

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

December 2, 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: Anderson, Callen

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION

Dr. Jacquelyn Cuneen read a memorial resolution in honor of Dr. M. E. “Betty” Van Der Smissen, a past chair of Senate. The motion passed unanimously.

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 submitted the following report:

Good afternoon. I hope you enjoyed the Thanksgiving holiday. I feel very thankful to have been asked to join the BGSU community and continue to appreciate the program excellence and faculty and staff talents that I am discovering with each new day. With the wonderful assistance of our college deans, I have been touring facilities and meeting informally with faculty, staff and students. Thus far I have visited Education and Human Development, Continuing and Extended Education, Business Administration, Technology and have accomplished four of the five visits to Arts and Sciences. The remainder of the visits are scheduled between now and mid-January. I have found hidden jewels among our academic programs, facilities that are in desperate need of repair, and faculty and staff who are committed to making BGSU a great place to study and work – and that’s the short list!

Our ability to continue our important work will be severely tested in the next few years as Ohio deals with the most serious financial challenges of the past 50 years. We will need to work together to make the best possible choices among many important priorities to enable us to continue our important mission.

Part of my responsibility as your president is to define our realities and lead us in dealing with them. Here are the realities:

- At prior meetings and public forums, we have been reporting about statistics that signal Ohio’s economic position, for example, unemployment rates higher than the national average; several cuts to the state’s operating budget during the current biennium; and downward projections for future state tax revenues.
- Yesterday Governor Strickland held a press conference to describe the worsening national economic environment and its effects for Ohio. Here are key quotes from the press release:
 - “Governor Ted Strickland and Budget Director J. Pari Sabety today announced that the state is facing not only a budget deficit in our current fiscal year, but is projected to face an exceptionally large, more than \$7 billion deficit in the upcoming 2010-2011 operating budget.”
 - “Mirroring the national economy, Ohio’s economic circumstances have deteriorated rapidly. A \$640 million shortfall is now projected for the remainder of the current fiscal year. This is in line with the Office of Budget and Management’s recession-based scenario, outlined in January, which had forecast a \$1.9 billion total budget deficit if the economy fell into recession.”

- “Strickland said that the need to initiate additional spending reductions to balance the current budget will be largely determined by whether considerable state aid is included in the federal government’s recovery package and if robust activity occurs in retail holiday sales. Any further reductions to the current budget will be in addition to the \$1.27 billion in budget adjustments already underway.”

In a letter to President-elect Obama, Governor Strickland noted, “In the next two years, Ohio will confront the most serious erosion in revenues it has experienced in the last 40 or 50 years. **At flat funding for fiscal years 2010-11, Ohio is projected to have a \$7.3 billion deficit. And even if we fund each agency at 90% for FY 10-11, which in and of itself would mean cuts to important services Ohioans depend upon and decreased investments in initiatives that stimulate the economy, Ohio would still have a \$4.7 billion deficit for the coming biennium.**”

Translated to BGSU, we are considering several planning scenarios for the next biennium based on assumptions about enrollment, state support and tuition increases. Obviously, a change to each assumption changes the bottom line deficit for our operating budget, and none of the planning scenarios are positive. One that we consider reasonable based on what we know today requires that we cut about \$7 million from the operating budget for next year – and that is on top of cuts already taken to balance the operating budget for this fiscal year. Is this the right budget reduction number? I don’t know what the specific numbers will be at the end of the process but I do know that they will be significant and I know that we cannot wait to make many necessary decisions. We will develop multiple planning scenarios to use in our discussions with FSBC and UBC but all of them will be negative based on what we see now. And, we will need members of FSBC and UBC to understand the volatile environment in which we are planning. A realistic estimate today may be very inaccurate next week and we’ll need to be ready to change our assumptions and revise our plans.

Cabinet members are planning within their divisions to assure that we protect our core mission as much as possible and that we protect our people to the extent we can. We will consider program review and realignment. Wherever possible we are eliminating vacant positions, but we are also looking for opportunities to reallocate and realign positions and functions within and across divisions. Again, underlying these decisions is a commitment to support our core mission. This means that there will likely be lay-offs and that we will also need to keep hiring in key areas.

You watch the news and read the newspapers so you already know about the national economic crisis. So I realize that what I’m describing is not new. Still, I know that it’s difficult to face the hard facts about what it all means for BGSU in general and each program in particular.

Committed people working together to solve very difficult problems can emerge stronger. If we pool our creativity and critical thinking abilities and focus on our highest priorities we’ll work effectively through this very serious time for Ohio. Your ideas are welcome and I ask you to work toward our common goals.

As I close, I want to note that the December Board of Trustees meeting agenda does not include formal action on the Faculty Senate resolution passed on October 7th regarding the proposed changes to the Merit Policy. The Board has a new Compensation Committee and prefers to develop a comprehensive strategy for compensation, including faculty salary policy. Therefore, I have presented the Resolution to the Board and they will discuss it as part of their deliberations. The Committee will report about its first meeting during the Board of Trustees meeting on Friday. It is my personal belief that a more comprehensive discussion will ultimately be more productive. I ask you to think about the positive long-term outcomes given the Board’s interest. On a similar note, I presented the resolutions regarding naming the President’s Leadership Academy to the Board. They will act in 2009 as part of a comprehensive plan to honor Dr. Ribeau.

