

September 1, 2020 // 2:30 - 4:30 // Via WebEx

1. CALL TO ORDER: Christopher Frey, 2:31pm

Faculty Senate Chair Frey welcomed Senators, introduced himself, and provided guidance to Senators on locating the agenda and accompanying documents. He stated this meeting will entail catching up on business that occurred over the summer, an introduction for new Senators, time for communications, old business, and an overview of the Faculty Senate standing committees. Thank you for your service, this will be an interesting year.

2. ROLL CALL:

Attendance: 64 Senators in attendance; Quorum requirement met

Guests: Ben Batey, Chief Health Officer (CHO) and Richard Anderson, Chair, Ad Hoc Committee for Surveying Campus Community on the Return-To-Campus Plan

Faculty Senate Secretary, Marlise Lonn, took attendance during the chair remarks by comparing the WebEx participant list to the Faculty Senate roster. Alternates indicated their presence in the chat box.

3. CHAIR REMARKS: *Christopher Frey, 2020-2021 Faculty Senate Chair*

Chair Frey opened by welcoming all to the first Faculty Senate meeting of the year. Although he was not anticipating serving in the Chair role this year, he appreciates the encouragement he has received. The previous Chair, Matt Lavery, resigned a few weeks ago.

Chair Frey expressed appreciation for the support of Dr. Jenn Stucker, Past-chair, Dr. Marlise Lonn, FS Secretary, and Kathleen Newman, the Administrative Secretary for the Faculty Senate Office who is an integral part of our operations. He then recognized and welcomed Dr. Nicole Kalaf-Hughes who graciously agreed to be the new Faculty Senate Parliamentarian and recognized Dr. Pat Paukin who served well as Faculty Senate Parliamentarian for many years. Thank you for your service.

- I want to open by sharing something President Rogers said recently, "the future is now." A lot of the concerns and issues we were anticipating in five years are happening now. We thought we had time to plan for this. This is a crucial year for Faculty Senate. We have a lot of responsibilities to curriculum, academic affairs and so forth. I take that responsibility very seriously and I believe you do too, which is why you serve on the Faculty Senate. I look forward to a year of collaboration within the framework of our University's values and policy structures as we continue to move BGSU forward together through this and the next few years.

- Chair Frey provided a brief orientation and review for new and returning Senators. He reviewed the posted orientation PowerPoint as he talked through information drawn from the Academic Charter - which he encouraged Senators to become familiar with.
 - A primary focus is our responsibility and authority to develop, sustain and enhance the intellectual quality and reputation of the institution and maintain its academic integrity. A lot of this work will come through the committee on academic affairs through course and program approval and other important academic infrastructure. This includes the right to review, advise, and consent to both the academic and the economic/budget policies that influence our work.
 - The Senate has the discretion to offer recommendations and advice on issues germane to both the academic function of the institution and student welfare. This includes activities that promote faculty professional growth, involvement in academic unit and University budgeting processes, a quality library, and instructional and research equipment. One of my priorities as Chair is to see that Faculty Senate has input on the budget. All of these aspects influence our teaching and research.
 - It is also important to recognize that the faculty and the President have the right to review Senate action.
 - The Faculty Senate represents all faculty including adjuncts, and this is the forum to bring attention to issues and problems that are within our purview. Additionally, Senators are responsible to attend all meetings or assign an alternate to attend in their place, review documents and meeting agendas, and to communicate and explain Faculty Senate actions to colleagues in their college, department/school, and other appropriate venues.
 - Senate committee responsibilities will be reviewed when we get to Committee Reports. The agenda includes links to the BGSU Academic Charter and informational documents on parliamentary procedure provided by Dr. Pat Paukin.
- If there are questions or clarification needed in relation to the orientation, please speak up or use the chat box. I will turn it over to President Rogers for his communications and to respond to a set of questions I distilled from the BGSU faculty discussion board.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS:**

Please note communications are not presented in the typical format. There was allowance for a question and answer period. Questions typed in the chat box (voiced by Chair Frey) are attributed to the author, and some questions/responses are grouped according to topic rather than in the order received/addressed.

Rodney Rogers, President

President Rogers opened by extending thanks to Chair Frey and greeting the Senators in attendance, welcoming all to Fall 2020, a fall term unlike any other. In

addition to a global pandemic, we face a variety of challenges around social justice, race, and ethnicity across our country, our campuses, and our world.

