



Ohio Faculty Council

**OHIO FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES**  
**12 June 2020**

12:30 – 2:30 PM  
 Virtual via Zoom

*Chair, Ben Givens, Ohio State University Vice-chair, Laura Luehrmann, Wright State University Secretary, Cynthia Ris, University of Cincinnati*

**ATTENDEES:**

**Members Attending via Zoom:**

Bowling Green University: David Jackson, Matt Lavery  
 Central State University: Leanne Petry, Anthony Milburn  
 Cleveland State University: Andy Slifkin Bill Bowen  
 Kent State: Ed Dauterich  
 Ohio University: Robin Muhammed  
 The Ohio State University: Ben Givens  
 Shawnee State University: Tony Ward, Kyle Vick  
 University of Akron: Linda Marie Saliga  
 University of Cincinnati: Cynthia Ris, Greg Loving  
 University of Toledo: Ainsworth Bailey  
 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/Community Colleges  
 Stan Skocki  
 Abigail Finn  
 Bill Couch

**INSTITUTIONS WITHOUT REPRESENTATION:**

Miami University  
 NEOMED  
 Ohio University  
 Location: Zoom 1.

**1.Approve agenda**

**2.Approve minutes**

### **3. Faculty surveys on returning to campus in Autumn**

- Wright State: in faculty survey (400 respondents), more than 50% expressed varying levels of discomfort returning to face to face in the fall; 45% reported frequent or occasional anxiety in anticipation of a return to campus; majorities expressed some agreement with new protocols (including symptom checking, masks and social distancing) although one-third reported that they “strongly disagree” with their acceptance of these protocols.
- Kent State: 55% of faculty expressed anxiety about returning to campus in Fall.
- Cleveland State: those coming to campus will need to sign (online) contract that they will take temperatures daily and wear a mask.
- Ohio State: protocols discussed; more than 100 classes will be online; face to face classes will adhere to social distancing
- Central State: no survey but they are asking people about their preferences for fall
- Akron: lacking large enough classrooms to have many face-to-face classes with social distancing
- Shawnee State: requesting preferences from faculty about face-to-face or online
- BGSU: no final decisions yet
- UC: Just announced yesterday that we will be back in the fall, but recommending anything that can go online should, and determined that 78% of courses can be delivered online. Social distancing, masks, and self-health checks for those on campus. Anyone who can work at home should. They consulted Senate and student groups, and did listen to us as the basis for that decision. Required video training before return to campus. Difficulty finding classes that would accommodate all students; have six options for classroom delivery and are asked to choose so students can understand expectations of courses (e.g., synchronous online, asynchronous online, and other variations of hybrids and fact-to-face).

### **4. Federal Higher Education**

**Update 1:00 – 1:30 pm Stan Skocki, Associate Vice President for Federal Relations, The Ohio State University Bill Couch, Assistant Vice President for Federal Relations, The Ohio State University Abby Finn, Manager of Government Affairs, The Ohio State University Government Relations Groups:**

#### **Stan Skocki**

- Joint advocacy efforts; institution has no physical offices but have lobbying folks to represent them; even without full-time presence, have those who will advocate in DC.
- Bills are being considered, including paycheck protection act; Congress did technical corrections on that. “Heroes Act” enacted on May 15: \$3 trillion; \$1trillion to boost revenues in states; \$100 billion set aside for education, including loan forgiveness and broken down including higher ed. Distributed on a formula. \$3 billion especially for research, Covid-19 related concerns, and problems with shut downs.
- Flags: disappointment that it didn’t include more money for education. Senate has not considered act as written by the House: two concerns: 1—overall size of Heroes package; do we really need \$3T?; 2—related to liability. APLU just sent letter to encourage package regarding limited liability protection for higher ed. House didn’t have that in there. Senate says this has to be in the bill.

- There may be some package in conjunction with White House
- Research, institutions, and students are all pushing.
- Regular order items: Appropriations for FY 21.
- Mark up schedules on different bills will result in a busy July (6-13) 12 different sub-committees
- Some measures in Heroes that could go in regular order.
- Another is defense authorization act—moving forward on that.

### **Bill Couch**

- Big issue on immigration—Trump potential issuance of executive order to suspend and restrict visa programs, for a number of visas for 90 days. Carve out possible exception for educators students/scholars and researchers; spousal visa.
- Part-Time program may be eliminated; F1, graduates, and universities can be affected.

### **Abby (Abigail) Finn, Government Affairs Office on main campus**

- Do reach outs to show how investment is used; work as well at local level including with immigration; gets case work file worked on for individuals.
- Letter to Ohio delegation with Provost for global strategies and counterpart at Case Western to talk about the Optional Practical Training (OPT) program is important across the nation for a global and economic perspective for GDP.
- DACA also on the docket for the Supreme Court which will have a big impact on higher ed. Decision being challenged by DOE regarding limiting funds to DACA and other students.
- Short term effects include restricted flights; Questions include how are international affairs offices going to work with that; what will course work need to be, and so on.
- Science and security: Safeguarding American Innovation Act (SAIA) to limit some who pose security risk and State Dept looking at sensitive technologies; Portman is working with them but concerned about some wording; Senators have reached out to institutions.
- Different approaches by others that would be flat-out bans on Chinese students including undergrad students. Gaining momentum, especially for executive orders.

Q: hearing anything about Confucius Institutes?

Stan: Portman serves as permanent chair where they did a hearing on this and 1000 Talent Programs; the SAIA came out of it. Following the money

Q: Any insight on Cares Act that was set aside \$127.5 m for creative ways of work force development?

DeVos made announcement but no supplemental instructions and about 7-10 states getting this.

Q: What can faculty do to compete for this?

