

SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES

August 26, 2008
2:30 pm.

Senate Conference Room
140 McFall Center

Present: Alden Craddock, Keith Bernhard, Emmanuel Guillory, Ben Muego, Nancy Orel, Patrick Pauken-Parliamentarian, Peter Pinto, Ronald Shields, John Waynick, Ellen Williams, Rich Hebein

Absent: James Evans

Chair's Report

Williams called the meeting to order. She said that she was pleased that central administration had asked for Senate to nominate persons to several committees recently.

OLD BUSINESS

Sanctions Policy

Williams noted that Senate had been working on this issue for three years and that it had been defeated in Senate at the last meeting in spring. Muego thought that it would have passed if they had more time to answer the objections. Williams suggested a new committee, asked SEC for names and said that she would wait for Com/Com to confirm them as required by Charter [see below]. Hebein noted that the objections centered precisely on the issues on which the draft policy departed from the AAUP model policy. Muego said that the policy was needed to protect faculty.

Evaluation of Senate

Hebein reported that the evaluation, conducted last year, resulted in data and open-ended comments. He suggested that SEC appoint a sub-committee to analyze the data, edit the comments and make recommendations. Bernhard and Orel volunteered.

Review of the Use of Existing Committees and the Creation of New Ones

One of the criticisms of the Concerned Faculty was that the administration did not honor the existing committee structure and the processes for the creation of new ones. Shields, Vice Chair, reviewed several points from the Charter: The Senate Chair is responsible for monitoring Senate standing committees, except for Com/Com. The Senate Vice Chair works with Com/Com to monitor University standing committees. [IV.2, p. 5/18] This includes an annual review of the membership, function and possible discontinuance of each. [V.C, p. 3/3] He noted that one of the functions of SEC was to create ad hoc committees with the members to be appointed by Com/Com. [IV.F.1 b)(2), p. 9/18; and IV.F.6 b) (2), p. 16/18]

Another function of Com/Com is to “develop the composition, powers, functions, and duties for new or existing committees when deemed appropriate or when assigned the responsibility by the SEC. The composition, powers, functions and duties of new or existing committees as proposed by Com/Com shall be approved by the SEC for Senate standing committees and by SEC and the President for University standing committees.” [IV.F.6 b) (3), p. 16/18]

Regarding the administration's appointment of ad hoc committees, Shields noted the right of the President and Vice Presidents to form them. The membership and functions/charge “shall be sent to the Secretary of Faculty Senate.” [V.C, p. 3/3] Muego said that some of the ad hoc committees appear to duplicate Senate's standing committees.

Williams said that these were Senate's prerogatives. She said that the officers were trying to set up a meeting with the officers of the concerned Faculty.

NEW BUSINESS

CAA Survey on University Priorities

Hearing no objection, Williams re-ordered the agenda to accommodate David Border, Chair of CAA. He pointed out that last spring was the second year in recent years that CAA conducted this survey.

The Introduction to this year's report says:

“While a comparison to the 06-07 AY is not the focus of this report, please consider the following:

“It can be stated that for the Wages, Research-Support and Lab Space, Fairness of Administration at Univ level, and effectiveness of Shared Gov at Univ level questions, each showed a noticeable increase in dissatisfaction (i.e. increased “disagreement” levels) from the prior year's survey.

“Travel reimbursement dissatisfaction levels remained about the same (high) for both year's surveys.”

Border will make a presentation to the full Senate.

OLD BUSINESS

Follow-Up of July 22 Senate Meeting

The meeting had been called by petition of a group of Concerned Faculty. Williams asked SEC to review the questions that were in the petition.

Question 2: Fee Waivers for International Students

Williams said that some international students had been told that their fee waivers would cease. She said it was reported that commitments had been made that were not being kept. She said that the officers had been in contact with the VPAA's office about this. It appears that commitments had not been put in writing.

Question 1: Shared Governance, Use of Committees, Trust

Williams said that the administration had recently shown willingness to work with Senate on asking for nominees to committees.

Citing the need to move on with the agenda, Williams said that we would return to the list of questions.

NEW BUSINESS

Charter Interpretation on Trustee Professorships

The Charter says:

“Trustee Professorships may be designated by the Board of Trustees, upon the recommendation of the President and VPAA, for senior administrative officers (Deans or above) who have served with distinction at those administrative levels for ten years or longer, who hold tenured academic opportunities in a department or school, and who are leaving full-time administrative service and are either returning to full-time teaching duties, or are participating in the supplemental retirement program (SRP).” [B-I.F, p. 3/4]

VPAA Baugher asked whether the ten-year requirement meant ten years at BGSU. Shields moved, Muego seconded that it did. Motion passed.

Williams said that President Cartwright suggested that the Charter be amended to allow for major administrators to be given emeritus status, such as, President Emeritus. SEC agreed, and Williams said that she would forward the issue to ABC.