- He shared that he, the Provost, and the CHO were able to attend each of the colleges' opening day meetings and expressed recognition of and gratitude for all the work faculty and others have done in these very difficult and trying times. We are all trying to find the best way forward, I am confident none of us really know the best way forward, and we will not know until the historians look back and study our decision-making. Despite the uncertainty, we do not have the luxury of not finding a way forward. There is angst about what our future holds around public health, social justice issues, the disparities that exist among people in our country, and wondering, does this democracy work in the world we are living in today. These are significant issues and it can become overwhelming to think about importance of each. Here's what I know, there are things we can control and there are things we cannot control; so, as humans, we work together to find a way forward for our community. We have to think about the things we can do together that are in our control. Provost Whitehead reminds me of this all the time as we have engaged in discussion around what we can do in the face of these issues. We believe Bowling Green State University is an important institution that serves not only our students, but our faculty and staff.
- President Rogers noted that Dr. Frey presented him with a list of questions that had been compiled from the Faculty Discussion board and proceeded to read them verbatim.

Questions submitted by Chair Frey: Could you explain the risk of lawsuits stemming from Covid-19 cases/deaths that the university, including individual faculty members, could potentially face? Similarly, does the university have any legal responsibility should an employee become ill or pass from the virus?

Response: President Rogers the Office of General Counsel website has information about employee liability. This lays out the general employee and employer responsibilities. Please email Dr. Natalie Jackson or contact Office of General Counsel staff if you have specific questions.

President Rogers stated that health and safety of our entire community is at the forefront. We have consulted with other universities across the state to think of ways we can reduce spread, knowing we cannot eliminate the virus. Our work to minimize the risk and protect those who are most vulnerable to this virus. We consider ethical and legal obligations as we make decisions about moving forward. Specifically, we are following guidelines established by the CDC, Ohio Department of Health, and the Inter-University Council protocols based on best practices described by public health officials. BGSU created and hired a cabinet level position, Chief Health Officer, to focus full-time on this issue.

Question submitted by Chair Frey: Many faculty and staff questions regarding reopening have been posed anonymously out of a stated concern of fear of reprisal (class assignments, renewal of contracts, other implicit reprisals) for voicing

these concerns. Of course, in public health emergency like this, clear and honest communication about problems and concerns is vital. Could you please address that concern, and how the principle of clear and open communication has been communicated to Deans and other administrators?

Response: President Rogers, I do not know that I can do much about this. Full-time faculty members are represented by the BGSU Faculty Association, an AAUP union chapter. Other levels of protection include the Academic Charter and both faculty and staff receive protection as state employees. In terms of protection as an employee, being at a public university with a unionized faculty and other Charter stipulations, there is perhaps more protection in this higher education setting than in other work environments. President Rogers expressed feeling awful that faculty fear reprisal and believes higher education should be the type of organization where people can speak openly about concerns. We know each of us have different roles in making the decisions about this organization and how we move forward. In a perfect world, we would have had a couple of years to plan for what we are doing right now, but we did not have that kind of time. Early in the process, we formed task forces that included appointed members of Faculty Senate alongside staff and students. Just because we had to make decisions very quickly does not mean that we did not listen to and learn from our own community and from other communities across the nation and world. Those of you with ideas about how to address this fear of reprisal, I want to know about that because there are measures in place to protect individual employees from these issues.

Chat Box Question: Michael Buerger, President Rogers, your response to the question about anonymity out of fear of reprisal seemed to address the protections in place for keeping the job. I heard a different level in the question: the targeted use of powers inherent on various offices that are well below the specifics of union contract or state law. Class scheduling was mentioned, giving 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. split schedules for those faculty who come to campus from longer distances stands out as an exemplar. Can you address these types of informal punishments, please? Chair Frey paraphrased this question and asked about communicating to the Deans that this is inappropriate and reassuring faculty that if they find themselves in a situation where they feel there is some kind of implicit retribution happening for asking uncomfortable questions, there is recourse.

Response: Provost Whitehead, I have been listening and if there a pattern that when someone speaks out they get an undesirable schedule, let me know. Work through the department chair, the dean, and up to my office. We help people work through situations all the time. I would like to know about the specific cases mentioned here so we can see exactly what the situation is and do our due diligence to investigate when something occurs that is not appropriate. As President Rogers mentioned, there is a Faculty Association with a clear route for addressing issues when there is something inappropriate happening.

Chair Frey affirmed faculty should use the regular channels, or if someone in those channels is causing the problem, go around that by contacting him. His role is to be a representative of the faculty to the administration and to the board of trustees. He

confirmed the Faculty Senate is happy to listen to and work with adjunct faculty or graduate students not represented by the Faculty Association.

Via the chat box, *David Jackson, Faculty Association President* noted that all bargaining faculty members are covered whether or not they pay dues and provided contact information for the BGSU-FA contract administration and grievance officer, Phil Stinson, phil.stinson@bgsu-fa.org; BGSU-FA president, David Jackson, david.jackson@bgsu-fa.org and

Chair Frey noted he hears the concern about the possibility of this happening and that perhaps people are not saying something for fear that it might happen. He encouraged Senators to relay to faculty to speak their concerns forthrightly and truthfully, noting the importance of maintaining a free flow information and communication, even if a situation turns out not to be entirely as it was first represented. Rumors and concerns can take over an environment and he does not want to work in an institution where people feel this way. It is important to address these types of concerns when they arise.

