

BGSU | Faculty Senate

BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY Faculty Senate Minutes

September 26, 2023 // 2:30 - 4:30 // Hybrid: 308 BTSU and via Zoom

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** Chair Robyn Miller, 2:33 pm

2. **ROLL CALL:**

Attendance: Quorum requirement met

Faculty Senate administrative secretary Matt Desmond took attendance in the room and via Zoom, with alternates indicating their presence.

3. **CHAIR REMARKS:** *Robyn Miller, 2023-2024 Faculty Senate Chair*

Academic Honesty Committee in progress to look at concerns and issues

Lots of openings on various committees.

[Tech issues with the sound/microphone in room/feedback on Zoom from unmuted people]

4. **COMMUNICATIONS:**

Allen Rogel, Vice Chair, Faculty Senate:

New Senate procedure:

Unanimous consent will now be used, per Roberts Rules of Order: the Chair will now say “If there is no objection we will adopt the motion to approve” etc. etc. Email us if you have a change to make to the minutes and we can do that even after minutes are approved. We can do that in cases where it would normally be a hand vote. It will simplify the hybrid process.

Joe Whitehead, Provost and SVPASA:

--Search for Firelands dean in progress.

--Vice President for Research search update and for new dean of CTAAEE

--Test optional committee is considering how to use holistic processes instead of standardized tests, taking into account Supreme Court decision that we cannot use race as a factor in decision making, which we did not do anyway. How do we compete and also increase diversity, and also retain all students at a higher level, as we redefine student success? All factors into changing the perception that higher ed is not worth the investment. It is worth the investment and we have to change that perception.

Curriculum Review Process committee work continues, how can we be more efficient in reviewing and approving curricular changes, it's a great time for it as we are launching Curriculog.

Calendar Committee is looking at a perpetual calendar, some people need to fix their leases based on academic calendar!

We were about to go through HLC review last fall, when we found some classes didn't have the required contact hours due to where holidays fell. To get away from that being on the edge, the committee recommended increasing the course periods by 5 minutes, and increase time between classes to 15 minutes, and in order to do that we had to change the grid so we have a group working on recommendations for how to do that.

Also the undergraduate student government resolution about Election Day, we have to see what the possibilities are there, pull together a committee to look at that.

We don't have a process of reviewing undergraduate certificates so we are working on that.

I mentioned the SCOTUS decision, I was just on a Town Hall meeting with other Provosts and this is something we're looking at carefully to be in compliance with the federal mandate. We also have gotten a letter, it was a warning letter from the Ohio Attorney General saying we could be liable if we use race as a factor in admissions decisions. But we can have pathway programs, we can target certain geographic areas and groups to help them understand what we have here at BGSU, but not using race as a component. We're looking at that very carefully. That's at the undergraduate level, it also impacts scholarships because if a donor wants to target scholarships to a particular group or type of individual we can't do that. There are certain limitations people put on their gifts.

Questions?

Question from Senator about when scheduling goes into effect [Provost: 2024-2025, we are working with registrar's office]

Tiffany Knoell: Are we actually going back to 16-week term?

Provost: Not going back to 16-week term

Knoell: Question about landlords complaining?

Provost: It was a couple of years ago—they set their move in times in August based on when the semester starts, preparing the apartments for the students to move in.

Bill Albertini: In terms of the question about retaining students—what's the data or research we have on that? On what keeps students or does not keep students?

Provost: [Gives statistics about retention from recent years] A lot of factors come into play, sometimes it's financial, sometimes it's students don't feel they belong, don't fit, and leave to go back closer to home... many different factors come into play that impact retention. We need to help students think through things including wellness, mental health... student success engagement has another aspect to it, they spend more time in the dorms than in the classroom. We have an opportunity to engage with them in the dorms not just in the classroom.

Bill Albertini: What are we doing and how much data do we have on financial pressures and how much they are working outside of school? I feel like I see many students carrying so many credit hours because of incentives to do so...it gets cheaper the more you do them, right?

Provost: Yes tuition cost is the same from 12-18 credits.

