

PRESIDENT'S PANEL MINUTES

October 18, 2007
2:30 pm

Chart Room
McFall Center

CALL TO ORDER

President Ribeau called the meeting to order at 2:30 and asked the group to identify themselves.

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, substitute Jill Carr), Ellen Williams (FS), Rich Hebein (FS)

Ribeau reminded the group that it had been established in the early 1970s to dispel rumors and that this was to be an open discussion about topics that had been submitted in advance.

HOUSE BILL 187: CIVIL SERVICE REFORM

Dobb reviewed the pertinent dates: In December, 2006, HB 187 passed. In October, 2007, Bruce Johnson, President of the Inter-University Council, asked the state universities to present a resolution to their Boards of Trustees to accept the Guidelines that IUC had drafted for the implementation of HB 187. On November 30, 2007 BGSU's BOT will consider that resolution. The Guidelines do not change specific work rules but require that any process for changing them be open and consultative. Dobb emphasized that the changes will not be made quickly.

Evans observed that the purpose of civil service rules was to protect employees from political pressure and noted that the Ethics Policy prohibited employees from political activity even off campus. He asked if that might be changed. Dobb replied that the rules that are in place will continue to be operative unless they are changed. Olson said that Ohio State University has been holding open forums on the issue since September; Dobb pointed out that a group is meeting here too.

In response to a question, Dobb and Ribeau agreed that the University does not have much latitude in changing the Guidelines but that, once accepted, it could start processes to change the University's internal rules.

INSTITUTIONAL PLANNING

Baugher observed that there were several planning processes occurring: The compacts are division-specific plans, which develop long-term goals and indicate how the division's activities will support the goals of the University. The compacts are being rewritten now and will be posted on the Provost's web site. The compacts specify indicators like targets for retention rates, by which the colleges can measure their own progress. Colleges will be asked to build their budgets consistent with the compacts. The University Work Group, whose focus is primarily on the academic area, will get a synthesis of these compacts, look at current planning documents like the Academic Plan, and produce a draft of the University's Master Plan. In spring, a separate Strategic Planning Group will be formed to finalize our Master Plan to mesh with the State's Master Plan.

In response to a question, Baugher said that we are not yet considering the elimination of positions but are talking about directions for programs. She did say that all open lines will revert to the Provost and that colleges could request them based on University goals.

Evans noted that we have an elaborate committee system already and that an elaborate ad hoc system is being used to do planning. Baugher said that she was working with the established committee structure, for example, the Committee on Academic Affairs. Evans asked whether the final product would be considered by Senate. Baugher said it would. Pauken pledged that Senate would continue to participate and monitor the shared governance process.

Ribeau said that the dialog wouldn't be complete until the whole university had the opportunity to discuss it. Baugher reminded the group that stress and unease were normal with change.

STATE'S PLAN FOR GROWTH

Ribeau said that the Chancellor anticipates an additional 230,000 students in the system in the next ten years and that most of this growth would occur in the community colleges. The University does not have enough unused capacity to absorb many of them.

GRADUATE STUDENT SENTAE CONCERNS

Sabaroff said that they had taken a student satisfaction survey last spring; she distributed a list of their concerns including stipends, health insurance, parking, course offerings and professional development funding.

CENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY

Ribeau announced that a committee was being formed to celebrate the anniversary. It is being chaired by Kim McBroom and Larry Weiss, who chaired the seventy-fifth anniversary committee. Gary Hess is working on a book to update the history of the University.

SCIENCE AT BGSU

One of the questions submitted in advance concerned the place of the sciences at the University and the University of Toledo's dedication to science and technology. "Have we forfeited leadership on this critical issue to UT?"

Ribeau said that UT's strength in the biomedical sciences and engineering is not in direct competition with us. Baugher said that we're defining our areas of excellence. She said that we have "foundational excellence" in our basic programs in science and the "signature programs" that grow out of them like photochemical sciences. She said that we also have "centers of excellence": broad, interdisciplinary programs that are consistent with the history of the institution, like the arts and culture programs in the liberal arts and the "lifespan development" programs, which span early childhood to gerontology. Ribeau said that emphasizing the STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) areas means emphasizing applied research leading to the development of technology transfer and start-up companies. He said that this is not our science; we are not doing science in that way. He emphasized that we are not abdicating science.

INTERACTIONS BETWEEN CHANCELLOR AND IUC PRESIDENTS

Ribeau said that the Chancellor works through the IUC. The Chancellor presumes that the purpose of higher education is economic development though, Ribeau added, I think there are other purposes. Ribeau added that there will be "mission designated" universities in the state. Williams asked how OBOR fits in. Ribeau replied that their statutory authority had been reduced.

POST TENURE REVIEW

Baugher said that she supported it to address life long career development; she said that policies were not being changed immediately. On a related matter, she said that she supported changing the Charter to couple tenure with promotion to associate. Evans observed that a great deal depended on how post tenure review is implemented; he stressed the need for a professional development program. Baugher said that the colleges' budgets should be devoted to faculty development.

EXCESSIVE BUREAUCRACY

Another question submitted asked if the Master Plan would address the perception of excessive administrative bureaucracy. Ribeau said that the Master Plan would look at organizational efficiency.

CONCLUSION

Ribeau said that he could see that people were concerned and added that, while he is President, we will have open discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

Ribeau adjourned the meeting at 4:24 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Hebein,
Secretary