

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES

September 4, 2012
2:30 – 4:30 P.M.

Assembly Room
McFall Center

CALL TO ORDER: 2:30 P.M.

ROLL CALL:

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

Absent: Anguiano, Border, Carr, Durkit, Grunden, Jones, Solis.

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, Mark Earley

Communication Improving communication between Senate and the campus community will be a year-long focus. He observed, "I will be seeking effective ways to do this with your help. I would like for all faculty to know what the Senate does on an ongoing basis, and I don't think publishing the minutes is the only way to do this."

University Standing Committees Last academic year an extensive review was conducted to determine what University standing committees were not meeting. The Committee on Committees and the Senate vice chair, Sheri Wells-Jenson, will be meeting soon to bring closure to that process. They will recommend changes in the approximately seven non-functioning committees to either re-structure and revitalize or dismantle them, if not needed.

Senate Mission and Vision SEC approved appointment of an ad hoc committee of four or five members to articulate mission and vision statements for Senate. Volunteers should contact Chair Earley.

Committee Vacancies Senators are needed for the following:

- Wellness Champion
- Two vacancies on the Committee on Committees. UPDATE: SEC appointed 2 volunteers. 1 additional vacancy remains on ComCom.
- A representative to the Foundation Board – a faculty member but not necessarily a senator – is also needed.

President, Mary Ellen Mazey

President Mary Ellen Mazey provided information about several areas.

Updates from the State of Ohio

- The Ohio Board of Regents is asking all Ohio college and university campuses to become smoke-free. There will be discussions among all BGSU campus constituencies about how best to approach this.

- There is a state-wide task force to increase the number of college graduates in Ohio. The task force's first meeting with the Chancellor was held at BGSU because BGSU is considered to be a model among state institutions with respect to achieving high graduation rates. Additional meetings have been scheduled to address this topic.
- There is an emphasis in Ohio on fostering innovation and commercial development at colleges and universities. The Provost held a retreat on this topic recently for chairs and directors.

Community Update

- The city of Bowling Green and the University have developed a visioning project that focuses on ways to establish and to nurture partnerships.

Campus Updates

- Academic Priorities
The campus will focus on academic priorities designed to continue and build on last year's efforts in three main areas:
 - ✓ Increasing enrollment, which currently ranks the lowest among state public higher education institutions.
 - ✓ Increasing retention as benchmarked by comparison of the size of freshman classes from year-to-year (first-year, full-time enrollment). This is important in its own right but also because of the *U.S. News and World Report* rankings of colleges and universities which are heavily dependent on this component.
 - ✓ Facilities work. The Board of Trustees approved \$200 million in funds for renovations to support transforming the legacy buildings to state-of-the-art teaching and research spaces. Changes will be communicated as fully as possible. There was a lack of communication regarding planning for demolition of the Popular Culture building in preparation for the new Student Health Center construction.
- Higher Learning Commission
 - ✓ The groups working on the written document will soon have a draft for review.
 - ✓ The on-campus visit portion of the re-accreditation review is scheduled for April 15, 2013.
- Human Resources/Contract Negotiations
 - ✓ Interviews for vice president for University advancement are underway. The position will be critical in coordinating a successful comprehensive campaign.
 - ✓ Contract Negotiations—The negotiating teams are hard at work. Much progress was made over the summer. We are roughly 75 percent of the way toward getting a contract agreed to by the University and the BGSU Faculty Association.

The President was questioned about a deadline for concluding negotiations. She said that there was not a firm deadline for agreeing on contract provisions and that it was important to have a good contract. The administration will have all of its proposals on the table by the September 11, 2012, meeting.

Graduate Student Senate Representative, David Sleasman

GSS President Sleasman introduced GSS representative, Christina Fields to Senate and affirmed that GSS is looking forward to collaboration with Senate. He touched on several issues on the GSS list of priorities for this year:

- Updating the current graduate student grievance policy and clarifying what procedure should be followed with regard to graduate student grievances.
- Clarifying the roles of graduate teaching, research, and administrative assistants.
- Again coordinating the Shanklin awards and possibly bringing past winners back to campus.
- Working with Undergraduate Student Government on a number of issues.

Undergraduate Student Government Representative, Vice President David Neely

Summer Orientation and activities USG President Solis and Vice President Neely met with some 85 University administrators over the summer to gain a better understanding of the role of USG. In addition, there are specific issues/initiatives on which USG looks forward to collaborating and to educating/informing the undergraduate campus community.

- One example is giving input to decisions about the new Student Health Center.
- Another is Operation Tiger, a student-led initiative that obtained 2000 signatures on petitions to institute open recycling. There will be containers at the Black Swamp Festival courtesy of this effort and 100% post-consumer recycling has been implemented in all IT labs.

Provost/VPAA, Rodney Rogers

Rogers waived the opportunity to make comments in favor of detailed discussion of his priorities for the new academic year.

