

PRESIDENT'S PANEL MINUTES

November 2, 2006
2:30 p.m.

Chart Room
McFall Center

Present: Barnes (Faculty Senate), Dobb (Executive Vice President), Folkins (Vice President of Academic Affairs), Hageman (Classified Staff Council), Hebein (Faculty Senate), Laflin (Faculty), Little (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)

President Ribeau was given a list of the following topics that had been presented by constituent members prior to this meeting:

- Dunbridge Road Project
- State Budget Update
- Priority for Capital Improvements
- UT/MUO Merger and Impact on BGSU
- Amorous Relationship Policy Update
- Health Insurance Exemptions for Low Socioeconomic Status Students
- Status of Reorganization
- December 2006 Commencement Ceremony Changes
- The Ethics Policy and the Role of the Ethics Officer

CONVENING

The meeting was convened by President Ribeau at 2:30 p.m.

President Ribeau: This is the first meeting of the President's Panel for this year. We meet once every semester. The President's Panel was initiated by former President Olscamp to ensure that issues of importance would be shared with university leaders.

(Members of the President's Panel introduced themselves.)

I will go over the prepared list of topics and share updated information. If anyone wants to ask questions or add information, please feel free to do so.

Dunbridge Road Project

Ribeau: The Dunbridge Road Project came about when a local land developer, Mr. Calderone, approached the University to partner with him in developing a parcel of land

on Dunbridge Road for university housing, etc. An ad hoc committee has been working on a feasibility study determining academic rationale for such a project as well as determining financial feasibility for such a project. The ad hoc committee will be reporting their findings to the Board of Trustees in December. No action will take place at the December meeting, but probably action will be taken by the Board at the March meeting.

State Budget Update

Ribeau: Ohio Board of Regents passed a recommended budget with nearly a 7% increase for all colleges and universities in the first year of the budget. The State Budget will be negotiated between the Executive Branch of state government and the Assembly. With a new governor, there is a strong possibility that there might be disagreement between the Executive Branch and the Assembly over the upcoming budget items. If the Assembly gets its way, higher education will only receive new money for the STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) programs. Two year schools and private institutions are hoping to receive STEM monies also.

There doesn't appear to be any new money for higher education to meet cost of living increases. We aren't planning on any increases at BGSU. We just hope to cover mandatory operational costs at BG.

Priority for Capital Improvements on Campus

Ribeau: The top priority for capital improvement is the Wolfe Center for Performing Arts. The Wolfe Center should be completed within two to three years. With the building of the Wolfe Center, the Saddlemire Building that houses Student Services will be torn down. So, the second priority for capital improvement will be a Student Services Building. The third priority would be the Health Center Addition and renovations. There haven't been any major changes in the Health Center since it was built in the 1960's. The fourth priority is the McDonald Dining Hall renovation. The fifth priority would be the Ice Arena. A Convocation Center is also on the university's wish list. Many of these capital improvement areas may require fund raising to gain adequate financial support. There are plans for monies to be set aside for "Blocked Obsolescence" which will be used for maintenance of current university buildings.

Merger with UT/MUO: Impact on BGSU

BGSU will be continuing to participate in consortium types of programs in which we are already involved with MUO/UT. There has been no new analysis of the impact of this merger. The new mission statement for MUO/UT appears to focus heavily on Medicine, Science and Engineering. The reason that the MUO/UT merger took place is because the administration at both universities wanted this to happen.

There are also discussions of a potential consortium of five other universities (Kent, Youngstown, Akron, NEOUCOM, and Cleveland State) in the Northeastern part of Ohio.

This is a highly political situation. It is uncertain as to what the outcome of these discussions will be. It would seem that the only way mergers can successfully occur is when all parties involved agree to the terms of such a merger.

Amorous Relationships Policy: Current Status

Ribeau: The Senate has looked at it and made some modifications. The policy will now be coming back to Cabinet. We want to look at the modifications as well as look at a policy that has just been adopted at Ohio State. Then we will send it back to the Senate. Upon approval by the Senate, it will be sent to the Board of Trustees.

Status of Reorganization

Ribeau: There had been previous discussion of moving some of the areas of responsibility out of the Financial Administration sector. Nothing has really changed and there probably won't be any major reorganizational changes in the areas of Finance and Planning. We will probably keep the model that we are using today for financial administration.

Health Insurance Exemptions

Ribeau: Has there been any movement to allow for health insurance exemptions for low SES students? The Health Services Advisory Committee has this on its agenda. They will be investigating this and making some recommendations.

Commencement for 2006: Changes

Ribeau: At the December, 2006 Commencement, Friday evening commencement will be held for the graduate college and for all colleges except Arts and Sciences and the College of Education and Human Development. The number of undergraduate students from Technology, Business, Music, Health and Human Services and Firelands graduating in December is typically small. Saturday morning graduation ceremonies will be held for A&S and EDHD. This practice will be evaluated to determine if there are any issues/concerns.

Ethics Policy and the Ethics Officer

Ribeau: Paul Schauer, Professor of Accounting, has been appointed as the part time Ethics officer for the university. The Ethics officer would be responsible for investigating and possibly settling ethical issues that don't fall within the purview of any existing policy of the university, but may fall within the purview of Title V or state statutes. Mostly these would fall on the side of faculty issues. There is the possibility of other issues of ethical concerns being raised by students, for example student behaviors. There are a number of ways those issues might be addressed such as through policies and

procedures for residential life. But, if for some reason students don't feel comfortable about getting a fair hearing, one option would be to go to this Ethics Officer. The Ethics Officer would look into it and make recommendations to the appropriate personnel for further handling to ensure that the individual would get a fair hearing.

Williams: Isn't the intent of the Ethics Policy and the role of the Ethics Officer to cover only fiduciary matters? **Ribeau:** No. It could cover fiduciary matters. But the example I gave about the residence hall wouldn't deal with fiduciary matters. The cases covered thus far by the Ethics Officer have been fiscal or fiduciary matters. But theoretically, could other issues come to his attention? I would say yes and that would be well within his purview to address other issues. **Ribeau:** I believe that the Ethics Policy is written broadly enough to cover other ethical issues beyond the fiduciary ones. **Whipple:** It makes reference to behaviors that would reflect badly on the institution or that would be a violation of the Code of Ethics. **Ribeau:** This policy is something that the Board of Trustees has wanted for a long time in order to promote accountability at all levels.

Bursarables Task Force

Ribeau: Many of the people sitting at the table here today have served on the Bursarables Task Force. This task force has presented the President's Office with their report. The report recommends how Bursarable Accounts/ Charges should be used at BGSU.

Enrollment for Fall, 2007

Ribeau: The enrollments for Fall, 2007 will be a challenge. Our sister institutions are being much more aggressive in their recruitment and retention efforts. Our primary competitors are Ohio University, University of Toledo, Miami University and Kent State. Every one hundred students is worth about \$1.2 million. If we miss our targeted enrollment by one hundred students, our budget is off \$1.2 million. In a year when our budget from the state is uncertain, it's essential that we take recruitment efforts seriously.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Williams
Faculty Senate Secretary
November 13, 2006