

**SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

October 27, 2009  
2:30 pm

Senate Conference Room  
140 McFall Center

**Present:** Judy Adams, Kris Blair, Jim Evans, Dwayne Gremler, Terry Herman, Andy Kurtz, Jacqueline Leclair, Judy May, Ron Shields, Carl Walling, Ellen Williams

**Absent:** Sundeep Mutgi

**Guests:** Ken Borland, Vice President for Academic Affairs  
Patrick Pauken, Secretary to the Board of Trustees

**Chair's Report**

Shields opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda for the October 27, 2009 Senate Executive Committee.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Update on Faculty Misconduct Policy**

Shields reported that Faculty Welfare Committee was continuing to work with University Legal Counsel, Sean FitzGerald to revise the policy approved by Faculty Senate in May of 2009. Any changes will be brought back to Faculty Senate for approval, hopefully by the early part of 2009-2010.

**Update on Flexible Tenure Policy**

Although Faculty Senate had approved the Flexible Tenure Policy in May of 2009, there were some questions raised by University Legal Counsel. These questions will be addressed by the Faculty Welfare Committee. A revised version of the Flexible Tenure Policy will be brought to Faculty Senate by the Faculty Welfare Committee and the Amendments and Bylaws Committee, hopefully by the early part of 2009-2010.

**Update on the Faculty Senate 3% Merit Recommendation**

In the Fall of 2008, Faculty Senate approved a 3% Merit recommendation that provided for "one level of merit" (e.g. "meritorious") rather than "two levels of merit" (e.g. "meets expectations" and "exceeds expectations") in the event that faculty raises were 3% or less. The Board of Trustees has yet to act on this recommendation because they indicated they were waiting until the BOT Compensation Committee issued its report. That report was given at the last BOT meeting, but nothing in the report addressed any specific procedures for merit salaries. Shields indicated that President Cartwright has been notified by Senate Officers that Senate will again be bringing this recommendation to the Board of Trustees for action in the very near future.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **Electronic vs. Hardcopy Distribution of Senate Materials**

Shields indicated that Senate had received a request from Dr. Gary Silverman, who has been a strong advocate for enhancing environmental practices at BGSU. Silverman recommended that Senate could support the “Go Green” campaign by replacing hardcopy distribution of Senate materials with an electronic distribution of materials. Jim Evans made a motion that Senate begin electronic distribution of Senate materials. This would begin in Spring of 2010 and would be on a trial basis to be reevaluated at the end of the Spring Semester, 2010. Dwayne Gremler seconded. Motion was approved. Shields will announce this change in procedures at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

### **Senate Attendance Policies**

Williams reminded SEC that according to Article IV.E of the Charter, that if Senators missed two or more Senate meetings during an academic year, the Secretary for Faculty Senate would be notifying SEC. SEC would declare that Senate seat as vacant (Charter Bylaw H). Any Senator whose membership has been so terminated may appeal the ruling to the SEC within thirty days after notification and the SEC is authorized to issue attendance waivers for good cause. Williams alerted SEC that two Senators would be receiving letters due to absences of two Senate meetings.

### **School of Art Faculty Member Request for Charter Interpretation**

A faculty member in the School of Art contacted the Senate Chair to request a Charter Interpretation of B-I.C (p. 8/9). The faculty member received tenure but not promotion and expected that there would be a salary increment/ stipend to accompany the granting of tenure. (The faculty member came in at the Associate Professor level.) SEC discussion followed and there was some agreement that the charter appears to be silent on any remuneration based solely on the awarding of tenure. The charter speaks to salary increments based on promotion, but not on the awarding of tenure. Jim Evans suggested that the individual has a right to ask for a charter interpretation but that it needed to be done in the proper format with the specific part of charter which is to be interpreted. Kris Blair concurred. Shields indicated that he would notify the faculty member.

### **Honorary Degree**

Shields instructed SEC to turn to Honorary Degree materials provided to the members. These materials included the timelines and procedures for awarding of Honorary Degrees as well as the letter of nomination, the resume and letters of support for the nominee. Pat Pauken introduced the nomination to SEC on behalf of President Cartwright who submitted this nomination and on behalf of Marcia Latta who wrote a letter of support for this candidate. (Secretary’s note: The names of nominees are typically not included in the minutes of Senate proceedings.) Pauken indicated that today’s nomination is somewhat different in that it comes directly from the President and the procedures for Presidential nominees include approvals from the Honorary Degrees Committee (a University Standing Committee) and the Senate Executive Committee. Presidential nominees do not have to be approved by the full Senate. The President is allocated three honorary degree nominations per year. This nominee is being recognized for service to the university

community and the honorary doctorate that would be awarded would be a doctorate of public service. This nomination has already been approved by the Honorary Degrees Committee. Shields thanked Pauken for his presentation and asked SEC if there were any questions or issues related to the nomination. Kurtz moved that SEC approve the President's nomination for an honorary degree and Leclair seconded the motion. Motion was approved. Senate Secretary Williams will submit a letter of transmittal indicating the SEC vote to President Cartwright with cc's to VPAA Borland and to BOT Secretary Pauken.

