

## SEC Meeting Minutes

**August 25, 2020 // 2:30 - 4:00 // Via WebEx**

1. **Call to Order** (Christopher Frey, Faculty Senate Chair) 2:34

2. **Roll Call**

**Members in Attendance:** Christopher Frey, Marlise Lonn, Virginia Dubasik, Gene Trantham, Michael Slates, Kenneth Borland, Jacqueline Justice, Sri Kolla, Montana Miller, Alexander Chiarelott, Blessy McWan

3. **Approval of Minutes**

a. **Approval of 7.28.2020 SEC Minutes**

**Motion to approve 7.28.20 minutes**, Gene Trantham ; second, Montana Miller  
No corrections noted. Unless there is objection (voiced or in chat box) we will consider the minutes accepted by consensus. No objections raised. **Result: motion carried**

4. **Faculty Senate Chair Report:** Christopher Frey

No formal report at this time. Chair Frey noted he is still getting acquainted with the position due to moving into it unexpectedly and earlier than anticipated. He expressed appreciation of the collective effort, wisdom, and support of SEC members.

5. **Old Business**

a. **Survey of the University Community Return to Campus** (preliminary results attached to the agenda)

Chris Frey reported that Richard Anderson, Ad Hoc Committee Chair, will be at the September 1, 2020 Faculty Senate meeting to give a report and interpretation of the findings. Based on the preliminary summary (attached to agenda), people are generally confident in their own abilities to follow the recommendations/COVID-19 policies and are less confident in the abilities of other people to do so. Generally, students appear to be more excited to return to in-person campus activities than faculty and staff. The preliminary summary has been shared with the President and Provost. Gene Trantham publicly thanked the committee for their work.

b. **Dis-enrollment for Nonpayment Policy**

Chris Frey spoke with the Office of the Bursar's and an EDHD academic advisor to get an understanding of the process. Information on students receiving aid to be applied to their bill is received weekly. Academic advisors and the bursar's office actively reach out to students and face the challenge of student's not responding. He will draft a response to the EDHD faculty who brought the issue to SEC and find out what steps, if any, they may want to take.

Discussion: it was confirmed that the President and Provost are aware and monitor this information with the Bursar's Office each semester. This is an ongoing matter and the Office of the Bursar has to follow specific guidelines that originate outside of BGSU. General consensus - it is important to encourage a review of the policy in an effort to balance student need and institutional pressures.

**c. Memorial Resolutions**

Three memorial resolutions were intended to be prepared for reading at the final Faculty Senate meeting of AY 2019-2020 but were postponed due to the pandemic. New timeline: October Faculty Senate Meeting. A previously read memorial resolution can be provided as a template.

Discussion revolved around education on past practice which generally included asking a colleague to initiate a draft and present the resolution to be reviewed by SEC . The closest survivor may look it over before it is formally presented to Faculty Senate. Generally, a few individuals who were close to the individual are invited to attend the Faculty Senate meeting where it is read.

- i. Pam Pinson, former Faculty Senate Administrative Secretary, (resolution is in draft form)
- ii. Neil Englehart, Political Science/Asian Studies
- iii. Julian "Joe" Williford, Jr., Food and Nutrition

**d. Statement of Academic Quality and Excellence at BGSU**

Statement draft was distributed to Faculty Senate (May 2020)

Discussion: This is intended as a values statement to help us interpret the Charter. It is an intentionally broad statement concerning faculty positionality with regard to governance and leadership in the University. General consensus - there is value and utility in faculty formally stating their beliefs even if the statement does not receive approval by the Board of Trustees or become part of the Charter. The group who drafted the Statement of Academic Principles was commended for their work.

**e. Instructional Connections**

Chris Frey opened the floor for discussion. No discussion ensued. Consensus that this was sufficiently covered at a previous SEC meeting.

**f. Fall Forum: Freedom of Speech**

Jenn Stucker organized a forum on facilitating free speech and expression on campus that was cancelled due to COVID-19. Given that this is an election year, Chris Frey would like to go forward with planning and hosting a similar event early in the fall semester and will take the lead on identifying topics and presenters.

Discussion: This is timely and some members expressed concern about faculty not receiving clear guidance or support regarding how to cover course content and facilitate discussion that is political or is perceived as political in nature.

Question was asked if BGSU has a policy on free speech. Members were reminded that University policies are listed/posted on the Policy Register accessible via the General Counsel webpage. Article 9 of the Collective Bargaining Agreement is "Academic Freedom." Suggestion is to consult these resources.

## **6. New Business**

### **a. Vice Chair/Chair-elect Vacancy**

Per the Charter, in the event the Faculty Senate Chair is no longer able to serve, the Vice Chair moves into the Chair position. The Vice Chair position is now vacant. An election for Vice Chair needs to be held. At this point, no one has self-nominated or accepted a nomination to this position. If you know someone who may be interested in filling the role, please encourage them. We are leaning on Kathy Newman, the FS Office Senior Secretary for administrative support. EDHD now has a vacant senate seat. Chris Frey will follow up to determine if this will be filled by appointment or election.

## **7. Issues and Concerns**

- a. Marlise Lonn noted at a Faculty Association meeting it was mentioned that Faculty Senate has a committee examining and addressing course size and enrollment caps. What committee is this and is there action being taken?

Discussion: There was an ad hoc classroom enrollment capacity committee that looked at this issue last year and a report was given at the May 2020 Faculty Senate Meeting. General agreement that this may be beneficial to revisit in light of the current context (changing course delivery methods, non-renewal of QRF faculty, budget constraints). Chris asked for a copy to be forwarded to him and thanked Sri Kolla and Alex Chiarelott for their contributions to the committee.

- b. Montana Miller relayed faculty concerns related to teaching in-person, a desire to have specific reopening plan/pandemic response questions answered, and lack of confidence in the upper Administration.

Discussion: Issuing a joint statement with the Faculty Association related to faculty rights and safety was previously discussed and after consulting with David Jackson, the idea was dismissed. In July, Faculty Senate passed a resolution on teaching during a pandemic that affirmed instructor's rights to temporarily adjust delivery of in-person/hybrid courses on a case-by-case basis. Chris Frey will write a statement to be distributed via FACSEN email list to bring the resolution to the attention of full-time and part-time faculty as well as graduate teaching assistants. Blessy McWan will share this at the GSS meeting as well.

Discussion: A lot of COVID-19 related questions have been posted on the faculty discussion list and there is frustration with not having an opportunity for faculty Q&A dialogue with the President and Provost in order to get specific, pressing questions addressed. Recently, the President expressed his willingness to have a conversation with a group of faculty and the previous chair was in the early stages of determining a way to arrange this. Uncertain of the status, Chris Frey stated he will ask the President and Provost if/how they are responding to questions posted to the faculty discussion list.

## **8. Adjournment 4:02pm**

Chris Frey thanked SEC for their work.