

## **FACULTY SENATE MINUTES**

December 4, 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:** Adams (substitute Roudi Jamasbi), Albertini, Elliott-Famularo, Fischer (sub. Tim Murnon), Garcia, Gupta, Labbie, Pinto, Weinsier, Williford, Yun, Ribeau, Gamero, D'Ettorre, Dye

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **Chair**

Good afternoon, Faculty Senate and guests. I hope your semesters are progressing and ending well. And, as usual, I thank you for your continued work on behalf of shared governance, faculty, students, and Bowling Green State University as a whole.

The Senate Officers and the SEC have been busy over the past month and some of those activities will highlight this report. Those activities will also foreshadow some Senate action to come in the spring semester.

- (1) First, the University welcomed Board of Regents Chancellor Eric Fingerhut to campus on November 7-8. The 75-minute session with Faculty Senate Officers, SEC, classified staff leaders, administrative staff leaders, and deans was well-attended and sparked very good conversation. I would like to thank the faculty members who sent me questions in advance of that meeting. Unfortunately, there was not much time to address each question specifically. But we did get to ask a couple questions that have been weighing on the minds of many of us since August.
  - a. First, Chancellor Fingerhut stated that he has no intention of directing program creation, elimination, and restructuring from a state level. He assured us that the work of curriculum belongs to the individual institutions and trusts that our mechanisms will allow full participation in the important decisions facing us.
  - b. Second, it is true that economic development for the state of Ohio is a primary driver in state-level dialogues. But the definition, application, and participation in economic development belong, at least in part, to all programs and all members of the university community. It is true that there is state-level public emphasis on the STEM disciplines – science, technology, engineering, math, and medicine. In response to a question about the place of arts and humanities in the University System of Ohio, in light of the focus on STEM disciplines, Chancellor Fingerhut responded by saying that the “essential skills” for success—creativity and the ability to think, communicate and make connections—come from the arts and humanities.”

So, while not all of the questions were answered that day, not all of the opportunities to ask questions and participate in policy making and decision making have disappeared either. I do remain skeptical about several aspects of the University System of Ohio and what it means for BGSU and what has made and currently makes BGSU great, particularly the apparent state-level categorization of universities—for example, our categorization as one of the four-corner residential, liberal arts and sciences institutions. But I also have faith that what we do well and the people who do it will continue to have an opportunity to do that great work and to participate in the decision making that will allow this to be the case. My call to you with respect to the state-level work is this: Please visit the Chancellor's web site and the USO web site regularly. There are open forums ready for your input. There is a video of his visit to BGSU on his web site and ours. Read, be active, and ask questions.

- (2) Second, the University Work Group has been very busy as well, meeting every Friday since early October. This group has been important for a few reasons. First, there is the opportunity for the academic side of the BGSU house to gather regularly to reflect on what and who make BGSU great. Second, there is the opportunity to act as a sizeable sounding board for Provost/VPAA Shirley Baugher in her first semester at BGSU. Third, there is the opportunity for a weekly meeting to discuss current events at the state level with respect to the work of Chancellor Fingerhut and the USO.

The University Working Group was not meant to be the body that would read college compacts and make major structuring and programming decisions for the university. As I mentioned, we have been a sounding board for thoughts and ideas about academics at BGSU. To that end, the University Working Group has established priorities, a set of integrated *goals* that align with and extend those of the University System of Ohio. These goals include:

- a. Access and Success
- b. Affordability
- c. Excellence
- d. Economic and Cultural Development
- e. Diversity
- f. Accountability

A huge "Thank You" goes to Provost Shirley Baugher, Carol Engler, Bill Knight, Barbara Waddell, and all of the members of the UWG for their work this fall. My call to you with respect to this and other university-level work is this: Communicate and Participate. It is true that the college compact process was, indeed, compacted in time. However, each of those compacts is up on the provost's web site. Read yours and others, please. These compacts are not carved in stone. As I understand them, they are working documents to live and grow with. Please live and grow with them.

- (3) For the business to come to a Senate floor near you in Spring semester 2008, in addition to the regular work of the Senate Standing Committees, there are several ad hoc committees working on policy and charter matters:
- a. An ad hoc committee is set to work with the Provost's office to finalize a faculty sanctions policy, which will be added to the Academic Charter. This continues work begun last spring between the SEC and Provost's office.
  - b. An ad hoc committee to discuss the policy and practice implications of a plus-minus grading system will begin its work in spring semester 2008. Admittedly, this work is tough and often contentious. But it is also necessary. Thank you in advance for this work.
  - c. A third ad hoc committee is meeting to discuss the routing slips that we currently use for major curriculum and structural changes—new degrees, new majors, reconfigurations,

new departments, and new schools, for example. The goal here is to make the process more user-friendly for those individuals and committees proposing such changes AND to ensure that all of the proper faculty, curricular, administrative, and shared governance channels are involved.

- (4) This afternoon, the College of Education and Human Development is hosting a retirement reception for former Faculty Senate Chair and previous winner of the Faculty Senate Distinguished Service Award, Fiona MacKinnon. The reception will take place on the fourth floor of the Education Building until 5:00pm this afternoon. If you are available, please stop by and congratulate Fiona on her retirement and thank her for her work and her spirit on behalf of the university.
- (5) Finally, as each of you considers your New Years Resolutions for 2008 and how you will spend even more time caring for and working on behalf of others, please consider running for a Senate Officer's position, either Vice Chair/Chair-Elect or Secretary. As your schools and departments begin to develop fall semester schedules, please add or keep Faculty Senate on your list of things to do.