On another topic, within the past week I’ve been asked about several rumors regarding UT and BGSU. Here are the facts: (1) there are no merger discussions underway between UT and BGSU; (2) however, there are on-going discussions about partnerships, especially in research and technology transfer.

Finally, the university presidents will be meeting with Governor Strickland and Chancellor Fingerhut on Thursday, December 4th. We have been invited to discuss the economic crisis in Ohio. I will report on those meetings during the Board of Trustees meeting on December 5th.

Best wishes for the holidays and I hope you find time to relax and re-group during the semester break.

Vice President for Academic Affairs

Baughner submitted the following report:

Choose Ohio First proposal We have submitted a letter of intent to OBOR last week. The project focuses on photonics and solar energy conversion. Right now we have University of Findlay, Owens and Terra as collaborative partners. The TOTAL project right now is \$2.5 million and serves 40 students per year.

Dean Snavelly has been contacted by faculty at UT as well, inquiring about the potential of BGSU collaboration on their proposal. A meeting has been scheduled for next week to explore the opportunity.

OBOR Performance Documents

There is a possibility that these documents may be used by the state as Marketing and Communication pieces rather than determining funding. We will report regional campuses as separate.

BOT Meeting

Dean Linda Petrosino and Dr. Milt Hakel will present Health & Wellness across the Lifespan as a Center of Excellence during the Education Session this Friday.

Searches

- Firelands' Dean Search Update – Advertising is placed/Deadline January 29th. Airport interviews February / Campus interviews March.
- A&S Deans Search Update – timing on similar schedule.
- VPEN Committee will meet on December 8th to rank candidates

Task Force

Report of the Task Force to Review Graduate Programs is complete. Special thanks to co-chairs, Rebecca Pobocik and Sue Carter Wood and the committee who worked diligently for nearly a year on this important task. Dean Deanne Snavelly has been asked to work with a consulting group to review the data from the report and to make recommendations for moving forward.

Enrollment

- Guidance Counselor day was successful.
- Preview Day 2 is this Saturday, December 6
- Residence Hall Incentive email going out today
- Last week the Office of Registration and Records sent out an automated phone message to all non-registered students encouraging them to register and to contact their advisor or the Office of Registration and Records if they are having difficulties.
- Colleges will do a follow-up call to encourage students to return this spring.
- We registered an additional 376 main campus undergrads last week (11/24-11/28).
- There are still 1,607 main campus undergrads that have not registered or have not told us they are not coming back (referred to by Chris Cox as 'still in play').
- 2008 cohort retention is up 3.6% from last Monday (11/24).
- All colleges gained in their 2008 cohort retention numbers.
- Yesterday we sent a call blast to Graduate and Firelands students that have not yet registered. (The main campus undergraduate call blast was sent last Tuesday.)

Continuing Education has launched a newly redesigned returning adult web site. Blended and On Line Learning has also addressed the option of offering on line courses to students who are stepping out for the semester re economic reasons. If we can offer them 6 hours on line while they are out, they remain eligible for their aid when they return.

Graduate Student Senate

Guillory submitted the following report:

1. Top Ten Concerns

- a. Alumni fund
 - i. We are looking at creating a fund to award graduate students travel funds even if they are just attending a conference. They would not have to be presenting or doing research.
- b. Graduate Advising
 - i. Looking at the following questions in GSIC
 - 1. What are the responsibilities of the following
 - a. Graduate coordinator
 - b. Academic advisor
 - c. Mentor
- c. Moving from 12 credit full time status to 9 credit full time status
 - i. Research what the pros and cons are of this decision

2. Passed Legislation

- a. President Cartwright Resolution
- b. Probationary status bill

3. Upcoming Legislation

- a. Department accountability of travel funds

4. Grad Jamboree

- a. Friday, December 5th in the Miletic Alumni Center
- b. Raffle or silent auction will be done to support the Cocoon Shelter in BG. The Cocoon shelter is dedicated to providing safe emergency housing to battered women and their children in Wood County at no cost.

5. We need judges for the Shanklin Awards Ceremony on April 24th from 5:30-7:30p. If interested, please contact Karl Geyer at kgeyer@bgsu.edu for further details.

6. We need presenters for Graduate Student Professional Development Day on February 7th. If interested, please contact Jason Mellen at jmellen@bgsu.edu for further details.

Undergraduate Student Government

Basch reported that USG would hand out flyers at Preview Day and that they were working on a student bill of rights. They passed legislation opposing the city's Housing Master Plan; they thought that the provision for inspecting housing where students live without warning was too vague. USG was also studying grade appeal procedures and thought that procedures should be uniform across the colleges.

Retiree Representative

Clark reported that the retirees were busy watching their savings and wished all a happy holiday.

