

SEC/VPAA JOINT CONFERENCE MINUTES

November 27, 2012
2:30 – 4:30 pm

Senate Conference
140 McFall Center

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Border, Michael Buerger, Mark Earley, Rachelle Hippler, Paul Johnson, David Neely, Andrew Pelletier, Sarah Rainey, Greg Rich, Rodney Rogers, David Sleasman, Sheri Wells-Jensen, Elizabeth Wood.

GUESTS: Albert Colom.

PRESIDER: Vice Chair, Sheri Wells-Jensen

OLD BUSINESS: None

NEW BUSINESS:

Recruitment and Retention: Albert Colom and Rodney Rogers

The Provost provided context for BGSU's recruitment and retention efforts: reviewing challenges and concerns, goals, and overall strategies for improvement. In addition to environmental factors that affect higher education statewide and nationwide (e.g. the decline in the number of traditional undergraduates in the population), he listed and explained changes in the State Share of Instruction (SSI) formula that have been agreed on as well as a further change still being discussed that likely will be announced soon.

Since SSI currently accounts for approximately 24%-25% of our total budget, changes in the allocation formula will have a significant impact on the University. While we need to fine tune our efforts and not blindly "chase the formula", the factors and weightings in the new formula will to some extent guide our recruitment efforts and shape our profile of the student best-positioned for success at BGSU. Provost Rogers anticipates that President Mazey will expand on his remarks at the next Senate meeting.

Vice President for Enrollment Management, Colom, gave details about a four-part strategy to increase BGSU's yield (the number of students from the applicant pool who ultimately are admitted) and to raise retention rates:

- Overall Enhancements Measures to enhance overall recruitment and retention efforts will be pursued. One example is giving priority in

- allocating recruitment resources to high schools where we have historically achieved the highest yields.
- Retention Strategies such as raising GPA requirements from 2.0 to 2.5 to focus on admitting better-prepared students and leveraging the influence that faculty have in recruiting both international and domestic students will be implemented. Vice Provost Houston will update Senate on planned enhancements to the advising process.
 - Degree Attainment Since this factor is weighted more heavily in the new SSI formula and since it also addresses the issue of minimizing student and family debt, various strategies will be employed to increase our rate of 4-year graduations. Again increasing the quality/fitness of students admitted will be key, along with providing sufficient capacity in classes needed to graduate and delivering uniformly excellent advising.
 - Job Placement In addition to providing academic rigor, preparing students for success in careers and/or graduate school placement is increasingly seen as the province of higher education institutions. BGSU faculty and staff are well-prepared to deliver this aspect of a quality graduate and undergraduate education.

SEC members offered comments and posed questions to Provost Rogers and VP Colom.

Transfer Admission Policy

Dr. Rainey and Dr. Border highlighted the rationale for revisions to the current admissions requirements for transfer students that have been brought to Undergraduate Council and subsequently distributed to SEC.

Most notable is making transfer admissions requirements for Firelands and main campus uniform -- in all provisions except for the statement of Firelands' forgiveness policy. In addition, instead of a multiplicity of links to more information such as course equivalencies and placement exams, a single link will now guide prospective transfer students to the information they need before applying to BGSU. Students are encouraged to speak in person with BGSU personnel about any questions or concerns not addressed by online information.

After a brief question and answer exchange, SEC voted to support this minor policy change and thanked the group for its work.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

Secretary Wood mentioned having sent letters to three senators with two or more unexcused absences and advised that at least one appeal to SEC is anticipated.

Vice Chair Wells-Jensen reported that Com Com continues to work with committees that haven't met and with the administrators to whom those committees are advisory, encouraging renewed commitment to shared governance and offering help as needed.

Chair Earley listed as future Senate meeting topics updates on STRS changes and on developments within International Programs, along with an update from the CIO.

SENATE AGENDA: The following items were approved for the December Senate meeting

- HLC Update: Joe Frizado
- Recruitment and Retention: Rodney Rogers, Albert Colom, and Sue Houston

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting was adjourned at 4:25

Respectfully submitted Elizabeth J. Wood, Faculty Senate Secretary