

SEC/VPAA JOINT CONFERENCE MINUTES

September 9, 2008
2:30 pm

Senate Conference Room
140 McFall Center

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

Guests: Mark Gromko, Senior Vice Provost for Academic Programs

CHAIR'S REPORT

Vice Chair Shields called the meeting to order and, hearing no objection, re-ordered the agenda to accommodate the guest.

NEW BUSINESS

General Education Reform

Gromko said that the current general education curriculum had been in place for thirty to forty years, that it was based on an older philosophy, was not meeting student needs, was perceived as a barrier, and maybe was contributing to poor retention. He said that this university-wide general education curriculum, known as the BG Perspective, overlapped the Arts and Sciences Group Requirements and was confusing. The literature on general education emphasizes skill and ability development rather than the distributive model that has been used. The University has retained the services of Keeling and Associates to do a critique and make recommendations. He said that their retainer was \$32,500, which was paid by the President.

Craddock asked why were hiring an outside firm; Gromko said that we had been able to accomplish only incremental change so far. Evans pointed out that we had done a program review of general education. Gromko said that that conversation was not broad enough and that the opportunity for change was limited. Evans suggested that it was not limited. Baugher said that the college councils told here that we needed to work on general education. She said that we got bogged down in our own review; we need one that is unbiased and non-territorial. Craddock asked about statewide moves to standardize general education. Gromko said that there were such moves and cited the TAGs process and transfer module as examples.

Williams asked whether the new curriculum would be presented to Senate; Gromko said it would be. Shields observed that there needed to be time for faculty to discuss and reflect on this. Gromko said that this review had the support of Undergraduate Council and the BG Perspective Committee. Shields emphasized the need for discussion and consensus building. Evans asked whether the university wide general education curriculum would match that in Arts and Sciences. Gromko said that A&S was working on this. He added that the new curriculum might change the residency requirement, grant credit for life experiences and use the portfolio process more broadly.

Muego asked what Gromko wanted from SEC in this regard. Gromko said SEC's endorsement of hiring Keeling. Muego moved to reconvene as SEC; motion passed. Baugher and Gromko left the meeting. [Traditionally, motions are not considered during the SEC/VPAA Conference; the VPAA and any guests are excused while motions are considered.] Muego moved, Evans seconded endorsement; motion passed.

Naming the President's Leadership Academy for President Ribeau

Williams suggested that, while the group was meeting as SEC, they vote on endorsing the resolution from the Administrative Staff Council to name the PLA for President Ribeau who founded it and gave his personal financial support to it. USG had also passed the resolution. Evans moved, Bernhard seconded endorsement; motion passed. The resolution will be sent to Senate for their action.

Non Tenure-Track Faculty

Baughner returned, and the SEC/VPAA Conference resumed. Shields observed that there were no university-wide guidelines for promotion through the career ladder. Baughner said that they were addressing that right now. She said that there would be some financial reward for the levels of promotion. Evans pointed out that we would need to amend the Charter to include the guidelines. Shields said that the standing committees needed to address this in consultation with the Provost and the deans.

OLD BUSINESS

Follow-Up on Fee Waivers for International Students

Williams asked if this was a bookkeeping issue. Baughner said it was not but that it was a deficit created by granting fee waivers and not charging tuition. She said that fee waivers and discounts were good things if used strategically, but they hadn't been since some of the recipients could afford to have paid. She said we should move to commission based international recruiting. Muego asked if this would result in a reduction in the numbers of international students. Baughner said maybe, temporarily.

NEW BUSINESS

History of the Split and Thresholds for Merit Pools in Merit Policies

SEC had asked the secretary to write a report, which was attached to the agenda and is available in the Senate office. Evans said that the problem is that raises are too low. Baughner said that she hoped to build a realistic compensation plan. Evans suggested a rolling three-year compensation model. He said that raises should be determined in the fall instead of waiting to assign them at the end of the budget process.

Open Forum

Williams announced that there would be a fall Open Forum on October 28 at 2:30 in the Union Theater. The Interim President will address the Charting the Future committee's work; the CFO will address new state funding models, and the VPAA will address enrollment.

Enrollment Comparisons

Baughner distributed a document with enrollment data as of the fifteenth day, which is currently the day on which the official count is taken. Although enrollment at the Firelands Campus is up 271 to 2,116 on the fifteenth day this fall compared with last fall, total university enrollment is down 456 to 20, 228.

Of freshmen, out-of-state students are down 45 (12.8%) to 405. Those with ACT scores of 30+ are down 64 to 106 students; those with scores from 27 to 29 are down 28 to 233; those with 24 to 26 are up 10 to 531; those with 21 to 23 are up 77 to 959; those with 17 to 20 are down 41 to 996, and those with scores lower than 17 are down 25 to 132 students. Transfer students are down 67 to 615.

Centers of Excellence

The officers put this topic on the agenda because there were complaints that the process had not been transparent. Baughner said that the statewide Inter-University Council mandated broad criteria including traditional measures of academic success; significant collaborations with industry, communities and research groups; contributions to the common good; serving as a defining niche for the institution; being multidisciplinary, and attracting students and faculty.

The local criteria are:

Where do we currently have strength and excellence?

How collaborative is the proposal?

Does the concept address teaching/learning, research and inquiry as well as engagement/outreach?

Which concepts will position BGSU as unique with a competitive advantage?

The deans rated seven proposals and already recommended The Arts as a Center of Excellence. The Board of Trustees approved this.

In a memorandum to the VPAA, Milt Hakel, Chair of the Steering Committee for Interdisciplinary Themes, which is the committee considering proposals for Centers of Excellence, reported on the status of others. The proposal for Health and Wellness across the Lifespan has been edited and will be presented to the Steering Committee this fall. The proposals for the Education Center of Excellence (community and school engagement) and the Management Center of Excellence (leadership and organization) are being revised. He also reported that the Committee was aware that a proposal on Environment and Habitat was forthcoming although they had not seen it yet.

Baughner said that BG's final recommendations are due in July 2009. The Chancellor will make the final determinations at the state level. In response to a question, she said that Centers of Excellence were different from Signature Programs, which were based within one unit. These would be identified through the compact process.

President Search

Williams announced that a survey had been sent to all faculty on the desirable qualifications in a new president and that a broadly based group of twenty-five faculty had been invited to meet with Trustee Primrose, Chair of the Search Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Hebein, Secretary