Question submitted by Chair Frey: Several times over the summer, administrators lamented a “trust gap” among faculty in relation to the university’s plans to reopen. (These questions have been posed as “are administrators working from campus?” and “are any administrators teaching face to face this semester?”) A source of this trust gap among faculty is a concern that the administrators making decisions for students and faculty are not placing themselves in the same environment (classrooms in particular) as the faculty. In short, administrators are making decisions that put faculty and students at higher potential risk, but they do not place themselves at the same risk. Could you address this “trust gap” and how you can assure faculty and students that administrators are not working from a separate, safer set of conditions?

Response: President Rogers indicated he does not know what every faculty administrator is doing right now, but some are teaching a class in addition to their administrative work. It has been 177 days since March 9th during which time I have been here on campus, working long hours. Not just me, we have a team including the Provost and CHO Batey who has been with us since July and before that was advising us while also serving as a public health commissioner.

We had faculty and staff across the institution who worked during the summer, attended sessions, and worked to restructure courses to move us forward this semester. We gave students a lot of options through Design My BGSU so they had a choice about how they wanted to take classes. Approximately 25% of students are fully online. We went to faculty and staff and gave choices if they had or were caring for someone with underlying health concerns. About 50% of our full-time faculty are teaching only remotely or online, 25% are teaching a mix of remote/online/hybrid, and 25% of faculty's fall teaching load is completely in-person/hybrid. We gave people choices and are trying to be as flexible as possible in a world where we are working hard to reduce the risk of COVID-19. President Rogers indicated he spent a lot of time on campus during move-in, has been meeting with student groups both

face-to-face and virtually, and is not currently teaching a class. Each of us were given opportunities to make some decisions and we are working very hard to reduce the risk as much as possible. CHO Batey, there are four questions for you, and I want to make sure that if Provost Whitehead has anything to add to the previous questions that has an opportunity to speak to that.

Ben Batey, Chief Health Officer

CHO Batey opened by noting he was on campus before being hired by BGSU and was the architect for some of the physical distancing structures seen across campus. He continues to examine the student union and other spaces across campus to make sure we are structured in a way to keep people as safe as possible and to keep the risk for all individuals who come to campus as low as possible. In over a month of being on campus, CHO Batey commented he has never encountered a situation where he had to be within six feet of someone for greater than 15 minutes. Although we cannot completely eliminate risk, we can keep our exposure capacity to a very low level by following the campus protocols.

Question (1): Chair Frey, could you please review the current testing protocol for campus.

Response: CHO Batey, we are currently doing surveillance testing across campus. We have had Wood County Hospital come to campus to help ramp up capacity and we are working to increase testing as much as possible. Within northwest Ohio, testing is a scarce resource, and the more people who get tested, the longer the result wait times are. Test results become less useful when they take seven to 10 days to get back to us. We are being appropriately strategic in our use of this resource. If we did mass testing of everybody across campus, we would be drawing testing resources away from hospitals and other settings across northwest Ohio with symptomatic patients.

BGSU is building capacity and will be conducting about 50 random surveillance tests a day for three days this week through the Falcon Health Center. Our goal for next week is 100 surveillance tests a day for a total of 500 that week. This is in addition to testing of symptomatic individuals who present for testing through their health care provider. Wood County Hospital and Falcon Health Center must also serve others in the community, so we are partnering with Mercy Health to strategically increase our testing capacity with different selected groups. Students are the current focus because we know that is where most of the cases are, with more cases occurring off campus than in students who are on campus. For a time, we have not had any reported faculty or staff cases. Our goal is to get to a place where anyone in the University community can register to be part of the surveillance testing occurring in a given week. It will take work to get there; across the nation, testing has been a clearly lacking resource in terms of being able to respond appropriately to this virus. BGSU has partnered with Wood County Hospital to set up a state-of-the-art lab with high-end equipment that will make us the largest testing facility of this type in northwest Ohio. This will greatly increase capacity and reduce time to results. If the lab runs two daily shifts, we can potentially process up to 800 tests a day and get

almost same day results. It will take about 6 weeks to get the lab fully operational. CHO Batey summarized BGSU's testing strategy as conducting surveillance and symptomatic testing while increasing capacity moving forward - knowing we need to continue testing into the spring semester and beyond.

