

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

January 15, 2013
2:30 – 4:30 P.M.

Assembly Room
McFall Center

CALL TO ORDER: Chair Earley called the meeting to order at 2:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

Faculty Senate Secretary, Elizabeth Wood, called the roll and announced a quorum.

Absent: Anguino, Beaverson, Blok, Challu, Hoff, Landry-Meyer, Longmore, Rich, Solis.

Please note: Senators arriving after roll call should call their presence to the secretary's attention at the conclusion of the meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Chair of the Faculty Senate, Mark Earley Chair welcomed the assembly back for Spring semester and reminded them that the deadline for Senate awards has been extended to February 15. He urged attendees to nominate faculty who qualify for these awards.

President, Mary Ellen Mazey President Mazey had five updates:

- Faculty Contract Negotiations President Mazey commended the work of the chief negotiators, Candace Archer and Patrick Pauken, and their teams. Remaining contract issues are being addressed under the coordination of the mediator, Ron Stein.
- Vice President for Advancement This search is in process and hopefully will be completed by May 2013. The position will be critical to the success of our next capital campaign.
- Chancellor's Retirement Chancellor Jim Petro, who was a great supporter of BGSU, is stepping down as of February 1, 2013.
- IUC Presidents' Conference Call A conference call with other Inter-university Consortium Council presidents had these highlights.
 - It looks as if the cap on tuition and fees for Ohio public colleges and universities will be lowered – possibly from 3.5% to 2%.
 - The IUC presidents heard that legislation about faculty workloads in higher education is currently being crafted. No details are available at this time.
- HLC Site Visit The Higher Learning Commission's re-accreditation team will be on campus April 15, 2013.
 - President Mazey encourages all faculty to review BGSU's self-study document and to participate in opportunities to give the team input.
 - President Mazey commended the effort spearheaded by Robin Gerrow, Chief Communications Officer, to incorporate ideas from across campus into a positioning statement that will reflect the unique strengths of this university to all stakeholders.
 - The President noted that in conjunction with the upcoming site visit, BGSU is in the process of revising and updating its strategic plan.

Provost/VPAA, Rodney Rogers Provost Rogers focused his remarks on the issues of recruitment and retention.

Progress: Dr. Rogers called attention to several signs of progress toward improving recruitment and retention.

- He thanked faculty involved in revising policies and procedures during Fall semester and continuing through this semester.
- There has been an encouraging upturn in one student success indicator. Specifically compared to last year, our first-time full-time retention metric rose a point to 89.7% as of Fall 2012.
- The undergraduate advising plan is expected to propose some viable strategies for improving support of continuing first year students.
- Development of more linked courses—three-courses from the academic core in which students will be grouped by discipline to form de facto cohorts -- is another positive step toward improving retention. Dr. Houston is commended for leading this effort together with chairs, deans, and directors.
- Conversion of a significant portion of the second floor of Olscamp to a state-of-the-art active learning classroom is among the most exciting facilities projects this term. Hopefully BGSU faculty will take time during the Teaching and Learning Fair in February to talk to faculty who have designed similar spaces at other universities.
- The Efficiency/Effectiveness Task Force, having gathered faculty, staff, and student input, will soon be releasing its report and recommendations.
- A draft version of BGSU's self-study document will soon be posted on the Higher Learning Commission website.

Benchmarking the Ratio of Students to Staff: "Our priority is ensuring the success of our students; and we are constantly evaluating staffing to meet their needs and operate as efficiently as possible," said Dr. Rodney Rogers, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost. "This will not impact the quality of a BGSU education or a student's ability to graduate on time."

Dr. Rogers fielded several questions centered on the upcoming adjustment in numbers of faculty positions. This action is based on a comparison with ratios at peer institutions (Miami, Kent, and OU) as well as staff-to-student numbers at The Ohio State University. Reductions in SSI funding are anticipated until such time as we can increase enrollment.

As much as possible, reductions will be handled through attrition. Multi-year faculty contracts will be honored. Notification of any non-renewals of contracts is mandated by the *Charter* no later than March. To ensure the quality of academic programs, these decisions are being made on a course-by-course basis by deans, chairs, and heads of academic departments/units.

