

# BGSU | Faculty Senate

## BOWLING GREEN STATE UNIVERSITY Faculty Senate Minutes

August 29, 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.

Faculty Senate Secretary, Montana Miller, took attendance via Zoom. Alternates indicated their presence in the chat box.

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

Greetings to everyone, looking forward to working together as a unit to find what people are interested in and what concerns you.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS:**

*President Rogers:*

Update on positive enrollment and retention and GPA numbers this year.

Expresses appreciation for the mentoring work we are all doing for student success—recruiting students and keeping them at BG. Grad enrollment is up 3 percent, slight decrease in distance and e-campus, we are working on that, but overall headcount is up 1.5 percent and up 1 percent on student credit hour basis, so those are very positive signs.

Strategic plan of the institution continues to guide us forward.

Some changes in staffing to make sure we are aligned in human resources with the strategic plan objectives, being as effective and as efficient as possible.

During the pandemic I did not do a State of the University address—last one was in 2019—but we will do another one this year September 20, get your tickets now!

We will broadcast that as well. Laying out where we've been and how we're moving forward on our strategic plan.

Compromise was made to remove Senate Bill 83 from the budget bill but it will be revisited this fall. The budget bill—in many ways the removal of 83 gives us the chance to ensure that whatever may get passed at some point is appropriate and achieves all of our goals to make sure we have a high quality institution where individuals' rights are protected in free speech and freedom. That debate will continue this fall. The downside on the budget was it's not a significant investment in higher education. The tuition guarantee ... 75 percent of our students are locked in and saw no increase, but the freshman class... new legislature, things change. It has made it a little more challenging, but fortunately for BG because of strong, stable and growing enrollment

we're able to find our way through that. State share of instruction was 1 percent, and part of that was because there is a belief in the Senate that higher education isn't, we're not doing our part to create a society that we believe we are helping to create and to support students in their support of careers and citizens, engaged in the democracy of our country. So we have some work to do in demonstrating and articulating why the work we do every day, we are talking about what it means to have a bachelor's degree. We've got to be able to articulate what a bachelor's degree prepares students for. It's not just that first job, it's a career, it's a life. We're preparing students to be future leaders of our communities. There's work to be done that we've got to do, that in the past I would have assumed we all knew that and we accepted it. But we're going to have to be very aggressive in articulating facts that would demonstrate the value of a bachelor's degree. SB83 is in its 7<sup>th</sup> version right now, it's pending in the Senate and will probably be picked up sometime after Labor Day, so in the next few weeks we'll probably see it being discussed again. I think we're in a better position today than we were with version 1. I do think something probably will pass, what the final form will be we probably won't know, but I want to acknowledge people who spent a lot of time in Columbus trying to make sure we'll have a bill that will work so we can find a way forward. The changes in version 7 are available to download, you can see the analysis of what's been done, but in 7, some of the changes that have been made have been in direct response to concerns and issues that have been made by various constituencies. I appreciate Senator Cirino's willingness to hear feedback. Some flexibility—faculty evaluations, workload, version 4 had a lot of specificity, and version 7 just says we need to have a workload policy, and we do have one. In many ways, we already have those policies so I'm less concerned about those issues. There is more work to be done, and I appreciate the aspects of this bill that are articulating the importance of free speech, of diversity of thought, students exposed to a diversity of thought in their disciplines. We need to help our students develop those critical thinking skills necessary to live in a very complex world, and thrive and make our democracy even stronger.

Questions?

David Jackson in chat:

Help me out here...Where is version 7 here? Thanks!

<https://www.legislature.ohio.gov/legislation/135/sb83>

We'll probably see additional discussion between the House and the Senate... my sense is there could be some additional changes but they may be coming more from the House and the process it has to go through. The House has been the one that had more concerns, the Speaker of the House was a bit concerned by 83, so he will have some influence on what that final bill looks like.

*Joe Whitehead, Provost and SVPASA:*

Exciting time to be back on campus.

Vice President for Research search update—didn't work out, person backed out of commitment unfortunately but better for it to happen on the front end rather than after a few months here.

Search committee will have continuity except for a couple of faculty members, and we will find the right person. We have several interims coming in, interim dean of CTAEE, Dr. Kendall

Harris, a mechanical engineer and former naval pilot, experienced as a dean and also as a provost. He's got the background and experience to help us while we conduct the national search for the next dean of the college. Isaacson Miller is helping us with the search.

