

SEC/VPAA JOINT CONFERENCE MINUTES

November 18, 2008
2:30 pm

Senate Conference Room
140 McFall Center

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

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Williams called the meeting to order and, without objection, reordered the published agenda.

NEW BUSINESS

Loading Budget Surpluses

Baugher announced that she was aware that loading the budgets had been delayed but she believed that by now all had been loaded except those that had deficits; they were working to address those.

Retaining Course Records

Williams said that we needed a clear policy on how long faculty should keep grades and other student records. She said that Senate had asked this earlier and did not get a clear answer. Baugher and Williams agreed that we needed to set up a committee including representatives from all constituent groups to get an answer.

Requiring Nine Instead of Twelve Hours for Graduate Students

GSS had made this recommendation. Bauther saw two advantages: It does not make sense that the University require twelve hours when the degree program does not; the level of stipend could be adjusted so the funds could be re-allocated to other students. She said that this would decrease our income from the State Share of Instruction, but we would have to manage that. She said that Dean Snively wanted to experiment with this in one college in spring. Evans pointed out that twenty hours per week might be used as a model; Baugher agreed. Evans said that reducing the required number of hours might also reduce the number of courses that programs would offer; this would especially impact smaller units. Schupp said this would probably affect students in their final semester. Evans said that we could change the definition of full time to nine hours. Pinto said that the effect of the change might cause students to take longer to finish; one solution might be to allow them to appeal the twelve-hour rule for the last semester. Craddock asked what the standard was. Baugher said that most institutions have nine. She suggested that SEC invite Snively to a SEC meeting.

Stopping the Tenure Clock/Flexible Tenure Timetable

This policy was passed by Senate on November 4, but the deans subsequently raised some questions. Baugher observed that the policy addressed two separate issues, that a maximum of two years of leave was too liberal, and that it was not required to show that the applicant was successfully moving toward tenure. Hebein pointed out that chairs had been reluctant to state that an applicant was successfully moving toward tenure without an adequate review. Baugher said that there were other ways of granting leave. Hebein pointed out that the next step was for the Senate secretary to forward this to the President and the Board. If there were to be major changes in the policy, it would have to go back to Senate. Baugher agreed to put her concerns in writing to FWC, which would then bring the matter back to SEC.

Safety Alert

Referring to the recent report of a shooter on campus, Williams said that some faculty and students, who were signed up to receive safety alerts, did not get the one that was sent out. Baugher said that ITS now reports to Vice President Jim Smith and that any comments should be sent to him.

Projected Rescission/Cuts

Baugher said that there was no recent information on possible cuts coming from the state.

New Role for Dr. Connie Ruhl-Smith

Baugher said that some responsibilities had been reassigned in her office and that Ruhl-Smith would be working on faculty matters, including grievances and professional development.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Accountability Measures

Baugher distributed a near final draft of the University's accountability report as required by the state. Universities have some freedom in shaping some of the criteria that will be used to measure their success. Baugher said that they were taking a conservative approach because, if funding is tied to these measures, we want to be competitive. She said that only two states were using accountability measures.

Charter Interpretations

Hebein reported that the President had responded to the two requests for Charter interpretations that SEC had dealt with: Regarding the first, the President agreed that the ten-year requirement of administrative service for a Trustee Professorship meant ten years at BGSU. [B-I.F] The President has not yet responded to SEC's position on the second, which was that it was a violation for a dean to appoint the chair of a search committee rather than let the committee elect its own. [X.C, p. 2/4]

Williams reported that, with encouragement from the Chancellor, Ohio State University and the University of Cincinnati were converting from quarters to semesters.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Hebein, Secretary