

October 6, 2020 // 2:30 - 4:30 // Via WebEx

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

Chair Frey indicated he will be monitoring the chat box throughout the meeting.

2. ROLL CALL:

Attendance: 63 Senators in attendance; Quorum requirement met

Guests: Ben Batey, Chief Health Officer (CHO) and Jennifer McCary, Chief Diversity and Belonging Officer

Faculty Senate Secretary, Marlise Lonn, took attendance via the WebEx participant list. Alternates and Senators who arrived late indicated their presence in the chat box.

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

Chair Frey welcomed Senators and noted his opening remarks will be brief. A reminder that today is the first day of early voting and our next Faculty Senate meeting will be on election day, November 3, please plan accordingly. Although today's agenda appears light, there is a resolution that will be introduced during Issues and Concerns that was not brought to SEC early enough to be considered and placed on the agenda. Thank you and we will move to President Rogers for his communications.

4. COMMUNICATIONS:

Please note that any questions typed in the chat box (voiced by Chair Frey) are attributed to the author.

Rodney Rogers, President

President Rogers noted that Provost Joe Whitehead and CHO Ben Batey are also here and wants to make sure that Senators have an opportunity to ask questions of all three with respect to the University. In a meeting with the Senate officers, a couple of concerns were brought to his attention that he, Provost Whitehead, and CHO Batey will would like to address. First, thank you for all the work you are doing every day to keep Bowling Green State University moving forward and for the support you provide to each other, our undergraduate students, graduate students, and staff. Bowling Green State University is an important institution that serves not only our students, but our faculty and staff as we work through this global pandemic.

- President Rogers shared good news regarding the health of the institution financially, and more importantly, around student success, retention, and graduation rates. We continue to be in the middle of a pandemic, and we do not know when this crisis across the country and the world will end; some experts believe this will be with us through 2021 and possibly into 2022. President Rogers expressed appreciation for people finding a way to work through this while doing all they can to minimize the spread of COVID-19 knowing that the work we do in higher education is incredibly important and an essential part of society.

- BGSU's 15-day enrollment numbers have been reported to the State and on a headcount basis, our enrollment is up 1.6%. The University of Cincinnati experienced approximately 1% headcount growth, but all other public institutions in Ohio saw a decreased enrollment. We are pleased with the increase, but of grave concern is a 7% drop in the freshmen class, first-year undergraduate students coming to BGSU. This decline in first-year student enrollment is similar to other institutions across the state. However, we saw a 16% decline in our African American/Black and Latino/Hispanic first-year students. This drop in students of color enrollment takes us down to 18% at the undergraduate level, which is one of our lowest points in a long time. We have also noted, based on FAFSA information, that these students are also from lower socioeconomic statuses. This is a higher education access issue which is worrisome, and more than just a short-term concern for BGSU and Ohio. In summary, the headcount is up, the full-time equivalency is down, the incoming freshmen class is smaller, the number of students of color are down, and our overall increase came primarily from increases in on-line professional program graduate student enrollment.
- We went through a variety of budget models based on a decline in enrollment and a reduction in the state share instruction; we are pleased that from budget to actual, our resources are higher than we anticipated. Our strategy was to spread the cuts over two years so we can continue to make adjustments during this uncertain time. Senate leadership brought to us the desire to work with us as we examine budgetary issues as part of the Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee's charge; Sheri Stoll, CFO and Kristen Rudisill, FAAC Chair, will be in communication and we look forward to working with the FAAC in the coming months.
- The second major point I want to share relates to the strategic plan. Before COVID, Provost Whitehead and I held a series of small groups of faculty to discuss and provide input on the strategic plan. Those meetings were disrupted in the spring semester. It has been two years since we engaged in large-scale campus-wide strategic planning. Over the next few months, we want to begin to hold these small group gatherings virtually and physically distanced face-to-face so faculty have an opportunity to weigh in on BGSU's strategic plan. This is a watershed moment for higher education, and there are priority shifts that need to occur. We want to take this opportunity to think about what we as an institution will look like as we move through, emerge from, and move beyond COVID-19. What will the expectations of students, faculty, and staff look like, and how do we deliver a very high quality education in ways we had not previously imagined? It is a testimony to your work that you are demonstrating, now, how to effectively develop and deliver new ways to educate and engage students. I look forward to discussions about the strategic plan and thinking about BGSU in a post-COVID world; I hope when you receive an invitation you will join us.
- Thank you, Chairman Frey, for the time to speak; we will move on to hear from Joe Whitehead.

