

PRESIDENT'S PANEL MINUTES

November 4, 2010
2:30 p.m.

Chart Room
McFall Center

Present: President Carol Cartwright, Dr. Kristine Blair: Faculty Senate, Dr. Ken Borland: Provost, Senior VPAA, Dr. Neal Carothers: Faculty Senate, Dr. Ed Whipple: VP Student Affairs, Dr. Terry Herman: Faculty Senate, Tony Short: ASC, Elizabeth Wood: Faculty, Connie Molnar: ASC, Steve Dinda: GSS, Faith Olson: CSC, Kevin Basch: USG, Karen Schwab: CSC

CALL TO ORDER

President Cartwright initiated introductions. She also indicated that many of the questions that had come from President's Panel participants in advance have been addressed in other venues during individual meetings with constituent groups over the last month.

The following issues were discussed.

What does a \$25 million dollar cut over two years mean to students and employees?

President Cartwright indicated at this point it is difficult to discuss specifics as we are at the beginning of the budget planning period for the next biennium. We've just had a new Governor elected and a budget announcement may not happen until mid-March. The Governor proposes and the General Assembly disposes. We know about some of the pronouncements that Governor-elect Kasich has made about tax cuts. Many think he will be very market driven which should position us well. The \$25 million is a straight calculation of our SSI minus 16.6% of federal stimulus funds; there is currently no plan to replace the stimulus money. Kasich has indicated he will not seek additional stimulus funds. We're beginning with this amount because this is the set of facts that are known. There are three ways to balance the budget... bring in more revenue, reduce expenses, or do both. We can't get to a 25 million dollar reduction just by adding more revenue and we can't do this just by reducing expenses. It will be a combination of both. Provost Borland: I think we'll also be looking at revenue generation. Not just through enrollment but also through strategic revenue generation. What we won't do is rely on one-time revenue influxes through the sale of property or other means. Wood: What about CUE? Will that be delayed for financial reasons? Provost Borland: No. We don't want to stop being who we are or doing what we need to do. People have asked about cutting academic programs. There is nothing on the table at this time. You cut academic programs because they aren't the quality you want. It takes years for a program to be closed. It's not an overnight solution to anything. We would look at program reductions for the right reasons, not because there is an economic crisis. The solutions won't be easy or painless. President Cartwright: It's likely to be felt everywhere in some way. The caution about one-time solutions is wise. As we have information, we will share that with

you. We have a good track record of getting communications to the community. There has been some interest expressed from Columbus about regulatory reform that could save us some money. Olson: I'd like to go back to the question of the \$25 million dollar cut over two years and what that might mean to students and employees for some clarification. You mentioned the Governor seems to be market driven. In some cases, market driven translates into outsourcing. I'm concerned that will become a trend. President Cartwright: We don't look at outsourcing as a major budget solution, we can partner with external vendors if they do something so much better than we do. In those cases we work with them to add value and save money. The print responsibly program has had a significant positive impact. Wood: We're thrilled with that initiative. All this business endorsed by the Chancellor, will that change? President Cartwright: We just don't know the answer to that at this time.

How much does the University expect to save by sweeping the carryover monies and what other options is the University considering to make up the \$6 million deficit?

President Cartwright indicated the \$6 million dollar deficit is due to the lapsed payment of SSI of next June. We won't be saving anything. We're compensating for the loss of expected revenue when that revenue is already allocated in the base budget. We'll need to recoup all of that money. We're not sweeping all of the carry forward. We're sweeping a relatively small percentage. It will impact different departments in different ways. Some have told us that they have vacancies they will choose not to fill for a while. They would rather use these dollars instead of the carry forward approach. It allows us to put this problem behind us and move on. If we have a pleasant surprise and that \$6 million materializes, we can make the necessary adjustment. We aren't looking at other strategies. The intent was to provide flexibility for the Deans and others. Blair: I have a follow up question. Now that we know how much has been swept can we expect those budget loads to go forward? President Cartwright: Yes. I'm really very pleased by the way the Deans and the Cabinet members stepped forward and moved this idea forward. Provost Borland: This was a productive process. We were able to discern where certain commitments were that we might not have been aware of and those that need to be kept. We found some monies that were not being utilized and they would not be. For instance, some startup monies that had not been spent for faculty who have already been tenured.

Budget Impact on Non-Tenure Track Faculty (NTTF)

Provost Borland indicated that in the question of budget impact on NTTF, in good times or bad, the answer needs to be the same. These positions are generally based on enrollment demand. As we are seeing enrollment increase, the additional revenue supports additional staff for teaching. If enrollment declines, we'd have to look at those positions again. It is enrollment driven. We hope to maintain close to the faculty to student ratio we currently have. We are looking at CUE with the new incoming class, as they will be the first class under CUE. We may have to adjust staffing based on enrollment of the incoming freshman class. Usually around commencement time in December, NTTF receive a letter about non-renewal. The Dean indicates that if there is a need, the contract will be renewed. Many good questions about enrollment management and instructional load will need to be on the table. We need to have very meaningful conversations with lots of faculty input, formally and informally. Blair: I think part of the

issue also includes the timeline. For fixed term contracts as opposed to continuing contracts, sometimes you can let those individuals know very early in this process. We're worried the renewal notices will come much later because of the budget process. President Cartwright: We did talk about this with GSS and USG. We were talking about converting NTTF to Tenure track faculty and in some cases that makes sense. But as an institution we need to maintain some flexibility.

What kind of budget expectation does the administration have now that the gubernatorial election is over? After Kasich's win, can you speculate about what will happen to the University System of Ohio?