Search for Firelands dean in progress.

VPs for academic affairs and student engagement.

Questions?

Carol Heckman asks about Senate wanting 25 percent evaluations, the mathematical justification for that...

Provost responds about biases, etc.

Bill Albertini: Excited about news about strong enrollment—should we anticipate some faculty hires to keep up with student demand?

Provost: Yes. We have larger classes come in so we have to anticipate how to keep up and how to prioritize positions for the coming year, to have enough for everybody. The deans are working with the chairs and directors, and there will be some hires.

Bill Albertini: Do we have a sense of the timeline?

Provost: We're pushing.

Jennifer Stuart (in chat): Is there an update on the Director for BGP? - Jennifer Stuart (Applied Statistics and Operations Research; Schmidthorst College of Business)

Provost: We have ...[information] will be coming online, will be more efficient and more apparent.

*Ben Batey:*

There's been a reorganization and with Glenn Davis I see us being a partner with him—my title has been updated to Chief Well-Being Officer, we're looking at a more holistic approach across campus, supporting the needs of all our faculty, staff, students and families. You've seen us do a lot of things through Covid, through mental health support, to try to leverage these aspects, and we'll be even more in depth this semester. There is some other resources we've brought to bear, access to students for Amwell, a telehealth provider nationwide that we're partnering with to bring to campus so they'll have real time access in September and in October for faculty and staff. Chat system to have screening tools online in real time to assess mental health. It may just be the online cognitive behavioral therapy. Also will be providing consultations etc etc.

Montana Miller (in chat): Question for Ben: Is the chat telehealth assessment thing you're talking about with a real person or with a bot? Because the bot that was promoted to us earlier last spring was pretty.... useless and infuriating.

Ben Batey: We control the bot based on the data we're getting.

Montana Miller (in chat): The data? Are you collecting data on our experiences with this? How do we give you feedback?

[no answer from Batey]

Cynthia Ducar: [asks question about counseling center and how it serves students]

Ben Batey: Online scheduling for students who can now use their phones to schedule, we send text reminders, they now have a program called Let's Talk where we have counselors in different locations on campus. Students can meet the counselor where they are at, to overcome the long walk issue as well. Now offering telemental health visits as well, so they don't have to trek across campus in winter. Looking at this entire approach of where do we locate our counselors – let's go to the students, it's easier than them coming to us. For some there may be a privacy issue, confidentiality and access are issues. Our stance has been we want to take the initiative to get students faculty and staff connected with what works for them. Working with partners to leverage new programs.

Wait times were 2 months when I started here, they are now down to a week.

David Jackson (in chat): Is there a new COVID vaccine we should consider getting, if, say, one's last booster was in September of 2022? Thanks!

Ben Batey: We will be hosting some Covid and flu clinics in October—health fair October 17, and at field house October 31. Great opportunity for students faculty and staff to come out and get vaccinated.

Bill Albertini: Is the chat bot being also used as a form of therapy/intervention?

Ben Batey: For some students yes, it's a level of monitoring, people's mental health fluctuates... at some levels it's a form of therapy but not the only form of therapy or access you have.

Bill Albertini: How well tested is the effectiveness of that?

Ben Batey: Amwell's data is significant...

Bill Albertini: So the data is coming from them?

Batey: We're doing the healthy minds survey and a health survey for faculty and staff, and the national college health assessment.

Albertini: What about how we do wellness checks? Can be incredibly scary for students and intimidating sometimes.

Batey: We're doing that as well, it's just a pilot program now but we're working to create our own mobile crisis unit, we will have GA's in the social work program who will go out on crisis response with campus police. The goal is to pilot the program and do some surveying and see some success there. The individual talking to the student would be a mental health professional with the police being in the background.

*Emily Gerome, USG President:*

[Remarks from USG]

*David Fisher, GSS President:*

Second year grad student, was working in GSS last year as well. Goals for GSS this year are organizational development, looking to increase the effectiveness and coverage of our operations and advocacy for grad students, and focusing in on student support, this includes increasing awareness of currently existing things and increasing and communicating grad student needs better to campus, and third, increasing service and engagement across campus and outside of BGSU as well. Values oriented approach, values alignment with constituent groups on campus, meeting with as many people as we can and getting our membership to do that as well.

