

SEC/VPAA JOINT CONFERENCE MINUTES

September 8, 2009
2:30 p.m.

Senate Conference Room
140 McFall Center

PRESENT: Judy Adams, Kris Blair, Ken Borland, Jim Evans, Dwayne Gremler, Terry Herman, Andy Kurtz, Jacqueline Leclair, Judy Jackson May, Sundeep Mutgi, Ron Shields, Carl Walling, Ellen Williams

CHAIR'S REPORT

Vice Chair Blair called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm.

Introductions were made of SEC/VPAA Conference members.

Blair asked if VPAA Borland would like to open with a few remarks. Borland said he was pleased to be a part of BGSU and the SEC/VPAA Conference group. He encouraged continued collaboration between administration and faculty in order to work toward more effective shared governance.

OLD BUSINESS

None

NEW BUSINESS

Caps on Class Sizes

Blair asked Judy Adams to share information regarding a meeting held between the Committee on Academic Affairs and the University Registrar, Chris Cox to discuss the policies for capping class sizes. Adams noted that it appears that cap sizes that had been set for certain courses by faculty or departments or colleges were not always being honored. She indicated that it appeared that the Registrar's Office was admitting students in some classes beyond the caps that had been previously established. Cox had indicated that he was not aware that anyone in the Registrar's Office had admitted students beyond the established course caps. He indicated that he would investigate the situation with his staff. Several other SEC members raised concerns about the class caps issue including caps on BG EX, caps on lab programs where there is limited equipment, and caps on graduate level courses. Shields raised the issue of who should determine class caps and whether or not there should be a consistent policy used to establish such caps. Blair wanted to ensure that faculty would have some voice in course caps. Williams suggested that CAA work with the VPAA to further explore the issue of caps on class sizes. Shields thought that the issue might be resolved more effectively if it were handled at the Chair's or Director's levels. May and Evans voiced concern that there shouldn't be a uniform policy on caps, because of the individual differences in programs. Both agreed that the issue should be dealt with at the Chair's and Director's levels. Borland indicated that he agreed that the problem needed to be investigated through the Registrar's Office.

He also indicated that he would be discussing the issue with the Deans to determine if they had any college policies regarding cap sizes on classes.

Faculty Furloughs

Due to recent economic concerns that have led to faculty furloughs, there have been a number of concerns and questions voiced by faculty. Blair questioned how faculty furloughs were determined. Who made the decision? Who determined how long the furloughs would be? Who determined which employees would be furloughed? How much money would be saved? Evans indicated that Faculty Senate Budget Committee had not been involved in any discussions regarding the faculty furloughs. He noted that because the faculty furloughs constituted a change in a faculty contract, that there might be some legal implications and that it might be necessary to have amended contracts for all faculty who have been placed on furloughs. Evans further noted that any changes in contract status for faculty should be handled in discussions between the faculty member and the College Dean, not between the faculty member and Human Resources. He noted that the only role for HR with faculty should be benefits/ payroll and IRS changes. Adams noted that she is not a 12 month administrative faculty, but rather a 12 month teaching faculty. She questioned why 12 month teaching faculty were placed on furlough. Blair suggested that Borland investigate these issues related to faculty furloughs. Borland agreed to look into the faculty furlough issue.

Reconfiguration

Williams reported that Senate Officers had made presentations to the Deans and also to Chairs and Directors on the Charter policy governing reconfiguration at the university. There was discussion about the Deans having met with the former VPAA to develop some possible models for reconfiguration that faculty might review and discuss. Borland indicated that he was continuing to meet with the Deans to discuss their ideas on reconfiguration.

Strategic Initiatives and Compacts

Blair asked what role compacts would play in the Strategic Initiatives implementation. Borland indicated that he would like to see more compact information used in future resource planning. Some units have begun integrating the compact information into future budget and allocation requests. Blair suggested that there be more transparency of compacts by posting and disseminating the information in the compacts. Borland indicated that he has been given the charge of developing (by the end of October) a template for implementing the Strategic Initiatives. The student representatives on SEC would like to have more student involvement in the Strategic Initiatives process.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS

On-Line Course Evaluation

Carl Walling reported that some graduate representatives on GSS have voiced concern that not all distance education courses seem to have online evaluation procedures for students enrolled in the courses. Herman indicated that there is a group looking into the evaluation of online courses.

ADJOURNMENT

Blair adjourned the meeting at 4:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ellen Ursula Williams, Secretary