Albertini: What do we have for information on how much they're trying to carry, and also how much are they working?

Provost: We can only look at financial data in terms of their need. If students are working, they're working on campus we don't know the hours they're working, etc. We have the institutional aid that's awarded, we have the federal aid if they qualify, that's one reason we were disappointed in the state budget that was passed because the governor has requested an increase and it didn't pass... all those things come together to help them lessen the financial burden. In terms of overall cost, how can we help students graduate in a shorter period of time? Not the cost per semester but the overall cost.

Bill Albertini: That sounds compelling, but it seems like it would be a great opportunity for us to gather better data—more credit hours could be good but if someone has to work a full time job and also go to school full time it gets really hard to do well. We need to gather better information.

Provost: You'd be surprised how much data we have. I'd suggest you talk with Glenn Davis. It would be great if we had stereotypical students, uniform, but we do not. A lot of individual cases and each person's case is different. Students engaging with our wellness team, with our design coaches, the early alert system, if faculty engage with students that would be helpful, send them a message, help by having these discussions with them, to navigate these situations.

Bill Albertini: You point to a lack of knowledge. If you're making policy decisions, let's have a notion of trends among students.

Provost: There are some things we can do, and some individual cases, and everyone can do a better job, and we can do a better job.

Amy Robinson: Influence we have over landlords: this last year our grad students were able to move in Saturday before the semester started, but some were coming in early for orientation, and that is becoming a more widespread problem, so I encourage the University to use their influence to get landlords to open up a week before the semester so students can move in before orientation.

Provost: We have someone talking with landlords in the city on a regular basis.

Matthew Rome: Discussion of "common hour" in schedule still being deemed feasible?

Provost: That didn't make it into the recommendations from the committee. Idea came from three USG presidents ago, it's been floating around. I think it's a good idea but it was sacrificed, it didn't have the support of the committee.

Matthew Rome: Would the schedule affect Firelands or just main campus?

Provost: Good question. We should go to a uniform grid, in case Firelands students want to take a Main Campus course, but there is representation on the committee from Firelands.

Vice Chair Allen Rogel: Questions about Covid vaccine...?

Ben Batey: We're working with HR to get to the bottom of that. Make sure you're using your insurance medical card and not your prescription card. We're going to be putting out an email about that and calling locations. Also, vaccine clinics October 17 and 31.

[Discussion about some pharmacies not covering it... Batey mentions that some providers are still trying to get it in stock.]

Committee Reports:

Emily Gerome, USG President:

Briefing about mixer being hosted by USG, to showcase our plans for the year, casual, Monday October 23 7:30 pm in BTSU 308. You're all invited, we want to work more with faculty, interact with students involved in USG.

Last year we had some folks working on Green Falcon Pledge, partnership with environmental action group and office of sustainability, reflecting on your own sustainability practices. Open for anyone to take, find the pledge on the off of sust website, fun mindful activity to commit to these values.

David Fisher, GSS President:

I addressed the BoT not long ago about our history... upping our service hours, and our engagement across campus and collaborating with leaders.

Some of our initiatives right now:

Graduate trustee search, please help sharing that across the university

Faculty-student mentorship initiative with Grad Council

Well-being initiative, grad student housing especially for incoming international students

Funding for professional development for grad students, \$74K was requested this fall but we didn't reach even 25 percent of the funding for that, so it's something we need to continue to work on.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

Leadership Studies Proposal Change from ED.D to PH.D

042423_EdD-PhD_Memo.pdf

Chair Robyn Miller read letter from Dean Percival:

Statement of impact to DODC of EdD Changes Final.docx

[DoDC = Doctorate in Organization Development & Change]

Discussion to bring issue off the table, after no objections to motion to bring it off the table

Chris Willis responds to concerns, saying nothing about coursework has changed, it is not about a student capture, it's to recapture K-12 leaders. Want to restate that blended/hybrid stuff isn't up for debate in this proposal, it was vetted last spring through all the proper established procedures for any program on campus.

