

FACULTY SENATE
MINUTES

October 2, 2012
2:30 – 4:30 P.M.

Assembly Room
McFall Center

CALL TO ORDER: Faculty Senate Vice Chair, Wells-Jensen, called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL: Secretary Wood called the roll and announced a quorum.

ABSENT: Archer, Carr, Earley, Grunden, Jones, Liu, Patterson (sub Murnen).

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION: Alyson Wilson presented a memorial resolution honoring John P. Pommersheim, a faculty member at the Firelands campus.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Chair of the Faculty Senate Vice Chair, Wells –Jensen, offered Senate attendees Chair Earley’s regards and his regrets at being too ill to attend.

President Dr. Mazey mentioned updates on several topics.

State level The formula and criteria for allocating state monies to support public colleges and universities in Ohio (State Share of Instruction or SSI) will change in the future. A commission comprised of the Presidents of Ohio University, Miami University, Wright State, and Shawnee State and chaired by President Gee of the Ohio State University will recommend the future basis for awarding state funds to public higher education institutions.

Board of Trustees

- The Board approved a ground lease for the site of the future Student Health Center.
- In addition, the Board approved funding for a new HVAC system for the College of Musical Arts, facilitating better control of temperature and humidity. The anticipated improvement in maintenance and preservation of pianos and other musical instruments paves the way for the CMA to become an “All-Steinway” school.
- For the first time our Board has a national trustee. Jim Bailey, an accomplished BGSU alumnus, has been installed on the Board. Eventually the Board may have as many as three national trustees.

Campus

- Homecoming: The celebration was well attended; and the parade and slate of other activities were enthusiastically received. A special highlight was the ceremony inducting four graduates into the newly-formed Academy of Distinguished Alumni. They were Joseph Philport, Ed Reiter, Linda Watters, and Jack Williams.
- There has been progress on implementing the Campus Master Plan. President Mazey commended Vice President Stoll and Associate Vice President Krakoff for holding forums and incorporating feedback from the campus community into decisions.
- Interviews for the Vice President of University Advancement position have been concluded; and a decision is expected within the next month. This will allow for the new administrator to coordinate our next comprehensive campaign.
- The University has set itself the goal of raising our enrollment to 25,000 by 2020. BGSU hopes to reach this goal by recruiting more out-of-state, international, transfer, and students in online or hybrid onsite-online classes.

Following these updates, the President entertained questions from Senate members.

Provost/VPAA Dr. Rogers framed his remarks in the context of the three top academic priorities for this school year: ongoing commitment to student success; making improvements in recruiting; and reinvesting in faculty and facilities.

Student Success

- The Provost noted progress with respect to conversations about changing campus culture and raising student expectations that were coordinated by Craig Zirbel. He thanked all who contributed to such discussions.
- He cited SuccessNet as having a good rate of participation and as already starting to make a positive contribution to student success.
- Dr. Rogers affirmed the goal of continuing to work toward making uniformly high-quality advising available to BGSU students and mentioned a three-day process to be attended by faculty advisors, student affairs advisors, and professional academic advisors the end of October. Its aim is to identify best advising practices. After this event, recommendations about how advising might be restructured and improved will be forthcoming.

Re-investments in Facilities

- The Provost, Sheri Stoll, and Steve Krakoff now have met with virtually all departments and programs impacted by the Master Plan sections dealing with academic facilities -- except one entity with which an appointment is being scheduled.
- Both GSS and USG also sponsored forums where implementation concerns were aired.
- Rogers emphasized that there will be an ongoing dialog "... that we've got to engage in to make sure ... that these significant investments in academic facilities are done appropriately so that we see our university moving forward."
- Individuals wondering about Master Plan implementation details are encouraged to ask or to look at the Master Plan website <http://www.bgsu.edu/masterplan/page77608.html> for updates.

Recruitment

- Our retention rate having slipped somewhat despite vigorous efforts to improve it, recruitment continues to be a priority. The new goal of 25,000 FTE's for 2013/2014 is not an unrealistic goal, providing we have a robust recruitment plan addressing 1) measures to increase student success and 2) actions likely to improve our retention.
- He feels that work done by the task force charged with examining academic and administrative policies and procedures for their work and recommendations. Hopefully some recommendations from that task force will be making their way through SEC to Senate before too long.
- There may be a need for new programming as well in order to increase recruitment and retention. Working through CAA and SEC, proposals for some new undergrad and graduate program specializations should be coming to Senate for consideration fairly soon.

Strategic Plan for Increasing International Student Enrollment

The Deans' Council discussed this plan. The next step will be taking the plan goals to the colleges and academic units for development of specific initiatives supporting increases in international student enrollment.

- Sue Houston is leading the group to flesh out initiatives supporting this plan.
- Two new position searches have been approved in order to structure our international education program more effectively—Director of International Student Services and Director of the Office for International Education. (Funding for the new positions comes not from commitment of additional university resources but from re-allocation of funds from open positions.)
- Provost Rogers observed, “...as we think about growing international students [enrollment], there will be a need to invest in infrastructure to support those students once they get to campus.”

