Minutes of the seventh meeting of the 2006-07 University Senate

Thursday, February 22, 2007

Members Present: 55

Members Absent: 14

1. The meeting was called to order by the chairperson of the University Senate, Bruce Hozeski, at 4:05 p.m. Roll Call was taken by initialing the roster located at the entrance to AJ 175.


2. Announcements

A motion was made and seconded (Popovich/Meier) to approve the minutes of January 25, 2007.

Motion carried.

A. Next Scheduled Meetings

Senate Agenda Committee – March 19, 2007, 8:00 a.m., AT 202F
University Senate – March 29, 2007, 4:00 p.m., AJ 175

B. Pandemic Update

The Pandemic Planning Group reported on their progress at the February 12 meeting of the Senate Agenda Committee. The Planning Group membership includes Kay Bales from Student Affairs, Kevin Kenyon from Facilities Planning and Management, and Kent Bullis from the Student Health Center. Individual departments should be receiving information within the next month. There is a website in place for information: www.bsu.edu/fluinfo/.

C. Program Information – Academic Posting 2006-07 Volume XXXVIII-6

Revised Programs:

College of Applied Sciences and Technology
Department of Family and Consumer Sciences
  Master of Arts in Family and Consumer Sciences
Fisher Institute for Wellness and Gerontology
  Master of Arts in Wellness Management
  Master of Science in Wellness Management
College of Architecture and Planning
  Department of Architecture
  Master of Architecture
  Master of Architecture II
College of Sciences and Humanities
  Department of Mathematical Sciences
    New: Middle School/Junior High Mathematics License (Graduate level)
D. Task Force on Student Academic Ethics Policy

The Chairperson of the Senate reported that the policy was approved by the Campus Council on February 15; the Faculty Council Executive Committee sent the policy to the Office of University Compliance for review prior to placing on the Faculty Council agenda.

3. In Memoriam – Catherine B. (Kitty) (Bell) Rutledge-Lough (Attachment #1)

4. Committee Reports

A. Governance and Elections Committee – David Pearson, Member

David reported that the committee will meet next month to begin working on the slate of officers for the University Senate. Anyone interested in running for a senate office may submit their name to the University Senate office.

B. Faculty Council – Mark Popovich, Chairperson

Mark reported that the Council meets next Thursday, March 1. They have five items under new business.

C. University Council – Adam Stegner, Chairperson

Adam reported that the Council met on February 8. They have formed an ad hoc study committee to identify and discuss non-salary, non-insurance issues that are related exclusively to professional personnel.

D. Campus Council – Matthew Walker, Chairperson

Matt reported that the Council met on February 15, and passed the Student Academic Ethics Policy.

5. Report by Chairperson of Senate – Bruce W. Hozeski
(Enclosure #1 – Issues in the Senate System)

6. Questions Directed to the President

President Gora reported on the following:

- Applications for admissions for Fall 2007, are up 24%, admits are up 10%, honors admits are up 20%. There was a wait list of 1300 students for the first time in the history of the institution. The admissions office has rejected 500 students from the wait list, thus far. The goal is to recruit the same freshman class size (3600) with a higher academic profile.

- Housing reports that they have 314 more returning students applying to live on campus. The most expensive rooms in Park Hall were taken in less than two minutes. She believes the increase is a reflection of housing personnel listening to the desires of the students in the design of on-campus housing.

- At their last meeting, the Board of Trustees voted on the honorary degree recipients for May and December 2007 and May 2008. The following will be awarded honorary degrees at the May commencement: Andrew Card, White House Chief of Staff from 2000-2006; Judy O’Bannon, former first lady of the State of Indiana, and Hurley Goodall, well-known to the Ball State Community for his works to promote civil rights in central Indiana. Dr. John Brooks Slaughter, president and chief executive
officer of the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering, will be awarded an honorary degree at the December 2007, commencement ceremony. Sara Martinez Tucker, Under Secretary in the Department of Education, will receive an honorary degree in May 2008.

The President noted that there is a desire to create a more diverse slate at the commencement ceremonies and engage the honorary degree recipients in dialogue with students and faculty.

- The NCAA recently published Graduation Success Rates. The MAC had the highest graduation success rate for all Division I teams, and Ball State had the highest graduation rate in the MAC with 90% overall and 88% for Football.

7. Questions Directed to the President:

- A Senator asked about Ball State’s relationship with Charter Schools.

