

## **FACULTY SENATE OPEN FORUM MINUTES**

October 28, 2008  
2:30 pm

Union Theater

**Panelists:** Interim President Carol Cartwright; VPAA Shirley Baugher, CFO Sherideen Stoll

Senate Chair Ellen Williams called the meeting to order. A phone-in line was available for questions, and the forum was on live feed to campus offices and the Firelands campus. The video is available at <http://wbgustream.bgsu.edu/bgsu/wc102808/> . About 90 attended. The links are on page <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/provost/events.htm> . Stolls' presentation is at <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/provost/events/StollFacForum1008.ppt> . Baugher's presentation is at <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/provost/events/BaugherFacForum1008.ppt> .

### **PRESIDENT CAROL CARTWRIGHT**

#### **Funding for Higher Education**

Cartwright said that state agencies had had two cuts during 2008, \$733 million in January and \$540 million in September. She said that the governor had said that, if the public universities would not raise tuition for each of the years in the current biennium, he would try to avoid any cuts to higher education and, if possible, provide extra funding. Cartwright said that higher education had fared comparatively well in that the State Share of Instruction has not been cut although the Success Challenge Program and some other smaller items have been.

She said that the new funding formula for higher education would be less dependent on student enrollment and more on performance and accountability measures. She didn't know whether tuition increases would be allowed. She said that FSBC and UBC would be engaged in the process. She said that priorities have to drive us and that developing them and balancing them would be very important.

#### **Priority Setting**

[The Charting Our Future Process is moving along. The Strategic Planning Readiness and Community Engagement stages are complete. See <http://www.bgsu.edu/strategicplanning/index.html> . The Academic Affairs Master Plan is available at <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/provost/StrategicPositioning/MasterPlanFinalDraft.pdf> .]

Cartwright said that the process was ready to move to a more specific level, namely the Strategy Development and Prioritization stage. Faculty Senate and Expanded Cabinet will hold focus groups to create strategies, and anyone is invited to create a group, pick a goal and suggest a strategy. A Toolkit is available at the web site; the deadline is February 1. [See <http://www.bgsu.edu/strategicplanning/page57390.html> .] After we do strategies, we will decentralize the process to every unit and ask how your activities relate to the strategies and how your strategies relate to our goals.

#### **Presidential Search**

Cartwright said that the process was going well and suggested that interested parties view the Institutional and Presidential Profile, which is available at <http://www.bgsu.edu/downloads/ua/file56844.pdf> .

Williams asked Cartwright to address the hiring freeze. She said that this was a prudent and not unusual step to take in this situation. It is possible to grant exceptions, and faculty positions were exempt from the freeze since they have their own approval process and because it was important to make investments in new faculty. She said that she had eliminated the position of Executive Vice President.

Debard asked Cartwright to comment on the effect of collective bargaining in her experience on the strategic planning process. She said that she did not think that there was a direct connection. At Kent, strategic planning was not part of the union contract. He asked her to comment on shared governance; she said that collective bargaining usually changes the culture regarding shared governance.

## **CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER SHERRIDEEN STOLL**

### **New Funding Model**

Stoll thanked Faculty Senate for the invitation. Every two years, the Board of Regents prepares the budget for higher education. This one will be consistent with the Chancellor's Ten Year Master Plan with its priorities. It will stress performance outcomes. Students will be counted at course completion rather than on the fifteenth day. Degree attainment will be a factor, which will benefit us because our students graduate at a higher than expected rate.

### **BGSU's Budget**

Stoll distributed a sheet on the "Current Unrestricted Educational & General Revenue and Expenditures Budget, Fiscal Year 2008 Compared to Projected Fiscal Year 2009." She said that they addressed the \$3 million deficit by freezing positions and capturing money from various accounts. She said that units had been allowed to carry forward deficits but that could no longer be allowed. She reported that over all there was a carry over or reserve of \$53 million from last year. She questioned whether that was a "healthy" amount. She noted that Kent, for example, carried over \$153 million. She said that institutional aid has been growing faster than tuition and that is not sustainable.

Lee asked if money for research is included in the funding model; Stoll said that that was funded separately. Pinto asked if the figures for FY 08 were actual or projected. Stoll said that they were the projected figures but that she could provide the actual. Evans said that looking at projected instead of actual could create an overestimate of expenditures. Stoll said that the numbers were very close to actual numbers. Evans asked, if we looked at the actual numbers for FY 08, would we have a deficit; Stoll said yes.

Debard asked who decided to commit so much money to scholarships. Stoll said she did not know the history of the issue. Guzman said that the model had been predicated on increasing tuition but that didn't happen.

[Subsequent to this forum, Stoll set up a meeting with representatives of FSBC and Senate officers to continue the discussion.]

## **VICE PRESIDENT FOR ACADEMIC AFFAIRS SHIRLEY BAUGHER**

Baugher announced that she was freezing the search for a Vice Provost for Administration and Operations and thanked the committee for its work. She said that the search for a Vice Provost for Enrollment Management was continuing; Greg Guzman was the interim.

### **General Education Review**

Baugher said that she initiated this because the college councils told her that it needed to be addressed. General education has not been reviewed in a comprehensive way since 1978. The consultants will be on campus on January 20 and 21, and they will consult widely.

### **Centers of Excellence**

Baugher said that the committee was reviewing the proposal for Health and Wellness Across the Lifespan. She said that it would most likely go to the Board of Trustees and that the Chancellor would make the final decision. The process will be finished at the end of June 2009.

### **Fee Waivers for International Students**

Baugher reported that there are currently 82 students receiving fee waivers for the Fall 2008 semester. Up to 41 students (half) have not used all 8 semesters of their fee waiver yet, and will be funded for the spring 2009 semester, provided they continue to meet the GPA requirement. Forty-one (the other half) of these students are either in their 8th semester or planning to graduate this fall. Of these 41, our best estimate is that 20 students are set to graduate. This leaves 21 students who will need to find alternative sources of funding for their final semester. Paul Hofmann expects the majority of the 21 students to find a way to continue at the University. She thanked Gromko, Guzman and Hofmann for their work on this. She said that there were 705 international students on campus, up slightly from last year. She said that we now have a sustainable plan and will use fee waivers strategically in the future.

**Other Matters**

Baughner said that the state wanted to invest in co-op and internship programs. She and VPSA Whipple will jointly appoint a committee to identify current programs and plan for new ones. She said that a university wide enrollment management committee was being appointed and detailed the University's recent enrollment activities. [See web site for more information including preliminary suggestions from Noel-Levitz.] She said that students consistently point to the friendliness of people here as a reason to attend. She added that we needed to do more to identify and help students who are at risk.

**Questions**

Lee expressed concern that changing the general education model could adversely impact certain departments. Baughner said that we would watch the process as it is implemented; she expected that it would take three to five years.

Shields asked if the budget cuts were taking place only in academic affairs. Cartwright said that all areas, including athletics, were being impacted.

Cochran asked about graduate program review. Baughner said that the committee was still working. She said that we were looking at graduate stipends and assistantships and that they would like to offer more assistantships and larger stipends. She said they were also looking at requiring registration for 9 hours per semester instead of the current 12 for graduate students.

Ray noted that the significant deficits in A&S would adversely affect our general education offerings and questioned the institution's commitment to liberal arts education. Cartwright said that we would do things in a "phased" way and that we have no intention of moving away from the liberal arts philosophy. Baughner affirmed that we are strongly committed to liberal education. She said that it was the responsibility of the whole university not just A&S. She said that A&S was the victim of poor planning.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Williams thanked the participants and the audience and adjourned the meeting at 4:30.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Hebein, Secretary