Joe Whitehead, Provost and SVPASA

Provost Whitehead opened by noting similarities in being in the midst of a global pandemic and other disasters. Currently, there is a severe weather system heading toward the Gulf coast of the U.S. When a storm is brewing, we know in advance and can track it, know what to expect, and prepare for it, ride it out, and recover. The difference with COVID-19 is that we do not know exactly where it is, we are trying to recover and to ride it out at the same time. This is very taxing, and I thank everyone for what you did during the summer to prepare for fall and for all you are doing now during this difficult time.

- Now that we are well into the fall semester, we are getting feedback on the preparations we made over the summer to see where there were positive impacts, negative impacts, or no impact. We have an open survey for students to give us feedback on their experiences and classes. This feedback is being shared with the Associate Deans in each college to share with directors and chairs to share with you so we can continue to improve on what we are doing. It is critical that we provide the best experience possible to help mitigate any potential decrease in enrollment from fall 2020 to spring 2021. Through focus groups, we will get feedback from faculty about their instructional experiences to assess the different modes of delivery. What are the challenges with each of the course delivery modalities and with technology? We want direct feedback about faculty experiences. If you have difficulty with technology in a classroom, please submit a ticket to ITS so we can respond quickly, track the issues, and see where we can do things differently to improve the experience now and for spring.
- Provost Whitehead reminded faculty of the new textbook policy. A federal regulation mandates textbook information be available on the first day of registration to assist students with making informed decisions. Recently, an email went out about getting textbook information loaded please communicate this to your colleagues as we prepare for the spring 2021 semester. Registration for continuing students opens on October 26. USG expressed that they want textbook information and access codes as soon as possible so they can make decisions about classes, because they are looking at cost. Help us help students meet the federal regulation by posting textbook information by the registration date deadline.
- Regarding the spring 2021 calendar, we previously announced that SOAR will be on January 8, the first day of classes is January 11, and the last day of exam week is April 30. If everything works out and we are able to mitigate transmission of the virus, we plan to hold commencement on April 30 and May 1. After receiving feedback from the Faculty Association, Faculty Senate SEC, the GSS, USG, and Deans, we will forego a spring break in spring 2021. We will make an official announcement once we get formal approval.
- Provost Whitehead publicly thanked Dr. Ray Craig for his service as the Dean of Arts & Sciences who will be transitioning to leading our Quality Initiative (QI) which is based upon Liberal Education and America's Promise (LEAP). This will be our QI which is required by the Higher Learning Commission. This QI, LEAP, is combined with Redefining Student Success and Life Design. Redefining Student Success at BGSU will be key in attracting and retaining students which is more important than ever. As noted earlier, the overall population of high school graduates is decreasing and within that decrease, there is a flattening of the Black/African American student population and an increase in the Latino/Hispanic population. To be competitive in attracting students, we have to differentiate ourselves as an institution. This is why LEAP, Life Design, and truly redefining student success must provide a meaningful experience for all students at BGSU. Again, thank you very much, Dr. Ray Craig for taking on leadership of the LEAP QI initiative. Thank you for the opportunity to say a few words today.

Chair Frey asked if Senators had questions for President Rogers or Provost Whitehead before we move on to CHO Ben Batey.

Question for Provost Whitehead from Allen Rogel: Regarding the recent communication to faculty about Scantron services no longer being offered this academic year - to my knowledge, Faculty Senate was not consulted in this decision. Faculty started the semester with the expectation that scantron services would be available and designed in-

person/hybrid courses with that in mind; terminating this service without notice in the middle of the semester seems problematic. Please give more details about how the decision was made, if faculty were consulted, and is there a chance that these services can be restored for a period of time to allow faculty and students time to adapt to this change.

Response by Provost Whitehead: The primary decision inputs were, we will be fully online for final exams and we committed to students to allow remote participation in in-person/hybrid classes. The question became, how would scantrons be utilized for testing purposes as this excludes remote student participation. I had numerous conversations and received feedback from multiple sources, but did not talk to Chair Frey. We can take a look at this, but providing flexibility for students participating remotely is the key factor and all students will be fully remote after Thanksgiving.

