

Ohio Faculty Council
April 14, 2017
Minutes

Chair Dan Krane called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

In attendance:

Dan Krane (Wright State, chair), Beth Quitslund (Ohio U), Amy Lee (NEOMED), Fayez Safadi (NEOMED), Bill Rich (Akron), Leann Schaeffer (Akron), Anthony Milburn (Central State), Rachelle Kristof Hippler (BGSU), Lori Liggett (BGSU), Sally Moomaw (UC)

APPROVE AGENDA

The agenda was approved by acclamation.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE March 10, 2017 OFC MEETING

The minutes were approved by acclamation.

NEW BUSINESS

Senate Bill 6 Ratios

In 1997, Senate Bill 6 created a system for assessing the financial health of public institutions of higher education. Dan presented a spreadsheet of SB 6 numbers from FY 2008 – 2016, which includes graphs displaying trends over time as well as the numbers themselves. Audited data is available on the ODHE website going back to 2000, and Dan welcomed help in adding the earlier numbers to the OFC spreadsheet. It was noted that as of FY 15, the SB 6 numbers are calculated with Governmental Accounting Standards Board 68 impacts as well as without (Dan's spreadsheet is without). Formulas for calculating the ratios are given in the charts on the ODHE website. Expenditures higher than revenues might prompt faculty to ask questions. The composite score is the crucial one, in that a score below 1.75 for two consecutive years puts that institution on "fiscal watch," which can mean fairly intrusive state oversight and/or strong encouragement to Trustees to resign. Dan noted that Wright State would fall below 1.75 in FY 17, and is extremely likely to do so in FY 18 as well. This conversation will continue at the May meeting when Jim Bennett (ODHE's CFO) attends; Dan encouraged representatives from institutions with odd trend lines to make inquiries at their universities ahead of that.

Metrics of Quality for ODHE Efficiency Reports

The OFC made recommendations for measures of quality in a March letter to Sara Molski (Asst Policy Director for ODHE). She was unable to attend the meeting, but her email response (distributed to members ahead of the meeting) did not commit to any of the changes that we had requested. The template for Efficiency Reports will be distributed in July, with reports due in September (considerably later than last year's schedule).

Current/Pending Legislation Updates (Matt Ides, Ohio Education Association)

Mr. Ides reported on the new president for the Ohio Faculty Senate, Aaron Weiss, succeeding Darell Minor. Dan added that the OFS remains eager to collaborate with the OFC.

Mr. Ides also reported on the following legislation of interest to faculty and the higher ed community:

- HB 14: Would register all in-state students to vote. It is Democratically-sponsored and thus unlikely to go forward.
- HB 53: Right to work for public employees
- HB 113: Right to work for private employees
- HB 66: Would require each tenured faculty member to teach at least 3 undergraduate hours per semester. It has been referred to the Higher Education Committee.
- HB 74: Would slightly increase tax deduction for 529 accounts; SB 5 would create a huge deduction, going from \$3000 to \$10K. It would also create a joint committee on Ohio College Affordability, declaring a financial emergency regarding higher education affordability.
- HB 29: Requires that the governor spend five days per year in public schools (in reprisal for the educator internship proposal in HB 48).
- HB 160/SB 28: To prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender expression, potentially replacing lost ground on federal Title IX protections.
- SB 15: Would require all community colleges to comply with minority business enterprise set-aside requirements. It is Democratically-sponsored, so not likely to go forward.
- SB 124: Would allow OCOG to be used for technical and career centers, but without increasing OCOG appropriations.
- HB 179: To disallow sanctuary ordinances at city or county level and permit prosecutions. It might allow university police to work with other agencies to identify immigration status.
- HB 180: Require all state institutions to eliminate sex-based discrimination.
- HB 49:
 - The language associated with the \$300 Textbook proposal has been removed from the current version of the budget and is likely to be replaced with a commitment to reducing textbook costs by 50% over the next five years.
 - On the other hand, even a 1% in SSI is endangered, given the current tax revenues. Dan noted that the IUC is anticipating a cut in SSI; he urges the OFC to assist in efforts to leverage that for an increase in tuition. He also noted that Rep. Rosenberger prefers increasing OCOG support over maintaining SSI.
 - It is possible that a tenure elimination provision will be tacked on as a rider. Fighting this will require serious messaging campaign about the value of tenure. Dan noted that the IUC is staunchly opposed to this attack on tenure, and is interested in working with the OFC on messaging. There may also be lines of defense in the Senate.

- Police and Fire Pension program is radically changing health benefits, moving to a stipend for free-market plans.

Eli Faes, ODHE Legislative Director, on HB 49

Mr. Faes said that we expect amendments to HB 49 to be submitted in the week following the OFC meeting, with a sub-bill in May on the Higher Ed components. There will be some changes to the Executive version. The textbook portion will probably shift, requiring institutions to reach goals in cost reduction, i.e. a 50% reduction in five years. Books for CC+ will probably be a 50-50 split between high schools and colleges (currently, high schools pay 100% of the cost of books). Mr. Faes also mentioned the need for a cut to the current budget proposal given low tax returns. The SSI increase is likely to be on the table, as is the increase to OCOG. He did acknowledge that flat state funding might reopen the discussion on tuition freezes. The commercialization track is still in the bill.

OFC Member Institution Dues

The IUC collects money from member institutions. The OFC will need money in the future for the website, at minimum, as well as possibly postage, trophy and prize money for the commercialization award, and so forth. We may also want to think about reaching out with faculty education about governance, finances, and legislative processes. The suggestion was made of approaching the IUC rather than individual representatives dunning their Provosts directly.

OLD BUSINESS

Ohio Faculty Congress

Were such a thing to exist, it would bring together the two- and four-year institutions via the OFC and OFS. Dan is in discussions with Rep. Perales about some sponsorship for a day-long retreat opening in the State House. His office will also liaise with Rep. Duffy (Chair of Standing Committee on Education) and Sen. Gardner (Senate Committee on Education). Lunch would be provided by the OEA, and afternoon sessions would be at their facilities. Afternoon discussions would center on issues of joint interest. Currently we are considering these dates: June 5, June 23, July 6, July 7. There are further open dates later in July.

Testimony Before House Subcommittee on Higher Education

Five members testified before the Subcommittee on March 21. It went well. Written versions of the testimony is available at <http://www.ohiohouse.gov/committee/finance-subcommittee-on-higher-education>.

Letter to Representatives

Dan proposed that each OFC institution's members send the OFC's letter to state representatives for districts that our students live in. This is highly time sensitive; Dan will push the letter out to OFC members with information for which representatives should receive it.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.