

PRESIDENT'S PANEL MINUTES

April 17, 2008
2:30 pm

Chart Room
McFall Center

Present: Shirley Baugher (Vice President for Academic Affairs), Linda Dobb (Executive Vice President), Jim Evans (Faculty), Kim Fleshman (Administrative Staff Council), Nick Gamero (Undergraduate Student Government), Steve Kendall (ASC), Johnnie Lewis (USG), Faith Olson (Classified Staff Council), Gina Ondercin (Graduate Student Senate), Patrick Pauken (Faculty Senate), Sidney Ribeau (President), Jeannie Sabaroff (GSS), Edward Whipple (Vice President for Student Affairs), John R. Waynick (USG), Ellen Williams (FS), Rich Hebein (FS)

CALL TO ORDER

President Ribeau called the meeting to order and turned to the questions that had been submitted by the participants in advance.

1. Value of shared governance and ACS's concerns about supervisors' support for shared governance.

Ribeau said that shared governance is very important especially when times are difficult. Supervisors should be flexible to allow staff to participate on committees.

2. Workforce planning methodology and status.

This process is going on in the Provost's Office right now. For example, the process revealed that they needed a budget person. The largest part of the university's budget is in Academic Affairs.

3. Change from hard funding to soft funding of positions without employee notification of change.

It usually happens the other way around. People come in on soft funding, perhaps on a grant, and then the position is hard-funded. Dobb affirmed that hard-to-soft was rare and questioned why the employee wouldn't be informed. Ribeau said that they should be.

4. What specific areas need to be developed to meet the State's expectations for BGSU?

Ribeau referred to the state's call for quantification and the Voluntary System of Accountability. He said that the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges was developing an instrument to help institutions in a common system of reporting. (More information at: <http://www.nasulgc.org/NetCommunity/Page.aspx?pid=280&srcid=900>)

5. BGSU's participation in the "Seniors to Sophomores" initiative.

Ribeau said that this recent proposal was somewhat controversial and needed more thought. The school districts are concerned because they will lose the subsidy if their students leave early for college. Ribeau observed that it raises issues of accreditation if high school teachers are allowed to teach college courses. Baugher said that any proposals had to originate with the high schools and that neither BGSU nor the Bowling Green High School has immediate plans to participate.

6. President Ribeau's perspective on the progress of the Strategic Planning Group and an update on the Change Team.

Sabaroff, a member of this group, said that they were currently hearing presentations. Ribeau said that they would post a draft of their report at their web site by the end of the semester and would work on it over the summer. (See <http://www.bgsu.edu/strategicplanning> .)

7. Are there plans to provide a salary increase for faculty only?

Ribeau said, “no,” but that was one scenario that had been discussed. He said that plans have not been finalized and that they will be announced before the meeting of the Board of Trustees in June.

8. What can the classified staff do to help the budget situation at BGSU?

Ribeau said that we were still enrollment-driven and that everybody needed to work on recruitment and retention. Everybody can treat students well, cut waste and conserve energy. He observed that Ohio and BGSU are very cost-effective based on national comparisons.

There was a question about building windmills. Ribeau said that there were plans to build one at the Firelands Campus. He added that CFO Stoll would be interested in hearing any suggestions for saving energy.

9. The future of graduate education at BGSU. We would like to talk about the structure of the Graduate College and if it will continue to be a college as well as if programs will be taken away.

Baughner said that graduate programs were currently being reviewed. She said that the committee had asked for an extension and that their report would be submitted at the end of October. She said that they were looking at programs and not at the structure of the office.

Williams asked about program review. Baughner said it would resume in fall at the point where the process left off.

10. The process of determining the Academic Budget for BGSU.

Ribeau recounted the main elements: the State Share of Instruction, enrollment, tuition and fees, and our priorities. It is the responsibility of FSBC/UBC to formulate a budget and for the Board to approve it. Evans said that we were projecting an enrollment loss.

Evans said that the process itself was very divisive. (He has been a member of the Faculty Senate Budget Committee since 2003 and chair since 2006.) He reported that the method of developing the budget was to pay the bills first and assign whatever was left to employee salary increases. He said that raises should be planned into the budget right from the start. He said that the constituent group representatives were put into the position of having to beg for a raise. He suggested that the process start with different assumptions.

11. Status on budget cuts for higher education in Ohio.

Ribeau said that the Governor was trying to protect higher education and that we are currently trying to get relief to be able to raise tuition and fees, but the state’s monthly revenues continue to drop.

12. Status of the higher education system for Ohio.

Ribeau suggested looking at the Master Plan. (See <http://universitysystem.ohio.gov/pdfs/strategicPlan/USOStrategicPlan.pdf>.) He also said that the Inter-University Council was working on a budget methodology. He said that the budget method would be more important than the Master Plan since he had never seen purely “mission driven funding,” as is called for in the Plan.

13. Impact on capital budget cuts on building repair at BGSU.

Ribeau said that the University was cut \$2 million from a budget of almost \$15 million and that a lot of that goes to debt service so it does not leave much for repairs.

14. Status of the BGeX Program at BGSU.

There have been several changes including a shortening of the activities at the beginning of the semester and that other activities would extend throughout the year. The administration of the program is being transferred to Academic Affairs.

15. Financial outlook for BGSU.

Ribeau said that we'd be all right if we hit our enrollment targets. We have hired an external consultant to help us do this. Williams noted that we were down about 300 last fall from the year before and that we're behind in applications compared to this time last year. Williams said that transfer numbers were also lagging but that the number of transfers has been growing as a percentage of incoming students. Whipple said that we lose about one quarter of our first year class every year. Each one hundred students means \$1 million in lost revenue. Gamero complained about the inaccessibility of advisers.

Question of the Day

In response to Evans asking about a rumor, Ribeau said that he had spoken with Wayne State University twice about his candidacy for president there, but they had not yet settled on their finalists.

ADJOURNMENT

Ribeau adjourned the meeting at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Hebein,
Secretary