BGSU Faculty Association Liaison, Lawrence Coates

Appreciation for negotiating teams

Noting that getting a union contract finalized is of mutual interest and concern to BGSU Faculty Association and the university administration, Coates echoed the President's praise for both negotiation teams. He asked that individual faculty members express their gratitude to Faculty Association -- all of whom have put in hours of work on a volunteer basis -- negotiators should the opportunity present itself.

Progress

Contrasting the number of proposals put forth by each side (26 initiated by BGSU FA versus 10 initiated by the administration), Coates mentioned that the union has responded to the mediator's advice that "economic" proposals be considered as a whole. He stated that BGSU FA has as of this date placed proposals for the entire contract on the table.

At issue

One potential sticking point in negotiating a contract could be the issue of non-members being mandated to pay a "fair share" of negotiating costs in lieu of paying dues. BGSU FA remains hopeful that there will not be an impasse, which would trigger beginning the fact finding process.

Retiree Representative, Tom Hern

Hern volunteered willingness to share the contents of his memory bank built over the course of 43 years of service and indicated that -- should he obtain information about the progress of changes in STRS benefits through the legislature -- he will communicate such news.

REPORTS FROM SENATE COMMITTEES

Amendments and Bylaws Committee, Erin Labbie

At its first fall meeting on September 11, Amendments and Bylaws will be fine-tuning language about BGSU's membership in the statewide Ohio Faculty Council to incorporate into the *Charter*. Amendments and Bylaws will have a resolution ready to propose at the October Faculty Senate meeting.

Committee on Academic Affairs

No report.

Committee on Committees (Com Com)

Wells-Jensen (ex officio) and other ComCom members are comparing calendars to find a meeting date.

Committee on Professional Affairs

No report.

Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee

No report.

OLD BUSINESS:

Undergraduate Curriculum Renewal Update: Craig Zirbel

History of the process to date Zirbel reviewed milestones in the discussions of BGSU's General Education curriculum renewal since he began coordinating the faculty-driven effort in January of 2012.

2/7 Zirbel presented his proposed process to Faculty Senate fielding questions and obtaining Senate's endorsement of the process as described.

3/1 Calls to action were issued, including a survey of faculty, staff, and students soliciting suggestions for topics related to Gen Ed renewal.

4/10 After reviewing survey input that fell into various themes for discussion as proposed by survey respondents, SEC and the Provost recommended to Zirbel a few matters for the initial focus of faculty individuals and groups interested in changing various aspects of the General Education experience at BGSU.

- Changing campus culture and students' expectations regarding an undergraduate education was selected as the initial discussion topic. Various means to stimulate discussion were employed and may be reviewed at <http://general-education.bgsu.wikispaces.net/>.
 - ✓ In addition to face-to-face discussions, a listserv has been set up for ongoing communications pertinent to this theme and all faculty, staff, and graduate teaching assistants enrolled. (They can opt out, depending on how central this issue is to their professional interests.)
 - ✓ Discussions about the difficulty of increasing interaction and engagement in large class sections yielded positive outcomes. For example, negotiation to secure funding for undergraduate assistants in such classes.
 - ✓ An encouraging response to concern about the need to make students aware of what constitutes academic honesty is the effort to develop aids for faculty to

raise such awareness and compliance (e.g. checklists of what is and is not acceptable in terms of academic honesty)

- Compliance with the Ohio Board of Regents' standards for transfer modules, while important, was judged not to be a matter requiring campus-wide discussion because action needed to come into compliance is fairly straight forward and to some extent is already underway at BGSU.

Next Steps Pursuit of design and implementation of some kind of writing-across-the-curriculum will likely be started later this semester.

Issues of high interest to survey respondents and discussion group members that have been put on the back burner for now include but are not limited to the following:

- Changing advising structures and practices such that uniformly high-quality advising is available to all BGSU undergraduates.
- Increasing the number of students graduating within 4 years.
- Improving the work environment for all BGSU employees.

Zirbel is pondering future-oriented questions such as the following and would appreciate hearing the thoughts of others on such topics:

- What should be the next step in the process of discussions leading to blue-sheet proposals to reform General Education?
- How can changes in campus culture and student expectations be made to stick long term without some kind of campus-wide mandate?

Thanks for support Zirbel noted that his coordinating efforts over the last 7 months and continuing through the end of this academic year were made possible by summer salary from the Provost's Office and by the support of departmental colleagues in Math and Statistics facilitating his release from 1 course during the academic year.

He also thanked Kelly Taylor for designing an attractive handout to illustrate recommended faculty practices with promise for starting to change campus culture and undergraduate student expectations.