Response by Allen Rogel: I am concerned about not having this information at the beginning of the semester; faculty may have already made arrangements to use scantrons for in-person students with an alternative for remote students and now people will have to make changes and it has caught people off guard. I am wondering about having an interim period to allow faculty time to shift to another technology. Some challenges may have been overlooked in this decision.

Response by Provost Whitehead: Please send me a message with your input. I will take a look at it and talk with ITS and Glenn Davis.

Chair Frey thanked Dr. Allen Rogel and Provost Whitehead and noted that Bill Albertini would like to speak.

Question from Bill Albertini: My first question is for President Rogers. When talking about meetings to discuss the strategic plan, you mentioned some shifts need to occur. Please talk about what shifts you have in mind.

Response by President Rogers: Part of it is that none of us know what higher education is going to look like on the other side of COVID. While I do not have any special insight, but I think collectively, there is an opportunity for us to begin to think about what that looks like for Bowling Green. In discussions with faculty and students, some students have indicated they like having flexibility and may not want to return to face-to-face classes which historically, we thought most of our students wanted. How does the technology we are using to engage students potentially become part of our new normal and if it does, how does that position BGSU? Another thing I wonder about is with the shift we see in the economy; access to higher education will become very difficult for many unless we can find radically affordable ways for larger numbers of people to access it. Are there creative ways that we can partner with 2-year institutions or other ways we can provide students with fewer means access to a quality education? We have always cared about this but may need to accelerate our thinking in those ways. Further, due to COVID, there will be a lasting impact on society. When thinking about external activities - research, outreach, and creative activities - how can our university help understand these impacts and help heal our society as we get on the other side of this? Thinking about K-12 education and the challenges we may have for a whole generation of students, how does BGSU, with great programs in the College of Education and Human Development, engage, support, and research activities across our campus? These are just some random thoughts as examples to think about. The things we perceived as major societal challenges a couple of years ago may be different moving forward which is

why I think it is worth having the BGSU community come together and have these discussions to help control what the future of our university looks like.

Comment: Bill Albertini thanked President Rogers and noted he takes him at his word that decisions have not already been made and hopes we will have full and open conversation about the possible costs and benefits of different kinds of changes.

Question for Provost Whitehead from Bill Albertini: This question is a little more delicate and I hope I am not speaking out of turn. You spoke about Dean Craig moving into leadership of the Quality Initiative and LEAP. There are rumors that this may not have been a voluntary move. Dean Craig has been my Dean for many years, and I think he was doing an excellent job. So, I wanted to have that out in the open and am wondering if you can say anything about that.

Response by Provost Whitehead: We cannot get into personnel discussions; however, Ray Craig did a great job and he will continue to work with us on this very important initiative.

Chair Frey thanked Bill Albertini for his questions and thanked President Rogers and Provost Whitehead for their comments and responses. Chair Frey invited CHO Ben Batey to give an update on COVID-19 on campus.

Ben Batey, Chief Health Officer

CHO Batey opened by noting the dashboard will be updated tomorrow. We are seeing a positive trend over the past several days with a decrease in new/active cases reported. During this reporting period, there are no new cases in faculty or staff. When protocols are followed, they are working in terms of keeping interactions on campus safer. Off campus, students do have the opportunity to congregate, and we have worked with bar owners and the Wood County Health Department to address this. We hope that was our big spike for fall, maybe a Labor Day bubble combined with K-12 and BGSU starting back, and that the trend will be more manageable going forward. We need to be vigilant now and in planning for Halloween and holidays at the end of the semester and into spring. We want students to limit social contacts to be safe to go home at Thanksgiving.

Chat box Question from Bill Albertini: From a public health perspective, does a drastic decrease signal that the decrease is to be fully trusted, or is there a chance that testing has gone down, or some other issue?

Response from CHO Batey: One of the things we are discussing and mindful of is we do not want to see, over the course of the semester, students feeling stigmatized so decide not to tell anyone that they have symptoms and choose not to get tested. Over the next couple of weeks, you will see a change in our testing strategy, partly because of that, and because the Governor and the Ohio Department of Health have a new initiative for how they want testing done in higher education. The focus will be on high risk groups where students spend a lot of time together (e.g. marching band, athletes, students living in a residence hall, etc.) rather than random asymptomatic individuals. We want to test so we have an idea of what is truly going on across campus and can continue to track and slow viral spread.

