

## **FACULTY SENATE MINUTES**

November 4, 2008  
2:30 pm.

Assembly Room  
McFall Center

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Ellen Williams called the meeting to order and asked the secretary to take the roll.

### **ROLL CALL**

**Absent:** Booth, Gupta, Herman, Messenheimer, Mirchandani, Wallach, Xi, Zimmerman, Baugher (substitute Mark Gromko), Whipple (sub. Joseph Oravec), Basch, Clements, Emmelhainz, Wu

The secretary announced that there was a quorum. The secretary, acknowledging that he was not likely to make friends by this, reminded Senate that SEC had passed a resolution in August directing him to enforce the attendance rules in the Charter. They require him to warn senators after their second absence that they were in danger of losing their seat with a third absence. After the third absence he is required to advise senators that they had vacated their seats and that they could appeal to SEC to be reinstated for good cause. Also, sending a substitute is still counted as an absence.

### **COMMUNICATIONS**

#### **Chair**

The chair announced that the Senate would hold an Open Forum on January 22, 2009 from 2:30 to 4:30 on collective bargaining.

#### **President**

The president thanked those who helped organize the recent visits to campus by the national vice-presidential candidates and all others for their patience in allowing these large scale-events to take place. She announced that the hiring freeze was in response to state funding reductions. State revenues continue to come in below estimates and unemployment in the state is above national averages.

She said that strategic planning was moving into the next phase, the Strategy Development and Prioritization phase. In addition to specific focus groups comprised of Expanded Cabinet and governance representatives that will be working on this, anyone may participate. See <http://www.bgsu.edu/strategicplanning/>.

She reported that the state was committed to funding several programs: The Two Plus Two Program which pairs community colleges with universities; Ohio University has entered such a partnership with Owens Community College; The Dual Enrollment Program which enables certain college courses to be taught in high schools. BGSU is pursuing this.

#### **Vice President for Academic Affairs**

No report.

#### **Graduate Student Senate**

Guillory referred to the list of Top Ten Concerns presented at the last Senate meeting. In particular, he reported that they were working with the Health Services Advisory Committee for a dental option. He also reported that the Graduate College was in the process of distributing travel funds to departments, and he hoped that graduate students would take advantage of this.

#### **Undergraduate Student Government**

Waynick reported that their voter registration drive had helped register 4600 students. He said that USG was working on a resolution regarding fee waivers for international students and keeping the Springboard Mentorship Program. They had also surveyed students on keeping the library open for extended hours.

### **Retiree Representative**

Clark reported that they were working on a history of the University.

### **Ohio Faculty Council Representative**

Bernhard reported that they had met with the Vice Chancellor For Academic Affairs and that they were discussing system-wide governance issues.

## **REPORTS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES**

### **Committee on Academic Affairs**

Border reported that the committee supported the proposal for the Master of Architecture Degree, which is on the agenda for today.

### **Amendments and Bylaws Committee**

Pauken reported that they were working on an amendment to propose administrator emeritus status.

### **Committee on Committees**

Gajjala reported that they had successfully filled almost all committee vacancies.

### **Faculty Senate Budget Committee**

Evans reported that they had met with the President and the University Budget Committee. They were discussing stipends and fee waivers. He said that the committee's detailed minutes were archived at Blackboard > Faculty Senate > Information > Faculty Senate Budget Committee > FSBC 2008-2009.

### **Faculty Personnel and Conciliation Committee**

Muego said that there were three active cases with a new one probably forthcoming. He thanked the three new members who agreed to serve on the committee and said that there was still one vacancy.

### **Faculty Welfare Committee**

Craddock said that they were gathering data and would report their findings and recommendations to Senate later.

### **Committee on Professional Affairs**

Ekstrand reported that they were looking forward to their annual trip to Columbus and to continuing dialog with faculty and students.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Master of Architecture Degree**

Andreas Luescher presented the proposal. He said that this has been in the works for at least six years. Students graduating from the undergraduate program had to go elsewhere to get their master's degree, and there is no program in the area. This is an opportunity to bring in new students and is consistent with the Center of Excellence being proposed in The Arts. Williams pointed out that the proposal couldn't be fully approved until the companion proposal for the establishment of the department was approved; this was under review in the Provost's Office. Luescher said that the two issues were separate and asked Senate to approve this curricular proposal. Muego moved, Gajjala seconded approval. Leontis asked about support for the proposal. Williams said that dean and CAA supported it. Cartwright said that we needed to make new investments even as we have to balance the budget. The motion passed 53 to 1 with 2 abstentions.

### **Policy for Stopping the Tenure Clock and Flexible Tenure Timetable**

Weinsier presented the proposal coming from FWC. He said that other schools had such policies and this was a recruitment issue. Issues raised included the number of times a person could stop the clock, time periods allowed for processing, and the possible denial of requests. Gajjala moved, Blair seconded approval, which passed 47 for, 1 against with 4 abstentions. Williams said the proposal would go to ABC for review of wording.

**Health Plan**

Donna Wittwer, Associate Director of Human Resources, gave a brief presentation on changes to the health care plan, including price reductions for some drugs ordered by mail. Some co-pays were going up. She also encouraged employees to take advantage of Health Care Spending Accounts. For more information, go to the benefits page at Human Resources at <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ohr/benefits/index.html> . Samel observed that the changes were an example of why we needed a union because we did not have a say in this. Rebecca Ferguson, Assistant Vice President for Human Resources, said that employees did have a voice through their representation on the Health, Wellness and Insurance Committee. Wittwer said that flu shots and colonoscopy for those over 50 had been added as benefits.

**United Way/Northwest Community Shares**

Thomas Atwood, Dean of University Libraries, gave a presentation on donating to United Way and Northwest Community Shares. He thanked the members of the local committee and encouraged all to get their donations in promptly.

**ISSUES AND CONCERNS**

Faith Olson, Chair of Classified Staff Council, distributed information on their Building blocks to the Future initiative, which allows for anyone to thank a classified staff person and to enter them in a drawing. Williams took the occasion to thank publicly the classified staff for their many contributions

Blair pointed out that 30% of the faculty was now non-tenure track faculty. She said that she would present a proposal for their representation on Senate and on other committees. Muego said that the Firelands college council had nttf representation. Williams said that SEC would consider a proposal to use three of the ex officio seats provided for in the Charter at IV.A to seat some nttf representatives. There was considerable support for greater nttf representation while a few senators disagreed.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Williams adjourned the meeting at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Hebein  
Secretary