## 5. OLD BUSINESS:

*Approval of minutes from April 25 meeting:*

Motion by Jenn Stucker to approve, second by Michael Decker

Vote: Approved by majority hand vote in room and via Zoom

## 6. NEW BUSINESS:

*Vice Chair Allen Rogel:*

Hybrid meetings mean moving and seconds will have to be carefully done. I may call on you to say your name so it can be recorded. Votes will still be done on Qualtrics immediately after the meeting. If you want to speak to the motion in discussion I'll ask you to come to the microphone and please identify yourself and speak slowly to help Montana Miller, our valiant secretary, to hear since the audio quality is not the best.

Robyn Miller introduces policy changes passed by SEC for discussion by Senate.

Allen Rogel clarifies that this change only affects how transfer credits are handled and factored into GPA.

Bill Sawaya question: If student takes CCP through BGSU at the high school it is counted, but if they took it through University of Toledo at high school, it does not count?

Jenn Stucker responds clarifying

Robyn Miller: Ballot will be sent out by Qualtrics after the meeting

Leadership studies change

Chris Willis presents proposal, changing EDD to PhD

This is about a realignment, not a reconfiguration, of the program. 27 year old program at BGSU, previously we had a PhD in school administration, traditional K-12, but due to some factors that program was closed and we launched the leadership studies program. The new program opened as an EDD. The research programs were identical, and since then we have increased the course requirements and expectations. We're close to 30 percent of our coursework being in research methods and work, and we've always expected our students to engage in original research through the dissertation process. So why make the change now? It's really twofold—we're starting to hear from our own alumni that the EDD was hampering their own career aspirations and we want to be responsive to our students and their goals, being responsive to the Carnegie Project.

Details on historical development of the PhD and the Carnegie Project. The doctorate of education has become more standardized across the country. Our leadership studies multidisciplinary program has always asked our students to do original research so this is an alignment so our students and future alumni can be better positioned for their goals in the future.

Questions?

Bill Sawaya: There was a request from the subcommittee from graduate council to the program about whether they had consulted with our department (management) and that consultation never took place and we were never asked to write a letter of support even though it was requested. You addressed it but it never came to us. As we looked over the proposal in the past couple of days when Robyn sent out the agenda, one of my faculty raised the issue to me because we hadn't seen it so my concern is procedurally that there wasn't a good closure for a program that has some overlap and possibly content.

The second thing that brings this to its head is that you're adding a business description into the program objectives that wasn't there before. For our accreditation we have to accredit all the business programs at the university. There's a concern about this overlap and about the fact there was never the back and forth to talk about these things in advance.

Chris Willis:

The words in the program description in the proposal, we didn't suddenly add business. It's been a part of our program description. I've been in meetings with some of the deans, business is not mentioned in there at all and we crafted this as part of the process that's newer, the proposal has been in the process for a number of years. We talked with your dean about those concerns and they have been resolved before this started.

Bill Sawaya: I was speaking with my dean at 2:30 and they had not been resolved. ... So current catalogue description supercedes the description that is in the proposal?

Chris Willis: Yes. In response to the first concern, I was on the subcommittee and I know we addressed these things with her, through the graduate college process, and I want to make sure for this discussion and for the upcoming vote on this, all that's on the table here is the EDD/PhD conversation. The other elements, the other concern areas ...

Bill Sawaya: I would like to work together to work this through before it's voted on because there are outstanding issues on our end. Does that make sense?

Chris Willis: Just want to make sure we're staying focused on the EDD/PhD piece.

Bill Sawaya: My understanding is it's the proposal to be discussed. The concerns are with the potential overlap. I think it probably does but I haven't received any notification that...

Chris: I have an email string in which it was asked and confirmed that the new one, the current official description, supercedes it...

Allen Rogel (in chat): Question being posed by a Senator: Does the DoDC have concerns about the EdD->PhD change?

Dawn Shinew (in chat): Here is the newest Program Description that Dr. Willis referenced: Program description from 2023-2024 Academic Catalog. If approved, this would read Ph.D. in Leadership Studies:

The Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) program in Leadership Studies is an interdisciplinary terminal degree. It is a post-master's program designed to engage professional individuals in a rigorous process of inquiry, practice, and reflection. The primary aim of the Doctoral Program in Leadership Studies is to prepare individuals to exercise leadership that will transform the quality of organizations, schools, colleges and universities, and other human resource institutions and thereby enable those organizations to attain specific goals and objectives while remaining competitive in a global society.

