

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

April 22, 2008
2:30 pm.

Senate Conference Room
140 McFall Center

Present: Alden Craddock, Keith Bernhard, Nora Engebretsen, Gary Lee, Ben Muego (substitute Mike Zickar), Nancy Orel, Patrick Pauken, Peter Pinto, Jeannie Sabaroff, Ellen Williams, Rich Hebein

Chair's Report

Pauken called the meeting to order.

OLD BUSINESS

Follow-Up on the Faculty Welfare Committee's Salary Proposal

Senate passed this proposal at its last meeting. One of the recommendations was to change procedures whereby FWC would have a more influential role in the University's budget decisions. Craddock said that the process did not serve faculty well and asked what could be done. Williams pointed out that FWC's purpose was to advocate for faculty benefits and that the purpose of the Faculty Senate Budget Committee was to work with the University Budget Committee to produce a budget for the University. She said that the Compensation Committees were relatively new and initiated by the President to give the employee groups a chance to express their requests for salary and benefits at the vice-presidential level. FWC does not have a decisive role in the process. Hebein suggested that it was a faculty advocacy group and that we should not give that up. SEC agreed.

Williams noted that the Board of Regents had proposed a new group of universities, mostly out of state, to compare BGSU with for salary and other purposes instead of all Ohio universities or just the other "four corner" universities. Craddock said that FWC opposed such a comparison for salary purposes. Lee observed that FWC's salary proposal documented what the faculty deserves and that FSBC/UBC would draft a budget that was possible.

Consideration of Alternatives

Craddock proposed that SEC consider alternatives to benefit faculty during the current budget climate. If the university cannot give salary or benefits, what can we do to make things better for faculty? He suggested that, if you travel at other universities, you can charge more expenses in advance instead of waiting to be reimbursed. This is carrying debt for the university. Hebein noted that last year we were told that the university could not legally carry debt for students and employees and that the "bursarable" charge system ended. Craddock added that FMS had made it worse because it takes longer for faculty to be reimbursed. Craddock said that, if the university really wanted faculty to be entrepreneurial, they would not bar faculty from receiving supplemental pay through grants. Other universities allow this.

Pauken said that there was not sufficient incentive to create on-line courses. Hebein suggested that next fall SEC should appoint a committee to explore additional benefits. Craddock asked for consideration of the limit on summer salaries for faculty and non-cash fringe benefits like access to facilities, discounted services and a faculty lounge. Craddock said that there was not a pro-faculty climate on campus.

NEW BUSINESS

Honorary Degree

The recommendation was to grant an honorary baccalaureate degree. Hebein said that he was not able to find evidence that an honorary baccalaureate degree had ever been given by any university in any country. Craddock said that we should not set such a precedent. Engebretsen suggested that the recommendation be sent back to the Honorary Degrees Committee to consider whether the candidate was worthy of an honorary doctorate and, if so, to send such a recommendation back to SEC with the appropriate supporting information. SEC concurred.

Master of Architecture

Pauken pointed out that there were two related proposals, one to create the degree and another to create a department of Architecture and Environmental Design. He said that only the former was presented here. He said that the Senate

office had received a copy of the latter but that it had not yet passed review by FSBC and CAA. Pauken pointed out that the proposal for the department said that it was required for accreditation that a separate department be created. Bernhard said that the undergraduate program was now in VCTE. Williams said that it was inappropriate to forward one proposal without the other. SEC concurred.

Merger of Environmental Health with Environmental Studies

Pauken said that the proposal was incomplete. Documentation of approval by Undergraduate Council was missing, and the matter had not yet been reviewed by CAA. Gromko was reported to have said that the proposal was under discussion in the Provost's Office. It is the responsibility of the originator to ensure that documents are complete.

Routing Slips

Pauken said that there had been a small committee working on these since fall, 2006. There was a need for a more formal tracking method for proposed changes in the administrative structure of the university. The Charter is not particularly clear on approval steps. The slips were intended to guide proposers through the process. The responsibility for monitoring the progress of a proposal rests with the proposers. The committee has been working with the Provost's office and hopes to finalize the slips in fall.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Charter Interpretation

Muego asked whether a temporary, full-time person could be chair of a college council. SEC concluded that the Charter is silent on the matter and will communicate this position to the President for his concurrence.

Senators Leaving Early

Craddock asked what could be done about senators coming late and leaving early for meetings. It was noted that the time for Senate meetings cuts across two time blocks. This will be addressed in the fall.

SENATE AGENDA

SEC set the agenda for the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Pauken thanked SEC for their work throughout the year and adjourned the meeting at 4:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Hebein, Secretary