

FACULTY SENATE MINUTES // Oct 1, 2019
2:30 PM – 4:30 PM // Olscamp 102

CALL TO ORDER
ROLL CALL

CHAIR REMARKS // Jenn Stucker, 2019 – 20 Faculty Senate Chair- Pam Pinson was diagnosed with stage 4 breast cancer. There is a go fund me page for her expenses. Please see the link <https://www.gofundme.com/f/healing-tools-for-pam>

COMMUNICATIONS

- Dr. Rodney Rogers, President-
 - Progress was shared on the Strategic Plan. The President’s Advisory Board for Strategic Plan Implementation will continue to meet each semester to provide feedback and advice. We will communicate through Senate as well as directors, chairs, and deans. The Provost will also write a monthly newsletter for more open communication.
 - We have had great success in enrollment. Our six-year graduation rate is at a record high. Faculty and staff play a great role in this. Our retention rates are at 77% it has plateaued we need to try to increase the retention rate. Our enrollment trends have increased compared to other institutions.
 - The Wall Street Journal examines different data and one pillar is teaching and learning at institutions. Bowling Green State University ranked number 3 among all public institutions in the United States for teaching and learning. This speaks to the quality of experience our students have. Students who answered these surveys overwhelmingly stated that they would choose to attend Bowling Green State University if they could choose their university again.

- Dr. Joe Whitehead, Provost and Senior Vice President
 - Concerning the travel policy, BGSU modified the travel policy to a line it with state guidelines. In the case of frequent flier miles and hotel points, individuals are personally responsible for tracking and using the frequent flier miles and hotel rewards earned while on BGSU travel for BGSU related business. Individuals are personally responsible, not BGSU.
 - The textbook policy left out self-authored textbooks. There are two conditions where self-authored textbooks can be used. If the faculty member is not in supervisory position and the decision to use the textbook was not made by author. Faculty members can receive funds from self-authored textbooks under these two conditions.

Questions:

Q: Steve Koppitsch- Are we required to earn miles?

A: Joe Whitehead- No you are not required to earn miles.

- Robin Herschkowitz, GSS President
 - GSS will have a grad student professional day Oct 11th in the Jerome Library in the afternoon.

- Marcus Goolsby, USG President-

- *From this mission statement, we identified four umbrellas for which we operate our initiatives under: Academic Success, Student Wellness & Safety, Student Engagement & Diversity and Inclusion. The goal is for everything we do as a body to fall under at least one of these four umbrellas.*
- *For this year, under the umbrella of student wellness and safety, USG hopes to engage the university community on the subject of hazing as we believe that proactive education is the key to prevention. We are also working with the Wellness Connection on approving the proposed Tobacco Free Policy for our campus as we continue to face a growing national increase of dangerous vaping use. Lastly, we hope to increase efforts to engage students on the topic of mental health and wellness as it remains one of the keys to overall student success.*
- *Within the umbrella of Academic Success, USG aims to continue engaging in dialogue with Faculty Senate on the proposed +/- Grading policy, ensuring that student voices are adequately heard through the process. We also aim to maintain representation throughout Faculty Senate's University Standing Committees, ensuring that an adequate student voice is preserved throughout campus with respect to academics.*
- Within the umbrella of Student Engagement, we have already had a strong start to the year. USG heavily participated in various Fall Welcome events. With multiple members of USG speaking to the class of 2023 at BGSU's annual Convocation as well as the Falcon Frenzy Pep Rally, we were able to show students to we are a viable resource for them while also encouraging them to engage in the campus community.
- For this year, we hope to continue to find innovative ways for our organization to engage students. From reevaluating our annual Creed Day that we host in the spring to re-introducing USG's annual "Mark of Excellence" awards that we give to the university community, we are dedicated to engaging students as we hope they engage the university at large.
- And finally, within the umbrella of Diversity & Inclusion, USG has also had a strong start to the year. During the week of homecoming, USG hosted a "Multicultural Org Week" where 13 multicultural student orgs across campus came together under one week of programming. USG is also very excited and appreciative for the steps the university is taking on the subject of Diversity and Inclusion. We look forward to continuing to work with the Division of Diversity & Belonging on developing the Student Advisory Council on Diversity and Inclusion, as well as sponsoring a host of different events throughout the year that engage the surrounding community on impactful topics and conversations

OLD BUSINESS

- 1 1.** // +/- GRADING POLICY: Graduate grading policy https://falconbgsu-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/robbyngm_bgsu_edu/ESG9ECwsB0RFrp8qvH6oq5gBh_41vxsFq3pGtHk5WkINQQ?e=pJcUhp Undergrad grading policy: https://falconbgsu-my.sharepoint.com/:w:/g/personal/robbyngm_bgsu_edu/ET-L7QkKDIFFofiN6I586csBm6jeOO0Wg3ypC2Zy9Tmm1A?e=q3P4oM

Please see link to presentation:

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*Presentation by Andy Alt, Assistant Vice Provost of Academic Affairs: Please see link-
https://falconbgsu-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/robymgm_bgsu_edu/EToYraBhQIFMkxWva2_OEVsBBqPhJCfT52-suXSydwlpnw?e=i9FBI*

2 //+/- GRADING POLICY DISCUSSION-

Questions:

Q: Allen Rogel- The new proposal for undergraduate does not include the ATN grade. How will that be reported?

