

**SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

April 24, 2007
2:30-4:30 p.m.

Senate Conference Room
140 McFall Center

Present: Bernhard, Currie, Hebein, Lee, Lewis, Orel, Pauken, Pinto, Sabaroff, Vatan Woodhouse, Williams, (Guest: Yacobucci)

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

Chair Hebein reordered the agenda to accommodate for guest, Peggy Yacobucci.

NEW BUSINESS

Gender Identity and Expression Resolution

Yacobucci: I am presenting the Gender Identity and Expression Resolution from the Human Relations Committee. The resolution is to include language that is currently being used at the federal government level regarding sexual discrimination. The new federal language also includes “gender identity and expression.” The federal courts have ruled that “sex identity does include sex, gender identity and expression.” This resolution should include this new language in policies that apply at Bowling Green State University. The resolution has been presented to Vice President Linda Dobb. It is supported by Undergraduate Student Government, Graduate Student Senate, Office of Equity and Diversity and the EOCC. If approved, this resolution would come to the Board of Trustees at their June meeting. **Hebein:** Which policies would this resolution impact? **Yacobucci:** The policies impacted would include: the Equal Employment Opportunity Policy, the Equal Education Opportunity Policy, and the Anti-Harassment Policy. **Hebein:** I would suggest that you include that information in the resolution when you present it to Faculty Senate. **Pauken:** I would also suggest that you include the definition of “Gender Expression” in your resolution and your presentation.

Proposed Changes to the Faculty Development Committee (FDC) and to the Faculty Research Committee (FRC) Charge

Yacobucci: This is an attempt to avoid conflict of interest on the Faculty Development Committee (FDC) and on the Faculty Research Committee (FRC) when a committee member submits proposals to these committees. In these events, the committee member should recuse themselves from committee deliberations and decisions on proposals such as Faculty Improvement Leaves and Faculty Research Proposals for Competitive Funds. Currently, there is no written regulation governing a situation where a committee member might submit a proposal to these committees. Committee on Committee believes that the following language related to this situation be included at the end of the “Voting Rights” section of the official descriptions for each of the committees:

If a committee member has submitted a proposal to the FDC or FRC, that committee member should recuse himself or herself from discussion of and voting on his or her proposal.

Hebein: Is there consensus from the SEC for approval? Yes, there is consensus.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Hebein reported on the status of the current search process for a new Provost/ Vice President for Academic Affairs. Three candidates are being brought to campus. There will be an opportunity for Faculty Senate to meet with each of the three candidates. I would encourage SEC members to attend as many sessions as possible.

OLD BUSINESS

Amendments and Bylaws Update

Pauken: The Amendments and Bylaws Committee (ABC) met on April 19, 2007 to discuss two issues: (1) A proposed editorial amendment to the recently-passed Non-Tenure-Track Faculty policy (NTTF); and (2) The differences and potential conflicts between “centers” and “research centers.” Regarding the changes in the NTTF policy language, the ABC came up with several questions regarding proposed editorial changes suggested by Senator David Border. ABC would like to wait until Fall of 2007 to revisit these questions and issues prior to changing charter language related to the new NTTF Policy. **Lee:** Two of your questions relate to tenure and NTTF. I am definitely of the opinion that tenure is not given to NTTF who are given continuing contracts or to NTTF who are promoted to Lecturer or Senior Lecturer. The very phrase of Non-Tenure Track Faculty indicates that the position is not a tenure track faculty position.

Pauken: The second issue that ABC dealt with was charter language on “center” vs. “research centers.” Centers can cover research, scholarly activity, teaching, service and more. Research Centers are simply more focused on research as a sole or primary activity.

Questions for Evaluation of Senate Form

Hebein: We will postpone discussion of the Evaluation of Senate to the Fall of 2007.

NEW BUSINESS

CAA's Approval of Dual Degree Policy

Hebein: Committee on Academic Affairs approved some word changes in the current policy on Dual Degrees. CAA felt that the proposed changes constituted a minor change to the existing undergraduate policy.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Response to the Virginia Tech Student Shootings

Williams: Will Faculty Senate be proposing some type of resolution in memorial for the students who were killed? **Hebein:** I would think that it would be appropriate for Faculty Senate to hold a moment of silence in memorial for the students.

Response to the Dunbridge Project

Vatan Woodhouse: I just wanted to call attention to the fact that the Graduate Student Senate has passed a resolution that the Board of Trustees “not take action on the Dunbridge Project until a demonstrated commitment from the academic community and a sound environmental sustainability plan are clearly evident. This should include review and approval of curriculum and other academic changes by appropriate Faculty Senate committees and academic administration.” **Lewis:** Undergraduate Student Government has passed a similar resolution proposal. **Pinto:** I would like clarification on what the Dunbridge Project is. **Vatan Woodhouse:** The University has been exploring the possibility of

collaborating with a local landowner who has offered to lease some of his land to us for a possible university building on land on the other side of I -75 across from Meijer's Store. The purpose of such a building would be for academic programs, housing and commercial reasons. However, there has never been a clear understanding of what the academic purpose of such a collaborative building would be. There seems to be greater emphasis on the housing aspect of the project and little clarity on the academic purpose. There are also several unanswered questions related to transportation, community engagement, dining arrangements, safety, relationship to main campus, etc., related to this project. We are looking for support of our resolution from the Faculty Senate. **Williams:** Just as a point of information, I believe that at a recent President's Panel meeting, President Ribeau indicated that if there was strong opposition to the Dunbridge Project, he would not recommend that it be approved. **Vatan Woodhouse:** That was also my understanding. **Williams:** Should the information on the Dunbridge Project be presented as a separate item on the Faculty Senate Agenda or should it be presented as part of the Senate Reports from GSS and USG? **Hebein:** Is there consensus on the part of SEC to support the USG and the GSS proposals? And is there support to offer a similar resolution on the Dunbridge Project coming from Faculty Senate? Support is unanimous.

Resolution on Sustainability of Higher Education

Bernhard: I would like to see Faculty Senate develop a resolution that is supportive of the Governor's and the Legislature's recent position to offer greater financial support for higher education. At the same time, I think it's important for us to remind the Governor and the Legislature that it is necessary to offer further financial increases in order to sustain higher education. **Hebein:** I would suggest that you write such a proposal and bring to Faculty Senate for approval. **Bernhard:** I would be glad to draft this proposal.

Secretary of Faculty Senate

Pauken: We still have need of filling the position of Faculty Senate Secretary. **Hebein:** We have two candidates, Ben Muego and me.

SENATE AGENDA

SEC set the following Faculty Senate Agenda:

- Senate Elections: Faculty Senate Secretary
- Senate Election Results: Senate Standing and University Standing Committees
- Gender Identity and Expression Resolution
- Dunbridge Project Resolution
- Senate Sustainability Resolution on Funding for Higher Education
- Passing of the Gavel

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Hebein adjourned the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ellen Ursula Williams
Secretary, Faculty Senate
July 16, 2007