

SEC/VPAA JOINT CONFERENCE MINUTES

February 10, 2008
2:30 pm

Senate Conference Room
140 McFall Center

Present: Alden Craddock, Keith Bernhard, Jim Evans, Mark Gromko, Emmanuel Guillory, Ben Muego, Peter Pinto, Nancy Orel, Ron Shields, John Waynick, Ellen Williams, Rich Hebein

CHAIR'S REPORT

Vice Chair Shields called the meeting to order. He reminded the group that Senate was sponsoring a spring Open Forum with guest speakers from the administration. It will be held on Tuesday, March 24, from 2:30 to 4:30 in the BTSU Theater.

NEW BUSINESS

Closing of Ogg Science Library and Alleged *Charter* Violation

In a message to the community, Gromko had announced that the library would be closed. Evans offered the following background. During 2005-06, Executive Vice President Dobb announced that the library would be closed. Two committees were formed to study this issue. Don Deters circulated a petition that received hundreds of signatures asking to keep the Ogg Library open. Evans alleged a *Charter* violation to SEC because the article on Reconfiguration (XIV) had not been followed. Key to his allegation were the following provisions:

Section A: Definitions and Conditions: "Reconfiguration is a modification in the organizational structure of the academic units of the University. It may involve one or more colleges, schools, departments, programs, institutes or centers....There are three basic types of academic program reduction or curtailment: (1) consolidation of previously separate units, (2) reduction of an existing unit, or (3) elimination of an existing unit....." and

Section B: Initiating Reconfiguration: "If the proposal for reconfiguration involves changes that affect two or more colleges" [it shall follow the processes required for reconfiguration]. Evans concluded by saying that President Ribeau agreed that the library should be kept open.

Shields said that Ribeau's letter did not specifically say that he agreed that there had been a *Charter* violation. Williams agreed that SEC had taken the position that the *Charter* had been violated, but it was not clear to her that Ribeau had agreed that there was a violation.

Gromko said that he understood that there were concerns about both the substance of the decision and the process. He disagreed that Ribeau had agreed that there had been a violation. He read from Ribeau's letter of February 6, 2006: "On the question of reconfiguration, there seems to be a difference of opinion. If and when such determinations approach the level of reconfiguration, charter processes will be followed." Gromko also cited Section B: Initiating Reconfiguration: "If the proposal for reconfiguration is limited to changes in the organizations structure, academic program or curriculum within a college, school, department, or other academic or research unit, the governing process, rules, and procedures for such changes established elsewhere in the Charter shall be followed." He said that this was the controlling statement. He said that the Ogg Library was not an academic unit and did not have faculty; it was just a facility or location. There was considerable discussion of these issues.

Reconfiguration and the Role of Faculty

Williams said that, during a time of restructuring without a declaration of financial exigency, it is still necessary to have faculty input. President Cartwright will discuss this with SEC on February 24. Gromko said that he wants to plan for budget reductions; otherwise the only alternative is to cut personnel lines that happen to be open.

Muego referred to a dean eliminating an associate dean's position without consulting faculty. Gromko said that he did not think that was a *Charter* or reconfiguration issue.

Williams asked how we could ensure faculty input. Gromko said that there probably were several methods, including the compact process. Hebein said that the compact process did not envision reductions but initiatives. Gromko said we did not foresee this situation at the time the process was designed. Williams observed that the compacts had varying degrees of faculty participation and that some had become defensive. Hebein said that consultation can work. Gromko said that the deans were not yet to the point of sharing plans. Evans said that there is a process and it's in Article XIV: Reconfiguration, which calls for the appointment of Academic Reconfiguration Committees. Gromko said that we need a proposal for an ARC to consider. Evans said that we have a proposal in the closing of Ogg. Gromko said that he did not believe that an ARC was called for here. Williams said that that's why we invited the President to SEC.

Craddock asked Gromko if he had asked the deans for reconfiguration plans. He said that they would meet this Friday, February 13.

Update on General Education and Keeling & Associates

Representatives are on campus today, and they have a draft report.

Update on Enrollment and Noel Levitz

Gromk briefly discussed their products and said that we bought some of them. The new VPEN will be sending out admissions teams.

Promotion to Full Professor

What if there are no full professors in the unit to consider candidates for promotion to full? Gromko said that there were provisions in the *Charter* for that. [B-I.D 2 d) (p. 5 of 7)]

Craddock asked about the timetable for the announcement of tenure and promotion decisions. Gromko said that all the binders were in his office and they were preparing letters for action by the Board at their April 23 meeting. Muego asked about FIL announcements; Gromko said that some of the colleges had already notified the recipients.

Closing Ogg Continued

Evans asked if he could resubmit his earlier allegation of a Charter violation as old business. Hebein said that business does not carry over from year to year. He suggested putting a resolution before Senate. Muego said that we could do both. Williams recommended that Evans prepare a new allegation for SEC to consider.

ADJOURNMENT

Shields thanked Gromko and adjourned the meeting at 4:50 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Hebein, Secretary