Question (2): Chair Frey, could you please review the current reporting protocols to the university when a positive is identified outside of the campus testing plan [i.e., how do we assure that students/employees are reporting positive tests to the university]. President Rogers added a question heard repeatedly from faculty. Question: If a student directly informs faculty that they have tested positive for COVID-19, what is the protocol faculty should follow?

Response: CHO Batey, we have a strong relationship with the county health department and have built an on-campus contact tracing team that I am overseeing composed of 12 student employees, two graduate assistant supervisors, and two health educators. Through a direct partnership with WCHD, every positive test result affiliated with BGSU (whether reported in Wood or another county) will get to us. To be proactive and increase the speed of contact tracing, when anyone on campus directly hears of a positive student case, report that via email to health@bgsu.edu. Realtime reporting within the University is sometimes faster than communication through the county health departments. We have a mutual aid agreement with the local health department. In the context of an infectious disease situation, with our direct working partnership as an extension of WCHD, working under their umbrella, this information stays confidential in compliance with HIPAA & FERPA regulations and we are able to appropriately follow up with individuals. One of my reasons for coming to BGSU was to work toward contributing to and building a better public health system for BGSU, Bowling Green, Wood County, and northwest Ohio.

Question (3): Chair Frey, could you please review the current reasoning behind sending students home who have tested positive rather than quarantining them on campus?

Response: CHO Batey, we are not sending students home. Students always have the option of going home, but we are not asking them to. My team is working with every student who would potentially test positive to educate, provide appropriate isolation or quarantine options, and assist them to navigate determining the best solution for their personal and family situation. We worked to build a system so every student residing on campus can quarantine or isolate on campus. Off campus students will quarantine in their bedrooms within their apartment/housing. Automatically sending students home would not be responsible public health work; we want to keep students here and help them rather than putting that risk and responsibility on another community or family. I have heard a lot of comments and questions such as, "At what point are we just going to shut the university down and send everybody home?" I do not know if that is an option for us, we have an obligation to navigate this. The majority of our students

live in Bowling Green, this is their home. Some students are locked into leases or do not have the option to go elsewhere; BGSU needs to partner with the Bowling Green community to navigate this appropriately.

Chat Box Question: Joe O'Dorisio, once a student has been diagnosed with COVID 19 how long do they quarantine, and how do we know they are safe to return to class?

Response: CHO Batey, it depends on the situation. Isolation is when someone tests positive, is sick and known to be potentially contagious and need to be kept away from other people. Required isolation continues for 10 days from when symptoms started, and their symptoms must be resolved. Students residing on campus who require isolation will be moved to designated on-campus apartments where their health can be monitored and food delivered. Off campus students will be assisted to isolate within a bedroom, away from roommates. Quarantine occurs due to an exposure. These individuals are not sick and it is not known if they are or will become contagious. Quarantine is maintained in one's residence hall room or home for 14 days from the date of exposure.

The CHO's health team tracks and follows up with quarantined and isolated students and remains in contact with them. These individuals must be "released" from quarantine or isolation by someone from the health department or the BGSU health team. Faculty will be notified via email from ODOS indicating a student needs to be out of class until a specified date. Faculty will not be provided specifics of the situation (e.g. exposure or COVID test results).

We want to maintain an open environment and open communication with faculty, staff, and students so individuals will be responsive to contact tracing and to help us catch things on the front end.

Chat Box Question: Fei Weisstein, we hear a lot of information about students, but [little] information for faculty's safety. What is a faculty member supposed to do if they (and other students) were exposed for 50 to 75 minutes in a classroom to a student that has tested positive? If faculty were in close contact with the student who tested positive in the classroom, do we switch to remote for 10 days?

Response: CHO Batey, based on CDC guidelines, exposure is defined as spending greater than 15 minutes at less than 6 feet distance. If health protocols were followed, being in a classroom with a student who tests positive does not count as an exposure. Therefore, no one other than the infected student has to isolate for the appropriate time period. This is why we worked to de-densify campus and teaching spaces. When the health team is working with the student to trace potential exposure, we ask specific questions about their classroom environment. If established protocols (distance & face masks) were followed, no one in that classroom counts as an exposure or has to quarantine and the course does not have to go remote. If not everyone followed protocols and some people in the classroom did meet the exposure definition, they would be notified to quarantine and participate remotely for two weeks. We set up campus spaces, developed protocol

and structures, and de-densified campus in an effort to keep whole classes and instructors from needing to enter quarantine.

Question: Chair Frey, I understand that those are CDC guidelines, but do we know if this is effective? In reality, is there evidence that in cases where there has been adequate social distancing and masks in the classroom that there really have not been cases of COVID transmission?