The idea about expanded student reach or target population—our goal is much more regional, we've been very clear and it's reflected in the fact that we made our hybrid program 100 percent synchronous. Just trying to capture a regional base. A host of K-12 leaders throughout the state can benefit from the opportunity to engage with the university and are not able to seek that out when we're in our face to face format. The comment about "the scope beyond education"—again I want to note that nothing in our course offerings has changed, we have always been and always

will be a leadership studies program. The field itself as an academic pursuit dates to 1978... [continues with explaining more history of the field]... We're making this change *now* because the Ed.D has a very cloudy history in terms of how it was different from the PhD. Over the last dozen years or so the Carnegie Foundation launched the Carnegie Project for the educational doctorate, to draw a distinction. It came out of the same model as law degrees, but this distinction has been drawn more clearly in last dozen years. [Differences in practice, field research requirements, etc.] Leadership studies has always asked our students to engage in the creation of new knowledge. In various settings, cuts across all of those fields, we build those characteristics within our students, that is what we've been about, so the idea that we're expanding our scope just isn't true. We want the work we ask our students to do to be aligned with the degree that they're earning. Our students are doing PhD work and we want to award them the PhD for the work they're doing.

Regarding the tuition discounts comment: yes we fund some students through our college's allocation of stipends and scholarships but we also have a fair amount that are fee payers. We don't charge executive fees so they're paying for their books directly, and marketing and support are done through budgets of our unit as well as faculty service. That is how I address the issue of cost difference.

The idea of changing our name—just is not what our program has ever been about. We've existed for 25 years on this campus and what we've been about has not fundamentally changed. We're trying to make this alignment work.

Last point: There's discussion about overlap between the two programs. It's true there is overlap, but there is nothing the Leadership Studies program has done to cause that overlap. It exists because 5-6 years ago the DoDC did not do their due diligence to see what leadership studies was up to. We saw the overlap at that point and we did not raise any concern because we saw the landscape as large enough for both programs to be successful.

Questions?

[Question from unidentified Senator about people coming back for another degree mid career]
Chris Willis: Can't speak for the business side but as a program we are a Leadership Studies program, I'm going to leave this meeting and go teach class to a group of students from a variety of backgrounds—classroom teachers, university staff, international students, a broad spectrum of folks in our program. Some come seeking opportunities to come into academia for an academic career, some are using the degree to launch a next career, they find themselves circling back to academe. Some of our students with education backgrounds are adjuncts for us and need to have advanced degrees so they are using that degree in different ways.

Question: So your faculty don't come from a business background?

Chris Willis: No.

Walt Ryley: I'm in the College of Business ... Whether or not students are already doing the job doesn't make this a trivial change, we are talking about a new degree. Whether the intent is to cannibalize demand, if that's a consequence it still seems important and furthermore it would seem that the DoDC is an affected party and should have been at the table and they weren't. Voting on the proposal strikes me as out of order and independent of procedure that could set a bad precedent. The COB would propose that we keep this tabled till we can have due process and representation.

Robyn Miller: This did go through all the processes with faculty being represented. It wasn't just brought to Senate without going through all of the proper steps. I think there could be some confusion—we're voting to change designation, not change the description or anything like that. I wanted to make that very clear.

Jolie Sheffer: I'm a senator and faculty member who has served as grad faculty rep for both the DoDC program and the LS program, I want to underscore what Robyn said, our role is not to adjudicate the program, it has already gone through the process. We're here to say if it met our criteria for following the process. These two programs have histories, I think they are distinct, there is overlap, but we don't make one program go away because a student might find attractive elements in both. LS has done that, they are following the norms of the discipline. It's not our job to support some programs avoid competition I urge us to stay on task with the questions before us, and if the process has been followed, and the change makes sense, that's all we need to vote on today.

Nancy Patterson: I'd like to call the question

Carol Puder: second

Discussion?

Walter Ryley: Our understanding was that affected parties had been consulted, and I think faculty and dean Percival really didn't have an idea of the changes.

Robyn Miller: Business faculty were involved...

