

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

November 12, 2013
2:30 – 4:30 P.M.

Assembly Room
McFall Center

CALL TO ORDER: 2:30 P.M. Chair Wells-Jensen called the meeting to order.

ROLL CALL:

Faculty Senate Secretary, Elizabeth Wood, called the roll and announced a quorum.

Absent: Cloeter, Johnson, Soboleski, and Wang.

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, Sheri Wells-Jensen

Chair Wells-Jensen welcomed attendees , expressed appreciation for anyone serving as a substitute, and urged all to make the acquaintance of any unfamiliar persons whether senators, substitutes, or guests. She then gave updates:

- The Senate Workload Committee has convened and will soon be ready to meet with BGSU-FA 's workload group and the administration.
- The Committee on Academic Affairs has been tasked with working on a standard form for gathering student evaluations of faculty teaching effectiveness for campus-wide use.
- A presentation from representatives of peer institutions about how to keep the faculty senate strong in a strong union environment is planned for a future Senate meeting. Discussion with BGSU constituents will be encouraged. We would be happy to set up extra chairs for any guests interested in this topic.
- Senate is co-sponsoring a reception and sharing of best practices in innovative teaching strategies on December 11, 2013 from 3:00 – 5:00 PM in Olscamp 101. Folkins and Leontis from the Innovative Teaching Group encouraged senators and their colleagues to attend and to consider presenting at this event, which is described in the meeting handout.

President, Mary Ellen Mazey

State Updates During a recent Interuniversity Council (IUC) conference call it was reported that the state budget is good at this time, and there are no anticipated cuts in higher education.

A higher education Capital Funding Commission chaired by Dr. Roderick McDavis, President of Ohio University, reviews requests for state capital funds. BGSU has submitted a six-year capital plan. The current request is for 1) the renovation of Mosley Hall providing for new biology and chemistry laboratories and 2) a renovation at Firelands for Allied Health. Before funds are allocated the submission must be approved by the Commission and the Legislature. Hopefully that process will be completed this academic year.

The Governor has appointed a new Higher Education Value and Quality Commission which will be chaired by former OSU President, E. Gordon Gee. This committee will focus on ensuring that students receive a high quality education for their financial investment. The website to give input into the work of

the new commission is https://ohiohighered.org/content/quality_value_higher_education. This site states that as committee chair, Dr. Gee "... will consult with Ohio's higher-education leaders, the University System of Ohio and the business community to develop recommendations for the governor, addressing ways for universities to balance cost, quality and access". The report is expected by summer of 2014.

The Chancellor has invited teams of students and administrators from BGSU and other universities to Columbus on Board of Regents' Day (December 5) for a task force meeting about the issues of student success and college completion. Provost Rogers will lead our team. Recommendations from the task force are expected before the end of this academic year.

National Updates President Obama has proposed that federal financial aid, especially the Pell Grant, be linked to graduation rates, average debt of students, and student loan repayment rates, along with employment and other post-graduate success criteria. If this change were implemented each higher education institution would be measured by such criteria to determine the amount of federal financial aid allocated. Low-performing institutions would incur cuts in federal financial aid.

Provost/VPAA, Rodney Rogers

Discussion Group The two discussions of the book *College Unbound* produced thoughtful comments and questions about the impact of changing expectations on higher education. Provost Rogers thanked those who took time to attend.

Personnel

- Simon Morgan-Russell will be stepping down as Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences **at the end of the academic year. He has already accepted the responsibilities as** Dean of the Honors College. A committee chaired by Vice President for Research and Economic Development /Graduate College Dean, Mike Ogawa, will begin the process of searching for a new A&S dean.
- The Health and Human Services Dean search is coming to a close. UPDATE: Dr. Marie Huff has been named Dean.

