

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

November 6, 2007
2:30 pm

Assembly Room
McFall Center

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Pauken called the meeting to order and asked the secretary to take the roll.

ROLL CALL

Absent: Albertini (sub. Julie Sheffer), Border (sub. Sri Kolla), Colprit, Cragin, Fischer (sub. Tim Murnon), Garcia, Labbie, Mirchandani, Shields, (sub. Angel Vasquez), Williford, Ribeau, Adam, Dye

COMMUNICATIONS

Chair

Pauken announced with regret the passing of Dr. Julie Burke, Chair, IPC, and extended Senate's condolences to her family, friends and colleagues. He said that SEC was appointing ad hoc committees on plus/minus grading, the sanctions policy, and routing slips for program and administrative changes.

Vice President for Academic Affairs

Baughner reported that President Ribeau was in Columbus at the Inter University Council to discuss the state's Master Plan. She said that the compact process was nearing completion and that the compacts would be posted on the Provost's web site next week.

Executive Vice President

Dobb announced that AlertBG, part of the Emergency Notification Plan, was operational and encouraged everyone to sign up by going to My BGSU.

Graduate Student Senate Representative

Sabaroff said that they had passed legislation on the textbook issue (see below) and were working on the graduate student satisfaction survey and benefits study.

Undergraduate Student Government Representative

Lewis said that they also had passed legislation on the textbook issue.

Retiree Representative

Clark said that they were continuing to monitor proposals for possible reductions in social security benefits and for raising contributions to STRS to cover health care costs. He mentioned that there was a vacancy on the STRS board and that anyone interested in running should contact him.

Ohio Faculty Council Representative

Bernhard reported on the proposed Ohio Senate Bill 151 on the pricing of textbooks at state institutions. The summary is available at <http://lsc.state.oh.us/analyses/analysis127.nsf/c68a7e88e02f43a985256dad004e48aa/78dd6180362eb35d852572ce0055329f?OpenDocument> . Muego said that one of the provisions would ban faculty from profiting from the sale and use of their own textbooks in their classes.

REPORTS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES

Committee on Academic Affairs

Williams reported that they were working on the survey of faculty priorities, plus/minus grading, review of administrative offices, and routing slips.

Amendments and Bylaws

ABC was reviewing the definition of faculty in the charter since the word is used in various ways.

Committee on Committees

Earley said that they had filled 95% of all committee positions and were reviewing non-functioning committees.

Faculty Senate Budget Committee

Evans submitted the following report:

Since the last Senate meeting, FSBC has met three times. One meeting was our first joint meeting this year with the University Budget Committee, and with President Ribeau. On that occasion we discussed overall budget priorities and challenges for the year.

FSBC also had a meeting with Associate VP Brian Benner to discuss possible cost-savings through energy conservation programs. Some of the potential savings involve capital planning to renovate the heating and cooling systems in numerous existing buildings. Other possible cost savings enter the more nebulous realm of changing behavior, such as getting people to shut off lights and computers, lower thermostats during winter and raise them during summer. FSBC hopes to present some specific plans later this year.

FSBC also met with BGSU Bookstore Director Jeff Nelson to discuss efforts to lower textbook costs to students and the possible implications of Ohio Senate Bill 151 (SB 151), which would require Ohio public universities to implement textbook leasing programs. One version of a possible textbook leasing program involves serializing each book (assigning a specific serial number to each book) and linking each leased book to a specific student. At the end of the semester, the student returns the book and pays the equivalent of 35-40% of the cost of the book. In order of this plan to work, faculty and academic units have to be willing to commit to a textbook for 4 consecutive semesters. The Bookstore needs some faculty volunteers to launch a pilot program.

Finally, FSBC met with the Chair of FWC, Philip Weinsier, to start the planning process for the Faculty Senate Salary Resolution, which will be discussed next spring semester.

Faculty Personnel and Conciliation Committee

Zimmerman said there was no report.

Faculty Welfare Committee

Weinsier said that the committee was continuing to work on a proposal for stopping the tenure clock and would consult with a committee from the provost's Office regarding this.

Committee on Professional Affairs

Zickar said that the committee would organize a visit to Columbus in February to meet with select legislators. He said that they had done this in the past, found it very useful, and encouraged faculty to go along on the trip.

NEW BUSINESS

Research Institute

Director John Folkins introduced John Kane. They gave a presentation on the office and the services it can provide to faculty, including protecting and commercializing intellectual property, technology transfer, and patent and copyright guidance. The Patent and Copyright policies are available at http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/spar/policies_procedures/.

House Bill 187: Classified Civil Service Modernization

Guest Faith Olson, Vice Chair, Classified Staff gave a presentation on this act. She reported that the IUC had drafted guidelines for universities to adopt in the implementation of the act and that the guidelines would be put before our Board of Trustees for approval at their next meeting. One of the things she would like to see implemented was a catastrophic sick leave bank, which could also be used by faculty. She said that the classified staff was very concerned about job security. When asked if she had been in communication with classified staff at other campuses, she replied that they had and pointed out that the appropriate peer campuses were the non-unionized ones.

Dance Marathon

Student Thomas Bethany provided this report: Dance Marathon is March 29th to 30th. It starts Saturday morning at 10:00 am and ends on Sunday at 6:00 pm. Faculty and staff are encouraged to come at anytime, but if they would like to be a Faculty/Staff Dancer, which is highly encouraged since they get a free shirt, they need to be there from 6 to 9 pm on Saturday and raise \$25.00 by March 1, 2008.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Pauken called for any concerns.

ADJOURNMENT

Pauken adjourned the meeting at 3:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Hebein,
Secretary