

## SEC/VPAA JOINT CONFERENCE MINUTES

September 17, 2013  
2:30 – 4:30 pm

Senate Conference Room  
140 McFall Center

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Amelia Sangenetta Carr; John W Folkins; Lingxiao Ge; Rachele Marie Kristof Hippler; Kathryn S Hoff; Paul Andrew Johnson; Joel O'Dorisio; Andrew John Pelletier; Sarah Anne Rainey; Rodney Rogers; Alex Dominic Solis; Sheri Beth Wells-Jensen; Elizabeth Jean Wood.

**GUESTS:** David Border, Alice Cook, Pam Pinson.

**PRESIDER:** Vice Chair, Joel O'Dorisio

**VPAA'S REPORT:** Deferred in the interest of getting through new business agenda items.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

Discussion of SEC Resolutions for Faculty Senate This discussion was conducted via the interchange of questions and answers under the Issues and Concerns portion of the agenda.

Proposed Ad Hoc Faculty Workload Committee Chair Wells-Jensen said that this new committee has not yet been convened but that she will keep in mind the appropriate mix of perspectives needed within its representation. Several names have been nominated. More information will be forthcoming.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Brenda Hollis Honorary Degree: Rodney Rogers

Provost Rogers reviewed the nominee's qualifications based on supporting materials previously distributed to SEC. After a brief discussion of possible political implications and a potential invitation to speak at commencement in May 2014, it was moved (Rainey) and seconded (Pelletier) to endorse this recommendation for an honorary doctorate in Humane Letters. The vote was unanimously in favor of the motion.

### Faculty Workload: Rodney Rogers

Over the summer of 2013 deans have been drafting discipline-specific guidelines for workload expectations. These are required by the collective bargaining agreement for each individual faculty member. They encompass teaching load, scholarly/creative work where appropriate, and service.

The draft guidelines and process for determining expectations have been reviewed by deans, associate deans, and in some cases by department chairs and directors. The Provost views commentary and input from a broader segment of campus before these guidelines are implemented as contributing to an evolving document that will bring the CBA-required clarity to each faculty member's workload expectations. They will be shared with faculty soon and updated through Spring 2014 for implementation in Fall of AY 2014/2015.

Provost Rogers then entertained questions and agreed that the Provost's Office will suggest names to the Faculty Senate Chair for possible inclusion on the Ad Hoc Committee on Faculty Workload.

### Honors College: Rodney Rogers

In summer 2013 the Board of Trustees authorized designation of an Honors College contingent on consultation with faculty governance bodies. To begin the discussion, Provost Rogers reiterated for new SEC members some points made in an SEC meeting last year regarding establishment of the Honors College:

- This name change and appointment of a dean rather than a director does not involve configuring a new degree-granting entity. Rather it would be a college similar to the University Libraries or the Graduate College.
- This change does not entail adding faculty positions to the Honors College. Faculty teaching honors courses would continue to be appointed to "line" colleges.
- No immediate curriculum change is anticipated, although over time change could be requested through established procedures for consulting Undergraduate Council and other appropriate bodies that approve curriculum changes.

He also listed the advantages that advocates perceive in terms of both recruitment and retention of highly-qualified undergraduate students and giving Honors a voice and a seat at such bodies as the Deans' Council, Undergraduate Council, and others as appropriate. In the longer term it is anticipated that having an Honors College could also increase support from donors.

Discussion ensued.

Action: It was moved by Johnson and seconded by Carr that SEC endorse the name change to Honors College. The motion carried with no votes in opposition and 1 abstention.

It was then moved by Folkins and seconded by Hoff that Amendments and Bylaws Committee be charged with studying the *Charter* in order to recommend language for incorporation into it that speaks to the establishment of an Honors College and specifies appropriate details such as on what bodies it will have membership analogous to *Charter* statements about the University Libraries and the Graduate College. SEC looks forward to considering such *Charter* documentation of this change as soon as possible. The motion carried with no votes in opposition and no abstentions.

### Undergraduate Education: Rodney Rogers

Provost Rogers gave updates on several ongoing efforts to improve various aspect of undergraduate education at BGSU. He summarized remaining challenges (flat graduate enrollment despite last year's recruitment efforts, steep SSI declines projected for AY 2014/2015, the continuing goal of raising undergraduate enrollment rates closer to previous levels, and the need to identify funds for strategic investment in new faculty appointments in spite of increased budget strains stemming from factors such as increased healthcare costs).

Provost Rogers then outlined some strategies to focus on in the current academic year:

- Programs with high admission rates but low yields of students enrolling at BGSU have been analyzed and will receive additional marketing support in the coming AY. It is anticipated that this strategy holds considerable potential to favorably impact admission goals.
- Because only small gains were made in retention, academic departments will be working to define a "norm" for failure rates specific to various disciplines and departments. These metrics will be used to analyze and address significantly low retention rates.
- The report with recommendations on establishing uniform excellence in advising will soon be released.
- Under Vice Provost Sue Houston's leadership and in accordance with recommendations from the committee to study advising practices, BGSU will begin using technology to better identify paths for students that are predictive of undergraduate degree completion in 4 years.
- The Enrollment Management Council will continue to look for ways to raise enrollment by eliminating barriers where possible and reaching new student populations. In response to questions about the Enrollment Management Council, the Provost agreed to consider adding more faculty representation to that body.

## **ISSUES AND CONCERNS:**

A SEC member asked what should be expected in terms of the Administration's response to the Faculty Senate resolutions regarding staff support and location of the OED Office presented in the 9/10/13 Senate meeting. Provost Rogers indicated that the Collective Bargaining Agreement provisions cited in the resolution regarding FS support staff will be brought to University Administration and the BGSU-FA leadership for interpretation.

In order to work toward resolving the staffing issue the Provost, BOT Secretary Pauken, and the Senate officers agreed to meet to further discuss the issue.

The Provost could not speculate about a response to the OED resolution, since the Faculty Senate Secretary has not yet sent a letter of transmittal to President Mazey on that resolution. Senate can, however, anticipate receiving a formal response from the President after she receives the letter of transmittal and the meeting minutes documenting Faculty Senate's votes on these 2 issues.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 4:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted Elizabeth J. Wood, Faculty Senate Secretary