

President's Panel
Thursday, October 11, 2012
Chart Room
2:30 p.m.

Attendees

Mary Ellen Mazey – President
Rodney Rogers – Sr VPAA/Provost
Thomas Siebenaler – ASC
Terry Carver – CSC
Jill Carr – Sr Assoc VP Student Affairs
Sheri Wells-Jensen – Faculty Senate

Elizabeth Wood – Faculty Senate
Amy Rybak – Faculty
Alex Solis – USG
David Neely – USG
David Sleasman – GSS

Topics submitted for discussion

- 1) Update on the Aon Hewitt classification process (CSC)

The initial questionnaire yielded a 40% response rate. UPDATE: The deadline was extended; and the response rate rose to 50%.

- 2) A recent background check policy was instituted on 9/1/12 for all new graduate assistants. This is an external check that is done once. Although a different process, but related to a student's appropriateness to continue in a role, is there a formal policy in place that would let departments know in the event a student is found in violation of an academic dishonesty or code of conduct throughout his/her academic career? (GSS)

Background checks are policy for all new graduate assistants. This process does not involve the record of student conduct.

- 3) Graduate students are requesting more options to pay their health insurance premiums. Students are being told that the university pays these fees up front and then is able to do installments and if students leave early the university could be left paying the premiums. However, students are also being told that the university does not pay such fees up front and it is something the insurance company needs to handle. If the university is doing installments currently, why is it not possible to move a 2 or payment option to 6 or 8? Who decides this? Basically, who should students be talking to? (GSS)

The most logical solution to address this issue would be re-allocating approximately \$30,000 to cover a reserve fund and staff. The source of such funds has not yet been determined. It might have to come from eliminating a couple of assistantships.

- 4) Presidents' Climate Control Agreement Dr. Onasch made a presentation to Senate last year about this; and the Board of Trustees recently approved your signing this agreement. Are there concrete implementation plans yet that you could update for us? (*Faculty Senate*)

The agreement having been signed, it is now a matter of implementing recommendations from the group chaired by Dr. Onasch. Capital Planning and the Student Green Initiative will take the lead in implementing measures toward making BGSU's energy consumption more sustainable.

- 5) Contract Negotiations What can you tell us about the progress of negotiations toward a union contract for faculty? (*Faculty Senate*)

- *We are constrained as to what can be said away from the bargaining table. The admonishment to avoid "bargaining in the media" is good advice.*
- *The matters being negotiated today are various forms of leave – sick leave, parental leave, and so forth.*
- *Regarding NTTF's, when BGSU is benchmarked against Kent, OU, and Miami, we are below all of them in terms of NTTF compensation. We aspire to have compensation for all faculty ranks at market level.*
- *Contract negotiations actually started in August of 2011. If BGSU concluded negotiations by July 2013, we would still be ahead of Akron in the time it has taken to negotiate the first union contract.*

- 6) Senate's Role in a Union Environment Once a contract with BGSU-FA has been finalized, what do you envision as the appropriate role for Senate in shared governance? (*Faculty Senate*)

I am a big advocate of Senate having an important role in shared governance. Since senators are elected to represent their respective colleges, it is highly appropriate for Faculty Senate to be the voice of faculty regarding academic matters. Once we have a contract, Faculty Senate should remain strong.

- 7) SSI You have shared that there is a state-level council charged with identifying a new basis and new criteria for awarding State Share of Instruction or SSI. If this process results in significantly diminished SSI for BGSU, how might that play out? Is there a contingency plan for that eventuality? (*Faculty Senate*)

- *V.P. Stoll is BGSU's liaison to the Council that will be recommending changes to the old method of allocating the state share of instruction to individual institutions.*

- *The current weight given to completion (graduation rates) in the SSI formula is 20%. That could rise to 30% or 100%. It is unclear how such factors as transfer students and out-of-state students should be counted in determining completion rates.*
- *It is expected that the process will go fairly quickly. Recommendations could come out as early as Election Day.*
- *Some members of the Ohio higher education community favor calculating completion rates in terms of course completion rather than graduation rates.*

8) Student Debt Burden Last year BGSU garnered some adverse publicity when we were identified as one of the public institutions with the highest debt load for graduates. How has the University Administration addressed this issue, which is a concern for all of us? (*Faculty Senate*)

This continues to be a concern that BGSU is addressing in various ways. Among our peer "four-corner" institutions, BGSU has the lowest operating budget. Possible solutions for reducing the cost to student could include one or more of the following measures:

- *Reducing the number of employees*
- *Achieving greater efficiency*
- *Providing better academic counseling to students*
- *Successfully concluding our next capital campaign*
- *In the long term, providing more scholarship funding. It would be great to increase the number of students receiving support significantly over the approximately 10,000 of them currently getting some form of scholarship money.*
- *One development that should increase access to scholarships and coordination of the process of applying for and awarding scholarships is V.P. Colom's plan to establish a scholarship office.*

Additional topics raised at the meeting

- *Whether the option of stopping the tenure clock for qualifying reasons will be a matter for the bargaining table. It will.*
- *Thanks were offered for work culminating in good attendance and participation at the Job Fair. Employer attendance was up 18-20% and student participation was up as well.*

- What is the progress of the ad hoc committee to improve coordination of internships and coops?
 - *Concerns about implementation of committee recommendations were brought to Dean's Council for resolution.*
 - *Submission to OBOR on behalf of the Supply Chain, Computer Science, and Technology programs for some of the money earmarked for supporting internships is imminent (planned for October 12).*
 - *The ad hoc committee advocated that placement data collected from all programs be collected and disseminated.*

- What will be the end point of Master Plan changes?

While the vast majority of facilities decisions have been made, there could still be some tweaks. (Only one department had not been met at the date of the President's Panel meeting; and scheduling of that meeting was in process.)

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth J. Wood
Faculty Senate Secretary