

SEC/VPAA JOINT CONFERENCE MINUTES

October 14, 2008
2:30 pm

Senate Conference Room
140 McFall Center

Present: Shirley Baugher, Keith Bernhard, Jim Evans, Emmanuel Guillory, Ben Muego, Nancy Orel, Peter Pinto, Roger Schupp, Ron Shields, Ellen Williams, Rich Hebein

CHAIR'S REPORT

Vice Chair Shields called the meeting to order. Williams announced that the panel discussion being organized by the local AAUP on "Collective Bargaining and Shared Governance" for October 21 prevented SEC from meeting during the customary Tuesday afternoon time. She added that the Senate sponsored Fall Forum scheduled for October 28 at that time prevented SEC from meeting then, and the agenda had to be set for the November Senate meeting. Perhaps SEC could work by email.

NEW BUSINESS

Internship Task Force

Baugher announced that VPSA Whipple and she had jointly appointed a committee to inventory the internships that were currently offered on campus and to ask for proposals for new ones. Internships and co-ops are a priority for the state, and BGSU has the opportunity to be seen as a leader in some of these areas. She expected that there would be state money for this in spring. She said that she had discussed this with CAA and that Dave Border, chair of CAA, and also Williams would be on the committee as would a representative from every college.

Update on Enrollment Management

Baugher said that Greg Guzman, Interim Vice President for Enrollment Management, was putting out "Friday Factoids" by email to keep the community informed on enrollment issues. She said that there would be a large, university-wide team to work on enrollment. They are constructing a web site on enrollment management, which would be accessible through the Provost's web site.

Release of Money to Deans for Tenure Track Searches

Baugher reported that she had approved the deans' requests to conduct tenure line searches. Shields asked about cuts to college budgets especially in Arts and Sciences. Baugher said that we did not cut the colleges' budgets but that they had to balance them. She continued that we were no longer sweeping positions and that, once a college had finalized its budget plans, the allocation of positions was the college's decision to be consistent with its compact. She said that the department compacts were due in December; and the colleges' compacts, in February. She would be meeting individually with the deans in March and April. Shields asked if Baugher had reviewed A&S's plan to balance its budget; she said she had.

Carry-Over of Deficits

Baugher said that all carry-over funds would be loaded by the end of October. Shields asked how much debt was being carried over. Baugher said you mean what is the actual level of debt and what are its sources. She said we balanced the budget but reductions still needed to be made. She said that the deficit was \$4.5 million and that it was due in part to decreased enrollments. She said the deficit was being addressed in various ways but not by personnel reductions. She said that she met the deficit in Academic Affairs with temporary reductions last year. She suggested getting more information from the CFO. Evans, chair of FSBC, said that the deficit was just under \$3 million and that we were being asked to cut \$4.5 million. Williams said that we would ask the CFO to discuss this at the Forum.

Baugher said that she was addressing the deficit in Academic Affairs and not the deficit in A&S. She said they needed to "right size" and they were making cuts of unfunded positions. Shields said that it was not clear that the 15% cut in A&S was just the college's deficit but that it was presented that A&S was being asked to help with the University's deficit. Baugher said that the issue was that most non-tenure track lines in A&S were not funded and that we cannot keep funding non-funded lines.

Evans said that his issue was still the \$4.5 million figure and that FSBC hasn't had sufficient information regarding the situation in A&S and, if they did, they could help. Shields said that the dean had presented a proposal to the college's budget committee and that the latest version was more palatable. Baugher said that she was contributing \$2 million. She said that she appreciated the feedback; programs like BGeX needed to be rethought. She said that there was no competition among the colleges; each has its own plan. Baugher said that there might be a mid-year rescission and that she had no cushion. Williams said that the University was charting the future but that individuals were more concerned about surviving the present. [It was subsequently reported that Baugher had contributed \$2.5 million and that this, along with their cuts, balanced A&S's budget this year. It would not be necessary to take three years for A&S to balance its budget as was originally planned.]

Fee Waivers for Graduate Students

Guillory said that Interim Graduate Dean Deanne Snaveley had told him that Baugher had told her to reduce fee waivers by \$1 million. He observed that 1200 students were on assistantships. Baugher said that she targeted \$1 million because she noticed that the college had not spent about a million dollars from its fee waiver budget on fee waivers every year for years. This year the figure was about \$850,000. She said that they spent it on other things but not on fee waivers so that was being taken as a permanent reduction.

Baugher said that she asked the dean why, if students were on a part-time appointment, they were getting a full-time waiver. She also asked why we require graduate students to register for twelve hours each semester. Shields said that we had been told that this generated more subsidy. Baugher said that this forces some students to take more hours than they need. Evans said that we gave full-time waivers because our stipends were so low. Baugher said that we needed to address that too; all stipends need to be raised.

Muego asked if fee waivers for international students were in deficit; Baugher said yes. Muego asked, then if the graduate college fee waiver budget has been loaded with an extra million dollars, how can they be in deficit. Baugher said that the budget needed to be loaded in a realistic way. Evans said that we should structure the graduate student budget in a way to maximize enrollment. Baugher said that she would let the deans allocate graduate student support. Schupp wondered how many students we lost; Baugher said we could have recruited more.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Baugher suggested that our enrollment decline over the last two years was due to our being late in turning our attention to it in a highly competitive market. Williams asked if we had taken care of the summer fees of the six Kenyan students; Baugher said that we told them to work with the Center for International Programs.

Williams said that President Cartwright had asked for faculty input on the accountability measures being proposed by the state for its universities. Knight sent out a survey to faculty, but few responded. Shields said that maybe this was a task that should have gone to a committee. [In fact, the Senate officers subsequently convened a focus group to rank the measures and sent the results to the President.]

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Hebein, Secretary