

SEC/VPAA JOINT CONFERENCE MINUTES

February 12, 2008
2:30 PM

Senate Conference Room
140 McFall Center

Present: Shirley Baugher (substitute Mark Gromko), Keith Bernhard, Alden Craddock, Gary Lee, Johnnie Lewis, Ben Muego, Nancy Orel, Patrick Pauken, Peter Pinto, Jeannie Sabaroff, Ellen Williams, Rich Hebein

Absent: Nora Engebretsen

CHAIR'S REPORT

Vice Chair Williams called the meeting to order.

OLD BUSINESS

Status of NTTF Policy

Williams asked Gromko to convey SEC's gratitude to Baugher for asking deans to report to her on the number of non-tenure track faculty annually as required by Charter.

Craddock inquired about the process for moving a person on to the nttf career ladder. Lee said that in Arts and Sciences position had to be "hard-funded" and that not all instructors were. Hebein pointed out that SEC had previously suggested to Baugher that deans work with chairs to identify the instructors, whom departments wanted to put on the career ladder, to ensure that their positions were hard-funded. SEC thanked Gromko for providing an updated list of nttf in departments.

Status of Sanctions Policy

Pauken said that the ad hoc committee was continuing its work and should have the policy ready for Senate action this spring.

Status of FPCC Procedures

Muego reported that the set of amendments should be ready for SEC shortly.

Update on Merit Policy

SEC discussed the policy, which was recently passed by Senate. Bernhard voiced his continuing concern, namely, that the policy presumes that merit improves productivity and that that hasn't been demonstrated. Lee said that, unless the sums were large, they don't make much difference. Bernhard hoped that the discussion on incentive and reward would continue.

Salary Recommendations from FWC

Pauken thanked Craddock for presenting the merit policy at the Senate meeting. Referring to the forthcoming salary recommendation from FWC, Craddock observed that several committees and individuals have influence over the final decision. He said that it was troubling that BG continues to have high tuition but low salaries. He wondered where the money was going. Muego suggested that perhaps too much money was being devoted to scholarships. Gromko said that we gave out less money in scholarships this fall, and now enrollment is down. Lewis said he supported compensating professors fairly. Sabaroff pointed out that our stipends for graduate students were not competitive. Williams said that she would raise this at the next meeting of the Compensation Committee. (These are actually three separate committees. The representatives of Administrative Staff Council, Classified Staff Council, and Faculty Senate meet separately with VPAA Baugher, Dean Balzer, EVP Dobb, and Assistant VP for Institutional Research Knight and CFO Stoll.)

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion of the Current BGeX Program

Lewis expressed USG's dissatisfaction with dropping the early move-in and shortening the program to half a day. He said that the longer period before classes started gave students a chance to become acclimatized. He was concerned that the program might be cut completely. Gromko said that the programming would start on the Saturday or Sunday before classes begin. He added that there will be peer facilitators but that the stipends for participating faculty were being dropped. He said that it was an expensive program and not sustainable in that fashion. He hoped that the emphasis on values would be pervasive throughout a student's career. Lewis said that the introduction to the program was important and supported the idea of a capstone values course. Gromko said that the "V" course, which every incoming freshman takes, would continue to be expensive since the stipends for peer facilitators would continue and these courses were limited to twenty-five students.

Ombudsperson

Williams said that Baugher encouraged SEC to pursue the creation of an ombudsperson since administrative and classified staff both had them. Lewis said both student governments were considering it. He pointed out that Student Legal Services did not have jurisdiction over any matter involving the University. Williams said that she was working on a proposal and would present it to SEC.

Spring Open Forum

Baugher had approached Pauken with the idea of holding a forum similar to the one held last fall. SEC expressed concerns with holding one because some very important issues would not be very far along by the end of the semester. The Chancellor's Master Plan for the University System of Ohio would be announced in March, but the University's Master Plan would not be drafted until the end of the semester. The committee reviewing graduate programs would not be finished until then, and the state's budget would not be very clear at that time either. The inclination was to wait for a forum until fall. (Baugher subsequently repeated her request for a forum this spring on financial planning for the institution, and plans are being made to hold one.)

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

FMS Concerns

Craddock thanked Stoll for addressing Senate on the problems but expressed regret that there has been no indirect cost, grant reimbursement for over a year.

Graduate Program Review

Craddock asked how the committee was formed and what were the criteria that the committee would use to evaluate them. Pauken said that Dean Snavely appointed the committee and that they would use web sites and catalogs to evaluate them. Although some graduate coordinators were on the committee, they were not necessarily being consulted. Pauken encouraged the committee to seek their input and also to consult the various program review documents. Williams asked how the graduate program fit into the compact process. Craddock expressed his concern for shared governance.

ADJOURNMENT

The Joint Conference was adjourned at 5:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Hebein, Secretary