

Increase in state funding reverses recent trend

State appropriations to Mississippi State will increase by about \$6 million for the next fiscal year starting July 1 following three years of declining state support, President Charles Lee told last week's meeting of the general faculty.

The \$6 million includes about \$1.1 million needed to annualize the salary increases awarded last year and an estimated \$304,000 for the general fund.

The higher education funding bill approved at the beginning of the current legislative session also provides \$3.5 million for operation of the Center for Advanced Vehicular Systems, which was part of the state's commitment to help attract a Nissan automobile plant to the state.

The remainder of the increase consists of \$500,000 designated for economic development efforts to be used as the university determines and about \$685,000 for separately budgeted units in the Division of Agriculture, Forestry, and Veterinary Medicine.

Statewide, Mississippi universities and state-funded financial aid programs will receive a \$22 million boost in state funding next fiscal year, rather than a further \$48 million cut that was recommended last fall by the joint Legislative Budget Committee.

Although the university's total revenues have grown from \$418 million in 2000-2001 to an estimated \$462 million this year, the proportion represented by state funding has declined from 35 percent to 32 percent during that time.

The funding bill for next year does not provide for additional salary increases. President Lee said that another tuition increase for next year is unlikely, as legislators and Board of Trustees, State Institutions of Higher Learning members have expressed concern over rising costs faced by students and parents.

The Legislature has not yet adopted a

capital improvements bond bill this year. Lee said the university's top requests are for \$15 million to help fund a proposed \$28 million expansion and renovation of Colvard Union; \$1.5 million for infrastructure repairs; preplanning funds for a renovation of Harned Hall; and \$9 million for a new agricultural and biological engineering building.

In his first general faculty appearance since dropping "interim" from the president's title last month, Lee reiterated his emphasis on the priorities of academic excellence and access, outreach and community development, research and economic development, and improving the stature of the university.

Touching on a variety of topics, the president reported that:

- A search and screening committee

for the next provost and vice president for academic affairs is being formed. Faculty elections for six of the 11 committee slots will be held this month prior to a meeting with a search consultant.

- Dr. Gary Pike begins his duties as director of institutional research on March 1.

- External reviews have been planned for the Physical Plant Department and the Division of Student Affairs.

- The executive committee of the Association of Research Libraries voted not to recommend MSU membership in the organization during the current year, but a generally positive site visit report provides information needed to keep moving toward that goal. Lee thanked the University Libraries faculty and staff for significant gains and for making a good case to ARL.

- The dollar value of research awards for

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Three Mississippi State teachers were honored for achievement in the academic advising of students. Dr. Sylvia Byrd (second from left), assistant professor of human sciences, received the Outstanding Adviser Award, while Dr. Clyde Herring (l), associate professor of accounting, and Dr. Donna Reese, computer science associate professor, earned certificates of merit. President Charles Lee presented their honors during the spring general faculty meeting. Byrd will represent the university in national competition later this year.

Innovative Instructional Technology Grant winners revealed

Five faculty members recently were awarded 2003 Innovative Instructional Technology Grants.



Elsea

Receiving project funding are art instructor Angi Elsea; Dr. James Jones, sociology professor; Dr. Kent Kerley, associate professor of sociology; Dr. Giselle Thibaudeau, associate professor of biological sciences; and

biological sciences instructor Gay Williamson.

Elsea's proposal was entitled "Digitization of Art History I and II," while Jones and Kerley were awarded a grant for "Showcasing Sociology: A Proposal to Transform Introduction to Sociology Using WebCT, Showcase, and Virtual Tours." The proposal by Thibaudeau and

Williamson to modernize two courses was entitled "Transforming Principles of Zoology," and "Cell Biology."



Thibaudeau (l) and Williamson

Project details may be accessed online at www.cio.msstate.edu.

The grant program is a partnership among the academic departments, the colleges or schools, and the Office of

Academic Affairs and seeks to reward faculty members for projects using



Kerley (l) and Jones

innovative instructional technology. It is coordinated by the Instructional Technology Advisory Committee, chaired by Dr. Susan Diehl.

