

## **SEC/VPAA JOINT CONFERENCE MINUTES**

December 10, 2013  
2:30 – 4:30 pm

Senate Conference Room  
140 McFall Center

### **MEMBERS PRESENT:**

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

**GUESTS:** None

**PRESIDER:** Vice Chair, Joel O'Dorisio

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

ESOL Update A meeting to discuss ESOL is scheduled. The Provost as well as Kimberly Spallinger will attend.

Academic Honesty Policy This committee has met three times to date and had some good discussions. It is hoped that different models proposed by Student Affairs and Academic Affairs will inform one another. Particular points of interest include the following:

- Substitution of a pre-offense education component so that early transgressions will not count as the first of two strikes leading to sanctions.
- Establishment of a "statute of limitations" governing offenses that are widely separated in times (as when a student drops out for a time before re-enrolling).
- The impact of technology on students' understanding of academic honesty issues.
- The need to educate students from cultures that endorse practices such as quoting without attribution.

Senate Workload Committee At the initial three meetings the committee discussed how to gather information about workload policies and implementation at the college and departmental or school level in a meaningful and systematic way. A set of clear questions have been articulated and is scheduled to be sent out during finals. It is hoped that chairs and directors will not feel constrained by earlier Administration directives to avoid talking about workload except in negotiations with the Faculty Association.

The Provost commented that the Administration is not concerned with establishing a specific University-level workload policy at this time. Instead the intent is to promote equity and fairness within each college as expectations at the department and unit level are documented and reported to the Provost's Office. This process will in turn lead to University-level accountability regarding faculty workload practices.

Absence Policy The Committee on Academic Affairs is revisiting issues surrounding the definition of excused absence for "official university business." Since it is unclear where details about what constitutes an excused absence for athletics (as mentioned in the *Charter*) reside, SEC has asked CAA to clarify that point with Athletics. After CAA makes a recommendation to SEC regarding pertinent issues, the Amendments and Bylaws Committee will be charged with expanding/updating the *Charter* language about "official university business" that they developed last academic year. SEC will then submit such language for consideration of the full Senate.

### **PROVOST/VPAA'S REPORT:**

The COACHE Faculty Work Satisfaction Survey (Harvard College of Education) Results of this survey of BGSU faculty perceptions of working conditions and concerns conducted December 2012 through March 2013 have been posted on the Institutional Research site under the Surveys and Studies link at this url: <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ir/page140639.html>. Respondents included both tenure-track and tenured faculty. Of the 22 factors rated, compensation rose to the top of BGSU faculty concerns. BGSU's strengths included mentorship and department-level support.

The Provost would like SEC or CAA or both to look at in-depth data for BGSU and for peer institutions and to develop recommendations for next steps in improving faculty work satisfaction.

NSSE (National Survey of Student Engagement) is administered every other year to first-year students and seniors. Spring 2011 results are available at this link on the IR site: <http://www.bgsu.edu/offices/ir/page18621.html>. Excellent peer data facilitates comparison with Carnegie-class peers or with all participating institutions. It highlights high-impact practices such as writing-across-the-curriculum and advising. BGSU was rated as strong with respect to having Learning Communities, the Service Learning program, and the category Research with faculty/Internships.

Areas of concern identified by IR include: slippage in student-faculty interaction (SFI) and supportive campus environment (SCE) among freshmen and decline in some of the performance areas among seniors. The Provost looks forward to discussing survey results with CAA and sharing suggestions for institutional improvement.

### Recruitment and Retention Strategies

- Meetings about provision of Intensive ESOL and remedial Math instruction via the Math Emporium supplementing classroom instruction are taking place.
- The process of implementing recommendations of the ad hoc committee to improve advising is underway.
  - ✓ DAR's software (for degree audits) is being upgraded to the current version, which testers have indicated is more user-friendly.
  - ✓ Predictive analytics for progress toward degree completion (which originated with the sixty institutions comprising the Student Success

Collaborative) will be tested in programs such as Nursing, Biology, and other programs with lower completion rates. A full roll out is planned for fall 2014.

- ✓ There have been discussions of how best to augment summer and fall orientation for new students with follow-up later in their first year.

#### Faculty Concerns about the Math Emporium and Aviation Studies

- Math Emporium In response to an SEC member's concern about sufficiency of monetary support for staffing in the Math Emporium and its effect on the quality of Math education, the Provost addressed several aspect of evaluating the Math Emporium.
  - ✓ Undergraduate coaches (math education majors) from the AIMS program supplement rather than replace faculty.
  - ✓ The Emporium's evaluation will take place at the end of fall semester when grades have been posted.
  - ✓ Metrics will include learning outcomes for quantitative literacy and carry-over of skills and concepts to subsequent courses.
  - ✓ Literature indicates that most Math Emporiums demonstrate greater success in the second year because of resistance in the initial year from students accustomed to face-to-face instruction only rather than classroom instruction assisted by technology.
- Aviation Studies
  - ✓ Because of mandatory retirements of pilots aging out in 5 years and a new Federal Aviation Agency requirement for pilots to have a bachelor's degree, an increase in global demand for pilots is predicted.
  - ✓ The current BGSU Aviation program could not be scaled up to meet this demand because of an insufficient number of aircraft and of flight instructors.
  - ✓ The top respondent to an RFP was Northstar Aviation, who has agreed to take on the flight instruction, leaving BGSU faculty still in charge of classroom aspects of Aviation Studies (navigation, airport management etc.)
  - ✓ Cost savings from eliminating BGSU's responsibility for airplane ownership, maintenance, and insurance together with construction of a new facility on University-owned land at no cost to BGSU were explained.
  - ✓ The current part time flight instructors will be employed by Northstar.

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

Faculty Recognition Awards The six award categories were discussed along with the need to 1) garner a pool of nominations reflective of the excellent faculty work being done and 2) avoid the same individuals getting recognition year after year. There was consensus that a better pool of nominations is likely to result if a few changes are made:

- Timing the initial solicitation of nominations for these awards for exam week with a February 7 deadline for submission of nominations and supporting documentation.
- Making plain that no extension will be given.
- Reducing the number of letters for each award to the cover letter of nomination and one additional letter of support.
- Giving the option of electronic rather than hard copy submission.

Olscamp Space for Faculty Senate Senate leadership has not met with Bob Waddell to discuss Senate's needs.

- Shared Reception Area: Capital planning has identified as options either a stand-alone office space for Senate or a space featuring a shared reception area. Option two is contingent on freeing up some unidentified space. Details to be announced.
- Conference space: While Faculty Senate recognizes the difficulty of having a conference space dedicated to its sole use, having priority in a suitable conference space is critical to smooth functioning of Senate and its committees.

**ISSUES AND CONCERNS:** The Provost answered a question about what entities will likely be placed into Olscamp. He foresees grouping those units whose mission is faculty support into Olscamp. A recommendation for director of the Center for Faculty Excellence (CFE) has been forwarded to the Provost by the search committee. Responsibility for the CFE will be combined with that for online programs (OOPS).

**SENATE AGENDA :** Not yet set.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 4:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted Elizabeth J. Wood, Faculty Senate Secretary