Response: CHO Batey, yes, that time and distance is based on the best science we have right now, and why it is the CDC guideline. The face covering helps to slow down the spread of any viral particles into the environment. The face covering does not keep you out of quarantine if you were within six feet of distance more than 15 minutes. Our first line of defense is to stay home if you are sick. If someone in your classroom is actively coughing, I highly recommend you send them home. We are going to see cases. When we release our data tomorrow, you will see the number of cases has gone up. Through our contact tracing conversations with students, we have not yet had a case where we can trace the virus contraction back to a classroom environment. Transmission has been off campus, primarily spread at smaller gatherings and within households (e.g. six people living together) just like in what we see and is expected in general community spread. We are catching those students as quickly as possible, isolating them off campus, and will continue to do that as we move forward.

Chat Box Question: Bill Albertini, when will BGSU have a dashboard, as many other public and private universities do? Question: Chris Frey, I do not see much about numbers and testing on the BGSU COVID webpage. Will there be more public information we can refer people to in regard to some of the protocols you are describing?

Response: CHO Batey, we will continue rolling information out in phases. A few more things will come out tomorrow with our weekly Wednesday reporting. Due to lower testing capacity, we have limited our messaging about surveillance testing. As we ramp up testing capacity, there will be more messaging going out looking for volunteers to participate in surveillance testing. The initial dashboard will go up on the web tomorrow, will be updated every Wednesdays with our weekly numbers, and contain information on the most important topics and trends we are seeing. Data will guide us in knowing what we need to do and who we need to communicate with in terms of continuing education about behaviors for reducing spread.

Chat Box Question: Richard Anderson, Arts and Sciences faculty were recently notified/reminded that not every student who is physically in class must wear a facial covering. Students who have been granted an exemption by the university do not have to wear the coverings. We have been reminded that this is in service of all students' right to receive their education. However, we have not been told how these exemptions will be made to fit with the need to keep safe all students--including mask-exempted students.

Response: CHO Batey, we do not have many exemptions across campus. Approximately three or four identified students who cannot wear a mask have been granted an official exemption and are asked to wear a face shield. These students have a memo from BGSU that states they have an exemption and should be able to produce that when asked. We should not see students, staff, or visitors on campus without face coverings. If students or others are saying "I have a medical condition and do not need to wear a face covering" and are not able to produce their official BGSU exemption document, you can ask them to leave class, the recreation center, or other campus spaces. If you see a trend of increasing numbers of unmasked students, please report it to us. There is a new COVID-19 response hotline 419-372-3000 to call if you need to talk to somebody immediately or email health@bgsu.edu.

Question: Chair Frey, is there follow-up with or regular testing of students who have face mask exemptions to make sure they are not causing a spreading event?

Response: CHO Batey, even if there is an exemption to a mask, a student should be wearing a clear face shield as a line of defense. The only full exemption from any facial covering or shield is if an individual cannot not physically take it on and off themselves. It will be rare to see this on campus. If we see an increase in exemptions, we will look into the possibility of establishing a regular testing protocol for them.

President Rogers noted he was contacted by a student who said their faculty member made a decision that face coverings are not required in their class - he is following up to see if this is true or not. The expectation is for all members of the University community to adhere to the BGSU COVID-19 guidelines; there is no right to opt-out. President Rogers reaffirmed that (a) faculty members do not have the right to waive the facial covering requirement in classes or other indoor settings and (b) the 6-foot physical distance/new classroom capacity is to be adhered to.

Question: Chair Frey voiced a question sent privately through the chat box regarding surveillance testing. We heard so much this summer about what would be required to open up campuses and early on thought regular, very quick testing of everyone would be the norm. Clearly, we are not able to reach that. I know nationally, doing enough testing has been a real problem. As a public health official, with the current safeguards in place, in your opinion, is what we are doing in relation to testing enough to preclude an outbreak and catch it in time?

Response: CHO Batey, we are moving in the right direction with testing; every week we are in a better position than we were the week before. We are moving as quickly as we can, given the resources we have available in northwest Ohio. He has heard questions about if we should be using rapid testing and the accuracy of those results versus the PCR tests that take longer to run. We are increasing daily surveillance testing and as we approach getting the lab set up at the Wood County Hospital we will continually work to keep up with the testing demand.

Question: Chair Frey, you would agree that we have a testing protocol in place at the moment, given the scarce resources, that with the other protections in place, we are able to bring people back to campus in a safe manner?

Response: CHO Batey, yes. And, based on our most recent surveillance testing, our prevalence rate across campus for those students who are here, was still low compared to what we would expect to see in the general community although we expect it to go up to some extent. From a public health perspective, people need to recognize that you cannot bring this many people back to one area and not have the numbers of cases go up. With any population of a certain size, there will be some expected community spread, which is what we are seeing right now. What we are doing with this testing is to keep an eye on the numbers to determine if positive results drastically exceed what would be expected in a group this size.

