

PRESIDENT'S PANEL MINUTES

April 12, 2007
2:30 p.m.

Chart Room
McFall Center

Present: Gamero (Undergraduate Student Government), Gromko (Interim Provost), Hagemann (Classified Staff Council), Hebein (Faculty Senate), Kendall (Administrative Staff Council), Laflin (Faculty), Lewis (Undergraduate Student Government), Nichter (Graduate Student Senate), Ribeau (President), Sawaie (Classified Staff Council), Vatan Woodhouse (Graduate Student Senate), Whipple (Vice President for Student Affairs), Williams (Faculty Senate)

CONVENING

The meeting was convened by President Ribeau at 2:40 p.m.

President Ribeau indicated that he had a list of questions which he had been given by constituent groups represented on the President's Panel. He indicated that he would attempt to respond to the questions that had been given and invited members of the President's Panel to ask any other related questions as they arose.

Governor's New Proposed Budget

Ribeau: The Governor's new proposed budget is a step in the right direction but it still isn't enough money. He is recommending a 5% increase in the State Share of Instruction (SSI) and a 0% increase in fees. The 5% increase is good and is the largest recommended increase we have had in the past seven years. But the 5% increase only applies to 30% of our budget. Thirty percent of our budget comes from SIS and the other 70% of our budget comes from fees. So, if we receive 5% on 30 and 0% on 70, we can't balance our budget. We will probably have a 2-3 million dollar shortfall. This would mean a major cut in positions and services. The Governor's Budget still has to go to the House and the Senate and then to reconciliation. We should know by the end of May what the final budget allocations will be. **Laflin:** Would we declare financial exigency? **Ribeau:** No, we might have to freeze positions and it would be tight. If we miss our enrollment target, it could add further financial hardship to this situation. **Williams:** Where do we stand on our enrollment projections? **Gromko:** One of our best indicators is through the number of housing deposits we receive. Housing deposits are several hundred (400 to 500) behind on this same date in 2006. So, we have considerable concern regarding the projected enrollment for next year. When we call students to ask them why they haven't enrolled, it seems that they plan on returning but just haven't gotten around to enrolling for next year. We are asking residence hall personnel and student organizations to assist in getting students to enroll. We are also asking for faculty assistance in reminding students to enroll. **Whipple:** We are down about 500 students all together. Our freshmen are down about 350. We will have a better idea by the end of April. **Ribeau:** We need to get everyone registered as soon as possible to know our income. We have to live with the zero-based tuition mandate. **Hagemann:** Didn't all of the state institutions have to agree to the 5% increase before it was included in the budget? **Ribeau:** While it appears to be a voluntary decision on the part of state institutions, it was more like an "offer you couldn't refuse" so the state institutions accepted the recommendation for a 5% SIS increase. **Gromko:** The critical issue right now is to get our freshmen to return.

Chief Financial Officer

Ribeau: There was a question about the replacement of our Chief Financial Officer, Chris Dalton. Our new CFO will be Sheri Stoll. She has spent most of her career at Kent State University and most recently was the CFO at Northeast Ohio Medical College. She will be starting her position at BGSU on May 21. The search for the CFO was handled somewhat differently than other administrative positions on campus. We hired a search firm who worked quickly and quietly to secure our CFO.

Provost's Search

Ribeau: The Search Committee is meeting regularly, and screening candidates. The last couple of weeks of the semester, the final candidates will be brought on campus to meet with faculty and students and staff. Ideally, the Provost will begin the position on July 1. **Laffin:** Will copies of the candidate's vita be posted on the web? **Ribeau:** Both Ellen and Rich are on the Search Committee and they can take that request back. I commend all of you working on the Provost's Search Committee, because it has required a fast turn around during a very busy time of the academic year.

Reorganization:

Ribeau: As of this date, there will be no reorganization of the administration. Most of the reorganization that we had been looking at would have been in the finance area. Since the search for the CFO's is very competitive, we decided it would be best if we left the CFO position as is. After our new person is in place, they may want to consider some reorganization. A few areas in the university had dual reporting, that is they reported to both Chris and me. These areas reported to Chris as Senior Vice President of the University, not to Chris as the CFO. Our new CFO will not be a Senior Vice President.