Comment by President Rogers: Regarding the question in the chat box, he asked CHO Batey to speak to how Wood County and BGSU report positive COVID-19 cases and why the data is different.

Chat Box Question from Montana Miller: Raw data from Johns Hopkins is reporting, as of today, that cases in Wood County are up 10% from last week, and that we have 4,404 cases per 100K, which is horrible. Mr. Batey, can you please respond to this?

Response by CHO Batey: We count every positive case for BGSU students, faculty, and staff that gets reported to us, whether they live in Wood County or not. The Wood County Health department only counts cases for residents of Wood County, so there will always be discrepancy between our numbers. Last week, we saw a drastic increase and part of that is because there was a recalculation of what counts as a case. The State cleaned their data and added all (66 cases and 5 deaths) additional cases on Friday. Our dashboard did not change, because we were keeping up, and there was lag time in reporting from students' home address health department to Wood County. Additionally, Governor DeWine updated state guidelines on who gets counted as a case. Previously, not all rapid antigen tests were counted as a confirmed case; now, they are counted if they are connected to an outbreak. Due to our size, BGSU counts as a single, large outbreak in Wood County.

Chat box Question from Bill Albertini: Where do we see how many tests were given per week-long period, including a breakdown of asymptomatic screening testing, surveillance testing, and symptomatic testing? I don't see anything on the dashboard about tests vs. positive tests. Could you at least report Falcon Health results? Other schools seem to have percentage results listed, which we don't (posted link to OSU dashboard in the chat).

Response by CHO Batey: The testing numbers on our dashboard includes a breakdown of the asymptomatic screening tests we conduct. We do not necessarily have data for symptomatic testing that occurs outside of BGSU because there is no requirement for negative tests results to be reported to the county health department. Therefore, we cannot include data on the dashboard that indicates how many symptomatic tests have been done that compares negative and positive results.

Chat box Question from Allen Rogel: Is there a way we could get access to archived weekly reports, to more easily see the week-to-week change? Everyone should be able to clearly see trends, changes, etc.

Response by CHO Batey, asked a clarifying question: Do you mean archiving the weekly dashboards so that someone can go back and look at them? If so, we should be able to do that relatively easily. I will look into getting that changed so that previous dashboards can be retrieved.

Chair Frey noted there is a question related to mental health and COVID-19.

Chat box Question from Amy Robinson: I have an on-line asynchronous class in which I opened up the opportunity for the students to just tell me how they're doing. I was startled at the responses about mental health distress related to the isolation of the pandemic environment, on-line classes, etc. Is the COVID health response team making resources, like the hotline, available for mental health concerns that students are experiencing? I want to help them connect to resources.

Response by CHO Batey: We want everyone to promote the availability of the BGSU counseling center's availability to students. They are open and offering virtual sessions. Anyone we talk to who has symptoms or tests positive, we try to get their permission to have the BGSU Counseling Center reach out to them directly. If they do not give us permission,

we provide them with the contact information. We want to encourage Counseling Center use for all students because everyone is impacted in some way. The BGSU Counseling center will also be doing additional marketing around this. We want to help students build resiliency through coping mechanisms and tools. Faculty and staff have access to an EAP for counseling and services. We recognize that there is stigma around seeking mental health services.

Chat box Comment from Abayomi Abodunri: Thank you Dr. Batey. This is very helpful. I will ensure that I pass the information to the graduate students.

Chair Frey thanked CHO Batey and invited GSS comments.

Shubham Sundriyal, GSS Interim Vice-President

GSS Interim Vice-President Sundriyal opened by noting they received a lot of graduate student applications requesting professional development funds/conference funds and are making decisions to be announced November 2.

GSS is hosting three days of information sessions on graduate student professional development with topics ranging from publishing to job search strategies.

- GSS President, Blessy McWan, gave the GSS Constituent Report at the Board of Trustees meeting last week. One of the concerns addressed was that of teaching assistants with in-person/hybrid classes who want access to regular and free COVID-19 testing. They are working with CHO Batey to identify the number of tests available each week and have reached out share information and the process with TA's.

