

PRESIDENT'S PANEL MINUTES

October 30, 2008
2:30 pm

Chart Room
McFall Center

Present: Shirley Bauger (Vice President for Academic Affairs), Carol Cartwright (Interim President), Alden Craddock (Faculty), Kim Fleshman (Administrative Staff Council), Emmanuel Guillory (Graduate Student Senate), Sarah Lafferty (GSS), Faith Olson (Classified Staff Council), Violet Serrato (CSC), Ron Shields (Faculty Senate), Beverly Stearns (ASC), John R. Waynick (Undergraduate Student Government), Ellen Williams (FS), Rich Hebein (FS)

CALL TO ORDER

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

1. Reducing graduate full-time status from 12 credit hours to 9. (Submitted by GSS)

Guillory said that they thought this was too high. Cartwright said that we are giving it serious consideration. However, she noted that there would be budget implications because the State Share of Instruction is based on this. Craddock asked if there was an academic standard for "full time." Cartwright said that each university has the authority to define it; perhaps we need more data. Bauger said that the students realize that they can complete the degree by taking fewer than twelve each semester. Sometimes departments put courses into a student's program just to get them to twelve.

2. What criteria were used to determine the constituent groups that would be impacted by the hiring freeze? (CSC)

Cartwright said that all groups were subject to the freeze except student hourly positions and faculty. There is a separate approval process for faculty positions through the colleges and the Provost's office, which is a control over open positions. Bauger said that in a sense faculty positions had been frozen for a year. Williams asked how long it would last. Cartwright said that higher education had been spared the most serious cuts but that there is no guarantee that that would continue. We will just have to wait.

3. Status of Presidential Search (FS)

Cartwright said that the twenty page Profile of the University's characteristics and the desirable characteristics of the new president is available at <http://www.bgsu.edu/downloads/ua/file56844.pdf>. We hope to make an offer in spring.

4. There is growing concern regarding a potential upcoming reduction in the workforce, particularly in administrative staff positions, given the current fiscal crises at BGSU and at the state level. Please comment. (ASC)

Cartwright said that, whenever we are in challenging times, people become concerned about workforce reductions. To avoid this we need to plan. That was the reason for the freeze, and we are doing everything we can to avoid workforce reductions. We will be launching a web site to ask our employees for their suggestions on cost savings and revenue generation. Stearns said that administrative staff was particularly concerned about the vulnerability of being on one year contracts.

5. More course offerings: evening and online (GSS)

Cartwright said that she and Bauger had discussed this and understood that this is one of GSS's top ten concerns. She advised graduate students to work with their departments since course offerings are determined there. Craddock asked if summer enrollments were down last summer, and Bauger said that they were. Shields said that there was a lack of real incentives for faculty to teach online. He said that our graduate students would be more marketable if they were involved in online course development since hiring departments want their new faculty to be proficient in online teaching. Bauger said that we needed to work on this but that we needed to grow our online enrollment without eroding our residential enrollment. She acknowledged that the audiences were different.

6. In your experience at Kent State and then BGSU, what are the positive and/or less positive aspects of working in a shared governance environment versus a collective bargaining environment? (CSC)

Cartwright agreed that there were differences. The culture would change, and we might not have a meeting like this. With a union transparency might suffer. Non-unionized environments are more difficult to manage. She said that she had been in situations where the administration would like to give something but couldn't because it hadn't been bargained for.

7. Status of Strategic Planning (FS)

Cartwright said that we were at the Strategy Development and Prioritization stage. She reported that a Working Framework had been developed from the Charting Our Futures sessions. Focus groups with broad representation will 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> .]

8. Is the Catastrophic Leave Process still moving forward within the original time line for implementation? (ASC)

Cartwright said that it was moving along.

9. Financial Information from the State (FS)

10. Is there new information regarding the state funding model? (ASC)

Cartwright noted that this was covered at the recent Open Forum. [See minutes, October 28, 2008.] Williams said that faculty were asking questions about the budget at the local level. Cartwright said that we could share this information. Williams said that some think a crisis is being manufactured. CFO Stoll has set a forthcoming meeting of Senate officers and representatives from FSBC. Baugher said that Stoll wants to understand what information is wanted. Williams said that the reference to the \$53 million reserve "added fuel to the fire." Cartwright said that's transparency. Baugher said that our reserve is too low.

11. Why is BGSU the only public institution in Ohio showing a decrease in enrollment numbers? On an individual level, we all assume a role for increasing enrollment, but what initiatives are being considered at other levels to rectify this problem? (ASC)

Cartwright said that we have to look at this long term and that over the last ten years enrollment is up. She said that we had overcommitted to institutional aid. She said that the demographics are changing and that our traditional draw from northeast Ohio is drying up and that our consultants would help us identify new groups.

12. There remains confusion in the staff populations regarding modifications to the fee waiver benefit. Please clarify again which fee waivers will be affected? (ASC)

Cartwright said that there were no changes to the dependent fee waiver policy. If there will be any changes, those would be discussed with the groups. Fee waivers for graduate students, which are under discussion, are another matter.

13. The perception exists that administrative staff numbers are growing. If this is true, where? Data recently provided by the Office of Institutional Research (revised October 2008 Salary Expenditure and Positions by Category) seems to conflate "administrator" with "administrative staff." (ASC)

Cartwright said that these data are reported together but that internally we have about a dozen codes to separate different types of staff. She suggested working with Bill Knight and Rebecca Ferguson.

ADJOURNMENT

Cartwright adjourned the meeting at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Hebein,

Secretary