President Rogers continued with his comments to Faculty Senate:

He is aware that some have remarked, "Why do any of this ?" Why have we spent so much time and energy developing and following guidelines - because we do not know how long this virus will be with us. We need to find a way to work through this in as safe a way as possible, not only because of the general importance of providing and receiving an education, but because we have a responsibility to the rich vitality of our educational community and an obligation to do more education around diversity.

- President Rogers spoke to the vile and despicable social media post attributed to a BGSU classified staff member. BGSU moved quickly to begin an investigation, following the due process afforded state employees. This incident illustrated how much work we still need to do around the education on diversity, inclusion, and race and ethnicity in this country and on this campus.
- He thanked Chair Frey for referencing parts of the Academic Charter because faculty absolutely have the responsibility to ensure the intellectual vitality of our community is rich. I shared with you yesterday that I think we have more work to do to provide, diversity education, education on race, ethnicity, and identity. We were one of the first universities in the state of Ohio to have a diversity requirement in our general education curriculum, but I am not sure it is achieving what I think our goal needs to be-particularly around race, identity, democracy, and decolonization. We need to look at that curriculum because that is where we have the ability to educate a broader group.
- President Rogers noted we have a lot of diversity workshops, a required ethics training, but not an annually required diversity and identity educational module; there is more that we can do. We cannot control what is going on outside but we can do more on this campus, and we must if we care about the campus, the city, the state, the country, this nation, or the world. We have to find a way to achieve social justice here where it is within our control. I challenge us this fall to look at our curriculum and to examine the educational programming for each faculty, staff, and administrator - we all need to be doing our part.
- Having been in higher education over 30 years, we talk about it all the time, but we have to do something about it. The differences in retention and graduation

rates between different student demographic groups is not acceptable. We need to improve our ability to recruit and retain diverse faculty and staff. I appreciate the work Jennifer McCary and the diversity council did this summer - this is as important as the global pandemic and is why it is so important that we find a way forward through this pandemic, to keep educating.

Chair Frey thanked President Rogers for reading the questions he had collated from faculty discussion boards and appreciated hearing so much information from Provost Whitehead and Ben Batey. He indicated there are some ideas, like holding office hours, from the chat that he can forward. Chair Frey invited additional questions from Senators and invited President Rogers, Provost Whitehead, and CHO Batey to make any last comments before moving to the next items on the agenda.

Joe Whitehead, Provost and SVPASA

Provost Whitehead expanded on CHO Batey's reference to ODOS, which is shorthand for Office of the Dean of Students. If a student needs to be absent from class for an extended period of time, each faculty member on that student's schedule will receive a memo.

- He reminded Senators that he is open to faculty input noting we are all in this together and must stick together to successfully get through this pandemic. There are a lot of uncertainties, and as President Rogers mentioned, there are several things we do know and that are within each of our control. We know if we remain six feet apart wearing facial covering that minimizes the possibility of virus transmission. He reported going to different areas of campus and eating in a dining facility to see if our preparations really made sense once they were in use. The safety measures put in place have changed the overall experience for our students. We continue trying to mitigate the negative impact physical distancing has imposed on creating and maintaining social connection. He spoke with parents and students during move-in. Parents and students shared they want as full a campus experience as possible in spite of the pandemic.
- Provost Whitehead reminded the Senate that access to quality education is a social justice issue. Many students need us to do a good job and keep moving forward; they do not have the flexibility or finances to afford a delay in successfully completing their education and moving forward in society and the world.

Chat Box Question: David Jackson, how is enrollment holding up? Chair Frey, in my college meeting we heard our enrollment remains strong, particularly in graduate education. If we can have a quick update on enrollment, this will be the last question.

Response: President Rogers, between the Bowling Green and Firelands campuses, the traditional full-time student body enrollment (including virtual) is down 2.2 %. Fully online E-campus and distance programs, which are a much smaller number of students, combined undergraduate and graduate enrollment is up 37.7%. Our total headcount is up approximately 100 students (.54%) compared to a year ago. Relative to what we are seeing at some other institutions, although our enrollment

numbers are essentially flat, we are really pleased. A big part of that is due to what Provost Whitehead, Glenn Davis, and Andy Alt worked hard this summer with Design My BGSU and, of course, relied on many faculty and advisors to figure out how to make that work. Glenn Davis estimates we retained 300-400 hundred students through the process of giving students so many options. We appreciate everyone's efforts and at this point, relatively speaking, it is good news.

Chair Frey thanked everyone for answering question on the fly, providing updates, and noted he is certain faculty will have many more important questions. He suggested we do this again outside of a regular Faculty Senate meeting, noting concern knowing we are going to have an increase in COVID cases. Thank very much for your time and your thorough comments today.

