

Ohio University Faculty Senate
Monday, November 16, 2009
Room 235, Margaret M. Walter Hall, 7:10 p.m.
Minutes (approved January 11, 2010)

The meeting was called to order by Faculty Senate Chair Joe McLaughlin at 7:09 p.m.

In attendance:

College of Arts and Sciences: D. Bell, R. Boyd, K. Brown, C. Coski, J. Gilliom, S. Hays, B. Heckman, D. Ingram, P. Jung, C. Kalenkoski, J. McLaughlin, R. Palmer, S. Patterson, W. Roosenburg

College of Business: L. Hoshower, T. Stock

College of Education: T. Franklin, T. Leinbaugh

College of Engineering: C. Bartone, J. Dill, J. Giesey, H. Pasic

College of Fine Arts: M. Phillips, A. Reilly, E. Sayrs, D. Thomas

Group II: H. Burstein, M. Sisson

College of Health and Human Services: D. Bolon, M. Li, J. Thomas

College of Osteopathic Medicine: P. Coschigano, J. Wolf

Regional Campus—Chillicothe:

Regional Campus—Eastern: J. Casebolt

Regional Campus—Lancaster: P. Munhall

Regional Campus—Southern: E. McCown

Regional Campus—Zanesville: P. Kanwar for M. Nern

Scripps College of Communication: J. Bernt, G. Newton, J. Slade, S. Titsworth

Excused: T. Anderson, C. Elster

Absent: J. Lein, R. Frost, D. McDiarmid, T. Fredricks for T. Heckman, J. McKean for A. Rumble, R. Vance for R. Knight, J. Benson

Overview of the Meeting:

- I. Executive Vice-President & Provost Pam Benoit
 - II. Roll Call and Approval of the September 21, 2009 Minutes
 - III. Chair's Report – Joe McLaughlin
 - Resolution on Current Priorities (Executive Committee)—For Vote
 - **Upcoming Senate Meeting: January 11, 2010, 7:10 p.m., Walter Hall 235**
 - IV. Finance and Facilities (FFC)—Scott Titsworth
 - Resolution on Budget Priorities—First Reading
 - V. Educational Policy and Student Affairs Committee (EPSA)—Allyn Reilly
 - Resolution on Minimum Graduate Hours on Semesters—First Reading
 - VI. Promotion and Tenure (P&T)—Peter Coschigano
 - VII. Professional Relations Committee (PRC)—Steve Patterson
 - VIII. New Business
 - IX. Adjournment
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I. Executive Vice-President & Provost Pam Benoit

EVPP Benoit began her remarks by thanking faculty for their patience throughout her first quarter here. She then thanked faculty for their help in addressing H1N1 on campus, and commended the faculty for their role in many accomplishments that the OU community celebrated this quarter, ranging from the awarding of the Nobel Prize to an alumnus to a record number of Fulbright applications.

Benoit referred to her November report for an update on both the budget process and the *ad hoc* major code and program review committee. She then discussed the forthcoming strategic enrollment management report. The Board of Trustees requested a strategic enrollment report that evaluates the potential for growth at the Athens campus and at regional campuses while maintaining student success. The report recognizes that the level of instructional and student support must be increased for this to occur. The final report will be posted around December 14th. Benoit then asked for questions.

David Ingram noted that a recent Athens News article reported that auxiliaries (such as housing and dining services) are going to be taxed to pay for the \$21 million structural deficit (which includes the deficit in athletics), and asked whether the academic side would be taxed as well. **Benoit:** We all are paying for the structural deficit right now. A “tax” is one of the standard ways to address a structural deficit. The deficit has arisen over several years, and stems from investment losses, airport costs, and athletics (about a third of the structural deficit). **Ken Brown** noted the EVPP’s report stated that University would accept the recommendation of the *ad hoc* major code and program review committee to follow the Faculty Handbook process for eliminating programs, and asked whether it would be necessary to declare financial exigency if programs are to be eliminated for other than educational reasons. **Benoit:** Yes, the elimination of a program would have to be justified by educational reasons, and we would have to follow the procedure outlined in the Faculty Handbook. **Brown** asked for clarification of the family and medical leave policy, especially for married couples or domestic partners who are both employed by OU. The EVPP will report back on this.

Joe Slade asked whether there was a plan for enhancing revenues. **Benoit:** We are asking each of the planning units to think not only of cuts, but also about how to increase revenue across multiple years. (It takes more than a year for some cuts or revenue enhancements to make a difference.) Some examples include more outreach for fundraising and the new nursing program. **Benoit** also noted that some of the goal of cuts is to make strategic reinvestments where necessary – not just cuts. **Willem Roosenburg** asked whether cuts were possible on the non-academic side, such as eliminating non-academic units. What is the process for that? **Benoit:** Every unit, academic and non-academic, is being asked to plan for 5% and 10% cuts (although the cuts themselves will be differential, not an across-the-board 5% or 10% cut). Everything is on the table for all planning units. This is not just about ways to cut programs; there are lots of ways to make cuts, not just in programs. **Rudy Pasic** asked whether we spend too much on administration compared to our peers. **Benoit:** With respect to our administrative costs, this is complicated to answer because of the different ways that spending can be categorized, but based on IPEDS data the amount we spend on administration is comparable to our peer institutions.

