

President's Panel Discussion Topics

Thursday, October 30, 2008

- 1. Reducing graduate full-time status from 12 credit hours to 9 credit hours** (Graduate Student Senate) An instructional graduate teaching assistant teaches 20 hours a week and must take 12 semester hours to be considered full-time. Graduate Student Senate is asking that 9 semester hours be considered full-time for two reasons: reduce the time commitment outside the classroom assignment and total number of hours to graduate. At 12 semester hours per semester, graduate students accumulate more credit hours to graduate than necessary. This proposal will be analyzed further to determine the impact to the University with this reduced requirement – State funding issues.
- 2. What criteria were used to determine the constituent groups that would be impacted by the hiring freeze?** (Classified Staff Council)
Because the State of Ohio has experienced declining revenue, budget cuts were made in January and September 2008. The State share of instruction for higher education has not been impacted by these cuts, but there may be some requirement to reduce spending at BGSU if tax revenues continue to decrease because of layoffs. Dr. Cartwright wanted administrative and classified staff employees to understand that the reason administrative staff and classified staff positions were frozen was due to the fact that faculty reductions were already being addressed at the Provost level.
- 3. Status of Presidential Search** (Faculty)
The 18 page Institutional and Leadership Profile has been posted to the BGSU home web site for everyone to read. The consulting firm of Witt/Kieffer are actively working to gather a pool of candidates who want to be at BGSU. The goal is to find the best match. There will be an open forum at the Wood County Library on November 13 at 7:00 pm. Public is welcome.
- 4. There is growing concern regarding a potential upcoming reduction in the workforce, particularly in administrative staff positions, given the current fiscal crises at BGSU and at the state level. Please comment.** (Administrative Staff Council)
Whenever there is a challenging financial environment, employees become concerned about workforce reductions. The hiring freeze is a proactive step toward preventing layoffs. Although there is no guarantee that this won't occur, preventing layoffs is a key priority/concern. The administration is asking employees to give ideas about revenue development and/or cost saving measures. There will be a web site established for this effort.
- 5. More course offerings: evening and online** (Graduate Student Senate)
This is one of the top 10 concerns of Graduate Student Senate. As there is a decline in enrollments, there has been an increase in online enrollments. There is

a control enrollment pattern so that online courses do not compete with those courses on campus. Development of weekend and evening courses is also being considered to maximize the utilization of current facilities and to increase accommodation of non-traditional students. A suggestion was made to offer a course for graduate students that would teach them how to develop online courses and teaching skills to enhance such courses.

6. In your experience at Kent State and then Bowling Green State University, what are the positive and/or less positive aspects of working in a shared governance environment versus a collective bargaining environment?
(Classified Staff Council)

There are differences. In a shared governance environment, it takes longer to get things done and it can be more challenging to lead and manage in this open environment. But without this, there is minimal input from the constituent groups and decisions are made with less information. Efficient - but effective? Faculty Senate is holding an open forum on this topic later this year.

7. Status of Strategic Planning (Faculty)

We are at the stage of giving concreteness to the working framework. Expanded Cabinet will temporally increase from 24 to 48 individuals to refine the working framework of the University sense of vision, mission, values and goals. The goal is to have the process completed in February 2009. There is a tool kit that will be used by these individuals to complete the tasks. Individuals may also complete the kit and send the information forward for inclusion in the process. Graduate and Undergraduate Student Senates will look at the finalized document and provide input.

8. Is the Catastrophic Leave Process still moving forward within the original time line for implementation? (Administrative Staff Council)

Currently under review by the new General Counsel and should go to the Board of Trustees in February 2009.

9. Financial Information from the State (Faculty)

This is still being determined. In the meantime, BGSU has to determine: 1) What is the debt? 2) Where is it? 3) What is its impact? And 4) What are we going to do about it? Faculty Welfare Committee of Faculty Senate is proposing a budget primer in the hopes of answering and addressing the questions listed above.

10. Is there new information regarding the state funding model? (Administrative Staff Council)

Answered earlier

11. Potential Cut Backs (Faculty)

Answered earlier

- 12. Why is BGSU the only public institution in Ohio showing a decrease in enrollment numbers? On an individual level, we all assume a role for increasing enrollment, but what initiatives are being considered at other levels to rectify this problem?** (Administrative Staff Council)

Historically, BGSU is up 12.5%. With the help of Noel-Levitz, a professional enrollment-management consulting firm, we are evaluating over commitment to student financial aid packages/scholarships, developing locations where potential student populations have increased (Dayton, Columbus, Cincinnati areas); and evaluating students who have the potential for success at BGSU.
- 13. What tangible efforts can be made by students, staff, faculty and administrators to move forward together in a positive direction during this time of crisis at our university?** (Faculty)

Be positive.
- 14. Is it a priority to attract non-traditional and online learners? If so, what directives are being given to academic deans and to Marketing & Communications to recruit and market to these groups?** (Administrative Staff Council)
- 15. There remains confusion in the staff populations regarding modifications to the fee waiver benefit. Please clarify again which fee waivers will be affected?** (Administrative Staff Council)

Changes in graduate student fee waivers, some grants and cohorts are being developed. Employee and family fee waivers will not be affected. The only affect to these may be the sequence because of PeopleSoft. Instead of Summer, Fall, and Spring it may be listed Spring, Summer, Fall. There will be a discussion with the constituent groups concerning this sequence.
- 16. The perception exists that administrative staff numbers are growing. If this is true, where? Data recently provided by the Office of Institutional Research (revised October 2008 Salary Expenditure and Positions by Category) seems to conflate “administrator” with “administrative staff.”** (Administrative Staff Council)

Bill Knight and Becca Ferguson will be asked to sit with Administrative Staff Council to clarify what data they would like to have and how the wording above could be clarified.