

ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE UNCORRECTED MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 14, 2014

The Robert Holland Faculty Senate of Mississippi State University held its regular monthly meeting in the Grisham Room of Mitchell Memorial Library at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, February 14, 2014.

Members absent and excused were: Noel Addy, Matt Boggan, Stan Bullington, Joey Burt, Sylvia Byrd, Tom Carskadon, LaDonne Delgado, Wendy Herd, Rocky Lemus, Vivien Miller, David Nagel, Dasha Radin, Juan Silva, and Barry Stewart.

The meeting was called to order by the Senate President, Jerry Emison.

The Senate observed a moment of silence in memory of Dr. Bill Henry.

Senator Robichaux moved to accept the January 2014 minutes, seconded by Senator Follett.

Senator Rude moved motion to amend the comments made by Senator Kelly. He passed out the amended comments because of the lengthy proposed change to page 7 of the February packet. The motion was seconded. After discussion of the purpose of minutes, how the minutes and the addition were generated, the contents of the amendment, and the advantages and disadvantages of making changes to the minutes. Senator Kelly struck the last sentence of her proposed amendment to the minutes. The motion to amend the minutes passed 17-12 by hand vote.

GUESTS

DR. JEROME A. GILBERT, PROVOST AND EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT

Dr. Gilbert mentioned that meal receipts for Travel are no longer required to be submitted, but actual costs still need to be reported.

He reported that he is continuing to have coffee meetings with department heads on a rotating basis.

He said that ground has been turned on the classroom building site. The classroom space and parking garage should be complete by Spring 2015.

He thanked faculty who participated in the Phi Beta Kappa visit. The team gave positive responses on their visit.

The Deans will be in communication with administrators reviewed during the third year review process and with units on the results of those reviews.

Dr. Rodney Pearson has been asked to serve as Coordinator of Student Success in an effort to increase retention. He will be working with the Provost's office in data analysis, monitoring students and developing and implementing proactive approaches. A formal Freshman Convocation will be implemented in the Fall with the possibility of the Maroon Edition author to be the keynote speaker. A Freshman Seminar will also be offered to optimize student success and familiarize them with the university. Video modules will also be created condensing this information for those who do not take the course. He plans to have a session at Orientation to talk about importance of writing and take a writing sample to emphasize the importance of writing early. He mentioned the possibility of utilizing scanners in large auditorium classes for attendance. He hopes to experiment with this in the fall.

Senator Peacock asked about the time table on third year reviews. Dr. Gilbert said he expects within a month or so. The number of reviews a Dean must do ranges from college to college. He apologized for the delay citing a technical issue with presenting the data.

Senator Rodgers asked about the use of clickers vs. scanners. Dr. Gilbert said that the scanner will likely be a failsafe and only for recording attendance, but likely will not do away with clickers in classes where they are used for more than just attendance.

Senator Elder mentioned the possibility of students scanning in and walking out of class. Dr. Gilbert said that it would be a violation of Honor Code and would want to state that it would be prosecuted using the Honor Code. He mentioned that it may not work but it has the potential to be helpful.

Senator Dunne asked how use writing sample data would be used. Dr. Gilbert said that he felt it would be more of a symbolic gesture rather than learning a lot from it.

DR. STEVE TURNER, FACULTY ATHLETIC REPRESENTATIVE

Dr. Turner updated the senate on Athletic team GPAs and the concentration of student athletes in the colleges across the university.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Here are some specific activities you may find interesting.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Observation

On January 20, Randy Follett and I represented the Faculty Senate at the annual university-sponsored breakfast to honor Martin Luther King, Jr. The program featured an address by Field Brown, MSU's recent Rhodes Scholarship recipient, as well as recognition of high school students who won the associated essay contest.

Department Heads' Meeting with Provost

The provost met with department heads on January 24 to discuss a number of management issues. I represented the Faculty Senate at this meeting and participated in discussion of some of the recent changes in the promotion and tenure document.

Phi Beta Kappa Site Visit

On January 31, Randy Follett and I met with a subgroup of the Phi Beta Kappa application site visit team. The team was particularly interested in the processes of university governance, the transparency of such processes and the degree of engagement between the Faculty Senate and the university's administration.

Alumni Association Board of Directors Meeting

The MSU Alumni Association Board of Directors met on February 7 to consider a number of issues concerning its governance, and I represented the Faculty Senate. I also represented the Faculty Senate at the subsequent annual alumni association awards ceremony and local chapters' leadership conference.

Spring General Faculty Meeting

The General Faculty Meeting for the spring semester was held on February 10. As you know, President Keenum, Drs. Gilbert, Shaw and Bohach provided updates on activities in their respective areas.

Executive Enrollment Management Council

I participated in meetings of the Executive Enrollment Management Council as they focused on the status of enrollments and trends in enrollments. Spring enrollment was slightly higher when compared to last spring's enrollment. In addition, a consulting firm has been examining MSU's enrollment program management, and I participated in meetings with them on improving the enrollment activities.

Athletic Council

I represented the Faculty Senate at the January 22 Athletic Council meeting. The council was briefed on the status of the academic progress of our intercollegiate athletes, reorganization options under consideration by the NCAA and status of teams' competitions. Dr. Steve Turner, the faculty athletics representative, is expected to brief the Faculty Senate on February 14 in more detail on academic progress for athletes.

