

PRESIDENT'S PANEL MINUTES

April 15, 2010
2:30 p.m.

Chart Room
McFall Center

Present: Carol Cartwright (President), Ken Borland (Vice President for Academic Affairs), Edward Whipple (Vice President for Student Affairs), Kris Blair (Vice Chair of Faculty Senate), Lorrie Sawaie (Classified Staff Council), Faith Olson (Classified Staff Council), Sara Jo Zulch-Smith (Administrative Staff Council), Tony Short (Administrative Staff Council), Carl Walling (Graduate Student Senate), Sundeep Mutgi (Undergraduate Student Government), Kevin Basch (Undergraduate Student Government), Ellen Williams (Secretary, Faculty Senate)

CALL TO ORDER

President Cartwright called the meeting to order and disseminated questions that had come from President's Panel participants in advance.

The following issues were discussed.

Presidential Search Update

President Cartwright reported that members of the President's Search Committee would be announced within the next few weeks. Board of Trustees member, William Primrose will be Chair of the Presidential Search Committee. She noted that the new President would be acting under the current Strategic Plan for Bowling Green State University.

Enrollment Update

Freshmen applications from Ohio are up by 33% at the same time last year. Out-of-state applications are up 16.9%. There is an expectation of 500 more students for this year than we had last year. Borland indicated that in order to accommodate this enrollment increase, money from central administration would be made available to hire the faculty needed for the increased enrollment.

Possible Tuition Increase

State policy allows up to a 3.5% tuition increase for public universities.

Academic Reconfiguration

Borland indicated that reconfiguration discussions would become realignment discussions for "in college" changes. Further discussions should take place within each college.

Staffing Issues and University Early Separation Program

With the reduction of staff due to the UESP, many of the positions will not be replaced. This is in an effort to save money for the university. The Provost has made commitments about the replacement of faculty. All positions will be documented to show the final decisions.

Budget Update

Cartwright indicated that we are working to balance the budget for the next fiscal year (FY11). For the next two years (FY12 and FY13), we may be dealing with a significant reduction of state support for higher education. The university is modeling approaches to increase faculty salaries in the FY11 budget.

Future of Graduate Programs

Borland noted that he was in the process of redefining the administrative organization in the Provost's Office. This may impact the future design of the Graduate College.

Master Plan Update

Town Hall meetings will be held to discuss the future of the Master Plan for BGSU. The Town Hall meetings will be held in the Bowen-Thompson Student Union Theater on the following days:

April 24 (3:00-4:30)

April 27 (5:30-7:00)

There will be discussion on the traditional four zones of the university and plans for the next two decades for building and maintenance at BGSU.

Parking Fees

Currently Parking Fees are paid out through each department. Future plans are being discussed to assess each employee \$120 annually for parking fees. This same amount of money would be added to base salaries of employees and the parking fee could be paid with pre-tax dollars which would be a net increase. The university is in the process of hiring a new manager for Parking Services.

Staff Morale

Olsen asked what the administration might do to address the increased workloads due to staff reductions. She also noted that staff morale is extremely low. After further discussion, the issue was re-framed in terms of employees feeling that they do not get guidance from supervisors about how to re-organize work to focus on priorities. Cartwright indicated that this is a topic that she has been discussing with the cabinet. Priorities and new responsibilities should be discussed with department heads. This information will be communicated within all units across campus.

Incentives to Draw New Students

OREG has been re-designed as a one-day program. This will result in a cost savings to the university and to families of prospective students. New residence halls are to be opened in the fall of 2011.

Changes to Fee Waiver Policy

Cartwright reported that changes to the current Fee Waiver Policy have been approved by Classified Staff and Administrative Staff. These changes will increase benefits relative to the Dependent Fee Waiver. Williams noted that Faculty Senate is in process of bringing this issue to the May Senate meeting for a vote. One of the primary changes will be offering the fee waiver upon employment rather than waiting for three years of employment prior to access.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Ursula Williams
Secretary of Faculty Senate