

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 25, 2007
2:30 – 4:30 pm

Senate Conference Room
140 McFall Center

Present: Keith Bernhard, Alden Craddock, Nora Engebretsen, Gary Lee, Johnnie Lewis, Ben Muego, Nancy Orel, Patrick Pauken, Peter Pinto, Jeannie Sabaroff, Rich Hebein

Absent: Ellen Williams

Guest: Marshal Rose, Director, Equity/Diversity

CHAIR'S REPORT

Senate Chair Pauken called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm. and said that, if there were no objection, he would re-order the agenda to accommodate the guest who had arrived. He said that there was a problem with getting the new faculty listproc functioning and that it was being addressed.

Master Plan of BGSU

Pauken said that Williams and he had been appointed to the University Working Group. This is the committee that will draft the university's Five-Year Plan. The charge to the committee is to pull the various planning documents together and establish a process for identifying priorities, to make recommendations for consultation across the many constituencies of the university and to facilitate development of a draft by December 1.

NEW BUSINESS

By-Invitation Hiring Report

SEC invited Rose to report on hires over the last few years-particularly on those hired through traditional searches and those hired without such searches, namely, "by invitation." He distributed a report that showed that 15% of the 1018 hires of faculty and administrators/administrative staff from 2003-07 were by invitation. Of the hires by invitation, 57% were faculty and 42% were administrators/administrative staff. Classified staff hires were not included in the report, which is available in the Senate office.

Rose reviewed the conditions warranting the waiver of a traditional search. He said that there had to be a compelling reason such as the underutilization of minorities or women, spousal accommodation and last minute hires as sometime happen at the beginning of a term. He added that by-invitation faculty hires required the approval of the dean and the VPAA and that not all such requests were approved. Pinto asked how 15% compared to other universities. Rose said that he did not know but that he could check.

Muego asked about the gender equity studies that were done several years ago. Rose replied that the University was never found in violation. He said that he welcomed such investigations and the role that Senate could play in keeping these issues visible. He referred to the Amorous Relations Policy as one with which Senate had played a major role.

OLD BUSINESS

Survey on the Evaluation of Senate

Hebein reported that he was continuing to work with the Office of Institutional Research and would have another draft of the survey soon.

NEW BUSINESS

Open Forum on BGSU's Five-Year Plan

The idea for such a forum came from the last SEC/VPAA Conference. Pauken reported that the guests would include VPAA Shirley Baugher and Chief Financial Officer Sherideen Stoll. The Forum will be held on October 30 from 2:30 to 4:30 in Olscamp 101B.

Potential Program Cuts and Shared Governance

SEC noted the need to observe the following sections of the Charter:

IX.C: Responsibilities of the Dean: "The Dean shall...see that the following duties are performed effectively and include the appropriate involvement of the faculty and college committees or councils...including proposals for new courses or the modification or discontinuance of existing courses." [IX.C.3, p. 1 of 5]

XI.G: Proposals to Create New Departments: "Approval of a proposal that involves the relocation of faculty members may be given only after the faculty members concerned have had the opportunity to consider the proposal and to advise the several councils and administrators regarding their views. Whenever transfers of departments or the creation of a new department involve faculty members from more than one college or school, the academic Deans or Directors and college or school councils of all of the colleges and schools involved shall participate in the foregoing consultative procedure." [XI.G, pp. 4-5 of 5]

XIV: Academic Reconfiguration. This article involves changes that affect two or more colleges. Procedures for changes "in the organizational structure, academic program or curriculum within a college, school, department, or other academic or research unit" or for the creation of these new units are covered elsewhere in the Charter. [XIV.B, p. 2 of 5]

Appendix A.B: Declaring Financial Exigency: "The Senate Executive Committee, as the representative body of the Senate, shall constitute the faculty group to participate in the decision by the Board of Trustees to declare that a state of financial exigency exists...The responsibility of declaring financial exigency rests with the President and the Board of Trustees." [App. A.B, p. 1 of 3]

FMS Issues for Faculty and Staff

SEC took up this issue because of complaints about the difficulty of using the system, specifically about grants administration, the increased burden on departmental staff, the reimbursement of indirect costs to departments, and erroneous charges. Muego suggested inviting guests to SEC to discuss this.

Potential Restructuring of Senate

SEC noted past requests from Administrative Staff Council and Classified Staff Council to be given seats on Senate. The suggestion was made that non-tenure track faculty also be given a seat. These items will be placed on the survey evaluating Senate.

Summer Offerings and Attendance

Craddock wondered if we were taking full advantage of opportunities for students and faculty over the summer. Speculation was that summer enrollments were down. Pauken said he would get some data.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Committee on Professional Affairs

Pauken announced that SEC had to appoint persons to two one-year vacancies on this committee and invited suggestions.

CAA recommended that SEC appoint a committee to study adding plus and minus grades.

Students on University Working Group

Lewis asked why there were no students on this committee. Muego moved, Craddock seconded, that Pauken ask the VPAA to add one or more students; motion carried.

SENATE AGENDA

Pauken announced that Ann Jenks from University Archives would give a presentation on document retention, destruction and security at the next Senate meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:38 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Hebein, Secretary
September 28, 2007