Gameday/Special Events Committee

I participated in the Gameday/Special Events Committee meeting of February 6. At this meeting the committee considered the implications of MSU hosting the Mississippi high school football playoffs in December 2014. I raised the importance of the event not conflicting with exams scheduled at the same time. It appears concerns about such conflicts will be eliminated by altering the scheduling of reading days.

AOP 13.06 Faculty Sabbaticals, Draft AOP re: Graduate Student Grievance Procedures, AOP 13.13 Faculty Leave and Draft AOP re: Teaching Modifications

The Faculty Senate took action earlier on AOP 13.13 Faculty Leave, AOP 13.06 Faculty Sabbaticals and the Draft AOP re: Graduate Grievance Procedures and forwarded them to the provost's office. We have been notified that the senate's proposed revisions are not entirely suitable to the provost's office. As a consequence a series of meetings between the provost's office and the chairs of the relevant Faculty Senate committees are scheduled to further develop changes acceptable to all parties. Depending upon the outcome of these meetings, these AOPs may be back before the senate to further dispose of them.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

In January, I attended the Academic Department Heads Executive Committee's roundtable meeting between the department heads and the Provost. This meeting was an opportunity for discussion of various topics, but focused mainly on the implementation of the newly approved Promotion and Tenure document, along with a description of the three-year review of administrators process.

Also in January, as part of the Phi Beta Kappa visit, Jerry Emison and I met with two of the review team members, along with Judy Ridner, President of the Arts and Sciences Faculty Senate. The meeting focused mainly on the of shared governance, and seemed to go very well. As has been mentioned, it will likely take another year and a half to get a definitive answer on the decision, though.

application of P&T guidelines, criteria for promotion and tenure as specified by IHL, and departmental cultures.

Senator Wise called the question. Senator Robichaux seconded. In a vote on the motion to call the question, the motion passed 30 – 1 by hand vote.

Senator Follett moved to vote by ballot. The motion was seconded by Senator Wise. The motion passed 28-0 by hand vote.

President Emison noted that per Robert's Rules of Order, the vote must be an affirmative vote. He clarified that a "yes" vote would be to accept the request to amend the P&T document to allow non-tenure track faculty to vote on promotion of tenure track faculty to associate professor and will begin the revision to the document. A "no" vote would be in support of making no change to the Promotion and Tenure document. He reminded the senate that the Faculty Affairs committee's recommendation was a "no" vote.

Senator Cox asked for clarification that the changes would be limited to the revisions requested in the original proposal from Dr. Kelly and others. This was confirmed.

Senator Wilmoth raised a point of order whether the question could be divided based on a prior comment. President Emison explained that because there was no motion made prior to the call for the question, the question as called for must be voted on. The senate moved to the ballot vote on whether to accept the revisions to the Promotion and Tenure document outlined in the letter sent to the senate on September 26, 2013. The motion failed 14-23.

Senator Grace moved to amend the Promotion and Tenure document and Senator Follett asked about the basis of the revision. Senator Grace referred to the Faculty Handbook Faculty Senate procedure on studies and recommendations. Senator Follett noted that it would not be applicable because the senate had already voted on the matter. He observed that according to Roberts Rules of Order a motion to reconsider would need to be made from someone on the prevailing side of the vote. President Emison asked if there was a motion to reconsider the issue. There was no motion to reconsider.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

NO REPORT

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

7.2.1 AOP 00.00 Additional Course Fees

Senator Dobson presented the proposed AOP on Additional Course Fees and a summary of the University Resource committee's report. He also noted that the committee wanted to change the word "petition" in the proposed AOP to "request." He moved on behalf of the committee to accept the proposed AOP as changed by the University Resources Committee.

Senator Foster expressed concern with the prohibition of "laboratory durable goods" in number 4 of the AOP. He made a friendly amendment to return it to the original language thereby striking "laboratory durable goods" and replacing with "laboratory furniture." The friendly amendment was accepted.

Senator Coyne asked who monitors the budget balance. It was discussed that Internal Audit reviews that the spending is used for its intent.

Senator McCann expressed concern with field trip costs. Senator Dobson said that the committee used the term “fair value” rather than “cost” because prices do change.

Senator Foster asked for clarification on the wording regarding fees being used in the term in which they are collected noting that fees are collected over the lifetime of an item. Senator Dobson said that the University Resources revision softened the language specifying that the item budgeted is used in that course.

Senator McCann asked for clarification on the use of the term petition vs. request throughout the document. Senator Dobson said that he will change all “petitions” to “requests.”

Senator Rodgers asked how the fee stacking works for computer labs. Senator Dobson said that it would be a technology fee, but the intent of the language is to spread the cost to all that would be using an item.

In the vote on the motion to accept the changes to the proposed AOP as recommended by the University Resources committee and on the floor of the senate, the motion passed by voice vote.

7.1.2 AOP X.X Distance Education

Senator Dobson presented proposed AOP X.X Distance Education and the University Resources Committee recommendation to adoption as received. There was no discussion and the motion to adopt passed by unanimous voice vote.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

NONE

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

Senator McCann made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 4:41.

Submitted for correction and approval.

Brian Rude, Secretary