Capital Projects

Ribeau: The most eminent capital projects are: The Wolfe Center for the Performing Arts (The lead gift came from Fritz and Mary Wolfe)—Saddlemire Building will be demolished this summer and the Wolfe Center will be built in that general vicinity; McDonald Dining Hall will be remodeled; and the Student Health Center Building will have an addition built that will include the Counseling Center and Disability Services and will provide more space for the College of Health and Human Services—There will also be a parking garage built behind the Student Health Center. **Williams:** Where will Student Services go? **Whipple:** Student Services will be moving out of Saddlemire this summer and will be housed temporarily in Conklin Residence Hall. A new Student Services Building will be built in the site of the current parking lot by the Education Building. This is all part of the Master Plan and will probably happen in about three years. **Vatan Woodhouse:** What will happen with parking spaces that will be lost near the Education Building? **Ribeau:** There is a parking structure being planned. **Williams:** Is the state setting aside any money to repair aging university infrastructures throughout all of our state's higher education institutions? **Ribeau:** No, the state isn't providing that kind of money. A lot of universities are raising their own funds to repair those infrastructures.

Bursarables

Ribeau: Bursarables will be discontinued on May 4th for students. There will be a new BG Debit Card that can be used. We are working on a replacement transition process.

Nichter: We need to expedite the transition process so we can implement the new Debit Card. We have been meeting for 11 months and still the final plan has yet to be approved by the Ohio Attorney General's Office. **Ribeau:** I will call and check on that to find out what can be done to expedite the transition process. I want to thank the students because they have been very helpful in this bursarables transition process.

Outsourcing

Ribeau: Candidates who have been applying for the position of Executive Director of Student Affairs have all indicated that dining services might be outsourced. The question is whether or not BGSU would consider outsourcing its dining services. **Whipple:** We have a strong dining service program at BGSU. Last year we made \$1million dollars in dining services. That money is reinvested into dining services like the renovation of McDonald Dining Hall. Why would we want to outsource dining services when it has been more than cost effective? **Ribeau:** It hasn't been our practice to outsource. There are over 3000 colleges and universities in the United States today. In 25 years, there will be far fewer institutions of higher education. So, all universities will have to operate effectively financially if they are to exist.

Inclusion of the Chancellor's Position into the Governor's Cabinet

Ribeau: The Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents will be a member of the Governor's Cabinet. The Governor has appointed Eric Fingerhut as the new Chancellor. Fingerhut is a former State Representative. We don't know what the exact relationship will be in the future relative to this new arrangement of the OBOR Chancellor and his position in the Governor's Cabinet. We will have to wait and see what this new relationship means.

Administrative Review

Ribeau: I believe that this comes from Faculty Senate. **Hebein:** This is a resolution coming out of the Senate proposing that upper level administrative offices undergo some kind of review. There is a subcommittee meeting to discuss this now. **Williams:** The subcommittee is comprised of Rich Wilson, Gary Lee, Mark Gromko, Linda Dobb and me. I believe the original intent of this resolution was to address how we might begin to look at responding to financial constraints at the university. If we are exploring potential freezes for faculty and staff positions or discussing cutting potential services in any of our academic programs, we also need to evaluate our administrative offices, just as we evaluate our academic programs on a regular basis. We have been meeting to discuss how this type of review might be accomplished. **Gromko:** We are developing some sets of data from Bill Knight's Office to compare how we fare in terms of the numbers of administrators and staff we have in comparison to our comparable sister institutions. Hopefully, if we supply this kind of information, we can forego a full-scale type of program review for our administrative offices. In addition, it has been suggested that we include some questions in our Dean's Evaluations or in our Program Review process to find out the satisfaction level of services being provided through colleges and upper level administration. **Ribeau:** One thing that I don't want is more cost and bureaucracy to monitor bureaucracy. If anything, I think that there is too much bureaucracy in the university now. **Williams:** I think that is exactly the point that the resolution for Administrative Review was attempting to address. How do we minimize bureaucracy? **Ribeau:** I think there are other ways of getting at this without a full-blown administrative review. **Gromko:** I don't think we need to conduct a full-blown review to get the information needed on administrative effectiveness and numbers. We can get data together to respond to some of the concerns. We might also bring in some outside consultants to review our administrative organizational structure and effectiveness. **Laflin:** Would we ever consider

using resource-based budgeting like Ohio State? That kind of budgeting might address some of the concerns about the number of administrators needed or the effectiveness of administrative offices. **Ribeau:** Our new CFO might look at this type of budgeting. I will be looking to receive some recommendations from this subcommittee about administrative review.

