



**OHIO FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
11 Dec 2020**

12:30 – 2:30 PM
Virtual via Zoom

ATTENDEES (via Zoom):

Bowling Green University: Christopher Frey, David Jackson
Central State University: Leanne Petry
Cleveland State University: Bob Krebs, Andy Slifkin
Kent State: Pam Grimm, Ed Dauterich
Miami U: James Bielo
NEOMED: --
Ohio State: Ben Givens
Ohio University: Benjamin Bates
Shawnee State University: Kyle Vick
University of Akron: Linda Saliga
University of Cincinnati: Greg Loving, Cynthia Ris
University of Toledo: Ally Day
Wright State University: Laura Luehrmann, Brian Boyd
Youngstown State: Mike Ekoniak
Ex-officio: Wright State University, Former Chair Dan Krane

Guests:

Terry Filicko (Ohio Faculty Senate)
Bruce Johnson (IUC)
Sara Kilpatrick (AAUP)
John McNay (AAUP)

1. **Approved agenda**
2. **Approved minutes**

Ben Givens: General discussion about how meetings will be organized. We will start with an opening focus on one university's issue to which we can hear from others in attendance; a scheduled guest; a discussion of relevance to all institutions including legislative updates and other matters; and then our campus updates/best practices.

Invitation to all institutions to provide ideas for topics and speakers.

3. **Ohio Open Meetings Act**

Interested in hearing about policies and practices regarding Senate meetings as open meetings. Reporter wanted to attend faculty meeting and wrote an article with President's comments about power plant at that meeting—question whether this is typical for faculty or other meetings, such as executive meeting groups, steering committees, etc. Reporter's argument is that Steering Committee is open to [Ohio Public Records Act](#). Consider developing guidelines about what it means to go into Executive Sessions and publish guidelines. Some states are very stringent. What have other universities done?

UC: Senate meetings assumed to be open (invite student journalists to meetings). Others are gray areas. Cabinet and other meeting—don't take minutes. Question about how this relates to records retention. Each university may have rules and regs about that and this relates in part to which are required to be kept by law which may relate to which are considered public meetings.

Cleveland State—Don't keep minutes at Steering and do not consider it public.

Wright State—May want to ask Bruce Johnson; post meetings on local website, but question if once recorded and someone wants it if this has to be retained.

UA—Senate meetings open

OU/OS—Question of what the line is between bodies that make decision and/or advise versus those that don't and therefore do not have to be public.

May want to look into this more to help set guidelines for institutions.

4. **Inter-University Council (IUC) of Ohio**

Bruce Johnson, President of the IUC

- Thanks to faculty for moving forward during the challenging time we've had.
- Open University protocol team works to make sure that each individual university knows what other universities are doing—not best practices in the legal sense, but can monitor what decision-making processes are being considered and used during COVID. Meets on regular basis and with sub-committees to help coordinate efforts to determine appropriate responses. Meet with Governor's and Chancellor's offices and leaders in General Assembly to keep them informed about actions on campuses. A lot being done in a short period of time after elections.
- Nursing licensing is taking some time—meant to assure that they can move forward to jobs.
- Recently agreed to disagree on free speech issue.
- Meeting on tests, vaccinations, scheduling—not making decisions, but making sure that universities are making decisions on similar scheme.
- More money provided by the state for students relating to the current mental health crisis. Still have woefully inadequate resources compared to challenge.

- Good advocacy year; CARES act funding for OH was good compared to rest of country. Advocate on federal level as well. Each institution has net negative. Additional state and federal funds have not reimbursed entirely, but efforts have been reasonable.
- Working with General Assembly on Capital Budget. Anticipate passing budget within the week.
- Looking forward to a budget year; advocates on behalf of faculty should keep in mind the unknown and “nonexistent” recession and underlying evidence that the economy means there will be a revenue impact. State will conservatively anticipate revenue including unemployment, rising Medicaid caseload, and K-12 funding rise. We can be a partner for SSI, OCOG, additional student support, and tuition flexibility.
- Previous budget is a good mirror of Governor’s priorities which include student support, certificates and short-term learning programs (work-force orientation). Try to participate where possible to get reasonable increase in funds that will support all universities such as SSI (e.g, inflation plus 2%).

Q/Agency Capital Bill allocations not listed alphabetically but Education is first on list. Is that a good indicator? Insight on when community aspects of Capital Budget will be rolled out? \$400m will be needed to sustain physical infrastructure at minimum, so needs to be passed. May be having discussions about it. IUC has no influence over community projects. Tendency not to meet via web, so COVID is slowing forward movement. Missed a capital bill in last great recession, but it is needed now. This is the time to spend infrastructure dollars.

Q/what does legislative issues look like next year with more seats to Republicans?
More willing to challenge underlying assumption of society, i.e., that higher education is a good thing. Governor and Chancellor have done well and are advocates. Bob Cupp/Patterson bill is free spending bill for K-12 and has a strong opinion on positive advancements in education.

