seem reasonable to settle what Meridian *is* before taking up the question of how Meridian should deal with promotion and tenure. Lee responded that one of the first charges given to the new Meridian Dean was to determine the vision for Meridian. The reality is that the faculty at Meridian were told that they would have the opportunity for tenure. Some of these faculty are ready this year to be considered.
- Senator Embree referred to an earlier remark which Lee made that the MSU administration and the IHL Board would be discussing whether it is appropriate for tenure to be held in a division instead of a department. An earlier MSU administration's position was that tenure could be held lower than a department – it could be held in a program. It was the position of this Senate and others that tenure should be held in the university. Embree asked if the IHL Board is going to reverse its position on this. Lee restated the IHL Board's policy that one is tenured to a department unless otherwise provided by the Board. Lee has asked the IHL Board for an interpretation of the rules concerning MSU's situation with Meridian since no generic or widely accepted standard seems to exist.

## **GEORGE VERRAL, INTERIM PROVOST**

Dr. Verrall provided the following information:

- The Provost has distributed a letter to the deans and department heads allocating funds for the 'unfunded teaching liability' for the Spring semester.
- The MSU Student Association has asked the administration to consider having a Fall Break. A draft is being prepared for consideration.
- An IHL Board member is interested in continuing the discussion on program duplication. These discussions will take place over the next few months.
- Phi Beta Kappa luncheon is scheduled, and Verrall wants to move forward with plans to get this chapter established.
- Verrall has asked department heads and deans to provide him with a list of faculty members who have been graded "unsatisfactory" in any one of the three areas (teaching, research or service) on their annual reviews. This is in response to the Post Tenure Review Policy. Verrall is concerned with how an "unsatisfactory" rating is determined. At this point, Verrall is interpreting "unsatisfactory" which would trigger a Post Tenure Review as an "overall unsatisfactory" or one who has rated "unsatisfactory" in two of the three areas.
- Senator Embree reminded Verrall that the Senate debated the length of the final exam schedule last fiscal year and sent the administration its report. Embree also reminded Verrall that the IHL Board sets the number of contact hours for all Mississippi universities at a week longer (150 minutes longer) than our next highest competitor in the Southeast. Verrall responded that he has been talking for the last two months to the Chief Academic Officers about this very topic and their view seems to be that they are simply going to ignore the IHL Board's policy and see what happens. Verrall stated the he will continue working toward getting the Board's policy changed.
- Senator Embree asked about the Meridian Promotion and Tenure Procedures document. Is it true that this document was actually written in the Provost's Office and sent to Meridian rather than Meridian having written the document. Verrall responded that this was correct. Senator Embree asked if MSU's administration plans to change Meridian's mission statement. Verrall responded that as unique as MSU's mission statement is to us, Meridian's mission statement is unique to them.

## **KIRK ARNETT, FACULTY ATHLETIC REPRESENTATIVE**

Dr. Arnett referred to the handouts distributed at the beginning of the meeting. Covered in his discussion were NCAA graduation rates and SEC rates, MSU's student athlete spring grades, MSU academic integrity efforts, SEC educational software, and the NCAA campus visits. In two NCAA investigations, officials interviewed sixteen MSU athletes. To date, MSU has received no official letter of inquiry. Senator Goodman asked if Arnett knew any obvious reasons why the number of black athletes graduating is lower than the other categories of graduating athletes. Arnett responded that he did not know any specific reasons. Senator

Diehl referred to the chart showing that the overall GPA seems to be constant for the past several years, but that the men's GPA seems to be lowering and the women's GPA seems to be rising. Diehl asked if this is true and is there concern about this problem. Arnett responded that Diehl's information is correct and that concern exists.

## **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Diehl's Chair's report included the following remarks:

- Three new Senators were introduced: Michael Berk, Architecture; Giselle Thibaudeau Munn, Biological Sciences; and Carolyn Adams-Price, Psychology.
- The deadline for voting on the Post Tenure Review Policy was extended until noon today due to e-mail problems. The vote was 312 in favor of and 65 against; thus the Post Tenure Review Policy passed.
- The recent Senate Agenda also had e-mail problems with its attachments, and the Agenda had to be re-sent as a web address using Adobe Acrobat. The quality of scanned documents should be better in the future.
- The Faculty Senate Roundtable was a success, and the summary is posted on the Faculty Senate web site.
- A draft copy of the Master Plan, including new components, is in the Senate Office. Provide Chair Diehl with your questions and comments.
- A search for a new MSU Faculty Athletic Representative to replace Dr. Kirk Arnett will have Dr. Melvin Ray as chair, and it will interview four candidates. Forward any questions or issues that you want raised with these candidates to Chair Diehl.
- The interviews have been completed for the Vice President for Student Affairs. Chair Diehl will write a letter to the search committee with his comments (not on behalf of the Senate), and anyone wishing to may forward comments for inclusion in this letter to Diehl by Monday, October 14, 2002.
- Senator Embree asked if he understood correctly that four candidates for the MSU Faculty Athletic Representative have already been chosen. Chair Diehl responded that this was correct. Senator Embree asked if these names would be public, and when would they be known. Chair Diehl stated that the names were indeed public but he could only recollect two and would rather not mention any of the names without being able to mention all of the names. Senator Embree asked that Chair Diehl announce the names via e-mail and he responded that he would.

## **REPORT OF THE VICE CHAIR**

Vice Chair Pote by referring to the Senate Vice Chair's report as distributed and added the following remarks:

- At the September 9, 2002, Academic Deans Council, it was mentioned that Dr. Joe Sullivan is chairing the ad hoc Committee for Student Computer Requirements, and he is

requesting ideas from faculty on the advantages and disadvantages of student computer requirements; therefore Senators should forward this information to him.