Shubham Sundriyal, GSS Interim Vice-President

GSS Interim Vice-President Sundriyal opened by thanking the Faculty Senate for time to provide updates and introduced himself as the new Interim GSS Vice-President. Over the summer there were some changes in leadership, we held our GSS fall retreat and are getting ready for their first general assembly meeting on Friday.

- GSS is hosting a Professional development Day online and need additional faculty for a panel. Several faculty have already responded positively, but if anyone is interested in learning more about participating, please reach out to Shubham Sundriyal or GSS President Blessy McWan.

R. Harrison Carter, Undergraduate Student Government President

USG President Carter opened by introducing himself and his position for academic year 2020-2021 and thanking President Rogers and Provost Whitehead for answering questions and providing updates.

- Today, Xavi Boes, USG Vice President represented BGSU within the Inter-University Council of Ohio on the state stage. He provided a student perspective of return to campus at Governor DeWine's COVID-19 update press conference.
- Yesterday was the first General Assembly of the fall semester and it was successful meeting both in terms of being conducted online and in terms of business accomplished.
 - The first emergency resolution of the year, 2020-2021-01, passed unanimously. The resolution addresses students' uncertainty regarding final grades during this uncertain time and the University's responsibility to provide every opportunity for students to succeed. The resolution requests an accommodation be made for Fall 2020 mirroring the grade change policy that was allowed in Spring 2020.
 - Another concern brought to USG is about technology usage policies as they relate to licensing software programs that the University implemented. Students lack access to a centralized location for software and lack access to the privacy policies and terms of service for the software programs they are now required to use. USG agreed to examine this issue.

- USG President Carter closed with a reminder that it is important for student voices to be heard, especially where decisions are being made. If other standing committees outside of the Faculty Senate umbrella have space for or would benefit from student representation, please reach out to USG.

Chair Frey thanked both student government representatives for coming to the meeting and providing updates.

5. OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Approval of Minutes from July 7, 2020 Special On-call Faculty Senate Meeting (located in the FS Canvas Shell and distributed to FACSSEN list) Please take a moment to review the minutes and communicate any needed edits, errors, or omissions in the chat box. No changes noted.

Motion to accept the minutes as submitted: Gene Trantham; Second: Brittany Lasch. Discussion: None.

Unless there is an objection put forward in the chat box, we will consider the minutes accepted by consensus. No objections were raised.

Result: July 7, 2020 Faculty Senate minutes approved by consensus

Chair Frey encouraged Senators to share information from this meeting with colleagues and to refer them to the minutes.

- b. Report from Faculty Senate Ad-hoc Classroom Capacity Determination Committee (2019-20): Chair Frey noted these findings were presented at the May Faculty Senate Meeting. If there are no questions, we will move on to the next item. No comments or questions were raised.

- c. Report from the Faculty Senate Ad-hoc Committee for Surveying Campus Community on the Return-To-Campus Plan: *Richard Anderson*

Chair Frey shared that this committee was formed over the summer at the behest of Faculty Senate to survey faculty, staff, and students about returning to campus.

Rich Anderson, committee chair, noted the committee was formed quickly, included representation from students, faculty, and administration appointees, and worked over the summer to construct and conduct the survey. The survey primarily looked at participant responses to policy in terms of their (a) understanding, (b) feeling of safety, (c) enforcement, (d) self and other compliance, and (e) feeling about returning to campus. The survey was conducted during July and August 2020.

- An issue the committee faced was that the Senate resolution called for all members of the University community (faculty, staff, and students) to be included in the survey and upper Administration did not want students included. A result of this was some committee members' discomfort with connection to a product that included student data. The committee managed this by working on the two surveys separately for as long as possible; in

practical terms, this means the committee chair is doing all the analysis and reporting.

- The summary document of very general findings is a graphic representation of the responses relative to the mid-point of the response scale. Rich Anderson shared this on his screen during the meeting and noted it is in OneDrive and can be shared more generally. He walked through several of the questions and response results regarding return to campus policies (e.g., wearing masks, physical distancing, residence hall visitor policy, course format, etc.) and the impact on willingness to return to on campus activities. Descriptive statistics are provided with notes about trends, similarities, and differences in faculty/staff responses and student responses.

General trends included:

- A high level of understanding policies
- The frequency of negative responses (relative to positive ones) was greater for faculty and staff than for students. There was an exception, however, regarding comfort with remote and online courses. In these cases, negativity was more frequent in students than in faculty and staff.
- Respondents were often positive in their perception that they understand the existing new policies, and in their intent to comply. In contrast, respondents were often negative in their expectation that other people will comply or that the policies will be enforced.
- There is high concern/negativity regarding off-campus activities.