X. Roll Call and Approval of the October 19th, 2009 Minutes

A quorum was present. A motion to accept the minutes (by Charlene Kalenkoski, seconded by Teresa Franklin) from the October 19th, 2009 faculty senate meeting was approved by voice vote.

XI. Chair's Report – Joe McLaughlin

- The results of the Presidential appraisal have been disseminated; participation was 32.7%, approximately 50% higher than the last time an appraisal was done.

- The *ad hoc* major code and program review committee recommendation was to follow the procedures outlined in the Faculty Handbook if programs were to be eliminated.

- **Mark Phillips** asked whether the disagreement about the presidential evaluation with the Board of Trustees (BOT) had been resolved. **McLaughlin** responded that he had not heard anything back since he sent his letter. **Chris Bartone** asked whether the executive committee will be at the next BOT meeting. **McLaughlin** noted that we have two senators who are representatives to BOT committees (**Titsworth** and **Thomas**); they will be at the next meeting. **Joseph Slade** raised concerns about OU's investment losses, and how this contributed to the current structural deficit; **Roy Boyd** asked whether there had been a change in investment strategies. **John Day** noted that OU has moved to a more conservative investment strategy (~50% cash, 25% bonds, 25% equity), and that the current budget does not include any investment income, so any money that investments do make may reduce the structural deficit. **David Ingram** and **Joe Bernt** raised concerns that non-academic units are allowed to plan a budget that includes deficit spending, while this is not possible for academic units. **Willem Roosenburg** asked why the university wants to privatize student housing, when it is one of the few areas that is running a surplus? **McLaughlin** responded that for students, taking care of deferred maintenance in the dorms was the highest priority. BPC has made a proposal to raise dorm/dining fees up to state averages to generate money for deferred maintenance. About ½ of this money would be deflected for about 5 years to deal with the structural deficit.

- A Sense of the Senate Resolution on Current Priorities (Executive Committee)—
Second Reading and Vote

The resolution was amended by voice vote to include continuing faculty as well as tenure-track faculty; the resolution was then approved as amended by voice vote.

- **Jeff Giesey**, co-director of Q2S, demonstrated the process for entering courses being converted from quarters to semesters into the OCEAN system. **Giesey** also noted that course outcomes must be included; you can cut and paste these from your syllabus into the online form.

- **Upcoming Senate Meeting: January 11, 2010. 7:10 p.m., Walter Hall 235**

XII. Finance and Facilities (FFC)—Scott Titsworth

- Resolution on Budget Priorities—First Reading

Titsworth explained that FFC based the resolution on the percentage of OU funds (Athens campus) spent on academics as presented in OU's Budget Book, but recently received more data from IPEDS. The two data sets do not necessarily align: for example, the Budget Book shows about 38% allocated for academic expenditures, while the IPEDS data shows 50% spent for instruction and research. This occurs for several reasons: 1) The Budget Book outlines projected expenses, while IPEDS data reports actual expenditures; 2) Expenses are categorized differently in each source, so there is no clear one-to-one correspondence between categories; 3) The IPEDS data excludes some expenditures (such as scholarships) that are included in the Budget Book, so even if the categories were aligned, the percentages of money spent on a given category could not be directly compared. FFC will spend time before the next meeting sorting out this data so we can get a clearer picture of how budget priorities may have changed over time.

Senate discussion emphasized the need to be able to compare actual expenditures from year to year rather than projected expenses; how to get this information disseminated more effectively to faculty and to the Board; how to include regional campus data; and how to compare our data to other institutions' data.

Titsworth emphasized that FFC is working toward language in the resolution that will affirm academics as the top priority and that everyone in the institution can support, including the administration, especially because critical decisions will be made in the next 3-5 months. FFC will meet again, at least once with John Day, to continue work on this, as well as to begin to look at regional campus budgets.

XIII. Educational Policy and Student Affairs Committee (EPSA)—Allyn Reilly

- Resolution on Minimum Graduate Hours on Semesters—Second Reading and Vote
No discussion; passed by voice vote.

Reilly reported that EPSA has been asked to look at drop/add dates and withdraw dates, as well as hours for minors and certificate programs under semesters. EPSA is also following up on any adjustments necessary to PeopleSoft (the new SIS). The student honor code issue reported on last month is still pending.

Senators asked about the status of the academic calendar under semesters. **David Descutner** replied that the basic calendar of 15-week semesters with a 4-week break is planned; there are a couple of different scenarios that outline how that could be implemented, which he will make available.

