



OHIO FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
9 April 2021

12:30 – 2:30 PM
Virtual via Zoom

ATTENDEES

Bowling Green University: Christopher Frey, David Jackson
Central State University: Leeann Petry, Anthony Milburn
Cleveland State University: Andy Slifkin, Anup Kumar
Kent State: Ed Dauterich
Miami U: Jen Green, Elizabeth Wardle
NEOMED: Charles Thodeti
Ohio State: Ben Givens, Susan Cole, Ken Lee
Ohio University: Robin Muhammad, Benjamin Bates
Shawnee State University: Kyle Vick
University of Akron: Linda Saliga
University of Cincinnati: Greg Loving, Cynthia Ris
University of Toledo: Allyson Day
Wright State University: Laura Luehrmann
Youngstown State:
Ex-officio: Wright State University, Former Chair Dan Krane

Guests

Randy Gardner, Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education
Jim Bennett, Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Advisor, ODHE

Terry Filicko—Ohio Faculty Senate
Matthew Ides—OEA
John McNay—AAUP

April 9, 2021, 12:30 – 2:30 PM

- 1. Approve agenda. No objections.**
- 2. Approve March 12 meeting minutes. No changes.**
- 3. White Paper on Faculty-Board Relations**
Laura Luehrmann, vice-chair, OFC
 - Thanks to Ally and Linda and others who shared ideas. Comments asked for regarding general concerns and recommendations—may share with Chancellor.

- General highlights: White paper highlights some of what we have been seeing including formal actions taken at some universities and what was collected from institutional responses. General theme is that decisions do not include significant communication with faculty or others.
- Specific concerns: Reflected data shared by member institutions about executive sessions that avoid opportunity for more discussion. Communication tends to be one-way and formal feedback limited. Less than optimal information and understanding of faculty. Only Ohio State has a faculty member with voting privileges.
- Best Practices where things are working and can be extended: (1) Engagement of faculty with onboarding of Boards of Trustees representatives at institutions and the Statewide Annual Trustees' Conference; Jim Bennett seems to see the positive aspects of this; (2) Meaningful communication; (3) Board presence at faculty governance meetings; "designee" option might not be sufficient; (4) Board visibility on campus; and (5) Informed decision-making

Questions:

- Decision to include wording about ability of University community to provide comments/questions/advice and to receive acknowledgement of that.
- Question outstanding about whether to include a recommendation that Universities be able to provide input on candidates or choose one of the members.
- Is there a conflict of interest with faculty senators also serving on the board?

Application for board positions:

https://governor.ohio.gov/wps/wcm/connect/gov/6c7c65b8-8964-4c17-8ea3-22546e505faa/Boards+and+Commissions+Application.pdf?MOD=AJPERES&CONVERT_TO=url&CACHEID=ROOTWORKSPACE.Z18_M1HGGIK0N0JO00QO9DDDDM3000-6c7c65b8-8964-4c17-8ea3-22546e505faa-nnnfkys

4. Ohio Department of Higher Education Update

Thanks from OFC to the chancellor for CARES Act and advocating for faculty and higher education during the pandemic.

Randy Gardner, Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education (attending with Jim Bennett, Chief of Staff and Senior Policy Advisor, ODHE)

- Nationwide Ohio is #3 in state and discretionary CARES Act funding. Governor has prioritized this. First to provide federal dollars for mental health—Governor was on Chancellor's round-table with students from Akron. Challenging time, but positive things are happening.
- Budget has been introduced and is solid, with attention on K-12 funding reform with Cupp-Patterson program. There may not be a lot of change in House for higher ed. Will testify next Wednesday on budget. Spent first 4-5 pages talking about the value of higher ed in regard to wages, employment, and other benefits to Ohio. If we increased degrees attainment 5% the state would save \$500 million dollars in increased revenues and

reduced pressure on social spending—would be fourth best in country in combination of Associates and BA degrees.

- SB135—is engaging with the sponsor who has been willing to meet and discuss the bill with the Chancellor. A possibility that sections could become budget amendments or otherwise move forward. Some sections include obligations of institutions: if you go to a state university and pause out, years later want to go back, previous college owes tuition to pay the next college for that returning student's tuition. Concern is that this suggests responsibility on previous institution although universities are incentivized already to encourage students to succeed and already have a strong completion rate and plans for improving, and also give parents a lot of information about this and other matters. We also have a transfer policy within the state that works well. The Chancellor will learn more from the Senate and sponsor.
- We want to emphasize what we do well and where we can improve. Aspire is an example of a program designed to help those with a GED or no HS diploma.

Questions: Would new initiatives require ODHE engagement and would extra funds have to be redirected toward some of these initiatives at universities? What impact would enlarged opportunities have at community colleges?