NEW BUSINESS

Priorities for 2012-2013 Academic Year: Provost Rodney Rogers

Commending the work Craig Zirbel has coordinated on General Education renewal and in particular the discussions about changing campus culture and student expectations, Rogers affirmed, "...at the core of this discussion it should be faculty because you and your colleagues are with our students' every day; so that discussion has to start with this group and with their colleagues, and then it can be expanded to the broader university community."

Prefacing the remainder of his remarks with the observation that he intended to share what he has been working on, worrying about, and wondering about and get feedback from senators -- Rogers grouped his priorities for the 2012-2013 academic year into three categories: 1) Renewed commitment to student success in its many manifestations; 2) Investing in faculty and facilities; 3) Recruiting and retaining high-quality students.

Student success Rogers highlighted several aspects of work intended to increase and enhance students success.

- Working through CAA and other entities (Undergrad Council, where appropriate Grad Council, SEC, and the Senate) to come into compliance with OBOR standards, (quantitative literacy standards having been articulated). Hopefully this process will be concluded by the end of fall semester.
- Acting on the review conducted this past spring and summer of the Gen Ed curriculum (as mandated in the *Charter*) to better align it with University level learning outcomes and build in assessment. Creation of an Office of Assessment through re-allocation of resources should greatly aid the inculcation of assessment throughout campus.
- Providing financial support to 7 teams of faculty that received grants last spring (some 38 individuals) to work on innovative pedagogies.
- Completing the work that has been done by CAA and a sub-group of Undergraduate Council regarding aligning policies and procedures to conserve resources and support our academic work. A final draft should be coming to Undergraduate Council this fall.
- Changing advising structures and processes that currently are confusing and inconsistent from the student's perspective. We need to ensure that uniformly high-quality advising is delivered to every undergraduate student as a critical component of bolstering retention and persistence.
- Implementing the Graduate Education Strategic Plan will be a major focus.
 - ✓ There is no immediate plan to make a large investment in the administrative structure at this time.
 - ✓ This is an opportunity to grow a strong portfolio of graduate programs as a way to build quality in graduate education. Growing enrollments of fee-paying graduate students allow us to invest in other graduate programs.
- Converting the Honors Program to an Honors College as way to increase the percent of our students enrolled in the honors curriculum. "I would like us to begin to explore that this fall because our Honors Program has about 3% of our student population in it, and when you look at some of our sister schools, Miami is at 11%, Kent is at 7.7% and OU is at 9%." Ways and means to accomplish this will be explored fall semester.
- Establishing more accelerated BA and MA degree programs. "... that's another way that has been found to recruit high achieving students is to have those kinds of opportunities."
- With the change of leadership in International Programs, there is an opportunity to reorganize and regroup so that we provide even better support for the success of these students once they are at BGSU and also better coordinate such aspects of international education as academic exchange programs, faculty lead short-term programs, and so forth.
- Explore opportunities to expand online programs where appropriate and build on current success to offer distance courses to a broader audience.
- He urged the faculty to consider taking advantage of published research to implement high-impact practices central to retention and persistency such as
 - ✓ Implementing first-year academic seminars
 - ✓ Linking courses so that students have a cohort of colleagues in more than the isolated instance -- even if they are not in a residential college. "...we have not fully leveraged the opportunity that 90% of our freshmen, and 90% of our sophomores live on campus and they're actually engaged in the campus community."

Investing in Faculty and Facilities

Faculty Research: Mike Ogawa has done considerable work in improving the ways in which we support faculty research.

Other Resources for Faculty: One thing to think about this fall is how we could bring together the Center for Teaching and Learning, the CIO's technology assistance, and COBL's support of online education. "We want to bring those groups together to have an office where it's clear where resources are to support faculty in their teaching endeavors."

Master Plan: By the end of September the Provost, CFO Stoll, and Associate Vice President for Capital Planning, Krakoff, plan to meet with every building or program potentially impacted by the Master Plan. "The idea is to begin to engage in ... dialogue... about where academic programs can move to, that will lead to synergy that will lead to opportunities to see more collaboration ... across academic programs as well as providing facilities that support the academic [endeavors] that faculty are engaged in." In all instances, the goal is to provide top quality research and teaching spaces throughout our campus.

Centers of Excellence: It is important to move forward with our Centers of Excellence and determine the best way to support them. These centers are key to who we are as an institution.

Academic Reconfiguration: At the beginning of summer term, the CAA and SEC considered and found merit in the request of the Food and Nutrition program to move to a different college and to become a department rather than a program. As a result, an Academic Reconfiguration Committee will soon be convened to look into the matter.

Higher Learning Commission: The quality initiative narrative went in last week. Teams are working on addressing the 5 criteria for self-assessment due March 15th. A draft will be out for comment near the end of this term. "... I look forward to engaging this group in those reports looking for your feedback once we get the first draft done..."

Questions and Comments Provost Rogers responded to a number of questions and comments about his priorities.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS/SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS:

None were raised.

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 4:30

Respectfully Submitted: Elizabeth J. Wood