

**SENATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

February 23, 2010
2:30 – 4:30 p.m.

Senate Conference Room
140 McFall Center

PRESENT: Judy Adams, Kris Blair, Michelle Brodke, Jim Evans, Dwayne Gremler, Terry Herman, Megan Fergusson (Substitute for Jacqueline Leclair), Judy May, Sundeep Mutgi, Ron Shields, Carl Walling

CHAIR’S REPORT:

Faculty Senate Chair Ron Shields opened the meeting at 2:30 p.m. and reviewed the SEC agenda for the February 23, 2010 meeting. He thanked Pam Pinson for taking the minutes for the SEC meeting on this day as the Faculty Senate Secretary, Ellen Williams, was on assignment at Keele University in England. Shields indicated that he had received an email from Ben Muego indicating that he was planning on retiring at the end of this academic year. He also noted that he would be on leave out of the country in Vietnam for the remainder of this academic year and unable to fulfill any Senate responsibilities, such as FPCC counsel. Shields had contacted Ted Rippey to move forward with committee membership and leadership of FPCC. Shields also updated SEC on the current status of the Flexible Tenure Policy. Shields noted that this policy had been approved by Faculty Senate in the 2008-2009 academic year but had not been sent to the Board of Trustees because it failed to address information from the Family Medical Leave Act. Faculty Welfare is working on revising this policy to bring it forward to SEC and Senate. Shields also reported out on the Faculty Misconduct and Discipline Policy. This policy also had been passed by the Faculty Senate last year (2008-2009) but was not taken to the Board of Trustees because University Legal Counsel had concerns about the Appeals Process outlined in the policy. This policy is also being reviewed by the Faculty Welfare Committee for revisions and submission to SEC and Faculty Senate.

OLD BUSINESS

Severe Weather Policy Feedback

Shields asked SEC for any feedback on the University’s Severe Weather Policy. Blair indicated that the current policy seems to be somewhat clear on several issues, such as “At what point should closure occur?” Mutgi and May indicated that there are problems for commuters when the university closure is announced later in the day because many of them are already on the way to the university. It was suggested that daily closures should occur by 6:00 a.m. and evening closures should occur by 2:00 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Diversity Network

Blair reported on a meeting held with President Cartwright and VPAA Borland on the topic of developing a Diversity Network at BGSU. Senate representatives were Kris Blair and Terry Herman. Blair reported that Cartwright and Borland had presented a number of agencies/ services/programs that would address diversity initiatives at BGSU. Herman noted that these groups would not form a committee but rather serve as a Diversity Network. Herman also noted

that community agencies would also be part of the Diversity Network. Blair indicated that the real purpose of the group was not identified. Herman felt that the formulation of such a network seemed to be exploratory in nature. Shields noted that this kind of network could identify the actions/issues/agenda needed to address a wide variety of diversity topics for the working group. Evans thought that such a network could benefit by ad hoc committees addressing certain issues. Some of the work might be assigned to existing Senate committees.

Request for Membership through Faculty Senate on University Committees

Shields noted that he had been contacted by individuals from Athletics and from Human Resources asking for a Faculty Senate representative to serve on some ad hoc university committees. One committee would be to address excused absences for athletes. Another committee would be to address potential changes in the Employee Fee Waiver. SEC discussed the process to be used in getting representatives to serve on such committees. It was decided that the Senate Chair would turn such requests over to the Vice Chair who would bring the request to Committee on Committees. Evans cautioned that we need to avoid endorsing ad hoc committees if the intended work/purpose of the committee is already being addressed by an existing Senate committee or a University Standing Committee. Judy Adams noted that the issue of excusing athletes from classes for engaging in athletic events has already been addressed by Committee on Academic Affairs.

Proposed Furlough Policy

Shields reminded SEC that the request for a proposed Furlough Policy was still not completed. SEC had requested a draft policy on "Furlough Policies" from VPAA Borland. SEC will remind Borland of that request.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Senate's Role in Shared Governance

Shields noted that the topic of the Senate's Role in Shared Governance was originally under Old Business on today's SEC agenda. Shields asked what comments SEC wanted to make about the issue of shared governance and Senate involvement. Blair felt that Senate needed to be more vocal about their role in shared governance. Shields noted that shared governance activities involving Senate included: Senate meetings; Senate Forums; Open Budget Hearings; Senate Officer Meetings with Administration; and working with the Board of Trustees. Evans noted that administration needs to share information with Senate, follow procedures that have been established by Senate, and request input and advice from Senate. In turn, Senate needs to provide effective input to the administration. He also stated that the administration needs to take the advice from Senate and consider the effectiveness of this advice. Evans believes that faculty need to have more discussions with administration regarding faculty salaries. He is also concerned that in some interactions between administration and faculty, the faculty are viewed as "the enemy." Blair indicated that the role of Senate should be to ask the administration the "tough questions." One concern that Blair has is whether or not there is a move on the part of administration to separate out the interests/inputs of Tenure Track Faculty and Non-Tenure Track Faculty. Evans voiced concern that the administration is not open to share all faculty viewpoints relative to collective bargaining, especially from a powerless group of faculty. Mutgi indicated that the USG has chosen to maintain a neutral position on the collective bargaining issue. Shields noted that Faculty Senate has also chosen to maintain a neutral stance on collective

bargaining. This is an attempt to keep the lines of communication open between faculty and administration regardless of whether or not the collective bargaining movement is successful. Shields thanked SEC for their discussion on Senate's role in shared governance.

SENATE AGENDA

The following topics will be addressed at the next Faculty Senate Meeting, March 2, 2010:

CUE Update – Catherine Cardwell, Interim Vice Provost for Academic Programs

Master Planning Committee Update- Steven Krakoff, Associate Vice President, Capital Planning and Design

ADJOURNMENT

Shields adjourned the meeting at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Ursula Williams/ Pam Pinson (Secretaries for Faculty Senate)