President Cartwright said that it's really just too early to tell what impact the election outcome will have. Kasich announced his budget director, policy director, and chief of staff just yesterday. He's organized and these are people he has worked with before.

In your experience, how have Administrative Staff fared with regard to compensation and benefits while there is a large faculty employee union negotiating benefits?

President Cartwright: I'm not sure we can answer this today. Ken and I've each had experience in this regard but our experiences are quite different. For Ken it was a system wide negotiation. For me, at Kent State, it was a relatively smaller union of some staff and a larger faculty union. We have no idea what will happen here. We will address this issue as it begins to emerge. Provost Borland: It's a very good question. We don't know how those negotiations will play out.

Impact of Unionization on Charter

President Cartwright said she addressed this issue earlier this year at Faculty Senate and other venues. As we have more specific information available we will share it, particularly with Deans and Chairs. As a finer point of discussion, Chairs and Deans are management and we will talk to management. The BGSU-FA is the exclusive representative of the faculty. That is what the faculty voted for. Wood: I heard a rumor the Charter is no longer valid. President Cartwright: We will provide more specific information when we have it. The Charter is not part of Ohio law; it is our own Charter. Blair: I don't think the Senate has viewed it as Ohio law. We have viewed it as a guiding document for tenure and review and other academic matters. We want to know what sort of governance we will have between now and the acceptance of the first contract. We feel we need to have something. It is a question that will be asked over and over again in the coming weeks and months. It will not subside. President Cartwright: At this point, at this time, SERB has not formally certified the Union. Nothing will happen until that certification has been completed.

Graduate Fee Waivers

Provost Borland: Before I address fee waivers, if I could back up. You used the word rumors. This afternoon I received a call from a Dean about the carry forwards. The concern was that we'll sweep these carry forwards again later in the year so the message is to start spending. That is precisely what we had hoped would not happen. I don't know where that rumor came from. We have had no conversations about additional carry over

sweeping. It is a baseless rumor and we all need to continue to be good stewards of the resources we have. President Cartwright: One of the reasons we have the carryovers is that people are good stewards of the resources. It was a matter of significant discussion when we considered this source to address the shortfall. Provost Borland: I'd like to address where we are now in the process and over the next couple of weeks in regard to scholarships and stipends. Just recently the Graduate Council affirmed a policy with multiple points on decentralizing the dollars into the Colleges. The Deans expressed that they would like more authority over the spending and allocation of those dollars. We were able to work with the Deans to be sure that those dollars would be decentralized and they would have a say in how those dollars were allocated – providing more flexibility. Many more combinations are possible now. Some finer points relative to implementation will be shared this week. We'll share that with the Graduate Student Senate (GSS). The following Wednesday, we'll come to Cabinet with those finer points of implementation having been informed by GSS and the Deans. On the 19th I'll be visiting with the GSS to discuss this matter further. We're on target to get the dollars allocated prior to Thanksgiving. President Cartwright: The key change here is to decentralize to the units who know best what they need in their area of study. Putting the decision making closer to the knowledge of the discipline makes sense to us. Blair: Today Arts & Sciences were notified that these summer funds will come out of the 2011-2012 allocation. That has a number of significant consequences. If you front-load the allocation it allows you to do less in the academic year as we have continuing students. Another impact is on summer scheduling. For many, these classes have already been scheduled. It also impacts our ability to recruit if we need to continue to support ongoing students. Provost Borland: Who reported that? Blair: Associate Dean Klopfer reported it. This is the information we're getting. To put this in place for summer has a significant impact on graduate programs. President Cartwright: I'm sure this is something the Deans will discuss in their refinement discussions. Provost Borland: It is up to the departments to decide what they will do with these funds. Blair: Part of this is fear of the unknown. Olson: Another issue is we don't know who is in-state and who is out-of-state. The tuition component is uncertain because of that. It is problematic for us as well. Provost Borland: A lot of information has been centrally contained and not managed optimally. We're digitizing all of the graduate student information and that goes back as much as eight years. One of the things we'll talk about is residency status. We want to find a way to encourage U.S. domestic students who are out-of-state to establish residency in their first year. We're talking about this for new students. Continuing students will be held harmless relative to most of these policies. Information is key to helping this move forward. We think the first year will go fairly well; the second year will go better. Dinda: Tim Messer-Kruse indicated that current students are not guaranteed to be held harmless through this process. Provost Borland: For those dollars controlled by the Colleges, the students should be fine. For those being offered assistantships elsewhere on campus, outside of college control, there will be financial issues to be addressed. We know there are some special cases that we want to be smart about and sensitive to. I can't tell you the impact on any given case, but we're trying to be as kind to students on assistantships as possible. Dinda: Scholarships and stipends provided by the Colleges are the more secure then? Provost Borland: We'll be talking about the details in the days to come.

Carothers: Id' like to ask a follow-up question on the impact of unionization on the Charter. The administration will speak with the BGSU-FA as the only conduit about faculty issues. Is that also the policy in regards to purely academic concerns? President Cartwright: No. Thank you for asking to clarify that point; I was referencing issues in collective bargaining not academic issues.

President Cartwright wondered if everyone felt that these meetings, the President's Panel, were helpful. When this body was established there was not a tradition of meeting as we do now with each of the constituent groups. In the interest of preserving precious time, the question should be asked periodically. Everyone felt that this meeting was beneficial.

ADJOURNMENT

President Cartwright adjourned the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Terry Lee Herman
Secretary of Faculty Senate