Graduate Student Senate Representative, David Sleasman GSS President Sleasman noted progress on two initiatives:

- The Non-academic Grievance Procedure Policy revision is in a Graduate Council sub-committee.
- Through a joint effort by Provost Rogers, Vice President Ogawa, and others, graduate students now have the option of paying annual insurance premiums in installments rather than as a lump sum.

Undergraduate Student Government Representative, Alex Solis No report.

BGSU Faculty Association Liaison – Lawrence Coates Dr. Coates reminded Senate of the 3 years that have elapsed since the inception of the faculty union's organizing efforts and enumerated some significant agreements preliminary to getting the full contract in place:

- Academic freedom
- Faculty grievance procedure
- Eligibility of NTTF for grants funds

He listed two remaining dates set for negotiations and cautioned that the unresolved issues -- mostly economic ones -- are some of the most difficult to negotiate. Coates expressed the belief that the remaining issues would go to fact finding. In that eventuality, the factfinder's report could be ready for the Trustees and BGSU Faculty Association members by early April.

Coates clarified that -- contrary to speculation expressed on the faculty listserv -- per Ohio law, faculty workload is not subject to collective bargaining. He then urged Faculty Senate to weigh in on this issue because of its impact on curriculum.

Retiree Representative, David Chilson Dr. Chilson announced that the lunch meetings of the BGSU Faculty Retirees' Association scheduled for March and May will be in Bowling Green, while the joint meeting with UT retirees in April will be held in Toledo.

REPORTS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES

Committee on Academic Affairs – David Border The first CAA meeting of the semester is on 1/16/13. No academic business has been carried over from Fall semester.

Amendments and Bylaws Committee – E. Wood for Erin Labbie At the request of SEC, on January 11 the Amendments and Bylaws Committee (A & B) met and began discussing a proposed revision to the attendance policy for students as stated in *Charter* section B. The charge was to add "official university business" as a criterion for excused student absences from class.

Pending clarifications from SEC, A & B plans to articulate *Charter* language for the proposed change in its January 28 meeting. A & B will also be gathering information from Student Affairs, since the definition of "official university business" as well as an explanation of the process for notifying faculty of an excused absence due to official university business will be drafted by an entity separate from A & B and set forth in the student handbooks.

A & B Chair, Labbie, reminded Senate, "As always, if we may be of service regarding editorial or content changes to the *Charter* please do not hesitate to contact us."

Committee on Committees – Scott Magelssen Chair Magelssen offered several updates:

- The work of filling committee vacancies continues.
- Parking Advisory Committee has been disbanded and absorbed into the Public Safety Advisory Committee.
- Citing the example of the Library Advisory Committee, Magelssen advised committees desirous of updating their charge or committee makeup to follow this procedure: convene as a committee to agree on proposed revisions and submit a written proposal to ComCom. University Committee changes need not be submitted for Senate approval. If approved by ComCom, they can be forwarded to the President for Board of Trustees' approval.

- The Union Advisory Committee has requested 1) that more students be added to better reflect user demographics and 2) that faculty representation be designated for election from specific colleges.
- ComCom has recommended that *Charter* specifications about composition of standing committees be more closely followed this academic year. Specifically committee elections should be completed earlier and results announced in April or May before commencement. In addition, appointments to fill standing committee vacancies should be made in the same timeframe where possible. This will facilitate committees convening and electing a chair before faculty depart for the summer.

Committee on Professional Affairs – Lowe McManus and Bill O’Brien The first meeting of Spring semester is scheduled.

Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee No report.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS

STRS Update: Tamla Cole Ms. Cole highlighted 5 major changes to the State Teachers Retirement System that took effect January 1, 2013 as described in the leaflet titled “Strengthening the Financial Condition of Your Retirement System”:

- Eligibility for retirement
- Calculation of final average salary
- Member contributions to STRS
- Enhanced benefit calculation
- Cost of living adjustment

She also mentioned that STRS no longer needs a change in legislation in order to effect changes in member contribution, eligibility, or COLA. However, the Ohio Retirement Study Council has oversight of proposed changes in these aspects of the system.

According to Ms. Cole, it is not yet clear what impact changes stemming from implementation of the Affordable Care Act could have on the of the STRS stabilization fund.

