

SEC/VPAA JOINT CONFERENCE MINUTES

April 10, 2007
2:30 p.m.

Senate Conference Room
140 McFall Center

Present: Bernhard, Currie, Gamero, Gromko, Hebein, Lewis, Orel, Pinto, Vatan Woodhouse, Williams

Chair Hebein opened the meeting at 2:35.

Hebein welcomed our two new undergraduate representatives for Senate Executive Committee, Johnnie Lewis and Nick Gamero. Hebein further explained that once a month, the Senate Executive Committee meets with the Provost/Vice President of Academic Affairs. Any member of Senate Executive Committee or the Provost can submit agenda items for this meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

Non Tenure Track Faculty Full-Time Members as a Percentage of All Full Time Faculty

Gromko: As you are all aware of, the Faculty Senate recently addressed and passed a policy for the career ladder for Non Tenure Track Full-Time Faculty members (NTTF). As you are also aware, there has been a lot of concern about the percentage of NTTF in relationship to full-time Tenure Track Faculty (TTF). The rule for hiring NTTF calls for no more than 25% of the faculty in any given unit should be NTTF. I have prepared a handout that provides a break down by Department/School comparing the number and percentage of NTTF and the number and percentage of TTF. The figures for the University as a whole indicate that out of the 918 faculty at BGSU, 302 or 33% are Non Tenure Track Faculty. If you review the list, you will note that there are a substantial number of departments/ schools that exceed the 25% rule. There is a provision that allows the Provost to grant exceptions to the 25% rule. The most obvious exception would probably be the General Studies Writing Program where 40 out of 41 faculty (98%) are NTTF. One reason why the percentage of NTTF is so high in this program is that it is difficult to get TTF to take these positions. The NTTF are more willing to take full teaching loads (4 courses each semester). We have invested a fair amount of time and effort into training the faculty in the General Studies Writing Program and we really don't want to see a lot of faculty turn over on an annual basis. Also, if we were to hire TTF faculty for these courses, it would reduce the number of courses that could be covered since TTF would probably be teaching 3 courses a semester rather than 4 courses a semester. Or we could increase the numbers of students assigned to each section of General Studies Writing, but I believe that could have a very negative effect on the quality of instruction being offered. Obviously, it would also be much more costly to hire TTF to teach in the General Studies Writing Program than if we hired NTTF. So, it would seem that in some cases, it might be more reasonable for the Provost to grant

exceptions to the 25% rule. **Williams:** Since there appears to be a substantial number of units that exceed the 25% rule, the concerns that have been raised by several of our Faculty Senators would appear to be justified...that is to say that even though we have a 25% rule governing the hiring of NTTF, we have not been adhering to that rule. **Pinto:** I think that it might be important to look at what other rules guide the hiring of NTTF. For example in the College of Business, our accreditation standards recognize three levels of faculty. The categories are: Academically Qualified Faculty (AQ); Professionally Qualified Faculty (PQ); and Not Qualified. **Gromko:** Where would NTTF fit within these categories? **Pinto:** Most would fit in the category of PQ.

Williams: Are the Deans aware of this information on NTTF yet? **Gromko:** No, I just received the data, but I will be sharing this information with them at the next Deans' meeting.

Williams: Will you be presenting this information to Faculty Senate?

Gromko: Yes, I will be presenting this. Faculty need to be aware of this data. They also need to be aware of the challenges this these data presents. **Hebein:** I would agree that this information should be shared with Faculty Senate. **Currie:** Are we aware of the time frame when we started to hire more NTTF? **Gromko:** I believe that it really increased about five years ago when we decided to consolidate part time faculty positions into more full time NTTF. **Bernhard:** It seems that consolidating these part time faculty positions into full time NTTF positions could serve the university well, but it seems that we also need to develop a plan to codify these actions and establish benchmarks that provide some sort of guidance on how many of the NTTF positions should be filled.

Sanctions Policy

Gromko: I have made some of the changes in the Sanctions Policy that were recommended by this committee. I will be taking the Policy to Deans' Council tomorrow and then I will bring it back to this body.

NEW BUSINESS

None

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

New Interim Dean at Firelands

Currie: I just wondered if the announcement had been made relative to a new Interim Dean at Firelands. **Gromko:** Yes, it will be released. Dean James Michael Smith (current Dean of Firelands College) has been spending this year doing two jobs, one half time as Dean of Firelands College and one half time as Vice President for Economic Development. Starting on July 1, he will be serving full time as Vice President for Economic Development. Filling in as Interim Dean of Firelands College, starting on July 1st will be James Matthew Smith (current Associate Dean for Outreach at Firelands).

NTTF Promotions and Salary Increases

Currie: I was asked to check on how salary increases would be determined when NTTF faculty are promoted to Lecturer and Senior Lecturer status. **Gromko:** We will have to standardize that at the university level.

Dunbridge Project

Vatan Woodhouse: I wanted to know if anyone in the Provost's Office could shed any light on the academic purpose for the Dunbridge Project. Graduate Student Senate has been asking for this information for some time, but there is no definitive information forthcoming. **Gromko:** Thus far, it would appear that many of the proposals for the academic focus of the Dunbridge Project have been met with some reservations. So, this is probably why you have not received any definitive response to your question about the academic focus of the Project.

Governor Strickland's Visit to BGSU

Williams: I just wondered why there was such a short notice and limited advertisement of the recent visit and open meeting with Governor Strickland. A number of our faculty would have attended to discuss higher education issues with the Governor. **Gromko:** We were not aware of the visit until the day before the Governor's visit.

Teaching by Masters' Students in the College of Arts and Sciences

Vatan Woodhouse: Some of my constituents have asked if I would check to see if the Provost's Office was aware that a committee has been formed in the College of Arts and Sciences questioning whether Masters' Level students should be teaching classes.

Gromko: No, I was not aware of this committee. **Hebein:** It is my understanding that this committee was formed due to some complaints from a few parents that they were not paying tuition for their students to be taught by graduate students. However, I would also note that many of the teaching evaluations of the graduate students are fairly high. **Vatan**

Woodhouse: I just wanted to bring this to the attention of the Provost's Office as several of our graduate students are concerned that they might not be able to teach.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:20 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Williams
Faculty Senate Secretary
April 30, 2007