

USG General Assembly Meeting

The Official Agenda of the Undergraduate Student Government General Assembly
On This Day, 03/11/2013
(Business Formal Attire Meeting)

- I. Call to Order
 - a. 7:30 P.M.
- II. Roll Call
- III. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Minutes Approved
- IV. Swearing in of New Officers
 - a. Proxy for MGC Greek Representative
- V. Open Forum
 - a. Ms. Sherri Stoll- CFO Budget Update
 - i. I have been asked to share with you a little bit about our planning and some of the things that we see coming this semester and next fall. I try to meet with USG at least once a year and preferably twice a year. I realize that I make some assumptions about what everyone understands and what everyone doesn't understand. I want to cover a bit of university finance 101 before I get into our actual budget. We are facing a new funding formula from the state of Ohio, at least give you enough to understand when you see it in the newspaper that you can know what is going on with that. I want to talk about enrolment trends and see how this affected our state shared instruction.

University Finance 101- All universities use fund accounting. Each fund is a separate savings or check account. Every university has several funds that are identical. Each university has an educational and general fund- it is the main unrestricted operating budget. We have a number of auxiliary funds, which are self-sustaining and self supporting funds. We also have grants and project funds, some of them are restricted. In addition to that we have capital funds, and those can be used for construction projects or funds that auxiliary funds have set aside for project needs. In Ohio, all universities are similarly funded. The two primary sources of income we have is tuition and state share of instruction. The two most common examples of auxiliary budgets come from the fees that they charge their users. Some have a hybrid funding model, where they receive money from charges that students receive, and they also get money from students general fees.

Our state share of instruction has generally been on a declining path for the past 30 years. This is similar for every public university in Ohio. When you look at how much comes from state support, and how much comes from tuition, 30 years ago about 70 percent would come from state support. Today we get about 22 percent of our support from the state. Not

surprisingly with that flip tuition has increased almost every year for the past 30 years. There have been some major revisions proposed by the governor that will change our funding and give us our SSI.

The governor, his staff, and other people around the state have put in their guiding principles for budgeting across the state. Every school receives a certain amount of money from the state based on student enrollment. In most universities that is based on the number of courses that students successfully complete. At a community college, they tend to look at the number of students that are enrolled by the 15th day of the semester. Most of the guidelines given are common sense, and they are looking to fund successful performance outcomes.

The first and single biggest change is that right now only a tiny amount of our budget comes from degrees granted, and based on the new model 50 percent of our funding will come from degrees granted, and the rest will come from successful course completion. Over time, as different governors and legislators have come and gone, there are items that they have introduced into the funding model to recognize, reward, or punish outcomes in the university. What the governor is purposing is backing a lot of those up, and going mostly towards degrees granted and course completion.

Under these proposed changes, we see for fiscal year 14, and this is very preliminary because it has to go through a lot of channels before this can be approved, but based on what has been introduced and the revised formula, we expect BGSU to experience a reduction of anywhere of 3 to 7 million. This formula not only determines our funding, but it also determines everyone else's funding. The part that is unclear is will the entire funding budget get larger, and we are looking at that being true. We can either lose about 3 million, or as much as 7. We are expecting to be on the lower end, but I am saying that without knowing any of the debates in the legislature. The Firelands campus is looking at a very modest cut. There is also going to be a cap on student tuition of 2 percent. There is also still a portion of the budget that has yet to be proposed, and there is an "at risk" portion that could kick up our budget.

When we look at enrollment trends, we look at full time equivalent students, rather than head counts. If you look at fall of 2006, that was our high point for head count for both undergraduate and graduate head count. We have been down since then, we have had a growth for a few years, but it went back down again. We are looking at a slight increase in the next year, but that can be adjusted up or down in the next few months. More than a decade ago, we were looking at getting 82 million dollars, and next year we are looking at getting 62 million dollars from the state. That is a 20 million dollar loss, but I can't think of any operation costs that have gone down in the last ten years.

Even in this relatively short period of time you can see a pretty significant change. In 2009, SSI made up over 60 percent of our operation budget, and next year we are looking at that becoming about 22 percent. Like most universities, our salary wages and benefits are our largest expenditure.

After those, every expense is relatively small. Notice that I am not showing anything for 2014, but that is because we have not begun planning that yet.

I would like to take a minute to talk about where student general fees are allocated at BGSU. As you can see we are not any different than any schools, we give over 50 percent of our fees to athletics, and the rest of the fees go down from there. You can also see the revenue that each unit generates, as you can see.

I wanted to conclude by talking about tuition, fees, and room and board because those are the things that directly affect students. I included a slide that shows all of the other 4 years schools in the group that we are grouped into. We are considered one of the 4 corner schools, we are a traditional undergraduate liberal arts 4 year residential school.