A: Andy Alt- The ATN will be included in the proposal

Q: Jaqueline Justice: What are the benefits?

A: Andy Alt: When looking at peer institutions, students may be more motivated academically.

Q: Steve Koppitsch: Are we going to replace the U/S with P/F?

A: Andy Alt: A "C-" would not be considered satisfactory. A "D" would not be passing.

Q: Steve Koppitsch- Why not switch from S/U to P/F?

A: Alex Goberman- Grad level S/U is embedded in curriculum some courses do not have that option.

Q: Jacqueline Justice: Would all faculty have to use the plus/minus grading?

A: Andy Alt: No all faculty do not have to use the plus/minus grading scale.

Q: Marcus Goolsby: A reasoning for the plus/minus policy is the thought that students will put more effort into finals. Are there any discussions about more tutors in the learning commons to increase student engagement?

A: Andy Alt: I cannot speak to that there is on going reviews of appropriate resources.

Q: Joel O'Doriso: There doesn't seem to be any indication that either grading scale effects the students' GPA.

A: Joe Whitehead: This could be a good problem with increasing student GPA on the bottom end.

Q: No name given: What is the range for the letter grades? Is there a consistent grading scale?

A: Andy Alt: The current grading scale has no solid break down. There is no prescribed grading scale for the plus/minus or our current grading scale.

Q: Peter Blass: The ranges are too long between "B-" and "B+" students. The "A+" is necessary to reward the student who does an outstanding job. I am disappointed at the disappearance of the "A+".

A: Andy Alt: "A+" was part of the initial proposal. We looked at other institutions and removed the "A+" because we want to benchmark with other institutions.

Q: Chris Frey: I see stakeholder groups, but I don't see under represented student groups. What will the impact be on those groups?

A: Andy Alt: Those groups have been consulted.

Q: Chris Frey: Is there a concern with retention?

A: Andy Alt: There is no adverse effect on the students' GPA after one year.

Q: Marcus Goolsby: How will the transcripts look for students already enrolled?

A: Andy Alt: Part of the transcript would represent the plus/ minus and the part would represent the current grading scale.

Q: No name given: Why consistent with other institutions. We should be having fewer grade levels.

A: Andy Alt: "C-" does count towards the major. A "C" average is the mark a "C-" can count as long as there is a "C+" to offset it.

Q: Beatrice Guenther: What is the status of the final vote?

A: Pat Pauken: Policy goes to Pres. Cabinet.

Q: Joel O'Doriso: If we vote it down then what?

A: Jenn Stucker: President Rogers is happy to support the faculty.

Q: Apollos Nwauwa: What if we need more time?

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A: Matt Lavery: A motion to postpone would be appropriate in November.

NEW BUSINESS

1. //ENGAGING IN GOVERNANCE

Presentation by Dr. Matt Lavery, Faculty Senate Vice Chair- Please see link:

https://falconbgsu-my.sharepoint.com/:b:/g/personal/robyngm_bgsu_edu/EeW9Xgl4hQFNtMIQF5aXc5YBHbKkmxjqvX2LVxjv6apjeg?e=xRfvT7

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

SENATE STANDING COMMITTEES

- Committee on Academic Affairs (CAA)
- Committee on Professional Affairs (CPA)
- Adjunct Faculty Committee (AFC)
- Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee (FAAC)
- Committee on Committees (Com/Com)- Chair Brian Snow- Most committees are filled. We are looking for 2 Senators to serve on Com/Com
- Committee on Amendments + Bylaws (A+B)- Allen Rogel- Charter change has to come into agreement with the CBA. Feel free to bring anything to my attention.

UNIVERSITY COMMITTEES

AD-HOC COMMITTEES, WORK GROUPS

- Student Evaluation of Teaching (SET) – Matt Lavery- As of today every seat is filled communication will go out shortly.
- BGSU FACULTY ASSOCIATION- David Jackson- We will be having a general membership meeting this semester. Can join FA online if not a member.

ISSUES AND CONCERNS / SUGGESTIONS FOR FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS ADJOURNMENT

Adjourn

Motion to Adjourn- Allen Rogel, Second Joel O'Doresio

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NOTES: Senate meetings are open to the public. Supplemental materials supporting proposed action item(s) may be sent to Senators only. Senators arriving after roll call are asked to report to the secretary at the end of the meeting. Please use a microphone and state your name when addressing the body. Senators are expected to stay through adjournment.

Please be advised that as in past Faculty Senate meetings, this Senate meeting will be live audio recorded.