

**SEC/VPAA JOINT CONFERENCE
MINUTES**

April 13, 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, Tom Rosenkranz for Jackie Leclair, Judy May, Ron Shields, Carl Walling, Ellen Williams

Guests: Dan Caldwell (new Vice President for Undergraduate Student Government)

CHAIR'S REPORT:

Vice Chair Kris Blair asked each member of SEC to introduce themselves for any visiting members. Kris then turned the meeting over to Old Business.

OLD BUSINESS:

Enrollment Update

Blair asked the VPAA to provide an update on enrollment statistics for BGSU. Borland indicated that there appears to be a slight decline in summer school enrollment. One potential reason is that the earlier students enroll in summer courses, the earlier they will be billed. There is some indication from students that they defer summer school registration in order to defer billing. The Provost's Office will be investigating this potential barrier for early enrollment. Borland shared some of the following enrollment figures from Alberto Colom:

We are up over 23% in campus visits at the same time this past year.

Prospects for freshmen are up 57%.

Applicants are up 33%.

Ohio applicants are up 26%.

Out of State applicants are up 66%.

African American applicants are up 92%.

Hispanic applicants are up 63%.

Transfer applicants are up 36%.

International freshmen applicants are up 42%.

Honors applicants are up 85%.

Housing deposits are up 26% from the same time this past year.

Graduate enrollment is down for Summer and Fall.

Borland indicated that overall, we have the highest number of applicants recorded in the history of BGSU. Williams asked if these applicants materialize into actual enrollments, will we have adequate faculty to teach this increased enrollment? Borland replied that if the enrollment is increased that tuition generated dollars would follow that increase and be used to hire adequate numbers of faculty. Deans have been told by the VPAA that if they have current vacant faculty lines, and if they have the money available for hiring and sustaining those faculty lines, that they should go forward in starting the search for tenure track lines. Blair asked about the potential of replacing faculty if there are enrollment spikes in certain units. Borland indicated that there would be a process of prioritizing top needs but also noted that if there were replacements of faculty, that it might be accomplished initially by replacements with NTTF faculty.

CUE Update

Blair noted that Faculty Senate was still seeking white papers to be written by invitees on their opinion/questions regarding the CUE project. Blair asked Williams to report on CUE activities. Williams reminded the SEC that CUE is a project attempting to Connect the Undergraduate Experience (through coursework, living arrangements, student services, internships, service activities, etc.). It could be considered as a replacement for the current General Education Program for undergraduates. The CUE Committee is in the process of developing its own white papers attempting to make the CUE process more concrete and to indicate what the next steps might be in implementing CUE at the undergraduate level. CUE will need to address a number of questions before it is put into a final draft of the CUE proposal. The proposal would have to go through review by the Undergraduate Council and Committee on Academic Affairs before it could be brought to Senate Executive Committee and before Faculty Senate. Williams noted that there was discussion about using some pilot programs to implement the CUE project on a small scale initially. Borland reported that the CUE Committee would be meeting with Keeling and Associates on April 21 and 22 to focus on "Change Management." Borland believes that CUE has to move to a concrete proposal in order for faculty to respond in a concrete manner. Williams noted that another issue that CUE has to grapple with is "What makes CUE at BGSU a unique program for undergraduate students?" "What is the cornerstone for CUE?" "Why should undergraduate students consider coming to BGSU to engage in CUE?" Borland concurred.

Faculty Misconduct and Discipline Policy Update

Blair indicated that at the last Faculty Senate meeting, the most recent Faculty Misconduct and Discipline Policy that had been endorsed by the Senate Executive Committee was sent back by Faculty Senate to the Faculty Welfare Committee for review and modifications especially in the area of the Appeals Process. Blair's goal for next year will be ensure that legal issues are addressed in the policy as well as faculty rights. She plans to work closely with FWC, Legal Counsel, and Faculty Senate committees like SEC to promote the passage of this policy. Shields reminded SEC/VPAA that the Faculty Welfare Committee is an advisory group to Senate Executive Committee. FWC may make recommendations and modify the policy but it will still be the role of SEC to review the final policy and forward it to Senate for a vote. Williams affirmed that one of the primary problems cited in faculty senate discussion on the policy was under the Appeals Process because there was no mention or use of the Faculty Personnel Conciliation Committee process. Blair also noted that some of the language in the policy such as "factual conclusions" needs to be reworked.

Flexible Tenure Policy

Blair reported that the Senate officers would be meeting with two members of Amendments and Bylaws to assist them in reviewing the Flexible Tenure Policy and to put it into "charter-ready language." Shields indicated that he was hopeful that the Flexible Tenure Policy could be ready for an SEC review and a potential vote at the May 4, 2010 Faculty Senate meeting. Blair affirmed that it was a possibility that the Flexible Tenure Policy might be brought to the May Senate meeting, since it was only two pages long. Shields also noted that it appeared to be less contentious than the Faculty Misconduct and Discipline Policy.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget Hearings

Borland discussed the budget hearings, noting that they had been going well and that the Deans had been doing a great job in presenting their budget requests. He indicated that his top priority for budget considerations will be faculty salary increases. Blair asked if there was a

consideration of salary increments, would there be differentiated salary increases for faculty, classified and administrative staff? Borland responded that this might happen but his primary focus would still be to promote salary increments for faculty. Brodke noted that while she felt that it was important at Firelands to consider faculty salary increments as a priority, it would also be important to consider classified and administrative staff salary increments in order to promote greater supports for retaining students. Borland concurred. Gremler asked if there were any more discussions about reorganization and how reorganization might impact the budget. Borland indicated that there were still some discussions regarding potential reconfiguration, but a number of suggested reconfigurations will not really save that much money in the long run.