The impact of students will be an approved average room rate increase of 2.37 percent. There has also been a meal plan increase by 2 percent. Tuition and fees have not been finalized, but we are modeling an up to 2 percent for in state undergraduate tuition and fees. Until we know what has happened in the legislature we won't know those final numbers. The increase to general fees would apply to both graduates and undergraduates. If all goes well, our board can consider those fee increases at their May meeting. Unfortunately that is very dependent on the timing with the legislature.

1. Durkit- What is the removal of the stop loss?

a. Stoll- That is a change that is affecting BGSU the most. Our high point in enrollment was in 2006, and from there we have trickled down. We are still down about 1800 students, and this is happening at the same time that all other schools have been seeing an enrollment increase. If the pie stays the same we would get less money and other schools will get more. The stop loss is there to stop volatility. A significant amount of each university's budget involves set costs. Whether my enrollment is up or down, we still have to make certain payments. Even if our enrollment dropped quite a bit, we could not quickly reduce our operation costs. What stop loss said if you are going down fast in enrollment, we will let you down gently. Even if that is inadequate to protect you, we will put in a stop loss which means that you cannot go below that. BG has benefited from a stop loss. If you are one of those schools that has been growing, that means that your piece didn't grow like it should have because our piece didn't shrink like it should have. So Stop loss is going away, and at each revision point we could see whether we were gaining or losing. With the loss of this we are seeing

2. E. Johnson- Will there be a change in out of state fees?

a. Stoll- No.

3. Solis- What was the cap for tuition and general fees in the last budget?
 - a. Stoll- In the last the cap for both was 3.5 percent.
 - i. Solis- Why the decrease to 2 percent?
 1. Stoll- I would suspect because he feels that the increases have been too high. The other thing I think we would say is that SSI line is going down, if the tuition is too high I can tell you how to solve it tomorrow.
4. Durkit- How does the allocation of STEM weights affect this?
 - a. Stoll- There is some public policy goals being manifested in this. Ohio, like many states, wants to encourage certain sorts of degrees and majors, as well as economic development. While the formula funds on an FTE basis, its funding is predicated on the cost to deliver a particular course. If I were to deliver a freshman English class to 20 students, or a senior level organic chemistry class to 20 students, the cost for that chemistry class is much higher. Everything about that cost is going to be dramatically different. The formula recognizes that costs, but along came the STEM weightings, (Science Technology Engineering and Medicine) there is a weighting that adds a kicker to the amount of money that we get. If we had an engineering program we would be getting a much bigger amount of funding for that program.
 - i. Durkit- Is there going to be a push for enrollment in those STEM Programs?
 1. Stoll- Yes. We will never be able to offer certain programs, but within those programs that we have we want to make sure that we are offering the kinds of degrees that employers are looking for.
5. Juzkiw- Where are the funds that are coming from the faculty cuts being reallocated?
 - a. Stoll- I will not be able to talk about that, but I can assure you that they are going to be reallocated somewhere.
6. Frailly- You said that they are moving 50 percent of the allocation to degree completion, so where is that money coming from to fund those things?
 - a. Stoll- The pie didn't change, it is only the formulas that tell BG what it is going to get. In the past it only looked at degrees granted and it said a portion of the dollars are going to go to the schools passed on degrees granted. The remainder came from course completion and the kickers.

The change came from the amount we are getting from degrees granted.

- i. Frailly- So this isn't coming from other areas?
 1. Stoll- No, we are just losing from what we are getting from the state and that is going to other institutions that
7. Juzkiw- Can you elaborate on the risk factors that are mentioned on this slide?
 - a. Stoll- There are 4 risk factors that we take into account- ethnicity, age, academic, and financial. Each student could have any number of these. Each section of the grid of these factors is weighted, and each student that successfully completes a course, based on each of those boxes we get a kicker or an additional amount that comes to the university. But because of the complexity of the data and the way the weighting is being determined is supposed to be based on historical outcomes. What they are trying to do is go back 10 years and look at those categories and what the chances of a student completing an undergraduate program with those risk factors and then look at that in prediction future outcomes.
8. E. Johnson- As far as getting funding based on degree completion, is that looking at a 4 year model or year by year?
 - a. Stoll- Year by year. Ohio state, Cincinnati, Wright state, and Shawnee, all because of state law switched from being a quarter system to a semester system. So students who were at that school were rushing to complete their degrees before they got caught up in the switch. These schools happened to receive a large amount of degrees that they normally didn't get because of that just in time for the formula change.
9. S. Durkit- I see that scholarship and student aid has gone down in the past years, can you see that going up?
 - a. Stoll- That decrease that you are seeing is all graduate.
10. Neely- How did Firelands manage to come out relatively unscathed under this new policy?
 - a. Stoll- The formula up until now has had 3 sectors, and the size of the pies for each sectors. Within the sector was reallocation, but not from each sector to another. The 4 year institutions and 2 year institutions will become one sector. Prior to this change, the 2 year institution had no portion that was awarded to degrees granted. Because of the merging, there is a significant catch up that has to happen. Before now a degree granted at BG was just ours, but now

if a portion of their degree was earned at another institution will go to that other school.