Ohio Faculty Council Representative

Bernhard reported that they had met with the representatives from the Inter-University Council, which includes all the state-assisted universities.

REPORTS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES

Committee on Academic Affairs

Border said that they were looking at the proposal for a Department of Architecture and calendar issues.

Amendments and Bylaws Committee

No report.

Committee on Committees

Gajjala reported that they had disbanded the Instructional Media Committee.

Faculty Senate Budget Committee

Evans submitted the following report:

FSBC met with the University Budget Committee on November 13th. We reviewed the new funding model being considered by OBOR for allocating state support for higher education. There are many questions remaining about the interpretations of and weightings of the various categories that will be used by OBOR to allocate state funds. At this time, there is a proposal to moderate the effect of the new system on individual universities with a 99% stop-loss in FY2010 and a 98% stop-loss in FY2011. Much of the discussion focused on the “degree attainment” criterion which includes weightings for actual versus predicted graduation rates and the value-added or quality criteria that rewards universities for preparing and graduating at-risk students. Implementation of this new subsidy system could have major impact on curriculum as well as budgets.

FSBC is meeting later this week to evaluate the budget impacts on deferred maintenance at the University and the possible impact of HB251 (energy efficiency). We will also be discussing the impact of budget decisions on recruiting international students.

Faculty Personnel and conciliation Committee

Muego said that there were three active cases all going to hearing boards. He said that two new grievances had been filed. FPCC needs three more tenured faculty members to sit on the committee. Volunteers are welcome.

Faculty Welfare Committee

Craddock said that they were analyzing data and welcomed faculty to share their concerns with the committee.

Committee on Professional Affairs

Ekstrand reported that they were planning their annual trip to Columbus; all are invited to join them.

NEW BUSINESS

International Students’ Tuition and Fee Waivers

Drs. Kristie Foell and Nancy Patterson thanked the over seventy faculty who signed the letter to Cartwright, which asks her to solve the problem. They gave a history of the issue as they had presented to SEC. [See minutes of November 25.] They asked Senate to endorse the letter. Weinsier moved, Zickar seconded endorsement. Colprit asked how many students were involved. Foell said originally eighty-four; all but twelve remained to be helped. Laflin asked how much money was involved. Foell said under \$200,000 by her estimate. Zongo asked about efforts to get the money elsewhere. Foell said that she had approached the Foundation, but they did not want to get involved in emergency fundraising. Foell said that she had established a fund last week, but that it would probably not raise enough.

Gromko said that Hofmann had been working with the students individually, but there were not many alternatives. Zongo asked why both sides couldn’t get together to fix the problem. Gromko said that they couldn’t agree on the basic facts. Baugher said that that some budget would have to pay. Foell said that she believed that verbal agreements had been made and that they should be honored. Gromko said that they had not been able to uncover any evidence of that. He said that he believed that they had honored all verbal and written agreements. Samel asked, then

why did the students come here; there should be some flexibility. Gromko said that the students had signed immigration documents saying that they had the necessary finances. Evans spoke in favor of endorsing the letter.

Williams recognized Waynick, who yielded to Ms. Shannon Thompson, who spoke on behalf of the students. She said that she had seen the students' I-20 forms and thought these did bind the institution. Gromko said that the I-20 form is not a contract. Muego said that consular officials do not issue visas if there is not evidence of financial support so that the person does not become a "public charge." The fact that they were allowed in shows that they were judged to be solvent. Evans said that verbal contracts are binding. Gromko said that he believed that there was no implied contract. Satisfying the claims of these students would not be fair to other needy students and was not fiscally responsible.

Williams asked if anyone was speaking against endorsing the letter. Zongo said that she was not speaking for or against but that we needed to fix the problem. Williams said that the letter was asking Cartwright to fix the problem. Paper ballots were distributed, and the motion to endorse the letter to Cartwright passed with 41 in favor, 15 opposed and 3 abstentions.

Nttf Proposal

A proposal drafted by the Senate officers to use three of the *ex officio* seats provided for in the *Charter* for the purpose of seating representatives from nttf on Senate [IV.A]. Evans moved, Muego seconded to refer the proposal to ABC and FWC with three concerns: that officers should not make motions, that the *Charter's* use of "*ex officio*" was not consistent with *Robert's Rules of Order*, and that the *Charter* should be amended to explain how the nttf senators would be elected. Shields made a parliamentary inquiry as to whether the officers may make proposals. Pauken read from the *Charter* at IV.D.2 a): Officers of the Senate; Functions: "They shall recommend to the SEC the agenda for Faculty Senate meetings." Pauken concluded that the officers may make proposals. Williams said that SEC had approved this for the Senate agenda. Evans said that the discussion had been very brief. Blair asked whether this impacted her proposal to be presented to Senate in January. Williams said it did not. The motion to refer passed by a show of hands 34 in favor and 9 opposed.

ADJOURNMENT

Williams adjourned the meeting at 4:25 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard Hebein
Secretary