Enrollment and Degree Completion Issues

- A plan to increase BGSU's rate of college completion is due to the Board of Regents in June of 2014. A draft is being pulled together through the joint efforts of Student Affairs and Academic Affairs. It will cover expected graduation targets, academic and social support needed, assessment plans, and how to maximize student involvement and engagement. The Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU) has done great work with its Project Degree Completion initiative in encouraging higher education institutions to work toward higher student persistence and degree completion rates.
- Enrollment remains key to BGSU's success in light of a slight decline in the freshman class correlated with a modest increase in admissions standards. The University plans an aggressive campaign to explain to the public the value of a BGSU education. As part of the effort to gradually raise enrollment all deans have been given enrollment and degree-completion targets for Fall 2014. Each college is expected to articulate a plan for attaining a specific "yield" (meaning matriculation of a specific percentage of the students who have applied and been admitted to programs in various academic disciplines).

Faculty to Student Ratio Metrics The Provost presented some estimates of current faculty-to-student ratios based comparisons of data from the 15th day of the semester in 2012 versus 2013. UPDATE: To ensure accurate comparison of data the Faculty Senate Committee on Academic Affairs (CAA) has agreed to receive and analyze the data and communicate its findings to Faculty Senate.

The Provost/VPAA entertained questions from the floor about linked courses, revisions to the grading policy, and faculty workloads and class sizes in the context of anticipated reductions in faculty positions.

Graduate Student Senate Representative, Lingxiao Ge

President Ge shared two items: 1) The General Assembly endorsed support for the Not-In-Our-Town initiative. 2) A GSS open forum about city-university collaboration was held on November 6, 2013. City Council Representatives Zanfardino and Gordon discussed the idea of establishing a town and gown commission to address issues and concerns of mutual interest to the university and the city. Minimum time commitment for serving on the commission is likely to be one meeting per month for a period of at least 15 months.

Undergraduate Student Government Representative, Alexis Solis No report.

BGSU Faculty Association Liaison – Lawrence Coates

The Faculty Association has requested formal bargaining regarding aspects of BGSU's proposed workload policy. BGSU-FA representative Faulkner and V.P. Balzer are in communication about this matter. Since the request to bargain was issued, the Administration has declined to comment or respond to questions about workload. Workload policy is not being implemented pending such negotiations.

The Faculty Association is hoping for good news regarding the AY 2014/2015 budget. While instructional costs make up approximately 35% of BGSU's budget, Coates pointed out that faculty salaries, which directly support the University's core mission, amount to only about 22.9% of the budget. This observation was made in the context of having heard rumors about plans to outsource more academic functions.

Retiree Representative, Ellen Williams

Dr. Williams noted that at its November meeting, the Retirees' Association recognized the contributions of Pat Fitzgerald, a long time BGSU employee who recently passed away. At that meeting Steve Krakoff, Vice President for Capital Planning and Campus Operations, gave an update on the implementation of the Master Plan, which is based on the 2008 University strategic plan along with enrollment patterns, academic restructuring, building conditions, market needs, and budget considerations .

The association has planned a holiday party and has invited Barbara Waddell from the Office of Equity and Diversity to speak at its March 10, 2014 meeting.

REPORTS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES

Committee on Academic Affairs (CAA) – David Border

CAA met on October 2, October 16 and November 6. The committee received a number of guests in October and November concerning curriculum modifications and is in contact with Senate Executive Committee (SEC) about those proposals. CAA forwarded the MS in Applied Geospatial Science packet to SEC on 10/3/2013. Update: Faculty Senate endorsed this Curriculum Modification request at its 11/12 meeting.

In addition CAA has discussed academic issues, including course enrollment trends, with the Provost.

Amendments and Bylaws Committee (A & B) – Co-chair, Allen Rogel

Amendments and Bylaws has been actively completing many documents for SEC and Senate, having met weekly since mid-September.

Two weeks ago A & B sent documents about *Charter* language regarding the discovery of information by Human Resources to assist Senate in identifying faculty eligible for Senate membership. Action has been taken by SEC. **UPDATE:** The prevailing opinion of SEC members is that chairs and other persons with administrative responsibility of no more than 50% can make significant contributions to Senate's consideration of academic matters and accordingly should retain eligibility for Faculty Senate membership. SEC voted unanimously that the current *Charter* statement regarding eligibility of academic department chairs, school directors, and program directors remain unchanged and that the new language offered by Amendments and Bylaws "to expedite identification" of faculty members eligible for Senate be rejected with thanks for A & B's work in drafting the proposed language.