R. Harrison Carter, Undergraduate Student Government President

USG President Carter opened by noting the high level of active student engagement. The student senate is nearing having 100% of seats filled, which is the first time in past four years this many seats have been filled.

- He announced that during Issues and Concerns USG will introduce a resolution regarding a temporary flexible S/U grading policy for fall 2020 developed jointly with GSS with consultation from the Provost's office and President Rogers. Similar to the spring 2020 policy, they propose extended deadlines for requesting S/U grading. This developed out of the USG resolution shared at the September Faculty Senate meeting. Part of the rationale is the impact the pandemic continues to have on both faculty and students - this is a semester like no other. President Carter apologized to the Faculty Senate for not having the resolution ready for SEC last week to be distributed and reviewed prior to today. He closed by thanking VPAA Davis, President Rogers, Provost Whitehead, and others who supported and assisted with crafting the flexible grading policy and bringing this resolution to fruition. He expressed his sincere belief that this will provide a way for many students to be academically successful and noted that that students will be highly encouraged to consult with their academic and faculty advisors before making a decision about changing from a letter grade to S/U. USG President Carter is happy to take questions related to the resolution when it is introduced during the Issues and Concerns.

Chair Frey apologized for the resolution not being considered by SEC in time to get it to Senators in advance of today's meeting. He thanked both student government representatives for coming to the meeting and providing updates.

OLD BUSINESS:

- a. Approval of Minutes from September 1, 2020 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.
Via chat box, **Motion to approve the minutes as submitted**, Gene Trantham; Second, Fei Weisstein.
Discussion or corrections: None spoken or in the chat box
Unless there is an objection put forward in the chat box, we will consider the minutes approved by consensus. No objections were raised.
Result: September 1, 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. Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect Vacancy: *Christopher Frey*
Chair Frey reminded Senators that this position is still vacant and nominations are needed. According to the Charter, if the new Vice-Chair starts prior to the end of the fall semester, they serve in that role and become the Faculty Senate Chair for the next year academic year. If the Vice-Chair position is not filled until January, then the service commitment is 1.5 years as Vice-Chair followed by a year as Faculty Senate Chair. He will be speaking with some of you again asking if you are willing to serve in that role and would appreciate it if anyone willing to serve or who has questions reaches out to senate leadership.

5. NEW BUSINESS:

We have two Memorial Resolutions and for each, a poll will be set up to facilitate voting. Chair Frey reminded those in attendance that only elected Senators or their designated alternate can vote/participate in the poll.

- a. [Memorial Resolution for Professor "Joe" Williford](#) (*Read by Professor Virginia Dubasik*).
This resolution was written to honor the life of Julian Hudson "Joe" Williford Jr. The full resolution was read. Chair Frey noted the presence of Sue Houston and thanked her for joining us today. **Motion to pass the memorial resolution**, Virginia Dubasik; Second, Marlise Lonn. **Votes cast via the poll feature: 51 in favor, 0 opposed. Result: motion carried unanimously.**
- b. [Memorial Resolution for Ms. Pamela Pinson](#) (*Read by Professor Sheri Wells-Jensen*).
Dr. Sheri Wells-Jensen shared that when she was Faculty Senate Chair, Pam Pinson was a lifeline, and became a dear friend. The full resolution was read. **Motion to pass the memorial resolution**, Bill Albertini; Second, Allen Rogel.
Via the Chat box, Bill Albertini thanked Sheri Wells-Jenson for reading the resolution and agreed that working with Pam Pinson was the best and Allen Rogel wholeheartedly agreed with the resolution's sentiments. **Votes cast via the poll feature: 52 in favor, 0 opposed. Result: motion carried unanimously.**

Chair Frey thanked the Senators for accepting these memorial resolutions and thanked Sheri Wells-Jenson and Virginia Dubasik for presenting.

c. BGSU Diversity and Belonging Comprehensive Strategy and Plan, 2020-2023;
Jennifer McCary, Chief Diversity and Belonging Officer

Chief Officer McCary thanked Senators for having her here today and shared the [presentation](#) on her screen.

She expressed gratitude for the Day of Dialogue presenters and participants; this recent event which has surpassed 10,000 views.

