

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

January 17, 2012
2:30 – 4:30 P.M.

Assembly Room
McFall Center

CALL TO ORDER: 2:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

Vice Chair, Dr. Earley, called the roll and announced a quorum.

Absent: Archer, Craigo, Fan, Labbie, Liu, Murnen, Oyer, Patterson (Sharon Subreenduth, Substitute), Rich, Terry-Fritsch, Post

Please note: Senators arriving after roll call should call their presence to the secretary's attention at the conclusion of the meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS

Chair of the Faculty Senate, Dr. Folkins

Greetings and best wishes for a successful Spring 2012 semester, including thanks to many faculty who volunteered for the Martin Luther King Day of service.

Today we will be conducting an election to replace Faculty Senate Secretary, Terry Herman, who served with distinction throughout the Fall 2011 term. We appreciate her stellar service and will miss her as she undertakes new responsibilities at Zane State College in Zanesville, OH.

President Mazey

Activities Dr. Mazey noted as a highlight of current activities, she has visited all but about 6 academic departments to date.

State Budget Notable budget news includes 1) that a capital bill is expected to come forward from the next legislative session and 2) that Governor Kasich has indicated strategic rather than formulaic allocations as a basis for the forthcoming capital budget. BGSU expects to receive approximately the same amount of funding.

BGSU Priorities 1) The focus on improving the undergraduate experience continues. 2) Strategies are being developed to extend the excellent town/gown relationship that campus enjoys with the City of Bowling Green and the region.

BGSU's Aspirations Some desirable future enhancements of University operations include increasing the following: scholarships, fellowships, and internship opportunities for students; international student enrollment; online course offerings; and a closer relationship with community colleges (2 plus 2 programs).

Provost/VPAA, Dr. Rogers

Activities Dr. Rogers plans to begin a round of visiting academic units and engaging unit faculty and staff in small group discussions "to better understand the faculty's concerns and also to better understand the many opportunities that exist for BGSU".

Academic Priorities Six overarching priorities set by the Provost and the deans were reported at a previous Senate meeting. Dr. Rogers gave updates on three of them:

- Undergraduate educational reform incorporating the principle of continuous improvement. He noted that feedback received from over 550 faculty responding to the latest proposal for accomplishing such reform will be posted on BlackBoard.
- Recruitment and retention efforts featuring analysis of challenges that students face, specifically what he sees as “...our need to enhance the academic culture, begin to incrementally increase admission standards and address various policies and procedures that are not necessarily enhancing the academic educational experience but are hindering student’s success.”
- The Graduate education strategic planning that is proceeding under Interim Dean Ogawa’s leadership. The Provost expects to share results with Graduate Council, CAA, and Faculty Senate Spring of 2012 at its anticipated completion.

Conclusion Noting the very full agenda of tasks to be addressed this semester, he affirmed that, “All of us in the Provost’s Office look forward to working with you to move our University forward”.

Graduate Student Senate Representative - Mr. Ratliff for Mr. Sleasman

Graduate Senate hopes that all Faculty Senate representatives will respond to the Snap survey about the future of graduate education at BGSU and will encourage their constituents to do so as well.

Undergraduate Student Government Representative – Ms. Ancinec

Ms. Ancinec restated her willingness to hear and address any undergraduate student issues and concerns referred to her or USG.

Retiree Representative – Dr. Lundy

Dr. Lundy gave a brief report.

REPORTS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES

Committee on Academic Affairs – Dr. Border

Nothing to report.

Amendments and Bylaws Committee - Dr. Keil for Dr. Labbie

The next meeting is set for 1/30/12.

Committee on Committees – Dr. Darke

Committee Vacancies Six of seven vacancies on the new Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee (recently created to replace the Faculty Senate Budget Committee) have been filled.

Requests for Changes in Committees... A request to change the Information Technology Committee (ITC) into the CIO Advisory Board is under consideration.

Standing Committee Review ComCom has started its Charter mandated look into all of the University Standing Committees to determine which committees are meeting and which are not.

Committee on Professional Affairs – Dr. Howes

Technology in Teaching & Learning Subcommittee On December 12, a subcommittee (Sara Abercrombie, Vibha Bhalla, Aaron Carpenter, Geoff Howes, and Satomi Saito) started planning for public forums on technology in teaching and learning, drawing on experts here at BGSU. The

format will be panels. The subcommittee solicited suggestions for topics and contacted colleagues regarding their willingness to participate.

Spring State House Visit The visit to the Ohio State House will be made in conjunction with the "State House Falcons Reception" on Tuesday, March 20. Any senator who wishes to join the group of students, faculty, and staff should contact Geoff Howes (ghowes@bgsu.edu).

OLD BUSINESS: None carried over

NEW BUSINESS

Election for Senate Secretary

In the absence of nominations from the floor, candidate Professor Elizabeth (Bess) Wood was elected by majority vote to fill the vacancy for the Spring 2012 semester left by Dr. Terry Herman's resignation.

Retention Initiative – Dr. Colom, Vice President for Enrollment Management;

Dr. Colom affirmed the focus on retaining first year students. He reviewed several problems influencing withdrawal from BGSU revealed by exit interviews including academic reasons and distance of residence from campus as well as financial factors. He promised a comprehensive plan to address the critical factors from the Retention Task Force.

Dr. Houston, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Education

Dr. Houston discussed the work with Teresa Farnum and Associates to prioritize an initial 100 retention strategies down to 35, focusing most closely on the following factors: first time, fulltime status; underprepared students; undecided major; the most problematic University policies/procedures that appear to represent a barrier to such students.

STRS Update – Ms. Tamla Cole

Ms. Cole discussed proposed changes in STRS criteria for eligibility for retirement to ensure the ability to meet its future obligations to retired members and future retirees under consideration by the Ohio legislature. She concluded with an invitation to pose questions about her presentation or about the handout she distributed titled *The STRS Ohio Plan to Strengthen the Financial Condition of the Retirement System* summarizing proposed changes. Interested persons can obtain a copy from the following contacts:

www.strsoh.org or contactus@strsoh.org or 1-888-227-7877

Open Records – Sean FitzGerald, Vice President for Legal Affairs and Government Relations

Mr. Fitzgerald discussed trends in open records case law recently, noting the tendency to argue that FOIA principles should include faculty research. He elaborated on a 9/10/11 article titled "Academic Freedom and the Public's Right to Know: How to Counter the Chilling Effect of FOIA Requests on Scholarship" distributed with the Senate agenda for 1/17/12. FitzGerald listed some criteria for what academic "product" material may or may not be required by a court of law, and gave tips about how to ensure confidentiality in so far as that is possible. Article text is available at:

[http://www.acslaw.org/sites/default/files/Levinson - ACS FOIA First Amdmt Issue Brief.pdf](http://www.acslaw.org/sites/default/files/Levinson_-_ACS_FOIA_First_Amdmt_Issue_Brief.pdf)

Presidents' Day 2012 Volunteers – Terrell Johnson, Counselor, Office of Admissions

Mr. Johnson encouraged senators to volunteer for a variety of opportunities to assist prospective students and their parents during Presidents' Day in both indoor and outdoor settings from escorting bus riders to assisting them at the Wolfe Center staging point.

Dance Marathon – Josh James

This speaker was unable to attend the meeting. Updates will be provided at a later date.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS/SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Nothing at this time.

ADJOURNMENT: 4:30 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted: Elizabeth J. Wood