

**SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**January 26, 2010  
2:30 p.m.**

**Senate Conference Room  
140 McFall Center**

**PRESENT:** Kris Blair, Michelle Brodke, Dwayne Gremler, Jackie Leclair, Sundeep Mutgi, Ron Shields, Carl Walling, Ellen Williams (Cindy Bertelsen-substitute for Judy May; Paul Cesarini-substitute for Terry Herman)

**ABSENT:** Judy Adams, Jim Evans, Terry Herman, Judy Jackson May

**CHAIR'S REPORT:**

Senate Chair Ron Shields opened the meeting at 2:30 p.m. and asked for Senate Executive Committee members to introduce themselves since there were some new faces at the table. Shields indicated that he would delay his comments as Chair since they primarily addressed the topic under New Business dealing with Faculty Senate involvement in the Master Plan. Shields asked Carl Walling to address the SEC with his announcement regarding the Haiti Relief Effort sponsored by Graduate Student Senate and Undergraduate Student Government.

**GSS and USG Sponsored Haiti Relief Effort**

Walling asked for Faculty Senate assistance in collecting goods for victims of the earthquake in Haiti. GSS and USG will be collecting: canned food, diapers, disposable hand wipes, baby care items, purchased bottled water, paper towels and toilet paper. These items will be received at the GSS/USG Student Government Office at 402 Bowen-Thompson Student Union between January 28, 2010 and February 19, 2010.

**Committee on Academic Affairs Report on Name Change of Firelands Associate Degree**

Shields reported that he had received a memorandum (January 20, 2010) from Dave Border, Chair of Committee on Academic Affairs (CAA) in which Border reported that CAA had supported the Undergraduate Council recommendation to change a Firelands-based associate degree name change from the current title of "Health Information Technology" to "Health Information Management Technology." Shields noted that he had discussed this change with the Senate Officers (Blair and Williams) and they had agreed that it constituted a minor change and did not need to come before Senate. He was sharing the memo as a point of information for SEC.

**NTTF and the 25% Rule**

Shields reported that he had received a memo from Gary Lee, Chair of Sociology regarding the December 8, 2010 Senate Executive Committee minutes reporting a discussion on NTTF and the 25% rule. Lee felt that the minutes were not completely clear regarding the Charter ruling on the limitation of number/percentage of NTTF that can be hired. Lee pointed out that the 25% limit cited in the Charter refers to the number

of lecturers or continuing NTTF. He further noted that there is no limit on the number of instructors (“fixed-term” instructors) a unit can have. Shields noted that the Senate officers had already discussed this and were already aware of and agreed with the interpretation that Lee had forwarded to the Senate Chair regarding the Charter information on the 25% rule pertaining to NTTF hiring. Blair and Williams suggested that this be a continued topic of discussion for SEC/ VPAA.

### **Severe Weather Policy**

Shields shared that Rebecca Ferguson (Human Resources) has asked SEC to respond to a Severe Weather draft policy regarding university procedures to be used in the event of inclement weather. Shields indicated that as soon as he received the draft policy, he would include it in an SEC agenda. Williams commented that the draft policy should also be brought to the Tri-Chair Constituent Group (Administrative Staff, Classified Staff and Faculty Senate) since they had been instrumental in raising issues and making recommendations regarding this policy. Shields agreed.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

None

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### **Request from University Library Employees Regarding University Furloughs**

Chair Shields reviewed a letter that had been sent to Senate Executive Committee from Chris Miko and Linda Brown from the Library Faculty. The letter was requesting Senate support for their request to exempt library faculty on 12 month contracts who were participants in the 2009/2010 furlough program at BGSU. Williams noted that there were other faculty at the university who were also on 12 month contracts. Blair noted that the memo from the Library asked for Senate to support their request but that the request really should be spelled out in greater detail in a written report or resolution. Shields agreed and asked Williams to notify Miko and Brown that they needed to place their request in a resolution format and send it to SEC. Shields also suggested that SEC could develop a “Will of the SEC Statement” governing future procedures to use in implementing any further furlough programs. This Will of the SEC Statement would recommend that in the event of future reductions of employee salaries at BGSU, that Administration consult with constituent leaders/groups (Faculty Senate, Classified Staff, Administrative Staff, Deans). Michelle Brodke moved and Jackie Leclair seconded that SEC compose this Will of the SEC Statement. Shields agreed to draft this “Will of the SEC Statement” and to disseminate it to SEC members for feedback. Motion was approved.

