

ROBERT HOLLAND FACULTY SENATE
Uncorrected Minutes of March 21, 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, March 21, 2014.

Members absent and excused were: Jerrold Belant, Sylvia Byrd, Mike Cox, LaDonne Delgado, Sandra Eksioglu, Anastasia Elder, Stephen Foster, Jeffery Haupt, James Martin, Vivien Miller, John Michael Riley, Juan Silva, Barry Stewart, and Cyprianna Swiderski.

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

Senator Robichaux made a motion to approve the February minutes. The motion was seconded by Senator Wise. The minutes of the February 14, 2014 meeting were approved by voice vote.

GUESTS

DR. MARK KEENUM, PRESIDENT

President Keenum said that the state legislature is in the last month of the session. He updated the senate on the state economic report. The IHL board has requested a \$2 million fund increase for the system and is also pushing for additional R&R funding. He is cautiously optimistic about the requests. His plan for bond bill funds will be a library expansion.

He reminded senators that the SACSCOC visit will be April 1-3. He expressed gratitude to the Office of Institutional Research and Effectiveness and everyone who worked on the comprehensive and follow-up reports. Since very issues are yet to be addressed during the site visit, he is excited for their visit. He believes they will focus on the QEP: *Maroon and Write* which will focus on better communication through writing. He said that students will give a writing sample during Orientation, and he encouraged faculty to take part in the program in their curriculum.

He mentioned the ongoing construction projects: The new classroom building, dining facility, The Mills at MSU, Wise Center and Meats Lab, and Lee Hall.

Ertharin Cousin, Executive Director of the World Food Programme will be this year's commencement speaker.

A Maroon Edition panel will be held Monday, March 24 in the Templeton Room of Mitchell Memorial Library discussing the Maroon Edition selection: *Invisible Girls* by Sarah Theborge.

The Infinity Impact Campaign has raised \$400 million thus far.

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

Provost Gilbert said that the Work Life Balance Committee expressed the need for the ability to use Major Medical Leave when adopting a child. The MS Senate has just passed Bill 20-84 to allow employees to use up to 6 weeks major medical leave for use when adopting or foster care placement due to the efforts of MSU's Work Life Balance Committee among others.

Maroon Edition author, Sarah Theborge, will be coming to campus as the featured speaker for fall convocation.

Senator Carskadon asked if, regardless of the P&T document, any P&T application that does not demonstrate excellence in research would be doomed in the tenure process. Provost Gilbert said no,

but there is an expectation for scholarship in your field and to demonstrate productivity in scholarship. He added that he looks at a packet as a whole.

He said the Master Plan Development and Advisory Committee has approved construction of a new residence hall that will be on the site of current Evans Hall. The committee has also approved construction of the new Center for America's Veterans on the same site. He added that he has heard that the new intermural tennis courts are very nice. They are located on South Farm with the other intermural fields.

DR. DEBORAH LEE, CO-DIRECTOR, MSU QUALITY ENHANCEMENT PLAN

Dr. Lee said that the QEP: Maroon and Write is designed to promote writing across the curriculum and is an effort to increase the frequency and quality of writing.

She said that there are a number of ways to be involved. There is intensive workshop in June for faculty. The Center for Teaching and Learning will also be offering several workshops, speakers and teaching circles with a goal to give tools to enhance learning using writing.

Senator McCann asked what percentage of involvement by faculty her office looking for. Dr. Lee said that there are many levels of involvement, but they hope to expand faculty participation in brown bag sessions.

Senator Emison noted that this is an opportunity to equip students to self-express in writing and is part of the pathway to success for their futures.

Dr. Lee said that the pilot classes have noticed a positive spillover effect in performance on finals.

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT

Here are some specific activities you may find interesting.

Master Plan Development and Advisory Committee

The Master Plan Development and Advisory Committee authorized a priority listing of sites for a new location of the Center for America's Veterans. The preferred location is near the site where the replacement for Evans Hall will be constructed. Further, the committee authorized that the design of the new center be coordinated with the design for the replacement for Evans Hall in order to take advantage of the programmatic opportunities such housing may provide.

Information Technology Council

The shift from Novell to Microsoft for the university's email system is running later than expected due to some adjustments required in software. While originally phase-in was expected to begin in earnest in the first quarter of 2014, migration is now planned to begin in April/May and proceed throughout the following six or so months.

The university plans in fall 2014 to pilot test a card-reader system for attendance tracking. A few classes are expected to be asked to participate, with participation being voluntary on the part of the class instructor. The intent is to simplify attendance tracking while improving accuracy.

The council was asked its views of the university using text messaging for non-emergency communication to students and employees. Currently only Maroon Alert messages are sent to text messaging accounts. Council members expressed concerns over information overload and the resulting diminution of attention to such messages, the potential for loss of records for communication and economic impact of such messaging on those with pay-as-use phone accounts.

