

## FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

September 10, 2013  
2:30 – 4:30 P.M.

Assembly Room  
McFall Center

**CALL TO ORDER:** 2:45 P.M.

### **ROLL CALL:**

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

Absent: McBride-Daline, Pelletier, Terry-Fritsch, 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

Faculty Senate Chair, Sheri Wells-Jensen, welcomed both new and returning senators. She mentioned challenges facing BGSU in the current academic year and spoke hopefully of addressing them in a constructive manner and with positive outcomes. In particular she commended both the composition and the work of the group charged with amending the *Charter* to bring it into compliance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA). In addition, Chair Wells-Jensen announced SEC approval of a new ad hoc committee to study faculty workload issues.

#### President, Mary Ellen Mazey

After welcoming senators, Dr. Mazey introduced Dr. Ann Balazs, American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow, and currently Chair of the Department of Marketing at Eastern Michigan University. Dr. Balazs will be at BGSU during the fall 2013 semester.

President Mazey then offered the following updates:

Ranking. *U.S. News and World Report* rankings released yesterday showed improvement in BGSU's rankings. BGSU moved from 184 to 181 in the overall rankings and from 104 to 102 in the public universities' rankings. The University was once again recognized for its first-year programs.

Freshman Class Profile Dr. Mazey announced that this year's freshmen class has an average ACT score of 22.6 and grade point average of 3.31. The latter is the highest in the University's history. The goal is to recruit academically well prepared students, retain them, and ensure that they are successful graduates of BGSU.

Honors College President Mazey thanked the SEC and CAA for their input into the proposal to establish an Honors College. Dr. Simon Morgan-Russell will serve as Dean of the Honors College. The offices are now in Founders Hall. The goal will be to support the Honors College as it continues to recruit the highly academically prepared students.

Impact of New SSCI Formula on the Budget Because the freshmen class is smaller than expected, the University's budget will have a shortfall of \$2.5 million this year. Because of the change in the State Share of instruction (SSI) formula, there will be a \$6-7 million shortfall next year. She noted that over

the last five years, the University has lost 30 percent of our SSI while our sister universities in the state have gained 6 to 9 percent.

#### Additional State Level Updates

- A capital budget is being proposed this year and a funding commission will again be used to make funding recommendations to the state legislature.
- A “Value Agenda” is being contemplated that would examine cost control, preparation for college, degrees for the workforce, and online education and MOOCs.
- Finally, legislation to allow students trustees to be voting members of college and university boards of trustees (BOT) is moving through the Ohio legislature. The Inter-University Council (IUC) supports that this should be a decision for each of the BOTs at the higher education institutions in the state.

The President responded to a number of questions from the floor of the Senate.

#### Provost/VPAA, Rodney Rogers

Academic Achievements Provost/VPAA Rogers highlighted several achievements from the 2012/2013 academic year and thanked the many people who contributed to them:

- A successful Higher Learning Commission review and onsite visit.
- General Education reform and particularly articulation and approval of core learning objectives.
- Successful negotiation of our first collective bargaining agreement culminating in raising faculty compensation to market averages.
- Articulation and implementation of retention strategies and activities. Modest gains in retention have been achieved. Progress updates will be posted on the Provost’s website.
- Infrastructure supporting further improvements in retention has been built. An example is enrollment of nearly 70% of incoming freshmen in linked courses designed to engage them in the academic life of the University.
- The academic profile of the incoming class has been raised, a positive indicator for retention and hopefully a welcome development to faculty.

#### Focus for AY 2013/2014

- A focus on growing our enrollment in order to garner a larger share of the fixed pool of state funds earmarked for higher education will continue.
- The Enrollment Management Council, with broad representation including representatives from Faculty Senate and other campus entities, will monitor this effort.
- Efforts to gradually raise the academic profile of students is ongoing.
- Recommendations from an ad hoc group of advising staff for improving academic advising across campus will soon be forthcoming.
- Additional improvements in the General Education program are anticipated.
- Configuration of an Honors College with its own dean should help BGSU recruit high-achieving students.
- The Graduate Education Strategic Plan is being implemented.
- Modeled on the development of the second floor of Olscamp as a prototype innovative teaching space, other learning spaces will be reconfigured to encourage better teaching and learning outcomes.

Organizational Changes In order to address this year's revenue shortfall, several administrative positions have been consolidated:

- Interim Dean of the College of Technology, Architecture, and Applied Engineering and Vice Provost for Academic Operations.
- Vice President for Research and Economic development and Dean of the Graduate College.
- Dean of Firelands College and Vice Provost for Faculty Affairs.
- Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences and Dean of the Honors College.