I apologize for the length of this report, but I thank you for the indulgence. Please have a great rest of the semester and a happy, healthy, restful, Holiday break.

#### **Vice President for Academic Affairs**

Baughner reported that the University Working Group was finishing its work and that the President would appoint a Strategic Planning Group for spring. She said that the other vice-presidential divisions were writing business plans similar to the compacts. She said that the hold on hiring would be lifted in January. She said that they had addressed the \$3 million dollar shortfall, but that there would probably be a deficit next year also since the variables that caused the deficit continue to exist.

She said that the administration was aware of the problems that exist with FMS, SPAR and Grants Accounting, and that they were working to solve them.

#### **Executive Vice President**

Dobb congratulated Bob DeBard for his leadership of the United Way campaign. Six hundred sixty persons gave a total of \$118,000.

#### **Graduate Student Senate Representative**

Sabaroff said that they were seeking nominations for a representative to the Board of Trustees.

#### **Undergraduate Student Government Representative**

Greetings Faculty Senate, over the course of the last month, USG has been active in a number of areas while still preparing for our finals. At last week's meeting, Mayor Quinn joined us to discuss some of the on-goings in town. We talked about civil infractions, zoning laws, and both the university and the town's upcoming anniversaries. After the mayor's visit, we also began conversation regarding the move-in date change for next year's incoming freshmen. That conversation continued on to last night's meeting. Also, at last night's meeting, we passed legislation supporting the creation of an ethnic student center here on our campus. I wish everyone a happy holiday season and an even happier new year!

#### **Retiree Representative**

Clark said that they were working on a project to preserve historical photographs of the university.

### **Ohio Faculty Council Representative**

Bernhard reported that the OFC meets monthly in Columbus, including meetings with Bruce Johnson, President of the Inter-University Council. Higher education is receiving more attention at the state level, and Bernhard said they were discussing tuition and state support.

## **REPORTS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES**

### **Committee on Academic Affairs**

Border reported that they were considering a policy for students who change colleges.

### **Amendments and Bylaws**

ABC continues to review the definition of faculty in the charter. They are also looking at promotion and tenure issues and the coordination of policies in the Charter and in the handbooks of the Administrative Staff Council and the Classified Staff Council.

### **Committee on Committees**

Earley said that they still had two vacancies on ComCom and one on Professional Affairs.

### **Faculty Senate Budget Committee**

There was no report.

### **Faculty Personnel and Conciliation Committee**

Zimmerman submitted the following report:

Completed cases from 3/21/2005 – 12/3/2007.

Total number of grievances filed: 20.

Number of cases withdrawn: 4

Number of cases successfully conciliated: 4

Number of cases rejected by vote of the EC: 1

Number of cases sent to hearing boards: 11. In 7 of these 11 cases, hearing boards decided wholly in favor of the respondent. The provost accepted the recommendations made by all of these hearing boards. In 2 of the 11 cases, hearing boards decided in favor of the grievant, although not all requested remedies were endorsed by these boards. The provost did not concur with the findings of either board and did not accept any of the recommendations favoring the grievant. In 2 of the 11 cases, hearing boards found partially in favor of the grievant, making at least one recommendation favoring the grievant. The provost concurred with the decisions in favor of the respondent and did not accept any of the recommendations favoring the grievant. In summary, the provost has agreed with boards recommending against grievants 100% of the time and disagreed with recommendations favoring grievants 100% of the time.

### **Faculty Welfare Committee**

There was no report.

### **Committee on Professional Affairs**

Zickar expressed his frustration with the rapid changes at the state level with little opportunity for faculty input. He suggested visiting the Chancellor's web site at <http://universitysystem.ohio.gov/index.php>.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Faculty Survey, Spring, 2007**

Border said that CAA conducted this survey after a number of years of not doing it and hoped to do it in the future. The purpose is to survey and communicate the faculty's ranking of academic priorities, which can be used by Senate and other groups in making decisions. He said that he would put the survey up on My BGSU Blackboard Community under Faculty Senate. Take this path: My BGSU > Community > Faculty Senate > Information > scroll down to Committee on Academic Affairs >. The percent of respondents who rated as "poor" for the four highest were: travel allowance (53.9%), wages (35.6%), research/teaching balance (31.2%), and shared governance-university level (31.2%).

Border invited Senators to make suggestions for rewording or adding questions for next year's survey. He presumed FSBC and others would take the results into consideration. He thanked Bill Knight and Institutional Research for their cooperation in conducting the survey.

## **ISSUES AND CONCERNS**

Wood asked how instructors and lecturers could get representation on Senate. Muego said that any three faculty members could propose amendments to the charter.

There was a concern about the condition of some of the buildings. Baugher said that she had toured the buildings and agreed that there are serious issues with deferred maintenance. She said that the working environment was important to the administration and that they were aware of the problems and were working to address them.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Pauken adjourned the meeting at 3:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Hebein,  
Secretary