Richard Anderson asked Faculty Senate/SEC to provide a list of priorities with regard to types and desired level of analysis (e.g. do we want to draw inferences, examine graduate verses undergraduate students, etc.). He noted there is demographic data, but the sample may not be large enough to examine smaller subpopulations. After removing demographics, etc. he will release the raw data. Please email Chair Frey this week if you want to contribute to/participate in further analysis.

Chair Frey thanked Richard Anderson, Chair, and the committee members for their work and requested Senators ask questions by typing them in the chat box. Several "Thank yous" were posted in the chat box.

Chat Box Question: Jill Zeilstra-Ryalls can these data be shared with other faculty?

Response: Chair Frey, yes - this document can be shared and we can get the raw data to faculty who want it.

6. NEW BUSINESS:

a. Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect Nominations: *Christopher Frey*

Chair Frey reminded Senators that we have a vacancy to fill. Currently, no one has expressed a willingness to commit to serve as Vice-chair this year and as Faculty Senate Chair next year. He noted he may be checking with some Senators in the next few weeks about their interest in serving in this role.

7. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Expectations for Senate Committees: *Christopher Frey*

Please refer to the PowerPoint linked to the agenda through the Faculty Senate Canvas. The basic expectations are to convene regular meetings, elect a chair, publish an agenda, keep minutes, elect a chair for the following year, and submit an end-of-year report to Kathleen Newman. Chair Frey will be touching base with each committee as they get started on their work. Speaking as an educational historian, consider keeping rich, descriptive minutes for future historical analysis and record.

a. Senate Executive Committee (SEC): *Christopher Frey*

SEC meets once a month to discuss concerns and to set the Faculty Senate agenda. SEC held several special-on call meetings over the summer to conduct business on behalf of Faculty Senate.

b. Senate Committee on Academic Affairs (CAA): *Michael Buerger* for Patrick Vrooman

This committee reviews proposals for new programs and other significant academic proposals. The first meeting is this week and CAA will have a report for the next Faculty Senate meeting. He will convey President Roger's remarks about the need for increased diversity education to the committee.

c. Senate Committee on Professional Affairs (CPA): *Allen Rogel* for Vice-Chair vacancy

The purview of this committee is to keep a view on the national picture of higher education and how that interfaces with the internal functions of BGSU. They maintain awareness of proposed legislation and consider the possible impact. Christopher Frey will serve as interim chair due to the Faculty Senate Vice-Chair vacancy.

d. Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee (FAAC): *Christopher Frey* for Kristen Rudisill

This group reviews the financial side of program proposals as they go through the process (e.g., income, faculty costs, etc.), may be proposing changes related to adjunct funding, and intend to take a consultative role in relation to the University's budget/budget process.

e. Senate Committee on Committees (Com/Com): *Marlise Lonn* for Brian Snow (Interim Chair)

The first priority is filling vacant committee seats, the first meeting is in two weeks.

f. Senate Committee on Amendments and Bylaws (A&B): *Allen Rogel*

This is the Senate's working committee responsible for updating and resolving questions regarding the Academic Charter and the Senate Bylaws. The process for proposing amendments is outlined in the Charter and they all go through A&B. Changes may be editorial up to a full review of the Charter. The first order

of business is to determine any changes required to accommodate conducting Faculty Senate business through online/virtual senate meetings.

g. Adjunct Faculty Committee (AFC): *Christopher Frey* for (vacant position)
This committee appears to be inactive. Chair Frey will enquire about the status and membership.

Chat Box Question: Salim Elwazani, because of the effect of Covid-19, many adjunct faculty were let go. Do we have a university-wide protocol for not only informing the departing adjunct of the decision to let go, but more importantly to do it in such a way to show empathy and keep those adjuncts around as a source of support?

Response: Chair Frey affirmed Faculty Senate values adjunct faculty and their voices. He will provide an update at the next Faculty Senate meeting.

8. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

Chair Frey noted we had significant opportunity to talk with the President, Provost, and CHO. He encouraged Senators to bring items up at this or future meetings and will budget more time for this in future meetings. No issues or concerns were voiced or presented in the chat box. He acknowledged the meeting has officially run over time at 4:31pm.

Announcements via the chat box, *David Jackson, BGSU Faculty Association President*

- Thomas Castillo will be the Faculty Association liaison to Faculty Senate this year, our first Executive Committee meeting of the semester is this Friday, so there is no report today.
- The merit submission deadline for faculty is September 8th to account for the Labo(u)r Day holiday.

Chair Frey extended his thanks to Senators for attending and participating in the meeting and reminded them to email any concerns to him, and he will take them to the SEC. He looks forward to seeing everyone again next month.

9. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 4:32pm

NOTE: Senate meetings are open to the public. Supplemental materials supporting proposed action item(s) may be sent to Senators only. Senators are expected to stay through adjournment.