Landmark drama, original producer set

A Feb. 20-22 Mississippi State presentation of "A Raisin in the Sun" will be accompanied by a visit from the award-winning play's original New York producer.

The 7:30 p.m. university performances in the McComas Hall theater are a collaborative effort among the Communication Department's Theatre MSU program, University Honors Forum and Richard Holmes Cultural Diversity Center. General admission tickets are \$10; \$5 for MSU students, faculty, staff, senior citizens, and children.

Produced by Philip Rose, *Raisin* debuted on Broadway in March of 1959. Winner of the Drama Critics Circle's Award for Best Play, young Lorraine Hansberry's contemporary drama examined the divergent dreams and conflicts within three generations of an African-American family in Southside Chicago. (Hansberry died of cancer in 1965 at age 34.)

The New York Times lauded "Raisin" as the play that "changed American theater forever." Since then, other critics

have added praise for giving predominantly white Broadway patrons "a glimpse into lives that had previously been hidden behind tenement walls" and for bringing a whole new audience of African-Americans to the theater.

Rose, who will be at MSU Feb. 17-21, later wrote of his groundbreaking experience in "You Can't Do That on Broadway! A Raisin in the Sun and Other Theatrical Improbabilities." While on campus, he'll be featured speaker on the 18th for a University Honors Forum program and the Holmes Center's annual achievement awards banquet. On the 19th and 20th, he is scheduled as guest lecturer for classes in theater and English.

Also on the 20th, Rose will autograph his book from 1-3 p.m. in the MSU Bookstore and 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the McComas Hall lobby.

M.J. Etua, a Louisville High School theater arts teacher, will direct the play. Active in the Starkville Community Theater, the classroom and stage veteran currently heads the Mississippi Theater Association's high school division.

Firefighters admitted free to MSU play

The Actors' Gang, founded by actor Tim Robbins, will present a performance of "The Guys" Feb. 24 and 25 at Mississippi State as part of the university's Lyceum Series.

Tickets for the 7:30 p.m. performances in McComas Hall theater are \$10 for adults, \$8 for senior citizens (65 and over by request), and \$6 for children ages 3-12. Individual tickets are available only at the door, and MSU students will be admitted free with student identification.

Firefighters will be admitted free as long as seats are available. Priority seating will be given to season ticket holders until 7:10 p.m.

Focusing on events following Sept. 11, the play details the actual experiences of a New York senior battalion commander. In desperation for words for the eulogies of eight men from his ladder company, he asks a local journalism professor for help. She invites him to her apartment to discuss his thoughts on his men. The conversation that ensued became the basis for "The Guys."

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New facility promotes sustainable design

When landscape architecture faculty members at Mississippi State were asked to help plan a new home for their department, all appreciated the need to practice what they preach to students.

Their message is that landscapes and structures built by humans can and should operate like natural systems—with no wasted energy. Or, in its most succinct terms, the creations must be sustainable.

Located just off Stone Boulevard on the western side of campus, the realization of their collaborative efforts is an academic complex that joins only a few in the nation considered truly sustainable.

“We wanted a facility that demonstrated to both the members of the campus community and visitors from around the world how we are in harmony with natural ecological systems,” said professor Pete Melby, the faculty planning committee chair.

In addition to his teaching duties, Melby co-directs with biological engineer Tom Cathcart MSU’s Center for Sustainable Design. Last year, they also collaborated on a book titled “Regenerative Design Techniques: Practical Applications in Landscape Design.”

Melby said the landscape architecture faculty team worked closely with lead architects Dale and Associates of Jackson, as well as state Bureau of Buildings officials, to bring the concepts to reality.

The newly opened complex involves three brick-façade buildings that provide space for classrooms and studios accommodating about 250 faculty and students, as well as faculty and administrative offices, for the department’s landscape architecture and landscape contracting curricula.

“The buildings are sited so that they make full use of natural daylight,” Melby said. “No room in the buildings would have inadequate lighting, even if the power went out.”