- A copy of the MSU Budget is in the Faculty Senate Office.
- Dr. Brad Carter gave an update on Information Technology Issues and on the Information Technology Advisory group and its priorities.
- Vice Chair Pote attended a taskforce meeting to develop a student recruitment policy which is currently in draft form. The draft will then go to the Executive Committee and eventually to the Robert Holland Faculty Senate.
- Senator Embree stated that if anyone wants a copy of the MSU Budget, he or she only needs to contact the Provost's Office and one will be provided.

### **REPORT FROM FACULTY DESIGNATES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES**

No reports.

### **BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEES**

**Letter from Charles Guest, re: Grievance Policy and Procedure** – Senator Embree moved, Senator Hogue seconded, to refer this issue to committee. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. Chair Diehl assigned this issue to the Charter and Bylaws Committee.

Senator Williams moved, Senator Bryant seconded, that the Senate suspend the rules to allow business since the following information did not reach all Senators before the three-day deadline. The motion passed on a Senate vote of 34-0-0.

**Meridian Promotion and Tenure Procedures document** – Senator Bryant moved, Senator Lestrade seconded, to refer this issue to committee. The motion passed on a unanimous voice vote. Chair Diehl assigned this issue to the Faculty Affairs Committee.

### **STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

#### **ACADEMIC AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Senator Morse, Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee, referred to this Committee's report initiated by a memo from Dr. George Verrall dated August 19, 2002, on the MSU Core Curriculum and Criteria for Inclusion. Senator Morse moved, Senator Adams-Price seconded, that the Senate recommend that:

Any changes made by the UCCC to amend the *Criteria for Inclusion of Courses in the Mississippi State University Core Curriculum* to meet Dr. Verrall's request should be sent to the Faculty Senate for reconsideration after the UCCC's endorsement.

The motion passed on a Senate vote of 34-0-0.

### **ANCILLARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

No report.

### **CHARTER AND BYLAWS COMMITTEE**

Senator Reichert, Chair of the Charter and Bylaws Committee, referred to this Committee's first report initiated by a letter from Dr. Dan Embree dated April 19, 2002, requesting that the Faculty Senate officer titles Chair and Vice Chair be changed to President and Vice President, respectively. Senator Reichert moved, Senator Embree seconded, that the Senate endorse the following recommendations:

1. That the titles of Robert Holland Faculty Senate *Chair* and *Vice Chair* be changed to *President* and *Vice President*, respectively. Correspondingly, the text in the Faculty Senate Charter and Bylaws should reflect those title changes.
2. That the title changes be reflected in the Faculty Charter and other appropriate university documents.

The motion passed on a Senate vote of 33-1-0.

Senator Reichert, Chair of the Charter and Bylaws Committee, referred to this Committee's second report initiated when reviewing the Faculty Senate Charter and noting that no elected officer is eligible to serve in that capacity for more than two consecutive terms, including the Secretary. Senator Reichert moved, Senator Rogers seconded, that the Senate endorse the following recommendation:

That the text in the Robert Holland Faculty Senate Charter under section 3. Officers

"Officers of the Faculty Senate shall consist of a Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary who shall be elected in April by a secret majority vote of the elected Senate membership. These officers shall serve for a period of one year (July 1 through June 30) and shall not be eligible for more than two consecutive terms."

be changed to:

"Officers of the Faculty Senate shall consist of a President, Vice President, and Secretary who shall be elected in April by a secret majority vote of the elected Senate membership. These officers shall serve for a period of one year (July

1 through June 30). *Those holding the offices of President and Vice President shall not be eligible for more than two consecutive terms.*"

The motion passed on a Senate vote of 33-1-0.

#### **FACULTY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

No report.

#### **STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

No report.

#### **UNIVERSITY RESOURCES**

No report.

#### **AD HOC (COMMITTEE ON PRESIDENTIAL SEARCHES)**

No report.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Diehl turned the chair over to Vice-Chair Pote so that he could present his resolution.

Senator Diehl moved, Senator Goodman seconded, that the rules be suspended to allow David McMillen to speak. The motion passed on a Senate vote of 35-0-0.

**Letter from Dr. Walter Diehl, re: Presidential Search** – Senator Diehl moved, Senator Goodman seconded, that the Senate endorse the following resolution:

*In view of the intent to re-start the search for a president of Mississippi State University, the Robert Holland Faculty Senate offers the following advice to the Board of Trustees of the Institutions of Higher Learning:*

(1) *The Board of Trustees should hire a president for Mississippi State University who possesses the following qualifications:*

(a) *The new president must hold inviolate the principles of academic freedom and integrity, must promote excellence in teaching, must advance our prominence in research, and must foster an appreciation for service.*

- (b) *The new president must recognize that a university is not a business in the traditional sense but that it must be run in a business-like manner.*
  - (c) *The new president must have a successful career as a faculty member, administrator, and leader. He/She must possess recognized executive experience in an academic environment that has similarities to Mississippi State University.*
- (2) *The Board of Trustees should re-start the search with a process that is designed to create consensus among members of the MSU community including establishing a new campus advisory committee that has elected faculty representatives.*

*This advice is intended both to help identify the best possible president for Mississippi State University and to forge a consensus that will ensure that the new president has the greatest possible support from the students, faculty and staff, alumni, and friends of MSU.*

The motion passed on a Senate vote of 33-0-2.

Vice Chair Pote turned the chair back over to Chair Diehl.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Submitted for correction and approval.

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LaDonne Delgado, Secretary