- VI. Lobby Time
 - a. N/A
- VII. Old Business
 - a. N/A
- VIII. New Business
 - a. N/A
- IX. Executive Branch Reports
 - a. President – Alex Solis asolis@falcon.bgsu.edu
 - i. I just want to take this time to provide two main updates that have been happening. The tobacco free campus initiative is meeting this week, and we are close to making the campus zones that are going to happen, and we want to focus on the education programs that will be happening.

Another thing that has come up is the heavy trash pick-up that occurs at the end of every academic year has changed. The May date for heavy trash pickup has been moved to March. The conclusion of this meeting was that this change better served BG students. The trash pick-up is coming in March, but the dean of students office is working with the city as far as reaching out with students and landlords. The date is March 18th, and I believe the city is taking a bit of the lead on letting land lords know about this.
 - 1. Juzkiw- Tobacco free initiative, is that going to be tobacco or just smoke free?
 - a. Solis- We are still looking at having that be tobacco free.
 - b. Vice President – David Neely dneely@falcon.bgsu.edu
 - i. We will be having our end of the year banquet on April 8th in the Union at 8 P.M. Dinner will be provided, and there will be awards as well. Polos are going on sale, we have a few left over, and so those will be 10 dollars. The Board of Trustees’ interviews have concluded and those names have been submitted for the next round of interviews.
 - c. Cabinet Reports
- X. Procedures and Appeals Reports
 - a. Chief Administrator – Evan Colyer ecolyer@falcon.bgsu.edu
 - i. I will be meeting with Jodi later this week to finalize elections. We will have names of those who are running for election available next week.
- XI. Treasurer’s Report
 - a. Treasurer – Jon Zachrich jdzachr@falcon.bgsu.edu
 - i. Appeals for the SBC funding are due to the office on March 28th.
- XII. Speaker’s Report
 - a. Speaker of the Senate – Melissa Dzienny mdzienn@falcon.bgsu.edu
 - i. This senator report will have an added section for goals for the next year, so if there are projects that you want to pass on, please include that. This is the last

senator report for this administration. Tonight was a business formal meeting; there are some people who are in violation of dress code. Please make yourself aware of what appropriate attire would be.

XIII. Committee Reports

- a. Academic Affairs – Kallie Durkit kdurkit@falcon.bgsu.edu
 - i. Posthumous degree initiative went into subcommittee and never came out, so no updates on that yet.
- b. Auxiliary Affairs – John Clevenger johnc@falcon.bgsu.edu
 - i. The funding proposal to get water bottle refill stations were approved.
- c. Internal Affairs – Benjamin Goldsberry btgolds@falcon.bgsu.edu
 - i. Faces of USG is nearing completion. We have most of the materials that we will need to create that for the next administration, which is exciting. Make sure you are doing your office hours. The week before break and break I will give those who forgot to write down their hours for those times, you have until 11:59 tonight to turn those in. In terms of the transition binders and senator resource binders, those are coming along well and we will be passing those along soon. I want you to think about what you want to pass on to the next administration, and that will be passed along in your binder. I want you all to be thinking about that now so you are ready to complete that.
 - 1. Harry goes to Juzkiw
 - 2. Charley goes to E. Johnson
- d. Student Affairs – Jordan Sanderson jmsande@falcon.bgsu.edu
 - i. The meet and greet at Copper beach has been changed to this Thursday from 5-6. Please come if you can.

XIV. Senator Reports

- a. E. Johnson- We were able to get the outtakes hours at the Carillon place extended so it is now open until 10 P.M.
 - i. Frailly- Is there any budgeting that goes into the outtakes from the student fees?
 - 1. E. Johnson- I'm not sure, but I have dining board this Friday so I can ask about that
 - 2. Zachrich- to my knowledge, no. Extra items that they know students will buy, they make sure to have there.

XV. Advisor's Remarks

- a. Webb- I think the representatives that went to COSGA represented BG very well, and there will be a presentation about that coming up very soon.

Also in regards to the heavy trash pickup, and I spoke to Nick Hennessy about the WYMO initiative being extended to off campus students. He said that he has had a few off campus students reach out to him for this, but the numbers have been small. For this to happen, he will need support in regards to volunteers. I would consider whether USG should get behind this, or take this back to other groups that you are affiliated with to see if that would be something you are interested in supporting.

XVI. Closing Remarks

- a. N/A

XVII. Adjournment

a. 8:33 P.M.