XIV. Promotion and Tenure (P&T)—Peter Coschigano

Coschigano reported that P&T has completed work on two appeals. They are now working on a resolution to make a technical correction to an inconsistency in the Faculty Handbook. They will also return to the resolution that was not signed by the EVPP, focusing on sections related to interdisciplinary work.

XV. Professional Relations Committee (PRC)—Steve Patterson

Patterson reported that PRC has finished the last grievance case. In winter quarter **Sherrie Gradin** will return as chair of the committee. **McLaughlin** thanked **Patterson** for his work this quarter while **Gradin** was on leave.

XVI. New Business

Steve Hays proposed that the Faculty Senate Executive Committee appoint an *ad hoc* committee to examine intercollegiate athletics (ICA), specifically to look at how much money is actually being spent, to collect published research about ICA, to develop ideas about how to communicate this information, and to report this information to the Faculty Senate as a whole at the January meeting.

McLaughlin and the Executive Committee agreed, noting that it was important for faculty to have good information about this topic. An *ad hoc* committee will be formed.

XVII. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 9:18 p.m.

**Sense of the Senate Resolution on Current Priorities
Executive Committee
Approved November 16, 2009**

Whereas academic quality is central to the vitality and success of the University, and an outstanding community of students and faculty is central to the pursuit of academic quality, and **Whereas** Ohio University confronts a period of severe ongoing economic challenges, **Be it resolved** that the Faculty Senate of Ohio University dedicates its work during this academic year to advancement in five specific areas essential to the academic health of the University:

- **Faculty Compensation and Benefits**

The recruitment and retention of excellent scholars and teachers requires competitive salary and benefits and demands that the university both signal and honor long term commitments to improving the competitive position of Ohio University faculty.

- **Maintaining and Enhancing the Tenure-Track and Continuing Faculty**

A strong and stable university community is created by maintaining an optimal number of tenure-track and continuing faculty, thus building a core of faculty dedicated to the long-term health of the institution.

- **Maintaining and Improving Student Quality, Achievement, Diversity, and Experience**

The university learning community is enriched by the recruitment and retention of a strong and diverse student body and providing the pedagogical infrastructure for a high quality education.

- **Supporting Faculty Research and Creative Activities**

An intellectually active and productive faculty is at the core of academic quality and can only be sustained with a strong university commitment to developing policies and providing resources to support appropriate teaching loads, faculty fellowships, and adequate operating funds.

- **Shared Governance**

As it is stated on the first page of the *Faculty Handbook*, the Faculty Senate “acts on behalf of all faculty on matters related to University planning, governance, and resource allocation.” As a fundamental principle of the academy, faculty leadership must be consistently and authentically involved in setting the goals and priorities of the University and upholding the *Faculty Handbook*.

**A Resolution on Budget Priorities
Ohio University Faculty Senate
Facilities and Finance Committee
First Reading, November 16, 2009**

Whereas, President McDavis’ budget update of October 26, 2009 noted that the goals for the strategic budget process are to “sharpen our strategic focus” related to the “core academic mission”; and,

Whereas, the goals of Vision Ohio include strengthening and enhancing the academic portfolio of the University; and

Whereas, since fiscal year 2000 expenditures budgeted for academic programs have decreased from 37.9% of the Athens Campus budget in FY2000 to 36.1% in FY2009; and,

Whereas, since fiscal year 2000 expenditures for Administration & Support Services, Auxiliaries, and Centrally Budgeted Items increased from 62.2% of the Athens Campus budget in FY2000 to 63.9% in 2009; and,

Whereas, academic units are already engaging in cuts to actual and potential academic programs by significantly reducing the number of active major codes; and,

Whereas, proposed 5 and 10% budget reduction targets for all planning units will require most academic units to anticipate reductions in faculty; and,

Whereas, budget reductions for academic units would be inconsistent with a commitment to the core academic mission of the university as well as goals articulated in Vision Ohio; therefore,

Be it Resolved by the Ohio University Faculty Senate that expenditures for academics will not be reduced to meet projected shortfalls in revenue for the university.

**A Resolution on Minimum Graduation Hours for Graduate Programs in Semesters
Educational Policy and Student Affairs Committee
Approved November 16, 2009**

Whereas the minimum graduation hours for all Ohio University undergraduate programs beginning in Fall 2012 will be 120 semester hours; and

Whereas the Graduate Council has established minimum credit hours for graduate programs at 30 semester hours beyond the baccalaureate for master's degrees and 90 semester hours beyond the baccalaureate for doctoral degrees;

Be It Resolved that the minimum number of semester hours for conferral of the master's degree be 30 semester hours beyond the bachelor's degree from Fall 2012; and

Be It Further Resolved that the minimum number of semester hours for conferral of a doctoral degree be 90 semester hours beyond the bachelor's degree from Fall 2012.