

FACULTY WORK ASSIGNMENTS

Whereas, The Ohio Faculty Council represents the faculty at all of the four-year public universities in the State of Ohio and espouses strong and consistent faculty influence on issues and policies related to higher education;

Whereas, House Bill 66 proposes a one-size-fits-all approach that would require permanently tenured state university or college faculty members to teach at least three credit hours of undergraduate courses per semester, with certain exceptions for faculty leave, exchange, service in the armed forces, and “mutual agreement that a professor is not suited to teach undergraduate courses”; and

Whereas, Tenured and non-tenured faculty play a very wide variety of roles at public institutions of higher education in Ohio, including: teaching undergraduates, training graduate students in professional and research-based programs, pursuing basic and applied research, commercializing university-owned technologies, supporting student research and facilities by securing external grant funding, participating in institutional governance, and administering centers, programs, and interdisciplinary initiatives; and

Whereas, Some faculty take on heavy, near full-time administrative responsibilities, such as chairships of large departments, which are essential to the efficient running of an institution and compliance with state and federal laws, and they do so at far lower costs and with greater knowledge of the program than personnel hired as administrators; and

Whereas, Many public institutions of higher education in Ohio have significant professional graduate programs (e.g. medical schools, law schools, educational counseling, physical therapy) that provide essential training and credentials that are unconnected to undergraduate programs and thus provide no opportunity or reason for the faculty in those programs to interact directly with undergraduates; and

Whereas, Undergraduate students derive significant benefit from interactions with faculty and those benefits could be best realized through an increase in the number of faculty at Ohio’s institutions of higher education rather than a re-allocation of existing faculty resources; and

Whereas, Non-administrative faculty already teach regularly at the level appropriate to their discipline and institution; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Ohio Faculty Council opposes H.B. 66