### **Reconfiguration Discussions with VPAA Borland**

VPAA Borland reviewed a letter that his office sent out to the university community on October 26, 2009, regarding the status of current discussions (between the Deans and the Provost) on reconfiguration at BGSU. In this letter, Borland noted that the Deans had been discussing academic reconfiguration from February of 2009 through Fall Semester, 2009. What the Deans developed were several sketches of potential new organizational models at BGSU. These sketches were not intended to be proposals for reconfiguration, but rather talking points to begin university dialogue about reconfiguration. Borland also noted in his letter that the Academic Charter would guide any action related to reconfiguration at BGSU. Borland shared the "Deans' White Paper Regarding Academic Reconfiguration at BGSU (Fall, 2009)". In addition to the potential sketches of organizational models at BGSU (e.g. a Three College Model, Four College Model, Five College Model), the Deans identified the following eight academic themes that exist at BGSU and that could be used as a framework for discussions on reconfiguration:

- Math, Science and Technology
- Social and Behavioral Sciences
- Humanities (Communication and Media were merged with the Humanities)
- The Arts
- Education
- Health and Wellness
- Business
- Applied Management

Following Borland's presentation, Shields asked for discussion and comments from SEC. Evans asked if the purpose of the reconfiguration sketches were economic in nature. Would these models save money? Borland indicated that while economics was a factor in the Deans' recommendations, there were no figures indicating what specific cost savings might result with each of the models. Borland also shared that the Deans voiced some concerns about how resources are allocated at BGSU. The Deans stated in their "white paper" that "Changes in how we allocate resources at BGSU are necessary to fully realize any potential cost efficiencies or enrollment growth opportunities that could accrue from any of the...models." Evans restated that if there are no cost savings associated with these reconfigurations, then why are we even considering them. Williams echoed similar viewpoints noting that it had been her impression that the Deans would be looking at reconfiguration for the purpose of cost savings as well as for improving academic options at BGSU. She indicated that the Deans' White Paper has some valuable and interesting information in it, but it's not clear how it could be used as a "talking points" paper for potential reconfiguration discussions among personnel in the

university community. She feared that if the Deans' White Paper were disseminated to the university community in its present form, it might create greater anxiety since the "talking points" for reconfiguration are not clearly identified. Blair felt that disseminating the White Paper would be premature unless other decisions were made about the future continuation of current programs at BGSU. Evans indicated that in light of the current discussions about serious budget problems at BGSU, what people really want to hear is whether or not programs will be cut and whether faculty and personnel cuts might be made. Gremler stated that it's unclear as to what the real purpose is for these discussions on academic reconfiguration. If it's to address economic difficulties at BGSU, then it needs to be stated and the reconfiguration discussion points should focus on academic reconfiguration for cost savings. Williams asked Borland how it might be viewed by the university community if he did not disseminate the Deans' White Paper in its present form right now. Borland said that there were some good questions/ concerns raised by SEC regarding the Deans' White Paper and that he would have no problem indicating that some issues needed to be addressed prior to disseminating it. Williams asked if it might be possible for SEC to meet with the Deans to discuss the White Paper and to consider ways in which it might be used to generate discussions on reconfiguration in the university community. Borland thought that it would be a healthy opportunity for SEC and Deans to discuss reconfiguration, issues related to the White Paper, and to discuss strategies for opening dialogue on reconfiguration in the university community. Borland will arrange for the Deans to meet with SEC.

## **ISSUES AND CONCERNS**

### **Request for Charter Interpretation on the University Absence Policy for Students**

Carl Walling, President of the Graduate Student Senate indicated that he had notified Chair Shields in writing requesting a Charter Interpretation of Section B-II.G "Classroom Related Responsibilities." He noted that the student community is hearing reports of a small minority of instructors who are not permitting student absences without grade penalty, particularly in the cases of religious observance.

As we read the charter, it states the exceptions for student attendance policy "shall include cases of recognized weather emergency, excused absences for the observance of religious holidays and military call-up situations." GSS would like to clarify the charter's position on student absence in these three specifically mentioned cases. Kris Blair indicated that she appreciated the concerns being expressed in Walling's letter of request for a Charter interpretation, but felt that Walling needed to gather more data indicating how widespread this practice might be on campus. Walling indicated that there were about seven cases that had been brought to GSS. Shields indicated that he would submit Walling's request and letter to the Amendments and Bylaws Committee for further investigation.

**SENATE AGENDA**

Shields reviewed the agenda for the November 3, 2009 Faculty Senate meeting. The following speakers and topics have been scheduled:

Donna Wittwer & Becca Ferguson	“Health Insurance Update”
Bruce Edwards & Connie Molnar	“Center for Online & Blended Learning
VPAA Ken Borland	“Connecting the Undergraduate Experience (CUE) Committee Update (Chair, Cathy Cardwell)

**ADJOURNMENT**

Shields adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Ursula Williams,  
Secretary of Faculty Senate