

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

February 5, 2013
2:30 – 4:30 P.M.

Assembly Room
McFall Center

CALL TO ORDER: Faculty Senate Chair Earley called the meeting to order at 2:30 P.M. He asked for and received permission of the assembly to re-order the agenda such that guests presenting New Business would speak before committee reports and other items on the agenda.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: Cabanillas, Challu, Liu, Longmore, Spohr, Solis.

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

OLD BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

Teaching and Learning Fair: Karen Myers Dr. Meyers announced that Friday, February 15th from 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM, is the date and time of the Teaching and Learning Fair. She mentioned that several presentations focus on innovative pedagogies, including applications of gaming to education. Meyers particularly encouraged interested faculty to give feedback on the display of preliminary designs for the prototype active learning space slated for implementation on Olscamp's second floor this coming Fall.

Presidents' Day 2013 Volunteers: Terrell Johnson Admissions Counselor Terrell Johnson made an appeal on behalf of Admissions for faculty involvement in Presidents' Day activities. He passed out information with a link at <https://uas.bgsu.edu/volunteer/signup/> for volunteers. Faculty can help in a variety of assignments including staffing indoor and outdoor posts and can commit to either the entire day or a limited portion of the time.

E-textbooks: John Ellinger, Chief Information Officer John Ellinger made a brief presentation about a potential partnership for textbook rentals with an aggregator called CourseSmart and solicited Senate's opinion as to whether this action would help ease the strain on student and family budgets.

He highlighted how this option would work for students and faculty, offered several sample price comparisons among purchase of new hardcopy, used hardcopy, current rental price, CourseSmart price for a 180-day renewable lease and a CourseSmart multi-year lease where offered by a given publisher. After answering several specific questions, he referred senators and other interested faculty to more extensive information about this proposed program that will be posted on the Senate website along with the minutes.

Ellinger's goal, providing there is sufficient interest in pursuing this course of action, is to build the infrastructure needed for integration with Canvass and other campus entities and to implement this e-textbook alternative by June 1st for faculty selection of Fall textbooks and by August 26th for student use.

BGSU Faculty Association Resolution: Lawrence Coates Dr. Coates prefaced his reading of the resolution with the opinion that the lack of a faculty contract is a significant concern to the University at large and not just to the Faculty Association and its members.

Following the reading, Senate voted on the resolution, passing it by 52 votes to endorse versus 5 votes not to endorse and 2 abstentions.

COMMUNICATIONS

Chair of the Faculty Senate, Mark Earley Chair Earley called attention to the handout containing a correction to the January presentation to Senate by STRS representative, Tamla Cole.

Earley also pointed out that the deadline for nominations for Faculty Senate Standing Committees is the March meeting with voting for these positions scheduled for the April Senate meeting. A handout lists the number of vacancies by committee.

Finally, Chair Earley gave updates for two ad hoc committees.

- The Senate mission/vision statement committee is in the process of identifying a common time to meet.
- A committee approved by SEC to explore and clarify the role of the Charter is being formed.

President, Mary Ellen Mazey

President Mazey discussed several aspects of the newly released, abbreviated version of the Ohio state budget that are of interest to BGSU. These items include:

- The proposed budget reflects the governor's commitment to higher education.
- \$100 million will be added to the funds earmarked for allocation as State Share of Instruction for public colleges and universities in Ohio. It is not yet clear how that increase will be apportioned between the first and second biennia.
- There is a 2 percent cap on tuition increases.
- Information regarding faculty workload does not appear in the abbreviated version of the budget. This issue might be addressed in the longer version when it is presented.

President Mazey reviewed the process for the budget's passage through both houses of the legislature. She observed that the Senate has the option of introducing a substitute for the bill as it is received from the House and that, before signing, the governor could exercise the right to veto any line item. President Mazey said the budget could be finalized as early as May 2013.

Q & A President Mazey then entertained questions. Based on advice from legal counsel, her responses to queries about matters subject to collective bargaining negotiations were general comments.

Provost/VPAA, Rodney Rogers Dr. Rogers focused his remarks on recruitment and retention matters.

- Rogers acknowledged recipients of Ohio Board of Regents' Improving Teaching Quality grants, noting that total dollars of the four grants received by five BGSU faculty exceeded the amount awarded to any other Ohio college or university.