A & B also sent preliminary suggestions about an Academic Honesty Policy to SEC to help begin deliberations and discussions about policy revision/updating by a Faculty Senate ad hoc committee on academic honesty.

Finally, in response to an SEC request for a draft of *Charter* language addressing implementation of the Honors College, A & B has articulated a list of questions. Responses to these questions are deemed necessary for completion of this assignment. The committee meets next on Tuesday, November 19.

Committee on Committees (ComCom) – Ann Darke

1. During the last month the committee filled 47 out of 50 vacancies (94%). Nomination forms for the remaining 3 vacancies with descriptions of the committees on the back of the paper were distributed to senators. Self-nominations or nominations of a colleague were solicited.
2. Together with the Senate Vice Chair, ComCom has started to look into several committees that need revising and/or rejuvenating. Further updates on this matter are anticipated.

Committee on Professional Affairs –No report.

Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee (FAAC) - - Michael Adam Schulz

The committee met October 10 and November 20. They submitted the following list of questions to Provost Rogers about programmatic faculty issues and their impact on academic priorities.

- What is the plan to improve faculty morale in a cost-savings-driven environment?
- How can faculty engage in implementing strategies for improving student retention?
- How will the Accenture consultants' recommendations affect academic priorities in the long term?
- What data will be used to determine priorities for how new faculty lines will be allocated and how program requests will be vetted?
- How will staffing levels for administration functions be set? Might operations cuts be employed to align staffing levels with academic priorities?

- By what methods will decisions and actions pertaining to all of the above be evaluated with regard to the effect on students and ensuring delivery of a high-quality academic experience at BGSU.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed New Degree in Applied Geospatial Science – Sheila Roberts, Peter Gorsevski, Enrique Gomezdelcampo, Anita Simic, and Andrew Gregory

Presenters elaborated on the rationale for this degree proposal, noting that its focus is on gaining competence in using applied geospatial tools. With both a thesis and non-thesis option, the program is anticipated to start with approximately 5-7 students and grow to about 10 – 15 students when established. Both self-funded and grant-funded students are included in the pool of recruiting targets.

Presenters entertained questions from the floor.

Moved by the Senate Executive Committee and seconded by W. Albertini, the motion to approval this Curriculum Modification Request carried via a unanimous voice vote.

Campus Sustainability – Bruce Meyer (Assistant Vice President of Campus Operations) and Nick Hennessy (Sustainability Coordinator)

President Mazey signed the American College and University Presidents’ Climate Commitment (ACUPCC) on October 24, 2012. The text of the document can be read at this link:

<http://www.presidentsclimatecommitment.org/about/commitment> . BGSU is joined by approximately 680 other institutions in making this sustainability commitment.

The presentation by Meyers and Hennessy focused on the three main goals of BGSU’s commitment to sustainability.

- Greening the practices and policies of the University.
- Improving the design and efficiency of our facilities.
- Strengthening a culture of environmental stewardship for the entire university community.

Hennessy listed some of the strategies to achieve those goals. One of the first steps in implementing the University’s commitment is completion of a Climate Action Plan, due for submission no later than January of 2014. Being listed for the first time this year in the *Princeton Guide to Green Colleges* is a significant positive outcome, even though there is a good deal of work yet to be done in reducing our carbon footprint. A full articulation of the goals is available at the following link to the Campus Sustainability Strategy <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/sustainability/Files/file130872.pdf>

Presenters entertained questions from the floor.

ITS Update – John Ellinger, Chief Information Officer Because of time constraints, Ellinger’s update was deferred to a later date.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS/SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: None

ADJOURNMENT: 4:35 P.M.

Please note: Verbatim reports received from Senate committees and guests are archived on the Senate website at the Reports link <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/facsenate/page66392.html>.

Respectfully Submitted: Elizabeth J. Wood