Charter Interpretation on Appointment of Directors of Schools

The Charter says:

“When the selection and appointment or reappointment of a new Director becomes necessary, an ad hoc selection committee shall be elected by the school. This committee, in consultation with the Dean, shall

establish search and screening procedures that will allow broad participation in the selection process by the school faculty.” [X.C, p. 2/4]

Faculty members in EDHD write that the Interim Dean appointed a chair of the ad hoc selection committee that would be elected and ask for an interpretation that would require that the committee elect its own chair. Muego moved, Shields seconded that the Charter be interpreted to mean that the committee should elect its own chair and that not to do so would be a violation of the Charter. Motion passed.

Muego said that this was not intended to cast aspersions on the person who had been named but that it was important to follow the correct process. Williams said that she would seek the President’s concurrence on these two interpretations.

Attendance Resolution

SEC took up a resolution directing the Secretary to enforce the rules regarding the attendance of senators at Senate meetings. Issues discussed were that Senate needed to follow its own rules and that enforcing them would promote a stronger Senate. Muego moved, Orel seconded passage of the resolution. Motion passed. The resolution is appended below.

Changing Merit Policy When Increase Is Less Than 3%

Hebein said that the officers had asked him to look into the history of the issue and that he would report on this soon.

Continuation of Senate Meetings at Firelands Campus

Williams noted that Senate began holding its October meetings on the Firelands campus in order to recognize the college and our colleagues there. Senate supported this idea though class schedules and travel time made it difficult to achieve a quorum. A few years ago, we went to a schedule whereby Senate would meet there every third year and that the SEC/VPAA Conference and the SEC/EVP Conference would be held there in the intervening years. According to that schedule, Senate would hold its full meeting on the Firelands campus next month. Williams said that she had discussed the matter with Muego, the SEC representative from Firelands, and that he concurred that the plan has not worked out in spite of the good intentions. Next month’s Senate meeting would be held on the Bowling Green campus and broadcast to the Firelands campus. It will be possible to phone in questions and comments from Firelands to the Senate meeting. Williams said that the officers would travel to the Firelands campus to meet with faculty and staff there. Orel moved, Pinto seconded that Senate hold its October meetings on the Bowling Green campus. Motion passed.

Merger of Environmental Health with Environmental Studies

Guests Gary Silverman and Charles Onasch, directors of the two programs, presented the proposal to merge Environmental Health (an independent program) with Environmental Studies (with its two majors) into a new department, the Department of Environmental Sustainability in the School of Earth, Environment and Society. Shields asked about the support for the proposal among faculty within the units. The directors acknowledged that the support was unanimous. Shields moved, Orel seconded that the proposal be sent to Senate for its approval. Motion passed.

Open Forum on October 28

In the tradition of last year’s Open Forums, Williams announced that plans were being made to hold one next month. The Interim President would speak on the results of the Town Meetings, the CFO would discuss the state’s new funding model for higher education, and the VPAA would make presentations on the work of the consultants on recruitment and retention and on general education.

Catastrophic Leave Bank

Shields reported that most employees retired without using much of their sick time and a proposal was being drafted to allow employees to donate accumulated sick leave to a bank from which others could draw.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Senate Format

Williams said that the officers had discussed how to make Senate meetings more useful. One suggestion was to limit any reports to five minutes and to move Issues and Concerns before New Business perhaps with specific topics announced in advance. Such topics could include salaries, unionization, and health care benefits. Williams said that she would try this at the October meeting.

SENATE AGENDA

SEC set the agenda for the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Williams adjourned the meeting at 4:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Hebein, Secretary

RESOLUTION ON SENATE ATTENDANCE

WHEREAS, the *Academic Charter* says: "The Secretary shall keep attendance records of Senate meetings and notify the Senators within five class days of the second absence and possible loss of Senate seat" [IV.D 2 a) (3), p. 6/18]; and

"Attendance at all Senate meetings shall be the responsibility of each Senator. A Senator may be absent no more than twice in one academic year for regularly scheduled meetings or no more than twice in one academic year for on-call or specially called meetings of the Senate. When absences of a Senator exceed the limitations stated in *Bylaw H*, SEC shall declare the seat vacant. Any Senator whose membership has been so terminated may appeal the ruling to the SEC within thirty calendar days and the SEC is authorized to issue attendance waivers for good cause." [IV.E: Attendance at Senate Meetings, p. 7/18]; and

"SEC shall....declare a seat vacant in Senate resulting from more than two absences as defined in IV.E or grant a waiver to a senator when good cause is shown for missing more than two regular Senate meetings or for missing more than two on-call or specially called meetings" [IV F.1 b) (4), p. 9/18]; and

"An elected Senate member not on official University leave and absent from more than two regular or more than two on-call or specially-called Senate meetings, regardless of whether a substitute attended in one academic year shall be deemed to have vacated his/her seat....At the request of the absent senator, SEC, however, may waive these rules when good cause is shown." [B-III H, p. 2/2]; and

WHEREAS, attendance provisions have not been enforced in recent years;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Senate Executive Committee direct the Secretary of Faculty Senate to notify senators of their second absence; and

FURTHER BE IT RESOLVED, that the Secretary report to SEC the names of senators whose absences exceed two regular or two on-call or specially-called meetings in order that they may declare the seat vacant; and

BE IT RESOLVED FINALLY, that the Secretary inform senators whose seats have been declared vacant that they may appeal to SEC for an attendance waiver.