- Chancellor; There is a wider opportunity for Nursing degrees in community colleges with potentially less review; We now have 9 Applied BA degrees at community colleges; applied BAs are supposed to meet niche areas and shortages areas. There was a report that we would have a surplus of nurses, and there are some pockets where there might be shortages. Emphasis would be to look there. Will work through process to discuss enlargement of applied BAs where there are agreements to hire by employers. There are also provisions that would expand Chancellor's authority.
- Budget contains two things: SSI was prioritized; a couple other line items did not get restored. This seemed the fairest way to promote the budget. May have gotten 4-6% increase in funding, but less money overall than what we are getting now. Modest increase that Chancellor thinks will be sustained and does not anticipate reduction in SSI. Potentially exciting federal American Rescue Plan would bring a lot of money to Ohio in flexible spending to General Assembly and the Governor, to institutions, and to students. Higher ed will likely be part of this process in one-time monies to meet workplace needs, capital, equipment. Not sure when this will be—now, summer, or fall—but need to respond sooner for Fall classes to meet concerns about enrollment, to get students back, and to offer financial assistance to do that.

Opened discussion regarding efforts of the White Paper as intended to facilitate communication between Boards and faculty so we as institutions can make better informed decisions

Chancellor: Communication, awareness, and mutual respect are all important. There is more emphasis on this for students and faculty in K-12 and there may not be enough in higher ed. There need to be societal and administrative interest and concern about the quality of teaching and how to work together to assist and improve students and higher ed in general. Appreciation is needed for quality of faculty and the impact of that on students, degree progression, employment, and so on.

Follow-up discussion after meeting with the Chancellor:

- Recommendation to make sure points raised by the Chancellor are clear in the White Paper. We want to make sure that our efforts are clear that our intent is the success of students and the universities; we want to “Elevate the success of students and the reputations/quality of university programs.”
- Matthew Ides: Trouble finding legislators and Board members who have experience in higher education. Any accountability gap might be mitigated by proposing the election of Board members. Chancellor might consider this since K-12 gets this.
- John McNay: AAUP State Conference is taking a measured approach to SB 135 and approached some legislators in this regard. Some concerns may be in opposition to IUC.

5. **InnovateOhio PITCH X: from Lab to Market**

As transition to Dan’s discussion on PitchX, OFC has updated its website relating to the Technology Commercialization Award, and will promote this on campus with Provost and VP for research and commercialization efforts on campus. Dan has been working with Innovate Ohio to also promote this. Provost and Faculty Senate can promote candidates.

<https://www.ohiofaculty council.org/technology-commercialization-award#:~:text=The%20OFC%20Technology%20Commercialization%20Award,marketable%20products%20and%20For%20services.>

Dan Krane, past President, OFC. [Website for PitchX](#)

Take award seriously—this is the 6th year that it will be given. Draw attention to what faculty are doing, particularly in regard to educating students and promoting economy of state. Opened doors for OFC and allowed us to establish cooperative relationships. The Chancellor and Mike Duffy both became more aware of OFC through this.

PitchX: ODHE—can also contribute here. Pitch X predates and is an offshoot of Tech Award. Next logical step in Ohio’s Intellectual Property (IP) Promise Initiative is to show what great things Ohio faculty are doing. Innovate Ohio is setting aside hundreds of thousands of dollars to identify faculty who are doing great work by advancing the economy and IP in Ohio. There will be three faculty whose work will get highlighted. Need to submit application and selected faculty will be intensively coached and subject to high production of delivery of their message. Same firm that does Columbus TED-X talks will be coaching faculty for subsequent delivery with upsides of this to faculty, venture capital, students. OSU and UC will be competing.

Mike Duffy and Dan interested in diversity in full means—including across state, those just getting started and those who have worked in this a long time, across colleges including liberal arts (branding, etc.), and so on. Need to get the word out to all institutions.

Important to look to what will improve Ohio’s economy.

6. **SB 135 - Discussion of items that are of high priority for faculty.** [Summary of SB 135](#)

Meeting held with Senate President Matt Huffman who is a proponent of SB 135 and may help to move this out. May be useful to identify those sections about which faculty can testify:

- Concerns about BAs at community colleges; paying money to community colleges and other colleges for students who don't successfully complete in the first instance; and other measure. May be heightened if Biden's plan passes to make community colleges free. Important to address benefits of higher ed for career preparation and thus the benefit of the Ohio economy in order to counter some shorter-term advantages of community colleges such as being close to home which can save costs, and so on;
- Free speech concerns in the classroom; problems with new reporting and removal of autonomy and fullest breadth of educational discussions;
- Concerns about SSI linked to in-demand jobs;
- Concern about other losses to the universities including program suspensions for low completion rates which can backfire and eliminate challenging areas or those that include more at-risk students.
- There is no budget here to accompany the increased reporting, costs, potential losses, and other cuts;
- We also want to insure that we are not hurting students we want to help through unintended consequences that could decrease access especially for at-risk students because we are pushed into increased completion rates;
- Common area of concern is the needs of our students and to diversity and equity. Some measure seem to work against this. Important for success of students that they be prepared for a diversity of jobs rather than job training and that everyone has access to liberal arts education;
- We will use a shared Google drive folder to work on drafting talking points. These can be useful to address concerns to local representatives as well as speaking at the State House within the next couple of weeks;
- Work with IUC and AAUP to capitalize on our different areas of concern such as admissions, curricular decisions;

7. Vote for Officers: Vote will take place at May Meeting; email will be sent out reminding everyone of the upcoming election.

8. Campus examples of shared governance successes and challenges—No time this month.

9. Adjourn

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Ris, Secretary
Ohio Faculty Council