

**SEC/VPAA JOINT CONFERENCE
MINUTES**

March 16, 2010
2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Senate Conference Room
140 McFall Center

PRESENT: Judy Adams, Ken Borland, Michelle Brodke, Jim Evans, Dwayne Gremler, Terry Herman, Jackie Leclair, Judy May, Ron Shields, Carl Walling, Ellen Williams

CHAIR'S REPORT

Ron Shields, Senate Chair, acted as Chair for the SEC/VPAA meeting as Vice Chair, Kris Blair was out of town. Shields called the meeting to order at 2:30.

OLD BUSINESS

Flexible Tenure Policy

Shields indicated that the Flexible Tenure Policy (which had already been passed by Faculty Senate in November of 2008 and returned by Legal Counsel to Senate for reworking because it did not contain information in it about the Family Medical Leave Act) is being circulated to the Amendments and Bylaws Committee to determine if the policy changes are minor editorial changes or substantive content changes. As of this meeting time, we have not received any report from ABC. Shields indicated that he was hopeful of getting this policy approved by the end of the academic year.

Faculty Misconduct and Discipline Policy

The Faculty Misconduct and Discipline Policy is being reviewed again by Faculty Welfare Committee and Amendments and Bylaws Committee. Shields indicated that he was hopeful of getting this policy presented to Senate by the end of this academic year.

NEW BUSINESS

Reaction to the CUE (Connecting the Undergraduate Experience) Presentation

Ron Shields asked the SEC/VPAA members for their responses/reactions to the CUE presentation made at the March Faculty Senate meeting. Shields also noted that he was asking several Senators from different colleges/disciplines to respond to CUE with written White Papers at the April Senate meeting. The White Papers should include: Reactions to CUE; Role of Student Affairs in CUE; Visionary ideas to keep in CUE; Barriers to CUE; and Questions that CUE needs to address. Jim Evans suggested that the White Papers also address the "Resources Needed to Implement CUE." Shields asked the SEC members about their reactions to the CUE presentation. Brodke voiced concern over "student resistance" to potential changes that CUE might require. Adams voiced concern over how much has to be removed/cut to replace current curriculum with CUE curriculum. Williams noted that CUE would endorse team teaching and that many of our faculty at BGSU are not trained/prepared to team teach or co-teach. Brodke shared the concerns over team teaching and also noted that "ownership" of team taught courses would need to be worked out. Shields noted that the CUE presentation didn't seem to spell out the assessment process that would be used in implementing CUE. Brodke mentioned that while "writing across the curriculum" is important to include in all of our undergraduate coursework, but she also noted that in the College of Business, it is also important for students to provide oral

presentations across the curriculum. Shields indicated that written and oral literacy would be an ideal outcome for CUE. Evans and Brodke questioned how the CUE program would meet the needs of “undecided students”, transfer students and nontraditional students. Another question was raised about how CUE would mesh with accreditation requirements. Williams noted that there would have to be a resolution in colleges like Arts and Sciences where coursework is often used in a “double-dipping” process of meeting general education requirements and requirements of the major. Borland noted that perhaps that we (CUE) needs to move more toward “learning outcomes” rather than “course-based outcomes” or “credit-based outcomes” in order to facilitate assessment procedures and to meet accreditation requirements. Evans indicated that he would have no problem if CUE used “learning outcomes” but the issue remains as to who would determine which courses/learning outcomes would be acceptable. He noted that on a comparative note, that there is current disagreement/resentment over the decisions made by the BG Perspectives Committee as to which courses can count as a “BG Perspectives” course. Borland noted that the CUE program has not yet discussed with administration how the CUE program would be organized to accommodate for team teaching, accreditation questions, course decisions, workloads, etc. May spoke favorably about CUE’s proposition about co-teaching. It may be a great idea, but it is difficult to achieve and get “buy in” from faculty. From her experience as a school administrator, she found that teachers may buy into concepts like “co-teaching” as long as they don’t have to change their approaches. Walling wanted to know how CUE would impact Graduate Students. He also voiced concern over the lack of apparent “cornerstones” for the CUE program. What is involved in the CUE program that will make it a unique learning experience for students? How will it be different from other universities? What will BGSU students get from taking the CUE program? Walling noted that the “Proof is in the Pudding” and that CUE needs a cornerstone to market its program. Shields noted that he sees the drivers for the cornerstone for CUE including the following: Centers of Excellence; Emphasis on Diversity; and Hands on/Virtual/Experiential Learning and Application and Preparation for Global Citizenship. Evans noted that the cornerstone should be focused on something you can explain very simplistically and not include a laundry list of whatever comes along. Evans proposed that the focus be Preparation for Global Citizenship. Williams concurred noting that students should be able to see the relevance of taking their coursework. She felt that CUE could provide the “glue” that holds students’ undergraduate experience together and provides focus and application in “Preparation for Global Citizenship.” Currently, many of our students don’t see the relevance of taking certain general education courses in the context of their majors. CUE could provide the cornerstone of focus for their general education coursework. May agreed that there needs to be a very specific focus or cornerstone for CUE. Leclair voiced her concern that CUE should focus on “critical thinking” and “reflective thinking.” Borland indicated that an upcoming CAA meeting will also allow for further discussion on what the next steps for CUE will be. He noted that regardless of the next steps for CUE, it should be considered as an opportunity for curriculum development and faculty development.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Chairs’ Stipends

Ron Shields provided a handout/ report compiled by Gary Lee and a committee (Administrative Stipend Policy Committee) that he worked with on the current status of how Chairs’ stipends are handled at the university (May 13, 2008). Shields noted that prior to December 2009, Chairs’ stipends were included as part of base salary. Since December, 2009, Chairs’ stipends are not

included as part of base salary. Shields supported the report compiled by Lee noting that it should not be to a faculty member's detriment to serve as Chair. If the university wants to cultivate good administrative leadership among its Chairs, it should provide incentives, not disincentives, for faculty members to take on leadership roles. Shields asked that Borland investigate this situation and respond back to SEC/VPAA.

Faculty Senators Involvement on Senate Committees

Shields voiced concern over the lack of involvement on the part of Faculty Senators on Senate Committees. Shields indicated that he would like to see all Senators serve on one or two additional Senate Committees. Evans suggested that the welcoming letter to new Senators include such an invitation for greater participation on Senate Committees. Borland suggested an orientation meeting for all new Senators that would explain the different committees and encourage Senator participation on the committees. Evans also indicated that Committee Chairs should become more engaged in recruiting members for their committees. Evans noted that we elect our committees before we really know who our new Senators are. Evans asked if we could elect our new Senators in February and then vote on Senate Committees in March or April. If a special election is needed to fill committees, it could be held in September. This would avoid having Committee on Committees make one year appointments to Senate Committees. This recommendation will be passed on to the new Senate Chair, Kris Blair.

ADJOURNMENT

Shields adjourned the SEC/VPAA meeting at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Ursula Williams
Secretary, Faculty Senate