

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

April 3, 2007
2:30 p.m.

Assembly Room
McFall Center

Absent: Anzenbacher, Balistreri, Belzer, Wood (Sub-Dickinson), Kresman, Messer-Kruse (Sub-Bhalla), Okerlund, Wilson (Sub-Christensen), Vatan-Woodhouse (Sub-Swanson), Lehman (Sub-Crowley), Little, Towns

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Hebein called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS

Chair of the Faculty Senate

Chair Hebein reported on the progress of the current Provost's Search Committee. Dean Rodney Rogers has been chairing the committee which has been meeting at least once a week since March. We are being assisted by a consulting firm, EFL Associates. One of the key persons with EFL Associates is Michael Ferrari, who was a former Provost here at Bowling Green State University in the late 70's. Forty-nine persons have applied or have been nominated for the Provost's position. The search committee has identified eleven of those candidates as being well qualified. Since the search will continue until the position is filled, there is no deadline for applications. The committee hopes to have a "short list" of final candidates to the President by the end of the semester.

Interim Provost and VPAA – Gromko

I have been asked to address two questions which were originally directed to President Ribeau, one about the search for our new Chief Financial Officer (CFO) and the second is about the Governor's recent budget recommendations regarding higher education. I also have a few comments of my own on enrollment issues. Sherry Stoll will be our new CFO and Vice President for Finance and Administration beginning on June 1, 2007. She will be replacing Chris Dalton, who will be retiring at the end of the academic year. Sherry is an accountant and CPA and has spent 12 years of her career on college campuses in Ohio. She has worked most recently as the Vice President for Finance and Administration at the Northeastern Ohio's University of the College of Medicine (Northeast's counterpart to our old Medical College of Ohio). She also worked at Kent State University in the area of finance. She is a magna cum laude graduate from the University of Akron.

The Governor's recommendations for the new state budget will still have to go through the legislature for approval, so we don't know the final outcome of these recommendations. The basic recommendation is that higher education is to receive a 5%

increase in State Shared Instruction (SSI) if we pledge to hold our tuition increase to zero percent in the upcoming year and no more than three percent in the following year. The question is : “What impact will this have on us at BGSU?” SSI comprises about 30% of our income per student and tuition comprises about 70% of our income. So, what is 5% of 30% (about 1 ½%). This 5% increase really only gives us about a 1.1 % increase in income for the university. We are also anticipating a small drop in undergraduate enrollment due to a reduction in scholarships. We are also anticipating modest increases in operational and salary budgets. So, with the new state budget, along with projected enrollment decreases and increases in budget needs, it is anticipated that we will have a shortfall of \$2.3 million for this next year. We are strategizing on how to deal with this deficit. One of the strategies we are looking at deals with how to keep our student enrollment from dropping. For every 100 students we are down, we are talking about a loss of income of \$1.2 million. The Admissions Office is in a high alert mode and attempting to turn our student applications into actual admissions. Currently our records show that in comparison to last year at this time, we are down several hundred housing deposits from students. Perhaps, it is a matter of students not responding to signing up for housing. We are asking for faculty to assist in any way they can to encourage students to sign up for housing, and for faculty to engage in recruitment activities to increase student enrollments.

Graduate Student Senate Representative – Nichter

The Graduate Student Senate has been deliberating its position on the Dunbridge Project, a university housing project on Dunbridge Road. We are concerned that this issue will go before the Board of Trustees in their June meeting. We are also concerned that there has been no definitive response as to what the academic component of this project will be. The Graduate Student Senate believes that the academic focus of this project should be established prior to any decision to proceed with building plans.

A second issue that GSS is dealing with is a potential plan in the College of Arts and Sciences to pare back or possibly eliminate the teaching responsibilities of Masters’ students in the college. We believe this could not only have a negative impact on the number of course offerings in the college, but it could also have a negative impact on the experiences which graduate students had anticipated gaining in their quest for a Masters’ Degree. GSS is hoping to support a balanced, nonreactionary recommendation to provide quality teaching from qualified faculty and at the same time, allow for teaching responsibilities to continue for Masters’ students in the College of Arts and Sciences.

Undergraduate Student Government – Kulbis

This past week, 12 members of USG traveled to Columbus to discuss state support for higher education. We spoke with nine state senators and a representative from the Governor’s office. We advocated for voting rights of the student trustee on the Board of Trustees. USG has passed legislation that is in opposition to the Dunbridge Project. Another piece of legislation supports the Gender Identity issue. USG held a forum to discuss the university budget and also to discuss how eco-friendly BGSU is. We would like to thank Vice President Linda Dobb for her wonderful explanation of the budget.

USG voting is taking place on line at this time. Please encourage your students to vote. USG would like to recognize the following faculty members who will be receiving this year's distinguished faculty excellence awards: David Jackson, Michelle Lane, Julie Lengfelder, Melissa Burek, William Scoog, and Gene Poor.