Conversations about Challenges Facing Higher Education Dates and locations of a series of brown bag discussions about the changing Higher Education landscape as described in the book *College (un)bound : the future of higher education and what it means for students* by Jeffrey J. Selingo will soon be announced.

The Provost responded to a number of questions from the floor of the Senate.

Graduate Student Senate (GSS) Representative, Lingxiao Ge

President Ge Called attention to positive outcomes stemming from the efforts of last academic year's GSS:

- Institution of a needs-based award that will be implemented at December 2013 graduation to help students purchase Master's regalia or rent doctoral regalia.
- Availability of professional development money to fund graduate students travel to workshops, conferences, and similar professional events.

Undergraduate Student Government Representative, Alexis Solis

President Solis thanked everyone who made opening weekend a success. USG had its first general assembly and will focus on the following priorities this coming academic year:

- Student engagement
- Retention
- Improvements in Graduation Rates
- Academic Honesty Policy

In closing, he announced that the governor has approved David Westmeyer for a two year term as student representative to the Board of Trustees and expressed hope for a strong relationship with Faculty Senate as USG moves forward with its initiatives.

BGSU Faculty Association Liaison – Lawrence Coates

Dr. Coates expressed gratitude for BGSU having successfully negotiated its first faculty collective bargaining agreement (CBA).

He went on to commend the following work completed over this past summer:

- Joint BGSU-FA and administration resolution of issues regarding summer compensation and procedures for Enhanced Progress Reviews.
- The committee to reconcile the *Charter* with provisions of the CBA.

Coates also mentioned the FA communication of August 20<sup>th</sup> regarding the need for clarification about what, if any, aspects of faculty workload may fall under "terms and conditions of employment" and consequently subject to collective bargaining.

Retiree Representative, Ellen Williams

At its most recent meeting, the Retirees' Association heard from speakers BGSU President Mazey and Mayor Edwards regarding visioning and collaborative efforts currently and in the future.

**REPORTS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES**

Committee on Academic Affairs (CAA) – David Border

At the September 4, 2013 meeting, Peggy Booth and Shelia Roberts presented the proposal for an MS in Geospatial Studies. Next meeting: September 18, 2013.

Amendments and Bylaws Committee (A & B) – Erin Labbie/Allan Rogel

Co-chair Labbie reported that beginning in May four of the five members of Amendments and Bylaws were busy working with others on the Ad Hoc Committee on the Charter. Update: A Senate vote on that committee's recommendations regarding updates to bring the *Charter* into compliance with the Collective Bargaining Agreement will be carried over to the October Senate meeting .

Since Labbie's teaching schedule overlaps with Senate meeting times this semester, co-chair Allen Rogel will present most of the committee reports at Senate and will share other A & B responsibilities with Labbie.

Senators are encouraged to consider volunteering to fill the vacancy on the Amendments and Bylaws Committee.

Committee on Committees – No report.

Committee on Professional Affairs – No report.

Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee- No report.

**OLD BUSINESS: None**

**NEW BUSINESS**

Resolution on Senate Staffing The resolution from Senate Executive Committee (SEC) was read by Kathryn Hoff and seconded by Judith Edminster. An amendment to substitute the phrase "will develop" for the wording "will work... to develop" was moved by William O'Brien and seconded by Neocles Leontis. The amendment was accepted with no negative votes and 4 abstentions. Discussion ensued. The resolution was endorsed by a vote of 48 in favor, 4 against, and 1 abstention.

Election of Vice Chair The resignation of Julie Haught necessitated an immediate election for Vice Chair of Faculty Senate. Joel O'Dorisio and Allen Rogel were nominated. Each gave a 2 minutes statement about his experience and interest in the position. O'Dorisio was elected.

Resolution on the Location of the Office of Equity and Diversity (OED) The resolution from Senate Executive Committee (SEC) was read by Sarah Rainey and seconded by William Albertini. After discussion including questions from the Senate floor and statements from Director of Equity and Diversity and Assistant to the Provost, Barbara Waddell, Faculty Senate endorsed the resolution by a margin of 24 in favor, 15 opposed, and 6 abstentions.

Charter Amendments Mandated by the Collective Bargaining Agreement This agenda item was carried over to the October meeting because of the lateness of the hour.

**ISSUES AND CONCERNS/SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:** None

**ADJOURNMENT:** 4:45 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