Q/Can you speak to what you see as the effect on institutions of the free speech bill?
Not a huge impact in the short-term for practical purposes. Long-run challenging because the state statute provides a snapshot of federal constitutional law as interpreted by the Supreme Ct today and changes related to those interpretations won’t be reflected. This could create differences between state and federal application moving forward. Applied exclusively to University and college campuses when these are free speech areas, but not applied to the General Assembly or municipalities in terms of ensuring that where free speech is supposed to occur that it does occur. One practical outcome: need to inform if there is a negative impact on free speech. Better to sign off this year not knowing the future outcome of a delayed bill.

Q/Growing workforce orientation-can this be a problem if not balanced with legitimate concerns for educational development aside from workforce predictions?
Need to be careful not knowing what skills will be needed in the future. In having this become dominant, we need to recognize that a foundation in education is slightly different than job training. This can be simplistic if current job openings suggest support of certain disciplines. State can define what it views as goals of higher education but shouldn’t give it too much emphasis. Should also have practical application so shouldn’t be exclusively either/or. Faculty

are both educators and trainers and this can be useful frame to accentuate. On the other hand, it has not been successful to try to guess what jobs are going to be in 5-10 years, so emphasis on general skills is useful: problem solving, communication, working in groups and teams. Practical skills without these are not useful in the long-term. We've lost the opportunity to show people how higher education leads to a more functioning citizen. Current governor has an emphasis on the importance of higher ed in general; unclear what successor will bring.

Bruce Johnson left; post-speaker discussion began.

Q/Is there any tension between funding community colleges and 4-year programs?

Former Gov. Kasich had been pushing community colleges more than 4-years; has not been so much of a push to blend 4-year into 2-year mission in ODHE. Two-plus plans may increase enrollments over time if big increase in community college support. Partnership can be useful to maintain and grow both.

Q/With administrators also hearing that support for higher education will just get worse (e.g., low SSI, etc.) does this encourage tighter budgets without clear evidence of need?

Inflation plus 2 for SSI would be better than where we've been in the past. In Spring academic units were asked to make 20% cuts, and academic units had to make decisions early and positions were terminated. Hard for many institutions and colleges to navigate this.

Sara Kilpatrick/AAUP: Even if economic outlook is better, hard to increase SSI because we need new revenue. Gov. DeWine cut amount from budget that was roughly same amount as tax cuts. We need to make a case that new money has to be found, such as restoring cuts made at end of last fiscal year and beginning of new fiscal year. LLC tax loophole costs Ohio \$1b per year; tax cuts to those with LLC's (primarily lawyers); these have to be eliminated. Check AAUP budget priorities. [Link](#) to letter sent to Governor. Stimulus money was for specific purposes. Need to make collaborative case that we need to have new revenue and the importance of higher ed. The fact of budgets not recovering is something to watch out for in all institutions.

5. Legislative initiatives for Ohio Faculty Council

Ben: Met with Lauren Reid last week—House majority caucus staff person aligned with educational policies. Willing to meet with us and partner with us to share information.

We may need to act more proactively such as SB40. Brainstorm as to what we see as priority list of what we want to see and partner with IUC or government affairs staff to promote. Let's consider ways to highlight our priorities. Ideas:

- Instead of medicalizing problem, think about issues behind some of that: financial stress and other issues. Teachers also do have student loans. Health care packages are needed that cover more comprehensive options such as partner benefits.

- Faculty and staff can pay same student health fee and get services similar to students. YSU is self-insured—are all universities? YSU covers cost of care for everything. Others that are now: BGSU, OU, WSU, UC. SSU was but is now part of 4 institutions now over larger group,
- ARP mitigating rate
- CCP can be a way to defund education. What else will continue? Tech Cred will be around, but is minor compared to CCP that seems positive in the legislator so parents feel the saving on tuition. Consider identifying guidelines, such as core credits, taught only at universities, etc.
- Others with knowledge in BoT and other committees/meetings; e.g., faculty, emeriti, union leaders and others who are knowledgeable to make recommendations and offer bills. Eg., community college board. [AAUP has brought this up](#).
- Bds of Trustee gaps at particular institutions. Do members represent diversity and inclusion goals? What problems are there that we can help fix? Some are elected (MI); terms can be problematic (9 yrs here in OH). Can advocate for appointments through our institution.
- List of issues to talk about is good, but first establish more relationships. Offer to have a cup of coffee with reps from district. More of a Republican and rural shift—these are folks to talk to them.
- Making textbooks exempt from sales tax. Heard that ODHE put in proposed language about OFC's auto-adopt policy.

6.Campus examples of shared governance successes and challenges

Send to Cynthia to share.

Adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Ris, Secretary
Ohio Faculty Council

Addresses for links shared:

- Open Records Law:
[https://www.ohioauditor.gov/publications/2019_Sunshine_Laws_Manual_final_\(with%20covers_WEB\)_\(Faber\).PDF](https://www.ohioauditor.gov/publications/2019_Sunshine_Laws_Manual_final_(with%20covers_WEB)_(Faber).PDF)
- Link for letter from AAUP to Governor:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1dfwVCp_a1GegWTnB7SckePh8wNvD_Kgd/view
- AAUP Report:
- <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B87gjJujNjELOHNkdnAzcTJWcm8/view>