Question about whether this will be the first part-time PhD program?

Jenn Stucker speaks about how students present themselves externally

Chris Willis: Enrollment dropped and we wanted to find a way to reinvigorate the program. With the format change we are going to a hybrid model but it's a synchronous hybrid model instead of asynchronous. We're looking to recruit regionally rather than nationally... we're not trying to compete directly, both programs are alive and well and healthy on this campus, although there is some overlap.

Bill Sawaya: I don't quite follow the logic, if our program is national but with a face to face requirement...

Chris Willis: We are too, we have a face to face requirement.

Allen Rogel: I'm currently texting with Dean Shinew directly and the current program description

Bill Sawaya: My preference would be to have all this documented before the vote. Thanks Chris.

Ken Snead makes motion to table until these issues are clarified

Allen Rogel: [Must be tabled till a specific date]

Snead: Then table it till the next meeting.

[Walt Ryley seconds in chat]

Discussion:

Judy May asks question about whether there is any change to the content of the program. [No]

Dean Jennifer Waldron speaks about descriptions in catalogue and how as we move to the new academic catalogue we see many programs needing an actual description so part of the work is providing templates for what those should entail. Under LS program you'll see there is a description. So part of this has to do with the transition to the new academic catalogue, which preceded that program description and I realize I should have clarified it more as it moved through the process.

Robyn Miller calls question. Majority in favor, 6 opposed (in room and on Zoom); motion to table carries.

Allen to me: The vote to table was approximately 24 for, 11 against. We didn't ask for abstain (oops) but it doesn't formally matter as the fors had more than the against.

### *Academic calendar*

Provost recaps situation with some classes not meeting required contact minutes and some faculty having to add assignments/directed learning if their classes met T/Th; considerations including student resolutions about Election Day; time before classes, etc.

Committee recommendations were accepted to stay at 15 week semester with an increase of 5 minutes, now looking at possible grids to achieve those end results. USG resolution led to committee to look at Election Day options, including moving one day of fall break to Election Day. We're working on these issues this fall, we have to do scheduling for next fall in early spring so we have to work through these details quickly.

Emily Gerome (USG) asks question about scheduling and who works on it and makes the decisions

Provost responds

Robyn says emails will be sent out for university standing committee elections

## **7. ISSUES AND CONCERNS**

David Jackson promotes social event of the year: The BGSU-FA welcome back event!  
When: Wednesday, August 30th, 5:30 to 8:30 Where: Veterans' Building, City Park, Bowling Green

Excellent food, tasty beverages, camaraderie... Family and guests welcome!

Bill Albertini gives update on BGSU-FA, Labor Day Parade participation, etc.

1. Bargaining process for our next contract is getting underway!



BGSU-FA negotiating team:

- Andy Schocket (chief negotiator): Professor of History and American Culture Studies.
- Julie Didelot: Teaching Professor in the Department of Natural & Social Sciences, Firelands Campus.
- Tasha Ford: Associate Clinical Professor of Social Work at Firelands Campus.
- Lauren Maziarz: Assistant Professor in Public and Allied Health.
- Joel O'Dorisio: Teaching Professor in the School of Art and Director of Arts Village.
- Amy Robinson: Associate Professor of Spanish in the Department of World Languages and Cultures.

The teams (FA and administration) are pursuing what is called interest-based bargaining. They are working on scheduling meetings for the fall and spring semesters.

2. BGSU-FA will participate in the Northwest Ohio Labor Day Parade in downtown Toledo on September 4 (Labor Day)!

The parade will begin at 9am, and marchers will begin assembling at 8am. This parade will include dozens of labor unions and thousands of union members. This year's parade will be celebrating Women in the Workplace. If you would like to be part of the BGSU-FA's contingent, please contact Vera Lux at [vera.lux@bgsu-fa.org](mailto:vera.lux@bgsu-fa.org).

3. Fall 2023 meetings of the BGSU-FA membership occur monthly: All bargaining unit faculty members are encouraged to attend. Meetings will be held on Zoom. Registration is required. Please register at <https://bit.ly/fameetings>

- Tuesday, September 12 @ 7pm
- Tuesday, October 17 @ 1pm
- Wednesday, November 15 @ 7pm

## **8. ADJOURNMENT:**

Jenn Stucker moves to adjourn, Michael Decker seconds. Meeting adjourned 4:23 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.