Other energy-reducing features include:

- Ground-source heating and cooling expected to reduce utility bills by as much as 50 percent;
- Large building overhangs that will keep buildings 8-10 degrees cooler in the summer;
- Wall and roof designs that won’t allow

summer heat to penetrate the structure; and

- In cooperation with the Tennessee Valley Authority, a bank of photo-voltaic solar panels that provide enough power to run the facility.

Taking energy conservation a step further, the functioning windows will enable the university to turn



Meeting—continued from page 1

the first six months of the current year is up by 18 percent compared with last year, and the number of proposals submitted during the six months is up by 28 percent from last year.

- Freshman enrollment applications for next year are up by 2 percent from the same date last year.

- Lee also outlined plans for developing a comprehensive planning and assessment process and a performance-based budget process for the university.

Robert Holland Faculty Senate chair Walter Diehl presented proposed changes to the faculty charter dealing with academic titles. The changes would be consistent with the university operating policy on faculty titles adopted last year. Diehl said information about the proposed changes would be e-mailed to faculty and a vote on the changes would be planned for next month.

This spring’s faculty-administration roundtable discussion is planned for March 29 and probably will focus on the graduate program, Diehl said.

A video of the Feb. 10 faculty meeting should be available online at www.facultysenate.msstate.edu/faculty_senate.html.

off heating and cooling sources during the milder months and have only open windows for necessary ventilation.

Also inside the structures, concrete floors assure there are no emissions of volatile organic compounds. In places requiring something other than concrete, the design team chose floor coverings of either recycled rubber tire or natural soybean-based materials.

Outside, Melby added, the surrounding landscape will feature very little mowed grass.

“There will be producing vegetable gardens, prairie grass and themed gardens such as a butterfly garden and a perennials garden,” he said. The goal here, he emphasized, will be to “utilize the grounds as both a teaching tool and visitor attraction.”

As for parking lots, a separate plan was developed to remove wastewater from the site, including byproducts left from automobiles in adjacent parking lots. Wetland treatment cells, indoor recycling of gray water, the use of cisterns for harvesting water, and even natural treatment of sewage are among other planned water-conserving measures.

Term life insurance holders must re-enroll

All employees currently enrolled in the state group term life insurance program must re-enroll with the new carrier, Aetna Life Insurance Co.

Any employee who did not receive a re-enrollment form at his or her home should contact Human Resources Management at 325-3713.

Completed forms should be sent to HRM, Box 9603, Mississippi State, MS 39762 before Feb. 28.





Calendar of Events

Send your calendar items to

Kay Fike Jones, 102 George Hall; Mail Stop 9512; FAX 325-7455; e-mail jonesk@ur.msstate.edu at least **TWO WEEKS** in advance. For updates, check www.msstate.edu and click on "News" for msu.NOW!

February 17

Lecture: "Sixteen Years of Excavations at Et-Tell: The Archaeological Features of Tzer/Bethsaida-Julias," Dr. John T. Greene, professor of religious studies at Michigan State University, 102 Hilbun Hall, 5 p.m. 325-3826.

17-20

Self-defense classes: Rape Aggression Defense System, Sanderson Center Studio C, 6-9 p.m. MSU Police detective Virginia Rich, 325-4066; www.rad.msstate.edu/.

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ITS workshop: "Banner: Invoice Processing," McArthur Lab B, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. 325-0631; www.its.msstate.edu/Services/Instructional/Workshops/reg.php.

Note date change: Faculty and Professional Women's Association brown-bag lunch meeting, Samye Johnson, senior women's administrator for athletics, will discuss impact of Title IX on women's college athletics, Sanderson Center conference room, 11:30- 1 p.m. 325-2179.

18, 20, 25, 27, March 4, 6

Continuing Education Personal Enrichment Course: "Conversational Spanish I," Emma Rodriguez, Memorial Hall, 6-8 p.m. \$70. 325-8876; vtate@ce.msstate.edu; www.ce.msstate.edu/pe/.

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ITS workshop: "Banner: Invoice Processing," McArthur Lab B, 8:30 a.m.-noon; "Introduction to Microsoft Access 2000," McArthur Lab A, 8:30 a.m.-noon. 325-0631; www.its.msstate.edu/Services/Instructional/Workshops/reg.php.

