

SEC/VPAA JOINT CONFERENCE MINUTES

November 26 2013
2:30 – 4:30 pm

Conference Room
140 McFall Center

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Amelia Sangenetta Carr; John W Folkins; Lingxiao Ge; Rachele Marie Kristof Hippler; Joel O'Dorisio; Paul Andrew Johnson; Andrew John Pelletier; Sarah Anne Rainey; Rodney Rogers; Alex Dominic Solis; Sheri Beth Wells-Jensen; Elizabeth Jean Wood.

GUESTS: David Meel, Assistant Chair of Mathematics and Statistics and Math Emporium Director

PRESIDER: Vice Chair, Joel O'Dorisio

VPAA'S REPORT: After giving the following budget updates, the Provost deferred the remainder of his report in favor of a full discussion of questions listed on the back of the SEC agenda.

Recruitment and Retention Strategies

- Avoiding Tuition Increases: In order to offset the flat enrollment projected for the next four years without increasing tuition, strategies to increase enrollments among undergraduate students and transfer students are being pursued. Agreements with two-year schools to provide a "preferred path" to enrollment at BGSU for their students once they have raised their GPA's are being negotiated. Potential partners include Sinclair County Community College, Owens, Cuyahoga Community College, and Lorraine County Community College.
- Outreach: Because the smaller fall 2013 freshman class will affect BGSU's State Share of Instruction (SSI) allocation for the next four years, the current goal is to retain 74% of this group. Of those who have not yet registered for spring, outreach is being done to find out why they've not registered and to try and help them overcome any obstacles. The Honors College has begun a project to identify difficulties faced by their students who were not retained.
- Increasing Yield Where Low: Programs with low yield (high application rates but low matriculation rates) are being given promotional support to enable them to move toward enrollment targets set for them.

Updates Regarding Next Fiscal Year's Budget

A working group of university chief financial officers is studying implementation of the new SSI formula and formulating recommendations for university presidents to convey to the governor. When that process has been completed, BGSU will have a firmer sense of what next year's budget will look like.

OLD BUSINESS:

Continuing discussion on how Senate meetings are run

SEC agreed that – in the interest of getting through the agenda and adjourning meetings on time -- committee reports and other standing agenda items (Chair's remarks) should be kept to a minimum. Questions and discussions following the President's report and the Provost's report should be encouraged in the interest of airing concerns and opinions of senators.

NEW BUSINESS:

Memorial Resolution, Jeffrey Wagner, Firelands: SEC voted to put this item on an upcoming Senate agenda.

Faculty Recognition Awards: Discussion was deferred to a subsequent meeting.

Request for Senate Funding from Service Learning: Consensus was that service learning is not integral to Faculty Senate's mission. Consequently the request for Faculty Senate financial sponsorship was declined.

Math Emporium Presentation: David Meel distributed a list of frequently-asked-questions about the Math Emporium and stressed that the self-paced instruction software used in the Math Emporium is a supplement rather than a replacement for in-class instruction. Classes using the Math Emporium all have an instructor of record and the Math Emporium portion of those classes is on the scheduling grid.

Noting that the precursor to the Math Emporium was a cart of portable workstations, Meel affirmed his intention to blue sheet aspects of the Emporium that represent a significant departure from previous classes in the mathematics curriculum. Anticipated blue sheet date is January of 2014, with implementation of changes in fall 2014.

He cited literature indicating that success rates may not improve and might even go down in the initial years of a math emporium's operation because students tend to resist departing from the familiar lecture mode for math pedagogy. After the initial year or two of implementation, however, Meel said decreases in the failure rate of math students typically are significant.

While the ultimate location for the Math Emporium has not yet been determined, Meel indicated that conversations about the next location when it transitions from the active-learning classroom on the second floor of Olscamp are ongoing.

Questions for the Provost (Math Emporium details supplied by Dr. David Meel):

Senate Office Space Provost Rogers indicated that the plan is to bring together support for faculty, including Senate, the Center for Faculty Excellence, and support for online programs. If the new space largely mirrors the old Senate office space, remodels

might be done as quickly as January 1, 2014. Capital Planning is working on that assumption and will contact Senate leadership to verify Senate's critical needs.

Math Emporium:

- Evaluation of the Math Emporium: It's success will be measured and reported at the end of fall semester when grades have been turned in.
- Faculty to Student Ratio: The ideal is 1 instructor to every 20 students. Considering instructors of record, TA's, and AIMS student coaches, the BGSU Math Emporium is close to that ratio.
- Math Emporium Tutors: In addition to math and stats tutors from the Learning Commons, six AIMS students (math education majors) went through an application and selection process including personal interviews and were hired to give onsite assistance in the Math Emporium. Dr. Meel coordinates their work and is able to offer insight and guidance when needed.
- Effect on Learning Commons: As soon as it became apparent that more staff was needed, six AIMS students were hired as math coaches.
- Planning Process for the Math Emporium: After self-paced, partially software-assisted instruction was piloted via portable workstations, the Mathematics and Statistics Department proposed details of a fixed space for the Math Emporium in order to address unacceptably high failure rates for some math courses. The location was originally planned for room 101 in Olscamp. When it became apparent that the intended amount of space in Olscamp could not be taken offline, the next phase of Math Emporium implementation was temporarily shifted to the second floor of Olscamp. Capital Funding approved by the Board of Trustees was designated for remodeling. Consequently that money has not yet been spent.

ESOL

- Enrollment Management's Role in ESOL Planning: Enrollment Management is concerned with factors affecting recruitment and retention. They have not been and will not be in charge of planning for credit-bearing ESOL instructional support for students enrolled at BGSU. This remains the province of the English Department.
- Inception of Intensive ESOL Outsourcing: Since 2007, intensive (i.e. non-credit bearing) ESOL instruction has been contracted out with the hope that these students would eventually enroll at BGSU. This aspect of the intensive ESOL program has not gone as hoped. Since the current contract with the Language Company is about to expire, an RFP was issued. To date no replacement for the Language Company has been identified.
- Planning for Non-intensive ESOL Instruction: Since BGSU is obligated to provide ESOL to enrolled students, the Provost is committed to ongoing discussions of how best to provide such support using BGSU faculty. Kim Spallinger, head of that program is also a party to ongoing planning discussions.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS: No additional concerns were raised.

SENATE AGENDA :

- Business Minor for Non-majors
- Arts & Sciences Requirements for 3b_BA Degrees
- Memorial for Wagner (tentative for December)
- Math Emporium Presentation

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:37 P.M.

Respectfully submitted Elizabeth J. Wood, Faculty Senate Secretary