

PRESIDENT'S PANEL MINUTES

April 16, 2009
2:30 pm

Chart Room
McFall Center

Present: Kevin Basch (Undergraduate Student Government), Carol Cartwright (President), Kim Fleshman (Administrative Staff Council), Mark Gromko (Interim Vice President for Academic Affairs), Emmanuel Guillory (Graduate Student Senate), Judy Hagemann (Classified Staff Council), Faith Olson (CSC), Ron Shields (Faculty Senate), John R. Waynick (USG), Ellen Williams (FS), Sara Zulch-Smith (ASC), Rich Hebein (FS)

CALL TO ORDER

President Cartwright called the meeting to order and turned to the topics that had been submitted by the participants in advance.

FROM FACULTY SENATE

General Education Status

Shields said that the Senate Executive Committee supported the process and the establishment of a working committee. Shields would work with Com/Com and the Provost's Office to identify and appoint individuals to the committee. He said that he would make general education a high priority for Senate next year. Cartwright said that this was an opportunity to look at the entire undergraduate experience, to mesh general education with the goals of the strategic plan, and to create a distinctive identity for the institution. Williams emphasized the importance of transparency of process and "buy-in" by the faculty.

Student Registration Problems

Cartwright said that was largely a matter of adapting to a new system; Waynick agreed.

Layoffs This Academic Year. Will there be another wave of classified or administrative staff? If so, what can faculty do to help with staff morale?

Cartwright said that we were guided by state law and University policy. She said that we had notified administrative staff of non-renewal which would occur on July 1, 2009 by December 31 of 2008. She said that they were trying to complete the layoffs for classified staff this month. Olson hoped that we would treat people with respect. She distributed a flyer on the Helping Hands Program, a Classified Staff Council initiative to collect and distribute food and supplies.

FROM ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF COUNCIL

With FY 2010 budget reduction mandates either completed or underway, what budget reduction measures (e.g., program closures, contract non-renewals, layoffs) are anticipated for the next budget year?

Cartwright said that there were several parts of the state's budget that were not yet finalized. The Board of Trustees will have to pass our budget and then perhaps make adjustments later. The state budget envisions no tuition increase and a 6% increase in the State Share of Instruction, but the formula yields less than 6% for BGSU. She said that discussions were occurring about how to interpret the formula. She said that we would have to look at program cuts for FY 2011.

What new or creative cost-saving ideas have been suggested via the Great Ideas site or are being discussed among the University administration?

Cartwright said that the site had yielded some very good suggestions; it is still up and running at <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/president/greatideas/index.html> . She had reported on the Strategic Plan at the Senate meeting on April 7 and said that the suggestions were incorporated into the Plan. The Plan will be posted at <http://www.bgsu.edu/strategicplanning/index.html> .

Would you please provide an update on the status of the Catastrophic Leave Program?

Cartwright said that this program is now being referred to simply as the Leave Program and that the details were being finalized.

With the reinstatement of the hockey program for another year, how will that part of the budget shortfall be made up? Will other sports and/or other employee positions be affected?

The President said that the intercollegiate athletics program has had a budget target like everyone else and they have met it. She said that she had two groups looking into these related issues: the sports program and the Ice Arena. She noted that there were only thirteen schools in the country that play both football and hockey and that they tend to be the larger institutions.

FROM CLASSIFIED STAFF COUNCIL**How do you define Business Units when relating to Bowling Green State University?**

Cartwright said that the vice presidential divisions have been defined as the business units. She added that we were nowhere near triggering a classified staff buyout.

Request for a letter of support for the Classified Staff Handbook.

Cartwright said she thought she had done that and would look into it.

Have you received any requests to extend/increase the fee waiver benefit for those who are placed in unemployment status? If so, was the request approved? If no requests have been received, what is your inclination for approval?

Cartwright said that one request was received and that she approved it.

As Classified Staff Council prepares for its elections, one area of campus entitled "Other" has never been a part of CSC's election process. As "Other" currently stands it would receive 1 representative because of the number of classified staff in that area. Representation on Classified Staff Council, historically, has been by VP area. Because Dr. Smith, VP over "Other," will be leaving the University by July 1, 2009, his units may be distributed to current VP areas. Units such as the Rare Book Depository, originally under the University Libraries, and ITS, originally under Finance and Administration, may be reassigned which would affect the CSC representing areas. Would you please share with us any plans for the area entitled "Other" so that we can move forward with CSC elections.

Cartwright said she didn't know because the work of two vice presidents was still being reassigned. Olson reminded her that they had elections in May. Cartwright said that she would let them know by then.

ADJOURNMENT

Cartwright adjourned the meeting at 3:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Hebein,
Secretary