Retiree Representative – Cormier

The state organization of university retirees recommends that representatives from the various retiree organizations throughout the state meet with their sister institutions to discuss various topics and share a luncheon experience. On April 18th, the retirees from Bowling Green will be meeting with the retirees from the Medical College and the retirees from the University of Toledo. We will be meeting at the Toledo Museum of Art Glass Pavillion for a luncheon and a presentation from the Director of the Toledo Museum.

Ohio Faculty Council Representative – Bernhard

The Ohio Faculty Council will be meeting this next Friday and I hope to have a report for the next Faculty Senate meeting.

REPORTS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES

Committee on Academic Affairs (CAA) – Border

At its meeting on March 21st, CAA reviewed actions of the Undergraduate Council. We reviewed the Withdrawal Policy revisions approved by Undergraduate Council as well as the Dual Degree Policy. CAA supported the Withdrawal Policy and recommended some minor wording changes be made to the Dual Degree Policy. CAA has been asked to look into policies that would address how the university would respond to the outbreak of a virulent disease. CAA has also been asked to look into a grading system that would include plus and minus grades.

Amendments and Bylaws (ABC) – Pauken

We are in business but there is no report.

Committee on Committees (Com Com) – Yacobucci

Com Com will be conducting the election of Senate Officers and election for Senate Committees this afternoon. We will also be soliciting nominations for University Standing Committees this afternoon. The final ballot for University Standing Committees will be developed at our Com Com meeting this coming Friday. Electronic voting will take place between April 13th and April 23rd. Com Com is also working on a policy that would address potential conflict of interests on the part of committee members serving on committees that award faculty development and faculty research awards. We

are also awaiting on a proposal to create a new university committee on Military and Veterans' Affairs.

Faculty Senate Budget Committee (FSBC) – Evans

The Provost's report preempted some of the items that our report would have addressed relative to the Governor's proposed budget. FSBC reports that we are looking at approximately a \$2.9 million increase in the academic budget as a result of Governor Strickland's plan. FSBC has been looking at a potential \$4 million as opposed to the \$2.3 million that the Provost mentioned earlier. In looking at strategies to address these deficits, it is important to identify what are the most important items for faculty...increases in salaries, hiring more tenure track faculty, addressing the hiring issues relative to NTTF, increasing operating budgets, making academic cuts, funding university support units, funding university academic initiatives, or addressing salary compression issues. Where do our priorities lie? In a communication with Chair Hebein, it was reported that according to our Charter, Committee on Academic Affairs has the charge of periodically reviewing faculty sentiment to determine what issues are deemed as priority. It is my understanding that CAA has not done this for several years, but that they are conducting such a faculty survey this year. Hopefully, we will have a better sense of guidance in the future when identifying faculty priorities.

Faculty Personnel and Conciliation Committee (FPCC) – Muego

There is no change in the status of our one unresolved case. We do have one new case in the hands of a facilitator. **Hebein:** Just as a reminder, we had asked for an end of the year report from FPCC identifying the number of cases that had come before FPCC and what the outcomes have been in these cases. **Muego:** We can have that for the next Faculty Senate meeting.

Faculty Welfare Committee (FWC)- Weinsier

No Report.

Committee on Professional Affairs (CPA) – Zickar

The Committee on Professional Affairs is encouraging participation on the survey they just sent out via the Faculty List Proc.

OLD BUSINESS

Consensual Amorous Relationships Policy

Hebein: You have a copy of the Amorous Relationships Policy in your Senate packet. (Attachment # 1 of the Faculty Senate Packet) This would become a part of Faculty Charter under the B. II. f. 6 section where there is a list of ethical responsibility policies. Are there any questions of an informational nature?