- i. Additional recent activities include workshops on inclusion in the classroom offered by two affiliated faculty members, the Diversity and Belonging Council has facilitated several initiatives over the past year, and 100% of Deans have submitted action plans for their colleges.
- ii. The BGSU Diversity and Belonging Comprehensive Strategy and Plan, 2020-2023 is available on the [Diversity and Belonging](#) website in both accessible and PDF versions.
- iii. Points reviewed included:
 - Data from IR confirm BGSU is a predominantly white campus (student, staff, and faculty populations)
 - Diversity and Belonging Climate Survey information and outcomes are included in the report/plan. One of the questions asked of all members of the campus community was if they feel a sense of belonging with the BGSU community as a whole. The goal was 65% agreement with that statement.
 - An aspect not specified in the plan but that is being attended to are 4-year and 6-year graduation rates. The fall 2016 data was just received and there are gaps we need to work actively to close based on differences across races/ethnicities. Specifically, there is a 24.9% difference between white student and Black/African American student 4-year graduation rates and a 13.6% gap between white and Hispanic/Latino students' rates. This is what we want to work on with the comprehensive strategy and plan. We need to figure out why these gaps exist and where the gaps come from in order to provide appropriate support for students to achieve success and graduate.
 - Four Strategic Goals, Five Thematic Strategies (advocacy, education and development, programming, community, and accountability), and Metrics

Chief Officer McCary closed by noting that we want to see meaningful change which is the work of all university members across campus, not of a single office. The BGSU Diversity and Belonging Comprehensive Strategy and Plan is to set a framework. Chief Officer McCary asked faculty to consider how they would like to see this work done. Faculty Senate, faculty, and college Deans need to develop and lead the work they will do; the office of Diversity and Belonging is here to support, not drive, faculty efforts.

Chair Frey thanked Chief Officer McCary for being with Faculty Senate today and opened the floor/chat box to Senator questions.

Chat box Question from Allen Rogel: Why is the goal for belonging as low at 70%?

Response by Jennifer McCary: The original goal was 65% and we had a high response that people feel they belong at BGSU and recognize that this will ebb and flow due to the local and national climate. We want to take into account that not everything that impacts the sense of belonging occurs on our campus. The goal is set to be both realistic and an increase over last year. Our score cards are on the Diversity and Belonging website where you will see that we are looking at Fall, Spring, year-over-year, and 5-year.

Response from Allen Rogel: Thank you for the explanation and clarification. Appreciated!

Chat box Question from Katie Linger: You noted that student response rates were low- what were those rates, and have low student response rates to surveys been a recurring issue in collecting student feedback?

Response by Jennifer McCary: The student response rate was low with only 1,453 out of all students on campuses responded. Part of the feedback from students was that students felt over-surveyed. This survey was not incentivized, and we will look at the timing, how long to keep it open, and work more closely with USG & GSS when this survey is administered again.

Question from Chair Frey: Were the data disaggregated by race and ethnicity, and were there any noticeable trends in relation to those student demographics?

Response by Jennifer McCary: No, the only demographic information we asked was primary role at BGSU.

6. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- a. Senate Executive Committee (SEC): *Christopher Frey*
SEC met 2.5 weeks ago. Current work includes moving forward with the statement of academic principles that was presented to Faculty Senate in May, and a new ad hoc committee on course capacity/policy recommendations to build off of the work from last year's ad hoc classroom capacity committee. Chair Frey reminded everyone that SEC meets monthly with the Provost and that senate leadership meets with the President and Provost. If you have questions or concerns, please bring those to SEC.
- b. Senate Committee on Academic Affairs (CAA): *Amelia Carr & Patrick Vrooman*
Senator and co-chair, Dr. Amelia Carr reported the committee, comprised of 13 members and the Provost, met on September 2 and 16 and reviewed and voted to move several proposals forward to SEC, including: the BS in Journalism, the BS in Journalism and Public Relations specialization, and a graduate certificate in Supply Chain Management. Tomorrow CAA will discuss proposals for a BSN (the Nursing program), a change in the apparel merchandizing program, and suspension of the ASL minor.
- c. Senate Committee on Professional Affairs (CPA): *Chris Frey* for (vacant) Vice-Chair
Two new members were appointed to fill vacancies and the first meeting will be in late October.
- d. Fiscal Affairs Advisory Committee (FAAC): *Kristen Rudisill*
No report other than they have been meeting regularly
- e. Senate Committee on Committees (Com/Com): *Brian Snow (Interim Chair)*
No report other than they have been meeting regularly.
- f. Senate Committee on Amendments and Bylaws (A&B): *Allen Rogel*
Senator and Chair, Allen Rogel, reported there are two new members and the first meeting was held last week. The primary focus was on addressing the Faculty Senate resolution passed during the summer on updating the Charter and Bylaws to clarify procedures for conducting Senate and committee business in online meetings.