She said members can anticipate the passage of legislation (HB 388) aimed at suspension of STRS benefits if a retiree is re-employed in Ohio. Finally she entertained several questions.

International Program Updates: Vice President Albert Colom, Vice Provost Sue Houston

Both Houston’s and Colom’s remarks were in the context of gradually enhancing international aspects of a BGSU education. BGSU stands to benefit from greater experience with global cultures and connections -- not only with regard to BGSU’s study-abroad programs and international students enrolled at BGSU, but also with respect to increasing exposure of domestic students to students and faculty from different countries of origin.

Since building the appropriate infrastructure has been the first priority in maintaining momentum and gradually intensifying efforts toward enriching the international component of a BGSU education, Colom and Houston introduced their respective top-level staff to Senate. The Office of International Student Services (ISS) with overall coordination by Colom is headed by M. Salazar-Valentine, Director; and the Education Abroad and International Partnerships Office (EAIP) under Houston’s oversight is led by J. Chambers, Director. It was pointed out that

– until enrollment is significantly increased -- there will not be an abundance of funds to support expanding international programs. Consequently, for the time being, existing positions have been re-purposed and responsibilities re-configured rather than hiring new staff.

Houston highlighted several key initiatives that EAIP will be pursuing:

- Implementing a web-based data management tool that is expected to improve communication with external and internal participants and tracking of global components of the BGSU educational experience. It is called Studio Abroad.
- Developing deep, rich agreements and affiliations abroad, starting with building guidelines and standardizing processes for entities partnering with BGSU.
- Developing new programs. Chambers is hosting a brown bag information session in her office on Feb 27 and 28. She also welcomes calls (419/372-0342) from interested persons whose schedule will not permit attending the February brown bags.
- Utilizing existing affinity groups of faculty, staff, and students based on country of origin or global experience and interest (for example the one centered on South Korea) to explore expanding BGSU's global presence. There is also interest in forming new affinity groups.
- Promoting international education through class visits and means such as the Global Ambassador Program where those who have studied abroad share their experience with prospective participants.
- Enhancing support for and participation in international education by encouraging applications for programs such as Fulbright awards for study, teaching, and doing research abroad and the Hoskins Scholars Program for study and internships abroad.

Colom presented analysis based on the Institute of International Education's *2011 Open Doors Report* that guided development of BGSU's recruitment and retention strategies. These data and trends support B.G.'s aspiration to further increase international enrollment over time.

- The pool of international students studying in the United States was at a record high of 723,277 in 2011, a 32% increase from academic year 2000/2001.
- China, India, and South Korea head the list of the top 15 places of origin for current international students enrolled in the U.S.
- Ohio is ranked #8 in the nation for international student enrollment; and Ohio institutions with the most international students in rank order are:
 - OSU main campus
 - University of Cincinnati
 - Ohio University main campus
 - Case Western Reserve
 - Kent State - Kent campus
- Effecting a 2.5% increase over time, the number of international students at BGSU has grown modestly from 2008 to 2012 to 3.2% of our total enrollment.
- The list of the top 9 countries/regions of origin for BGSU international students starts with China and ends with Ghana/Nigeria/Kenya.

It is expected that after enrollment of international students has grown significantly, resources will increase commensurately. V.P. Colom showed three slides detailing a number of recruiting strategies designed to help achieve our goal including but not limited to the following examples:

- Focusing recruitment efforts on the five top countries/regions of origin for international students enrolled in the United States.
- Collaborating with University Advancement to reach out to international alumni who can help recruit students.
- Leveraging BGSU's strengths and programs through strategic use of social media.

Please note: A more-extensive list of strategies shared by Colom will be posted on the Senate website with these minutes.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS/SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

- John Folkins solicited ideas for cost-effective ways of connecting students to academic experience on behalf of the First Year Experience Task Force, which he chairs. Email or call him before March.
- Patrick Pauken asked Senate to encourage qualified undergraduate students to consider serving on the Board of Trustees. The call will be posted soon, with a decision to be announced mid-February.
- Kerry Fan mentioned that an onsite visit from the accrediting body for the architecture program will soon take place.

ADJOURNMENT: 4:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted: Elizabeth J. Wood, Faculty Senate Secretary