  The President reported that Ball State is the only university authorizing charter schools. Dr. Larry Gabbert is the Director of the Office for Charter Schools. By Fall 2007, the university will have chartered 26 schools. There have been more than 105 schools apply for charter status and we have closed one school in 2004 in Ft. Wayne. There are yearly reviews as well as a five-year evaluation of all charter schools.

- A Senator asked about the immersive learning section in the Strategic Plan and how it can carry academic credit and not be a part of the curriculum.

  The President responded that the goal of the Strategic Plan is to differentiate Ball State from other universities in the state. We must be an institution of first choice for students. A long-standing strength of the university is the ability of faculty members to engage students in community-based projects. This is the heart of immersive learning. She hopes that every immersive learning project would carry academic credit, but there may be some that don’t. Provost King also stated that this will not be required of students, although we would like the option available in all programs of study.

  The President commented that a faculty committee has worked for two years developing the Strategic Plan. The characteristics that define immersive learning were developed by a faculty committee who analyzed existing programs on campus and identified the common characteristics of these innovative active learning experiences.

- Clarification was requested on who makes the determination as to what constitutes an immersive learning experience. The Provost responded that the departments will send their action plans to the Provost’s office. Ultimately a faculty committee will review immersive learning proposals. A Senator commented that this gives faculty the opportunity to really think outside the box. It is up to the department to decide how this relates to their own curriculum.

  The Provost will be included on the Agenda at the remaining Faculty Council meetings for this year for a question and answer period.

- There was a question as to whether the immersive learning experience was geared toward undergraduates or graduate students. The President responded that the emphasis is on the undergraduate level; however there can also be experiences at the graduate level, if the faculty so choose.

- It was requested that the Provost post examples of the departments who are already implementing immersive learning experiences. The Provost will work on getting this accomplished. He added that nearly 2000 students have participated in immersive learning experiences of some sort this past year.
• A senator asked if there really was a significant difference in what Ball State was doing compared to other institutions.

The President responded that there are many institutions who encourage experiential learning, but not the immersive learning experiences practiced at Ball State. The idea is to build on this institutional strength and make these experiences available to more students across the disciplines.

• A senator thanked the administration for the handling of the snow emergency.

8. Question and Answer Period

There was a request for an update on the progress of the proposed Core Curriculum.

Fred Suppe, a member of the UCC Subcommittee, reported that they are still considering amendments and expect at least one more meeting, and possibly more.

9. Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

10. New Business

A. Procedures on Electronic Voting

Motion approved by the Governance and Elections Committee 1/19/07:

“The Senate, the Agenda Committee and the Governance and Elections Committee may conduct official business electronically. This includes, but is not limited to, e-mail, electronic postings, websites, voting and meetings. However, the membership of the aforementioned groups must first develop policies and procedures for electronic voting and meetings within each group.”

To be added to the Standing Rules of the Senate

A motion was made and seconded (Pearson/Popovich) to place this item on the floor for discussion.

The motion carried, with abstentions.

B. Comprehensive Examinations for Master’s Degree (Enclosure #2)

A motion was made and seconded (Popovich/Walker) to place this item on the floor for discussion.

Motion carried.

The Chairperson of the Senate added that doctoral comprehensive exam policies have not been reviewed for many years. The Graduate Education Committee is currently reviewing these policies.

11. Other Items

1. Jamie Manuel, undergraduate senator, requested that faculty announce in their classes that SGA elections will take place on February 26 & 27. The website for voting is: www.bsu.edu/vote.
12. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.

March 29, 2007

Bruce W. Hozeski, Chairperson

Rebecca Adams, Secretary
In Memoriam

The members of the University Senate recognize with regret the death of:

Catherine B. (Kitty) Bell Rutledge-Lough, Assistant Professor Emerita of Music, who retired from the piano faculty of Ball State University after 39 years of service. A performer of national renown, she began her own study of music at Butler University’s Jordan Conservatory and also studied at the Chicago Musical College and the Juilliard School of Music and with French musician Madame Nadia Boulanger. Throughout her long tenure at Ball State and until late in life, Professor Rutledge-Lough continued as a private teacher in the Elwood, Indiana, community. As a performer, she was a soloist in England, and she and former Ball State faculty member Gloria Griner appeared as duo pianists for several years. In addition to performing regularly with the Muncie Symphony Orchestra, Professor Rutledge-Lough performed with Arthur Fiedler, conductor of the Boston Pops. She was a member of Mu Phi Epsilon National Honorary Music Fraternity, the Indianapolis Matinee Musicale, the Chicago Fine Arts Association, and the National Music Teachers Association.

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