Presidential Search

Pat Pauken, Secretary to the Board of Trustees, sent the Senate a request for nominations for faculty members of the Presidential Search Committee. Blair asked if any members of SEC/VPAA might be interested in serving on the committee or if they had recommendations for other faculty who might be nominated for the committee. If so, she asked for names to be submitted by April 16, 2010. This pool of faculty names will be forwarded to the Board of Trustees for consideration. Borland indicated that the Chair of the Presidential Search Committee will be Board of Trustee Member, William Primrose.

North Central Update

Borland reported that BGSU will be undergoing an accreditation review by the North Central Association Higher Learning Commission in the Spring of 2013. BGSU has been asked to participate in a "Pathways Project," which is an experimental review project. There are only fourteen universities in the region which have been invited to participate in this experimental review project. As part of this experimental review process, the university will focus on those areas they deem important for BGSU, rather than completing a comprehensive self study of all programs at the university, which typically has been done every ten years. Borland indicated that the primary focus will be out of our Strategic Plan "Charting Our Future." In particular, we will focus on... Strategy #1: The Undergraduate Curriculum/Experience (CUE) and Strategy#2: The Enrollment Management Recruitment and Retention of Students. All preparations for the review have to be done by Fall of 2012. The North Central Higher Learning Commission was very pleased to learn that over 800 people had worked on the Strategic Plan and that a large number of people have worked on the Enrollment Management Plan. Borland indicated that he still had concerns for strengthening the Assessment Program on campus and Institutional Research data collections and reports. Williams asked if Borland, in addition to the North Central Review, planned on reinstating the Program Review process that has been put on suspended status for the past several years. Borland indicated that he believed that self studies and program reviews are important processes to maintain and improve our university programs. He stated that there would be continued dialogue and deliberation to determine if the Program Review process would be reinstated. Blair asked if the Compact Process or Assessment Program would continue or would be used to review programs/ units. Borland indicated that these would be used in future planning and reviews.

Parking Update

Blair indicated that Senate had received a request from CFO Stoll for Art Samel, Chair of the University Parking Advisory Committee, to speak to Faculty Senate at their May meeting regarding changes to the parking fee structure. Blair indicated that it was her understanding that there would be a proposed fee for faculty and staff for parking during the next academic year. She indicated that the same amount of money would be added to the base salary of faculty to

offset this parking fee. Gremler wondered why they would use this procedure. Brodke asked if this would apply to the Firelands Campus. Jackson May asked if this was in any way connected to the Shuttle Bus fees for students. Walling indicated that students had been told since there was an enrollment increase, there would no longer be a fee added on to the student tuition costs/general fees, but rather the monies would be coming from the incoming class. Shields said that he didn't understand why this parking fee policy wasn't being routed through the typical committees such as Faculty Welfare Committee, Faculty Senate Budget Committee, or Senate Executive Committee. How is this parking issue any different than the Dependent Fee Waiver Policy? Blair concurred that this was a good question. She further stated: "When do faculty have the right to vote on benefits and when do faculty not have the right to vote on benefits?" Shields noted that our Charter doesn't help us navigate through these murky issues. He suggested that SEC take up the issue of clarifying the Charter on these issues next year.

Stipend Integration Policy for Chairs and Directors Update

Blair asked Shields to address the Stipend Integration Policy for Chairs and Directors. Shields reminded SEC about the report from Gary Lee that had been previously reviewed by SEC. This report was asking for a review of the changed policy for integrating stipend integration for Chairs/Directors into their base salary. This was a procedure that had been used in prior years, but was rescinded under Provost Baugher. Shields noted that by eliminating the practice of integrating stipends into base salaries for Chairs/Directors, it is possible that we might be losing incentives for faculty to serve in these administrative positions. Borland indicated that he would be investigating this report/policy/practice.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

Faculty List Proc

Blair noted that the current Faculty Discussion Group listproc is not a Faculty Senate list proc. Faculty Senate only took this on as a courtesy when Executive Vice President Linda Dobb left the university. Faculty Senate agreed to assist faculty in subscribing and being removed from the list proc. Blair asked if we need to have clarification about the responsibilities of Faculty Senate as "owner"/ "manager" of the Faculty Discussion Group listproc.

ADJOURNMENT

Blair adjourned the meeting at 4:10 pm.

Respectfully submitted

Ellen Ursula Williams
Secretary, Faculty Senate