#### **Request for a Charter Interpretation on Whether a Program Can Have Tenure Track Positions**

Shields shared communication (December 22, 2009) from Paul Moore, Director of the Honors Program requesting an interpretation of the Charter as to what constitutes an academic tenuring unit. Blair suggested that SEC get the opinion of VPAA Borland. Shields indicated that he would invite Paul Moore to a future SEC meeting to address this request. Williams suggested that SEC get a legal opinion from the university counsel.

Blair indicated that it would be good to find out what the role is of Honors Programs at other universities across the country. Are they tenuring units? Blair expressed concern that a program like the Honors Program really is not geared to evaluate the tenure of faculty from specific disciplines. Shields suggested that this Charter Interpretation be deferred until Paul Moore presents his request to SEC at an upcoming SEC meeting. Gremler asked what the purpose of Moore's presentation would be. Would it be expected that he would come to SEC and make a presentation to sell his own interpretation of the Charter? Williams indicated that the Charter (Article XIII, Section C- Interpretations of the Charter) provides opportunity for any member of the University Council to request a charter interpretation. The procedures for Charter Interpretation are clearly spelled out.

(Insert)

#### SECTION C: INTERPRETATION OF THE CHARTER

A written request for interpretation of this Charter shall be brought directly to the Chair of the Senate by any council, committee, office, or individual member of the University Community. The Chair of the Senate shall provide a copy of the written request to the Provost/VPAA. A request for interpretation shall be discussed by the SEC in consultation with the President. An opinion as to the proper interpretation, based on a majority vote of the President and the members of SEC, shall prevail. The opinion so rendered shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Faculty Senate to the person(s) making the request, to the Provost/VPAA, and to the Committee on Amendments and Bylaws, which shall take appropriate action in amending the Charter and/or communicating such interpretation to the Faculty Senate and/or the faculty.

Shields noted that he would invite Moore to present his request for Charter Interpretation at the next SEC meeting.

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

##### **Faculty Senate Involvement in Master Plan Discussions**

Shields noted that he has been representing Senate and attending the Master Planning meetings this year. He provided an update on the plans for new buildings, the plans for new learning community centers, and the capital renovation of existing buildings on campus. Shields is concerned that we need to reemphasize that "academics" are central to any future planning or renovations at BGSU. He wants to ensure that there is faculty input on prioritizing how to use limited resources to engage in Master Planning and any future building. The academic mission should be the driving force for future building at BGSU. Leclair noted that the buildings on campus are not only important for student recruitment but also important for faculty retention. Shields made a motion that there be a "Will of the SEC Statement" encouraging that the Master Planning Committee engage in capital planning by focusing on the university's academic mission. Gremler seconded. Motion was approved. Walling and Mutgi noted that GSS and USG would support such a resolution or plan. Shields will address this "Will of the SEC Statement" regarding an "Academic Focus for Master Planning" at the upcoming Faculty Senate meeting.

## **ISSUES AND CONCERNS**

### **Print Responsibly**

Gremler reminded SEC that he had made a recommendation that we put the SEC agenda up electronically/PowerPoint on the Conference Room Wall for our SEC meetings. Ellen will notify Pam that we should institute this procedure for the next SEC meeting and SEC/VPAA meeting.

### **Ice Arena Advisory Committee**

Walling requested assistance in getting a meeting going for the Ice Arena Advisory Committee since it has not met for the past two years. Blair indicated that she would work on the matter to see that a meeting is held.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Shields adjourned the meeting at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Ursula Williams  
Secretary, Faculty Senate