National Ranking from U.S. News and World Report

- Our overall academic reputation is still strong and stable.
 - We retained our Tier I status compared to other comprehensive national institutions, as did two of the other “Four Corner” institutions (Miami and Ohio University).
 - Our overall financial resources remain strong, being roughly the same, as do our faculty resources and alumni giving.
- We slipped with regard to some benchmarks (graduate rates and retention declined), bringing us down among public institutions from 97 to 103.
- Consequently, we need to continue to enhance the quality of our graduate and undergraduate educational experiences. “Commitment to both of those areas continues to be very important.”

The Provost then entertained questions from Senate members.

Graduate Student Senate (GSS) Representative President Sleasman affirmed GSS’s support of the initiatives to improve graduate and undergraduate retention and to increase the quality of BGSU students.

He referred specifically to the following concerns about policy and procedures, as these initiatives go forward in consultation with GSS, the Graduate College, and other offices:

- Defining the roles and clarifying expectations of RA’s, TA’s and GA’s within academic departments.
- Reviewing and revising the graduate student grievance procedure.
- Working with appropriate campus entities to articulate the policy for providing background checks for graduate students.
- Advocating for graduate students to be given the option of payroll deduction or installment payments for student insurance.

Undergraduate Student Government Representative Vice President Neely touched on three topics:

- The Board of Trustees’ approval of Dr. Mazey’s signing the American College and University President’s Climate Commitment.
- Ensuring that the students’ voices are heard on campus issues including construction of the new Student Health Center and Greek Housing along with Student Recreation Center renovations.
- Implementation of the State mandate to become a smoke-free campus. Concerns raised thus far include the following: 1) since there is already a state law about not smoking in buildings or near building entrances, how will the new restrictions be

enforced? 2) If people do not abide by the no-smoking ban, will it be a problem that all the receptacles for tobacco ash have disappeared from campus?

BGSU-FA Liaison Dr. Coates expressed thanks for the opportunity to address Senate and stated that the BGSU Faculty Association would like to be included on the Board of Trustees agenda as well. He went on to make the following comments:

- While 75% of the proposals have been dealt with in contract negotiations, the remaining 25% are the most contentious issues.
- In addition to compensation, the issue of instituting post-tenure review has serious implications for BGSU faculty.
- It has been a full two years since the campus began voting whether to have collective bargaining for BGSU faculty.

Dr. Coates closed by saying “We hope that the administration’s proposals and counters will allow us to move forward toward a collective bargaining agreement that will enable BGSU to attract and keep excellent professors, protect academic freedom, and keep faculty control over our teaching and curriculum”.

Retiree Representative Dr. Hern made the following comments:

- Affirming support of the BGSU Faculty Association
- Advising senators to pay attention to changes in STRS benefits recently passed by the legislature and signed into law
- Pointing out the option of getting counseling from the Retiree Association about benefit changes
- His personal recommendation that faculty take advantage of the opportunity to go on faculty improvement leave.

REPORTS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES

Committee on Academic Affairs (CAA) – David Border On Wednesday, September 5th, Associate Dean Mary Murray, Cynthia Bertelsen, and a large number of additional guests attended and commented on agenda items, including concerns about the Inclusive Early Childhood proposal.

This Curriculum Modification Request will be on the 10/12 CAA agenda again, after which the degree proposal and accompanying documentation will be forwarded with a review to the Senate Executive Committee. UPDATE: SEC discussed this proposal in its 10/9 meeting and will invite guests to its next meeting to clarify some points.

Amendments and Bylaws Committee (A & B) – Erin Labbie The committee met on 9/11 to polish the resolution for a Charter amendment establishing procedures for selecting BGSU representation on the Ohio Faculty Committee and forwarded that resolution to SEC.

On 9/20, A & B finalized the draft of a Charter amendment setting a timeframe for committee deliberations to be considered by Senate.

Committee on Committees (ComCom)– Scott Magelssen ComCom is pleased to report that most committee vacancies remaining from Spring semester's elections and also most committee slots designated for faculty in their first four years have been filled. Chair Magelssen has contacted college deans about the membership positions that need to be filled with faculty from Musical Arts, Business Administration, University Libraries, and Health and Human Services.

Chair Magelssen solicited volunteers or nominations from the Senate floor to fill four committee vacancies that require membership in Faculty Senate. Four senators volunteered, filling the vacancies.

As charged by Senate Chair Earley, the committee is working to appoint members to the newly constituted ad hoc Committee on Senate Mission and Vision.

Committee on Professional Affairs – No report.

Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee – No report.

OLD BUSINESS None

NEW BUSINESS

Amendments and Bylaws Committee proposed Charter language regarding time to complete committee work: Erin Labbie. A motion to accept the proposed language with the addition of the clarifying phrase “whichever happens first” passed with no negative votes and one abstention.

GUESTS

University Libraries Dean Sara Bushong, chair of the campus United Way drive, and Wood County United Way Director, Nick Kulick, talked about how United Way mobilizes community resources and previewed some of the campus activities planned in conjunction with this fund drive.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS/SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS None

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth J. Wood

NOTE: Senate meetings are open to the public. Senators arriving after roll call are asked to report to the Secretary prior to the end of the meeting. Please use a microphone when addressing the body. Senators are expected to stay through adjournment.