- Expressed concern at the continuing Faculty Senate Vice-Chair vacancy because there are several duties related to committees impacted by this. Committees need to be meeting, maintaining attendance records, agendas, and minutes. General, informal recommendations include holding synchronous meetings via WebEx or Zoom, not conducting all business by email, and a note of caution regarding recording virtual meetings as these recordings and electronic meeting documents could be subject to Sunshine Law requests.
- Another thing being examined are ways to conduct secret ballot votes in the context of meeting online. A&B will send proposed Charter changes to SEC and the Senate for review as this work proceeds.

g. Adjunct Faculty Committee (AFC): (*Inactive*)

Chair Frey indicated he will be contacting the previous members to begin to reconstitute this committee

7. ISSUES AND CONCERNS:

Chair Frey invited Alex Chiarelott to present the resolution from USG and GSS.

- a. President Carter shared the on the screen and Alex Chiarelott read the [Temporary Flexible Grading Policy for Fall 2020](#) in full.

Chair Frey stated we need a motion to allow discussion followed by a motion to consider this resolution and noted that he is having difficulty with the polling feature. If there are preliminary questions about the policy (not changes to the text of the resolution), please post those in the chat box for Provost Whitehead, President Carter, or Alex Chiarelott to respond. Chair Frey noted that the actual vote on the resolution will be via a Qualtrics link sent out after the Faculty Senate meeting.

Discussion:

Chat box Question from Jenny Toonstra: The 7-week course deadline is tomorrow, assuming resolution passes. Is this possible?

Response by Provost Whitehead: There are logistical issues that have to be completed to make the grade changes. The 7-week courses end on the 16th, and we want to be sure students are able to make a choice on S/U grading prior to final grades being awarded. This will be consistent with students in 15-week courses being able to make the S/U grading decision up until November 18, in advance of final grades being awarded at the end of the semester. There is flexibility in the 7-week course deadline dates as long as we do it before grades are awarded.

Chat box Comment from Allen Rogel: So, the date for 7-Week Session 1 courses can be moved to 10/9?

Response by Provost Whitehead: Yes.

Chat box Comment from John Boman: a C in a graduate course is not "Satisfactory" in any way. And generally, I think we should be wary to make such a sweeping change to grading policies in the middle of the semester.

Chat box Comment from Angela Ahlgren: I have a similar concern about graduate grading.

Response by Provost Whitehead: This is consistent with what we did in Spring 2020. We consulted with GSS, this resolution only applies to Fall 2020 and students will be highly encouraged to work with advisors before taking this option.

Chat box Question from Allen Rogel: Was feedback on graduate grading acquired from the Graduate College?

Response by Provost Whitehead: Yes.

Chat box Comment from Peter Blass: It's certainly surprising to be voting on this without having received a copy and without being able to consult our constituents.

Response by Chair Frey: Yes, and I apologize for short time frame and recognize this does not give us much time to discuss a very important issue. I received a copy last night.

Response by Provost Whitehead: One of the driving factors is the stress on students due to the uncertainties of COVID-19. This flexibility might help with student mental health and stress by providing an opportunity for students to perform well and not worry about the letter grade.

Chat box Question from Madeline Duntley: Does this resolution include the extension for Incomplete grade completion that was implemented in Spring 2020 as well or just the S/U option?

Response by Provost Whitehead: Nothing in the resolution is related to INC, just S/U grading.