Amy Robinson: ... Something promoted the tabling, someone points out there could be an affected program, where is the letter of support where the other program is allowed to say how it could impact them... I've never seen a negative letter, in experiences I've had on these committees, usually both parties arrange a mutually acceptable scenario. Procedurally, professionally, I don't know if there is a way to say can you go back and work this out in such a way that both parties can feel comfortable moving forward and everyone gets a win win without senators voting without knowing if this is going to cause bitter problems, from a collegiality perspective.

Allen Rogel: Debate should only be on calling the question, at the moment. "Call the question" is a motion to end debate, obviously there is not unanimity so we will not be ending debate.

[Vote held in room and through Zoom poll]

Rogel: The question is called, we will go to Qualtrics ballot after the meeting.

[Vote results: Change to Leadership Studies Degree Designation from ED.D to Ph.D- 42 yes, 9, no, 8 abstain]

Approval of minutes from August 29 meeting:

Robyn asks if anyone objects, no objections, minutes approved by consent

6. NEW BUSINESS:

Joey Payne presentation: CAPTRUST financial advising relating to retirement plan assets

We serve as a fiduciary in the advice we give, you can pick up the phone and contact us, we're totally independent, get paid a flat fee by the university, we don't have products to sell or anything like that.

You might look at us as a second opinion... we help with new employee orientation, e.g.

HR feels like they are not knowledgeable enough to advise people on things like this.

Link to powerpoint:

[CAPTRUST PAS Participant Experience 2023 .pdf](#)

[Questions from senators about whether university has purchased the program for us [yes] and how much they spent on it]

[No response, will get back to us]

Presentation by Enrique Gomezdelcampo on Green Fund (pool of money available to fund projects for sustainability on campus, committee reviews proposals and decides which get funded).

Graduate grading policy

Allen Rogel moves to approve, David Fisher seconds

Discussion: Rogel explains change, making things consistent with other grading policies

Robyn Miller: Calls question, unanimous consent (no objections)

[Qualtrics ballot sent out after meeting]

[Vote results: Change to Graduate Grading Policy- 48 yes, 1 no, 11 abstain]

University standing committees election information:

Robyn Miller: Still have vacancies, they are in the agenda... we only have shared governance if people are willing to serve.

Graduate research policy:

Allen Rogel: This is really about getting rid of an old policy that has been superceded by other policies

[No discussion]

Robyn Miller calls question, no objections... unanimous consent, ballot sent out after meeting.

[Vote results: Elimination of Graduate Research Policy- 48 yes, 0 no, 12 abstain]

Committee updates:

Bill Albertini (BGSU-FA): Bargaining has started, anything said at the table is treated as a formal motion so to make it an open conversation, conversation is limited in a different way. SB 83 remains alive, we expect to see a new version in October.

AAUP Ohio Council continue to fight, keep contacting your legislators to oppose SB 83.

BGSU FA events—come to our membership meetings, on Zoom, each month, registration required, next meetings are Tuesday October 17 at 1 pm and Wednesday November 15 at 7 pm. Contact Bill Albertini or Vera Lux for more information

7. ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Ken Snead: I originally made the motion to table the Education/Business thing and I've heard all the discussion back and forth, I'm just confused a little, what exactly are we being asked to vote on? Just the designation/name?

Robyn Miller: Yes, that is all the Senate is voting on at this time. Other governance issues may come up but the Senate is only voting on the name change.

Ken Snead: I've heard a couple of times that our job is to make sure the appropriate protocol was followed. I'm just asking your opinion, do you feel it has been followed?

Robyn Miller: I personally feel that it has gone through all the governance that these types of issues go through. I'm satisfied as Chair, my humble opinion is that it did go through and that there was proper representation from both colleges. I do feel the process has been followed for *what we are to be voting on*.

Snead: Regarding Amy's comments about collegiality, I hope that can happen.

Bill Albertini: Can we have a follow up about cost of financial planning service?

8. ADJOURNMENT:

David Fisher moves to adjourn, Michelle Heckman seconds. Meeting adjourned 4:25 pm.

NOTE: Senate meetings are open to the public. Supplemental materials supporting proposed action item(s) may be sent to Senators only. Senators are expected to stay through adjournment.