Executive Enrollment Management Council

The EEMC has met a number of times to formulate the university's enrollment strategy over the next 4-5 years. Rob Baird, a consultant with Noel-Levitt, is advising the university on this matter, and I met, along with the vice presidents, with him to discuss conditions and challenges for enrollment at the university. My emphasis in these discussions concerned the need for more faculty as the university grows and the need to rectify the pay disparities that currently exist for MSU compared to peer institutions.

Athletic Council

The Athletic Council was briefed on academic status and progress for varsity athletic teams. This was much the same information that Dr. Steve Turner shared with the Faculty Senate in February. An interesting piece of information that was offered is that the university does not expect any Thursday evening football games on campus for the foreseeable future.

Women of Color Summit

I represented the Faculty Senate at the 2014 Women of Color Summit. The emphasis of the speakers was on status and techniques women of color can employ to strengthen success potential.

President Emison gave updates on construction completion dates: The new classroom building - September 2015 with occupation January 2016, Cotton Mill at MSU – groundbreaking March 20, 2014 and an expected opening September 2015, Fresh Food Facility – occupation Summer 2015, Lee Hall – completion in a couple of months, Stadium expansion on track to be ready in the Fall. He added that the Post office will be moving to the Roberts Building.

Senator McCann expressed concern with student verification that their card swiped when using card readers for class attendance. President Emison said that he would assume that would be worked out during the pilot test.

President Emison said that the Faculty Senate Confidence Survey will be posted mid-April and will be conducted similarly to last year.

He thanked the senators rolling off the senate for their service.

The call for nominations for senate officers will go out Monday and will close prior to the April meeting. Elections will be held during the April meeting.

Senator Rodgers asked if the Master Plan Committee had discussed the Baptist Student Union property. President Emison said they had not.

VICE PRESIDENT REPORT

Since the last Faculty Senate meeting, several of the committees on which I serve have been fairly quiet, with some meetings getting cancelled for various reasons (including Spring Break). Of those committee meetings that were held, I have the following items to report:

Committee on Campus Access - We were recently visited by an Accessibility Consultant, who took a tour of some of the facilities on campus that have accessibility issues, and we are working on implementation of solutions to the most urgent of these issues, along with the prioritization of the rest of the issues. A long range plan (5-10 years) is also being developed, but we still have quite a bit of work to do on it. Considerable work has been done already by staff who have gone out and performed physical surveys of each of the buildings owned by MSU, with the intent to have a full-fledged GIS map of all facilities and their status with respect to accessibility.

Freshman Convocation Committee - There WILL be a Freshman Convocation this fall, on the second day of classes (Tuesday, August 19). The fine details are still being worked out, but this will be an event that is similar to commencement, with faculty in regalia. Timing, along with other details will be announced as soon as possible, so that everyone can make plans to attend. It should be a memorable event for everyone involved.

Ad Hoc Committee to Investigate the Summer School Budget - This committee has gone through a tremendous amount of data in order to come up with a specific recommendation, but is not quite ready to do so. The latest approach being considered is somewhat like that for distance education courses, where there would be specific revenue distribution agreements, but is still being developed. It is anticipated (hoped?) that within the next two or three weeks, our work will be complete. In response to a question posed at the last Faculty Senate meeting, it will NOT be in place for this summer.

Senator Carskadon asked about accessibility issues. Vice President Follett said that the consultant has suggested improvements such as sidewalk cuts, door openers and ramps, and the lack of elevators or stair lifts in some buildings.

FACULTY SENATE REPRESENTATIVES ON UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

No Reports

BUSINESS TO BE SENT TO COMMITTEES

NONE

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS

7.1.1 AOP 12.07 Student Honor Code Policy

Senator Addy presented AOP 12.07 Student Honor Code Policy on behalf of the Academic Affairs Committee. He summarized the history of the policy and the changes made by his committee which were largely editorial changes. He made a motion to accept AOP 12.07 as amended.

Senator Peacock expressed concern with who makes the decision. Does the hearing panel act as jury and judge? President Emison said that they do. Senator Peacock asked who decides when a student can return. Senator Addy said that the faculty member and the Honor Code Office make that decision. Senator Rude clarified that the faculty member decides both if it's the student's first offense and the faculty member can choose to have the Honor Code Council make the determination. A student can appeal the decision.

Vice President Follett mentioned that the operational detail was removed from the original AOP and referred to an operational document so that those procedures can be modified in a timely fashion.

Senator Burt asked who makes the determination if sanctions are necessary. Senator Addy referred to section E which says that a hearing panel makes the determination.

Senator Potter asked if the Registrar's office have the capability to know that a grade has previously been an XF. President Emison said that XF grades are tracked even when they have been pulled off.

In the vote on the motion to accept the report and changes of the committee, the motion passed with 1 nay by hand vote.