- The Provost/VPAA also commended the work of recipients of internal grants to promote new approaches to pedagogy (6 grants awarded to 16 faculty members). Many recipients will be making presentations at the upcoming Teaching and Learning Fair. He alerted Senate to a new round of teaching grant submissions opening up in February and coordinated by Vice Provost, Sue Houston.
- Ongoing efforts to create cohorts by scheduling first year students together in academic core courses continue, with cross-disciplinary cooperation from deans and chairs/directors. Implementing this “linked-course project” promises substantial improvements in our retention metrics.
- At its March meeting, Senate can look forward to hearing recommendations from the group working on making good advising practices a hallmark of a BGSU education. While the entire report may not be completed, there should be some substantive points for Senate to react to.
- Facilities work continues, a highlight being the prototype active learning space featured as part of the Teaching and Learning Fair. Faculty feedback will greatly improve the final design scheduled to be implemented Fall 2013.
- The exposure draft of BGSU’s Higher Learning Commission reaccreditation self-study will be out soon. Thanks are due to members of the five writing groups that have been diligently working to finalize the draft and to all who have provided input.
- The Efficiency/Effectiveness Task Force -- begun Spring of 2012 and continuing throughout Summer and Fall -- is about to release a final report with 41 recommendations of how to streamline various processes and procedures in order to maximize academic success throughout the university. Examples of categories that will be addressed include advising; automation of manual processes; records management; website enhancements; course scheduling to facilitate timely graduation; and other matters.

The Provost/VPAA then fielded a wide range of questions, clarifying that the University’s legal counsel has advised discussion of specifics with only the Faculty Association negotiating team until a contract has been finalized. While unable to provide specific details about goals for BGSU’s student/faculty numbers or to disclose plans for achieving a ratio more in line with peer institutions, Provost Rogers reminded Senate of the University administration’s commitment to 1) achieving as many of the targeted adjustments in faculty numbers as possible through voluntary separations and retirements and 2) working toward raising faculty compensation to market levels.

NOTE: The BGSU-FA liaison to Senate clarified that the union has not been party to decisions about any reductions in force but has concentrated its efforts on mitigating negative effects of non-renewal of faculty contracts.

Graduate Student Senate Representative, David Sleasman

- GSS President Sleasman distributed information about the Shanklin Colloquium showcasing excellence in graduate student research on April 18. He called attention to the submission deadlines of February 20 for the Shanklin Award and March 21 for GSS awards.
- In addition he mentioned the Graduate Strategic Planning Committee having been recognized by NASPA.

Undergraduate Student Government Representative, Alex Solis No report

BGSU Faculty Association Liaison – Lawrence Coates Dr. Coates explained that the teams are currently negotiating a schedule for finalizing the faculty union contract:

- The Fact Finding process is expected to be concluded toward the beginning of March 2013.
- A report from the Fact Finder, who also served as the mediator at an earlier stage of bargaining, is due to be released the end of March 2013
- A vote to ratify the contract could take place as early as the end of April 2013.

Coates observed that both negotiating teams have the option of choosing to compromise and settle outstanding articles of the contract at any point in this process.

Retiree Representative, Tom Hern No report.

REPORTS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES

Committee on Academic Affairs (CAA) – David Border

- The CAA completed the *Charter*-mandated annual performance review of the Provost/Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs in January and discussed the results with President Mazey on 1/28/13.
- At CAA's February meeting, they will be reviewing policy changes forwarded by Undergraduate Council.

Amendments and Bylaws Committee (A & B) – Erin Labbie

On 1/28/13, A & B met to discuss the proposed *Charter* amendment regarding excused student absences. Following a meeting with the Vice President for Student Affairs to clarify a few questions, the Committee will send the proposed amendment back to SEC for final review prior to submission to the full Senate for discussion and a vote.

Chair Labbie mentioned that she would like to receive any inquiries or comments regarding the role of the *Charter* in conjunction with the student handbooks or questions regarding the excused student absence policy no later than February 7 in anticipation of the meeting with Student Affairs.

Committee on Committees (ComCom) – Scott Magelssen

- Having transacted some business via email, the committee plans to meet next on 2/11/2013.
- ComCom has discussed and expects to vote approval of a proposal to add student members to the Union Advisory Committee, in accordance with a request from Patrick Nelson, Bowen Thomson Student Union Director, for the advisory committee. This adjustment would better reflect the demographics of the campus.
- Chair Magelssen reminded senators that this year elections for University Committees, Senate Standing Committees, and Senate officers will be held early. This will facilitate new committee members and Senate officers taking office “immediately following the spring commencement”, as provided in the *Charter*. Committees can then convene and elect a chair for the subsequent academic year.

Committee on Professional Affairs –Lowe Mc Manus and Bill O’Brien

Plans for the annual statehouse visit are being formulated. The next meeting will be 2/15/13.

Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee, Mike Schulz Mark Earley reported that the committee met mid-January and elected Mike Schulz chair. There should be more to report at Senate's March meeting.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS/SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: None were raised.

ADJOURNMENT: 3:52 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted: Elizabeth J. Wood, Faculty Senate Secretary