Muego: Is there a definition of “amorous relationships”? **Hebein:** There is no definition beyond what is in the policy. **Brown:** Are graduate students who are teaching covered by this policy? **Hebein:** The graduate students have been supportive of this policy, not so much from the view point of being a graduate student who is teaching, but more from the vantage point of being a student. **Rockett:** It appears that marriage is not included in this policy. What about those who are engaged or married to each other? I still think we need a definition of what an “amorous relationship” is. **Nichter:** Graduate students do support this policy because it provides them protection relative to future relationships. Students would also support language in the policy that speaks to existing relationships. **Gromko:** This policy does not attempt to prohibit amorous relationships, whether among married people or otherwise. What it does say is that if you are in such a relationship, we should make alternative arrangements relative to supervisory responsibilities between the two parties. **Cragin:** I would like to speak against the issue as it is currently worded. Are we trying to control nepotism? Are we trying to prohibit amorous sexual relationships between students and instructors? I feel that the punishments in the policy are very weak. I would like to see the nepotism and the student/faculty relationships issues addressed in two different policies. **Meugo:** In listening to this discussion, I believe that it is imperative to have a definition for “amorous relationships”. **Albertini:** I believe that the term “amorous relationship” is very clear and doesn’t need further definition. **Yacobucci:** There is a policy statement in the Charter that deals with nepotism. When we first discussed this policy in 2002, it was because even though there was language in the Charter that addressed the ethical relationship between students and faculty, it appeared that it was not being adhered to. **Muego:** I would move that this policy be sent back to the author, Dr. Dobb, and that a definition be added. **Rockett:** I would second the motion. **Lee:** I would speak against deferring the policy back to Dr. Dobb. My understanding that this policy has been in the works for 12 years because we have wanted to discuss and debate this policy. This policy is for the protection of persons who are involved. I would speak against deferral. **Muego:** We are not speaking against the policy, but rather we believe that the policy as it is written is in need of a better definition. **Shields:** I call for the question. **Hebein:** The motion is whether or not to defer the vote on this policy and to return it to Dr. Dobb for the inclusion of a definition of “amorous relationships.” The motion is defeated. We are back to the main motion. **Samel:** We need to protect our students, so the policy should be written in such a way that provides protection for our students. **Wood:** I would like to see us vote on this policy since we have spent so much time discussing it. **Deters:** It seems to me that the last time we looked at this policy, Dr. Ribeau asked that it be tabled and that some serious work be done on it. I am not sure that I can see that there has been much more done on this policy since that last time it came before Senate. I also believe that “amorous relationship” needs to be defined. I also am not sure how “married” relationships” are covered in this policy. **Hebein:** You are correct that President Ribeau asked that this policy be tabled. The primary reason was due to a phrase in the old policy that called for faculty sanctions “consistent with AAUP guidelines.” President Ribeau indicated that since we do not have AAUP as a collective bargaining agent, they should not be included in our policies and guidelines for faculty. **Dobb:** This policy has been in the discussion phase since 1994. One of the primary motivations for this policy is to avoid preferential treatment because of faculty/ student relationships. I am aware that the

Senate Chair is strongly in favor of including faculty consultation as part of the faculty sanctions process in this policy. However, the Cabinet has chosen not to include that in this policy. **Rockett:** I am in favor of such a policy, but I still think we need to be careful of how we define “amorous relationships”. I just don’t want us to muddy the waters because we haven’t thought out a clear definition that also indicates how this policy would impact on faculty/students who are married. **Gaijala:** While there may be a need to clarify a definition, we must not fail to protect the victims. We need some policy in place. Then we can more clearly define “amorous relationships” at a later time. **Hebein:** I think we are ready to take a vote. This will require a 2/3 vote of all those present and voting. Abstentions will not count. Ballots were disseminated. The vote was: **For = 41; Against = 13; Abstentions = 1.** Motion passed.

Voting for Senate Officers and Senate Standing Committees

Yacobucci: The first order of business will be Senate elections. Only faculty senators who are present and eligible to vote are allowed to vote in the Senate Officer elections. Students and administrators are not able to vote. We have included ballots for you to vote on for Senate Officers and Senate Standing Committees. Ellen Williams is a candidate for Vice Chair/Chair Elect of Faculty Senate. You should have a short position description from Ellen. At this point in time, nobody has accepted a nomination to serve as Secretary of the Faculty Senate. Com Com will accept and solicit nominations from faculty members for Senate Secretary and we can vote on that office at our May meeting. When you are finished, Com Com will collect your ballots and tally them.

Voting for University Standing Committees

Yacobucci: The next order of business will be nominations for standing university committees. On Friday morning, Com Com will be meeting to finalize the final slate of officers for University Standing Committees. If you would like to write nominations on the attachment #3 Senate handout, you could turn those into me today.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Faculty Resources for the Undergraduate Student Group, GLBTQ

Albertini: What is being disseminated to you is a handout from VISION, the undergraduate GLBTQ, etc. group. They are creating a resource of any faculty members who identify themselves as GLBTQ or any faculty members who are allies. These resource faculty would be considered as safe places where students might go to discuss issues and get advice. Please turn these names into the President of GLBTQ.

Orientation for New Faculty Senators on Senate Procedures

Cragin: I would like to propose that new Faculty Senators be given some kind of orientation on Senate procedures. There have been several times that I would have responded differently if I had known the correct procedures. I also have a problem with

the acoustics and echo effects in this Faculty Senate Assembly Room. **Hebein:** There was an orientation for new Faculty Senators at the beginning of the year. **Pauken:** As incoming chair, I will ask if you have any particular suggestions relative to that orientation session for new Senators. **Muego:** In the past, new Senators were asked to come about 40 minutes prior to the reception for new Senators. Then we would hold an orientation meeting for them. **Woods:** I would recommend that you hold more than one orientation session in the event that new Senators have a time conflict with the orientation meeting time.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hebein adjourned the meeting at 4:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Ursula Williams
Secretary, Faculty Senate
May 1, 2007