Civil Service Report

Ribeau: Who understands this or knows about it? **Hagemann:** As I understand it, it is an attempt to unify or systematize practices across our university campuses to make them more efficient. **Ribeau:** I believe that this is part of House Bill 187 and it is still unclear in terms of its implications for BGSU. When we learn more about it, we will share it with our Board of Trustees and others. **Kendall:** Once this gets through the legislature, it will be the responsibility of the Inter University Council (IUC) to delineate how this would be enacted.

Faculty Salary Proposals

Ribeau: We are still shooting for faculty salaries to be competitive and in the 70th percentile in comparison to other universities in Ohio. If you look at salaries by rank, we have made some progress. We have a smaller number of Full Professors due to the early retirement programs. At the assistant and associate ranks, we have made progress. Another variable that throws off the salary ratings are the number of new faculty we have and the number of NTTF we have hired. I know that we are not at the 70th percentile. We are dealing with some very tight times financially. I am committed to present a salary increase recommendation to the Board, albeit a small percentage increase due to a projected budget deficit.

Convocation Center

Ribeau: I would like to see the University have a Convocation Center but it would be dependent on private giving. We need a facility that would accommodate up to 5,000 people. This could accommodate graduations and other types of large events. The Wolfe Center will hold less than 1,000 people. If we could reduce the number of graduations that we hold by increasing the number of attendees we could accommodate, we could save some money, but we need private donations. The University is in definite need of a Convocation Center and I would like to see it happen under my Presidency.

Ethics Officer

Ribeau: What is the issue about the University Ethics Officer? **Hebein:** People in Faculty Senate were not pleased with the responses given by the Ethics Officer in response to Senate questions regarding the Ethics Policy and the role of the Ethics Officer. **Williams:** There still seems to be confusion about whether the Ethics Policy only applies to fiduciary matters. **Ribeau:** About 95% would apply to fiduciary matters but it applies to matters beyond fiduciary issues. If you get me the list of questions, I will respond to them.

Dunbridge Road Project

Gromko: Albert Calderone, a local entrepreneur, and his family own property on Dunbridge Road. They have made a proposal to Bowling Green State University about collaborating in a project that would benefit the university and the Calderone family as well. The Calderones would be a private partner with the university and they would front a substantial part of the costs for the project. It could involve a building or a residential and academic structure. There have been a lot

of good ideas offered about what might be involved in such a collaborative partnership and what building might be done and what it might be used for. A residential component would be needed to drive the project financially, so that an academic program could be placed in the residential unit. It is now time to evaluate these ideas and make a decision about whether or not to move forward on the Dunbridge Project. **Vatan Woodhouse:** We understand that there will be a vote on the Dunbridge Project at the June Board of Trustees meeting. **Ribeau:** Yes, there will be a vote in June by the Trustees as to whether or not they want to move forward on the Dunbridge Project. **Nichter:** Will student input be considered? **Hebein:** There seems to be conflicting information from the students. Some of the consultants indicated that the students were totally in favor of the project. But, the Undergraduate Student Government and the Graduate Student Senate both seem to be opposed to the project. **Whipple:** The focus groups used to get feedback were small. I think that most students want to build on campus areas that are in closer proximity to main campus. **Vatan Woodhouse:** That's true; the students are concerned about the proximity to the main campus. **Gromko:** There is also a question about sustainability and transportation. Having said that, I would hope that we, as a University, will be open to partner with outside entrepreneurs in the future. **Nichter:** I believe that another reason the students were not in favor of the project is that it lacked any academic focus. There were several academic areas discussed, but there was never any clear cut academic component to the project.

Ribeau: If there are no other questions, thank you very much.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen U. Williams
Faculty Senate Secretary
May 17, 2007