

**SEC/VPAA JOINT CONFERENCE
MINUTES**

SEPTEMBER 11, 2012
2:30 – 4:30 pm

Senate Conference Room
140 McFall Center

PRESENT: Buerger, Earley, Hippler, Neely, Pelletier, Rainey, Rogers, Well-Jensen, Wood

PRESIDER: Vice Chair of Faculty Senate, Sheri Wells-Jensen

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS:

Possible Topics for Future Senate Meetings

- *Academic Honesty Policy* Not having been revised for some time, this approximately 25-page document is being looked at by Undergraduate Student Government, with a goal of making it more-easily understood and consequently more uniformly administered. This issue has evinced considerable interest as a stream in the Changing Campus Culture and Student Expectations discussion thread coordinated by Craig Zirbel as a mechanism for revising the General Education Curriculum. If this policy were removed from the *Charter*, it could be more easily updated as needed.
- *Senate Meeting Calendar* Possible rescheduling of the Senate meeting if it should fall within exam week during spring semester.
- *OFC Membership* A & B is formulating a resolution regarding membership in the statewide Ohio Faculty Committee. This resolution is in response to an SEC vote toward the end of the previous academic year to define procedures for selecting BGSU representation of this committee. UPDATE: SEC has received the text of the resolution.
- *Master Plan Progress* Ideally Senate would like regular updates about Master Plan decisions as those unfold.
- *Recruitment/ Retention* Chair Earley has requested an update from Dr. Colom in terms of our strategy to address the current retention benchmark.
- *Provost's AY Priorities* Several of the Provost's priorities for this academic year as outlined in the 9/4 Senate meeting will result in Senate agenda items.

Items pending Committee on Academic Affairs action The Provost observed that -- along with the need for thoughtful consideration of issues before Senate committees as a vital part of shared governance -- there also is a need to bring matters to the point of decisions and implementation if the University is to go forward.

Dr. Rogers then led a discussion and exchange of views about the three items on the 9/11/12 SEC/VPAA meeting agenda:

- The EDHD Inclusive Early Childhood Proposal, which ideally should proceed to SEC, Senate, and be placed before the Board of Trustees for approval in their December meeting if we hope to enroll students in that program by fall of 2013.
- The W/WF Policy, which has been debated for a number of years and has been resolved by most of our peer institutions.
- BGP/General Education Curriculum Changes to align BGSU with OBOR Transfer Module standards.

Committee Review Period Timetable The discussion then turned to pondering whether it might be desirable to specify a timetable for moving proposals out of Senate committees. The commonly-used deadline for moving proposals out of committee at institutions where this practice has been implemented is 90 days after receipt of the proposal -- with the option of the committee requesting more time and explaining why extending the review period would be warranted.

After discussing how such a change might enhance the accountability of committees and the nimbleness of the University in a rapidly changing higher education environment, SEC passed a motion to ask the Amendments & Bylaws Committee to formulate *Charter* language specifying such a committee review period timetable for Senate's consideration.

Proposals Anticipated for Consideration by Graduate Council

- MS in Analytics focusing on big data (Arthur Yeh)
- MA from Media and Communications that will be web-centric

Additional Provost Priorities

- Rogers repeated his perception that two particular high-impact practices for General Education identified by research as effective in promoting retention ought to be considered soon and possibly implemented.
- *Higher Learning Commission* The Provost reminded SEC that a draft from the 5 teams writing about the 5 HLC criteria will have a draft ready for comment around Thanksgiving. In addition to other responders, he would particularly like to get reactions/comments from SEC. Rewrites are scheduled for January. A final draft is due March 15; and the onsite visit will be April 15.
- Noting that the percentage of our student body enrolled in the Honors Program is low compared to peer institutions, and his belief that having an Honors College would aid in the recruitment of highly-qualified students, Rogers solicited ideas about how best to pursue the idea of an Honors College at BGSU. Charter provisions for establishment of a college are somewhat problematical because they describe establishment of a separate degree-granting college with its own faculty. However the Honors College structure envisioned for BGSU would be interdisciplinary using faculty from various academic disciplines and with degrees being conferred by the academic disciplines and not by the Honors College itself.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS None were brought forward.

ADJOURNMENT Meeting was adjourned at 4:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Elizabeth J. Wood