ANCILLARY AFFAIRS

No Report

CHARTER AND BYLAWS

No Report

FACULTY AFFAIRS

7.2.1 AOP 13.06 Faculty Sabbatical Leave

Senator Coyne presented AOP 13.06 Faculty Sabbatical Leave on behalf of the Faculty Affairs Committee. He summarized the changes made by the committee to the AOP. He made a motion to accept the AOP as amended.

Senator Peacock asked for clarification on the choice of wording "participate in meetings" Senator Coyne said that they chose not to use the word "attendance" for those who cannot attend, but still can participate.

In the vote on the motion to accept recommendations of the committee, the motion carried unanimously by hand vote.

7.1.2 AOP 13.22 Guidelines for Adjunct Faculty, Visiting Faculty, Visiting Scholars/Scientists, and Visiting Executives

Senator Coyne presented AOP 13.22 Guidelines for Adjunct Faculty, Visiting Faculty, Visiting Scholars/Scientists and Visiting Executives on behalf of the Faculty Affairs Committee. Senator Coyne summarized the changes made by the committee to the AOP. He made a motion to accept the AOP as amended.

Senator Wise made a friendly amendment to change "conduction" to "conduct" in revision 4. The friendly amendment was accepted.

In the vote on the motion to accept the AOP as amended, the motion carried unanimously by hand vote.

7.4.3 AOP 13.23 Faculty Workload

Senator Coyne presented AOP 13.23 Faculty Workload on behalf of the Faculty Affairs Committee. He summarized changes made by the committee and made a motion to accept the AOP as amended.

In the vote on the motion to accept the AOP as amended, the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

STUDENT AFFAIRS

7.3.1 AOP XX.XX Graduate Student Grievance Procedures

Senator McCann presented AOP XX.XX Graduate Student Grievance Procedures. She said that there was concern from Allen Hall with the ability to bypass the informal procedure. They also wanted grievances to go through the Dean of Students office so that that office could determine who should handle the issue. She made a motion to accept the AOP as amended.

In the vote on the motion to accept the proposed AOP as amended, the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

7.2.2 AOP 12.15 Academic Probation for Undergraduate Students

Senator McCann presented AOP Academic Probation for Undergraduate Students. It was tabled earlier in the year due to a question about limiting enrollment and course load. She explained that in checking with various offices around campus she found that often the transfer hours do not come until much later in a student's program so limiting their enrollment to MSU during probation was not enforceable.

Senator Nagel moved to eliminate the policy. Since there was no second, the motion died.

Senator Radin asked if there is a way to change the reporting timeframe on transfer courses. It was discussed that it was up to the other institution and student to get those transfer hours to MSU.

Senator Cinella made a friendly amendment to have noun agreement in first sentence of the policy/procedure. The friendly amendment was accepted.

In the vote on the motion to accept AOP 12.15 as amended by the committee and on the floor of the senate, the motion passed by hand vote with one nay.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

7.4.1 AOP XX.XX Teaching Modifications When Faculty Are Not Available to Meet Face-to-Face Instruction and AOP 13.13 Leave Policies

Senator Dobson presented AOP XX.XX Teaching Modifications when Faculty Are Not Available to Meet Face-to-Face Instruction and AOP 13.13 Leave Policies. He explained that the administration suggested the creation of the new policy in response to the changes to AOP 13.13 passed by the senate earlier in the year.

Senator Lemus asked how a course would be handled if it is a prerequisite course. Senator Dobson said that it would be worked out between the faculty member and department.

Senator Randle asked if AOP XX.XX is assuming faculty is still maintaining their other workload assignments. Senator Dobson said that the new policy is for those capable of working but not capable meeting your on-campus classroom responsibilities. There is also an OP for leave.

President Emison asked for clarification if it was correct that AOP XX.XX would remove the transferring of work to Maymester or summer, but there was also a 3 week compression statement. Senator Dobson explained that Maymester and summer are on a different budget and the 3 week timeframe is the minimum time allowed for a course to meet so it would be an intensive course that does not meet during Maymester. Senator Herd clarified that the AOP stated "three weeks or more."

Senator Hopper posed the possible need for faculty recourse in the policy for situations where faculty are treated unfairly. Senator Dobson said that there will be supervision above the department level.

Senator Beriswill mentioned cases where faculty routinely have courses moved to the summer due to medical reasons and asked if the policy prohibits that. Since the example situation does not involve leave, it was determined it would not be effected by this policy.

Senator O'Neill expressed concern that the policy needed more flexibility rather than impose more restrictions if it's to be used for faculty maternity leave. President Emison said that he thought the intent was for this policy to be used in a variety of ways. Senator Peacock felt in his meeting on this document with the Provost office was that the intent was to create flexibility. Senator Dobson added that he thought of the policy as protection for a faculty member rather than additional restriction.

In a motion to accept the proposed AOP as amended, the motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE REPORTS

NONE

OLD BUSINESS

NONE

NEW BUSINESS

NONE

Senator Robichaux moved to adjourn; Senator Wise seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:07.

Submitted for correction and approval.

Brian Rude, Secretary