Motion to consider the resolution, Allen Rogel; Second, Angela Ahlgren. Voting occurred through a Qualtrics survey/ballot. 37 in favor, 11 opposed, 2 abstained. **Result: The motion to accept the Temporary Flexible Grading Policy for Fall 2020 received the two-thirds affirmative votes necessary to pass. Motion carried.**

Chair Frey noted this is a time we can consider any proposed changes to the text of the resolution. And he will make sure Senators are provided with the text of the resolution when the link to the Qualtrics survey/ballot is sent. Chair Frey noted via Allen Rogel that we need a need 2/3 vote to close debate in order to move on to considering the resolution. He repeated that he cannot get the polling feature to function, and Chair Frey stated we will use consensus to close debate and moved on to asking for discussion on the text of the resolution.

Chat box Comment from Allen Rogel: I do have an amendment to offer once we get to that point.

Allen Rogel: As discussed, previously, I move to amend line 12 to change the date to October 9. No objections by proposers to that amendment, the amendment is accepted.

Allen Rogel: Add a deadline for the second 7-week session courses, but I do not know what the appropriate date would be.

Response by Provost Whitehead: I suggest the resolution state "7 days prior to the end of 7-week classes" rather than a specific date for each session.

Allen Rogel and Angela Ahlgren agreed to the amendment. President Carter changed the resolution text to reflect the change.

Parliamentarian, Nicole Kalaf-Hughes, reminded Chair Frey that a vote is needed to close debate.

Chair Frey asked if there are any other questions or comments before we move to end the discussion?

Comment by Ken Snead: First, regarding the last amendment. I think students need to be given a specific date. Final grades can be submitted/awarded over a range of time. Second, given the impending end of the first 7-week session, it is critical that faculty teaching these courses are immediately made aware of this and have the responsibility to share this possibility with their students.

Response by Provost Whitehead: We can go back to the original wording and include specific dates. For the first seven-week course session, the deadline to choose S/U grading will be October 9 and for the second seven-week course session, the deadline to choose S/U grading will be December 4.

President Carter changed the resolution text to reflect the change in Line 12.

Comment by Ken Snead: I appreciate that, I think it eliminates any potential confusion. If this passes, communication is key.

Response by Provost Whitehead: We will communicate this quickly and widely.

Comment by Provost Whitehead: shared that in spring 2020, there were roughly 3,000 requests for changes to S/U grading (duplicated count). Many students appeared to be selective in choosing this option and engaged with their advisors prior to making the decision. This change allowed flexibility for students who felt they needed and wanted it.

No further comments were made.

Motion to end discussion, Allen Rogel; Second, Peter Blass

Chair Frey noted if there are objections to ending the discussion, put those in the chat box. Seeing none, we will consider the motion passed by consensus. **Result: motion carried.**

Chair Frey thanked the faculty Senators for careful consideration of this resolution and thank you to USG, GSS, and Provost Whitehead for presenting, providing information, and responding to questions.

A Qualtrics survey/ballot will be sent to Senators in attendance, along with the full text of the resolution. The ballot will be open until 7:00 pm tomorrow.

b. Announcement via the chat box: *Thomas Castillo, BGSU Faculty Association FS Representative*

A BGSU-FA membership meeting will be held Oct 21@7pm via WebEx. If you are a BUFM and did not receive an email invite, please check your junk email folder or contact membership coordinator Vera Lux at Vera.lux@bgsu-fa.org. For the current contract, list of officers and unit reps, and general contact information, please visit bgsu-fa.org or visit the rollicking BGSU Faculty Association Facebook group.

- c. Comment by Allen Rogel: A general issue regarding shared governance at the University. This decision to discontinue scantron services is the second time in the last three years a like this decision has been made without consulting the Faculty Senate. Given that this is a change that directly effects pedagogy and what faculty are doing within classrooms, the request is for more communication between the Administration and Faculty Senate, in the interest of shared governance, before such decisions are made. This will help limit unintended consequences and let faculty know how and why these decisions are being considered before they are made rather than faculty receiving an email that stating the immediate change. Request better communication for any policy changes being considered that affect classroom management and operations.

Chair Frey extended his thanks to Senators for attending and participating in the meeting and looks forward to seeing everyone again at the next Faculty Senate meeting on election day, November 3rd. Seeing and hearing no additional comments, the meeting is adjourned.

8. ADJOURNMENT: Meeting adjourned at 4:38pm

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.