Gay and lesbian faculty and staff are welcome to a social/discussion brown-bag lunch,

Mississippi State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, disability, or veteran status.

Counseling Center board room, second floor, YMCA building, noon. 325-1965.

20

Sigma Xi lecture: "Biological Warfare and Bioterrorism (Past, Present and Future)," Dr. Lewis R. Brown, professor emeritus of microbiology, Swalm Chemical Engineering Building auditorium, 3:30 p.m. 325-7593.

20-22

MSU Bulldog Stampede Rodeo, MSU Horse Park, Agricenter and Fairgrounds, 7:30 p.m. 338-5279.

Theatre MSU: "A Raisin in the Sun," McComas Hall theater or laboratory theater, 7:30 p.m. 325-9810; theatremsu@comm.msstate.edu.

20, 27, March 6, 13, 20, 27

Continuing Education Personal Enrichment Course: "Cake Decorating I," Sheila Johnson, Lewis-Summer room, Memorial Hall, 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$65. 325-8876; vtate@ce.msstate.edu; www.ce.msstate.edu/pe/.

20, March 6, 20, 27, April 3, 10

Continuing Education Personal Enrichment Course: "Piano for Pleasure" Laura Stokes, Music Building, 6:30-7:30 p.m. \$100. 325-8876; vtate@ce.msstate.edu; www.ce.msstate.edu/pe/.

20 and 27

Continuing Education Personal Enrichment Course: "Introduction to Stained Glass," Kathryn Davis, 209 IED Building, 5:30-7:30 p.m. \$75. 325-8876; vtate@ce.msstate.edu; www.ce.msstate.edu/pe/.

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Human Resources Management workshop: "Overview of Supervisory Responsibilities," 150 McArthur Hall, 1-5 p.m. Open to supervisory employees and registration is required. 325-3713; helms@hrm.mstate.edu.

Professional and Support Staff Advisory Council's Healthy Body Month continues with "The 'E' Word—Exercise—It Really Can Be Fun!" Sanderson Center fitness director Greg Altorfer will discuss different exercise options and what is available at the Sanderson Center to "get in shape" and enjoy it at the same time, Sanderson Center, 10 a.m. Healthy, light lunch served at 11 a.m.

24 and 25

Lyceum Series play: "The Guys," McComas

Hall theater, 7:30 p.m. 325-4202. Firefighters admitted free. (see story page 2)

25

ITS workshop: "Introduction to Adobe Acrobat 5.0," McArthur Lab A, 1:30-5 p.m. 325-0631; www.its.msstate.edu/Services/Instructional/Workshops/reg.php.

Lyceum—continued from page 2

A Los Angeles-based theater ensemble, The Actors' Gang presents new and unconventional plays and new interpretations of the classics. Since 1981, The Actors' Gang has produced 68 plays and earned more than 100 awards, winning acclaim for innovative interpretations of Shakespeare, Brecht, Moliere, Aeschylus, Ibsen, and Chekhov and developing new plays addressing the world today through a prism of satire, popular culture, and imaginative stagecraft.

V.J. Foster and Adele Robbins will perform "The Guys" under the direction of Robert Egan.

The play is a replacement for the originally scheduled National Shakespeare Co.'s performance of "The Comedy of Errors." MSU Lyceum season tickets will be honored.

For more information, please telephone 325-4201 or visit www.msstate.edu/dept/lyceum.

President's commission continues forums

A series of forums now under way is seeking information on the current conditions for women at Mississippi State.

Coordinated by the President's Commission on the Status of Women, the information-sharing sessions resulted from the group's desire, supported by MSU President Charles Lee, to identify and address women's issues, said PCSW chair Connie C. Templeton.

"We've held four sessions so far, with two planned in the coming weeks," Templeton said. "The purpose of each meeting is to gain honest feedback."

At the end of the project, PCSW will use the information to make specific recommendations to Dr. Lee.

For more information about the forums, contact Templeton at 325-8643.