Bill: *Chronicle* has an article on implementing student-centered funds. Guidance on this is slow and inconsistent. Recommendation—work with Associations and if eyeing particular programs, reach out to them and check to see if it is on their radar. It's a large bill and specifics can get lost in it.

Q: What's occurring regarding the possible exception for students relating to visas?

Abigail:

- There are Internet access and student portal issues in China; concerns about what would have to be changed for courses to extend to online courses; may need to work with Chinese government, but not clear—may need a VPN; talking with international office.
- Visa suspensions may be handled on a case by case basis, but unclear right now
- Exploring possibility if students could work from London campus.
- H1B holders may be restricted from coming in. Those already in country may not be affected. Just don't know the final answer. Decision may be made any day now.

Ben: We could also advocate for this. Marcia Fudge is in Ohio District 11 (Akron rep) and she is the only member that sits on the Education Committee; we will try to get her to speak to us since this matter will go through those committees.

### **5. Update on Technology Commercialization Award**

Ben: ramp up in progress for 2020; needs someone to work with on this.

- Linda Saliga, Andrew Slifkin, and Dan Krane.
- We'll be getting more information on this to make sure we meet mid-August deadline.

### **6. Round Robin Inquiry: What has been your campus' response to:**

#### **Racial disparities/use of force by police**

OSU: Ben—President offered \$1m fund to seed ideas for solution; Office of Diversity & Inclusion brought in experts around campus for discussion and President introduced meeting; he noted that solutions are known and they just have to be employed. Reports have been provided including about Columbus Police. Student group leaders sent to the President the request to dissociate from Columbus PD. A commission had been put together earlier with 80 recommendations in January to address racial disparities in the CPD.

Kent State: Ed—State made administrative cuts and reduced faculty in area of diversity; moving all diversity groups into one to save money; weekly town halls; had Kent State Police Chief there; meeting with staff next week.

Akron: Linda—Student Task Force created; President has spoken out.

UC: Cynthia—President has spoken out twice; Resolution drafted by Faculty Senate out for a vote.

Wright State: Brian—reached out to student government leaders to see what students needed. Working group will be instituted between students, faculty, and staff. Town Hall with University police and students. Focus is to really listen to students.

#### **Title IX compliance, with an August 14 deadline**

Dept of Education has set out new regulations with August 14th deadline for new processes that include hearing with both parties being present, opportunity for cross examination, and so on. Deadline may get pushed back due to lawsuits. Difficult time for summer to require change.

OSU: This requires changing faculty rules and Senate has to approve. Board can work independently.

Q: How does it relate to faculty discretion as something to control? Hearing committee is a senate committee that provides a final appeal for faculty misconduct. For example, faculty rule is clear and convincing standard for all faculty misconduct; considering preponderance of the evidence and this would force it before having a discussion and work it through committees.

UC: asked Title IX office for guidance—can't get a response until July as Title IX office is considering all the changes that would be required.

**Use of CARE Act institutional funds:**

Released 50/50 for student relief and for university—must be for expenses related to COVID-19. Is Senate engaged?

Wright State: Number of programs want to have F2F classes that are experiential, such as labs, clinicals, dance, etc. Have been told to provide OL accessible path to complete, but can't without significant work on behalf of faculty. Proposal is to use a portion of that to provide at least some classrooms with a seamless delivery of online experience. Would need to purchase equipment and could tie this in to make all classes and programs as accessible as possible. E.g., WebEx provides fairly accurate captioning and live sub-titling. Sometime in fall, it will be modified so it can also be in multiple languages to make material more accessible to non-native speakers. These and other expenditures can help with accessibility during and after COVID. Proposal also to increase funding for OL education. WSU hasn't made an announcement yet about how classes will meet in Fall—that has to come first.

Kent State: Ed—conducting workshops for those faculty who haven't taught and offering \$1000 to complete; the money is going to that for 100 or more faculty.

Akron: Linda—not clear it's being provided to something targeted, seems like it may be for “technology” in general. Total: \$14 m

OSU: \$42 m total, \$21 for students/institution. Haven't heard about this and suggest we say that faculty should be involved in this and determine how costs are supposed to be spent (could this be going to administrative costs and other general expenses?).

- Have been hearing that SSI may not be as draconian of a cut.
- Concerned about inequities already in the system that will be affecting equity issues such as a disproportionate effect on those least likely to be able to work off campus, etc.
- A statement that any cuts need to be made on an equitable basis would be useful.

Q: 20% SSI cut heard; now hearing won't be that big?

Will share more when more is known. IUC is a good source of information; they're the paid lobbyist.

**Other hot button topics?**

YSU:

- Announcement that entire university is being restructured, eliminating College of Liberal Arts which is being subsumed into College of Education; Creative Arts and Communication will move into one single department; Economics has been moved to the CoB.
- About 40% of departments are being eliminated or combined. In Engineering, three departments will become one department of engineering and Chairs become program heads, with course reductions for Chairs eliminated with changes.
- Before announced, staff and professional unions received a 10% temporary salary cut (initially asked for 20%). After restructuring, eliminated administrative and support positions.
- Very little consultation with faculty.
- Department chairs are elected; administration is pushing for elimination of elections and instead with restructure so that chairs will be able to be appointed; planning to announce appointments on July 1 and possibly for a permanent arrangement in fall.
- Other things administration want to eliminate in terms of faculty involvement: appeal of tenure denial, renewal, class sizes, due process during termination proceeding, increasing office hours.
- Faculty union president didn't remember a time when administration and faculty relations have been worse.
- Not sure if they claimed exigency; message was from Board of Trustees.
- No plans yet to reduce Tenure Track; plan to reduce all Part-Time faculty.
- Administration driven. Administration took pay cut from 2-15%; concessions from staff and professional unions are 10% across the board.

Akron: Education moved to Arts & Sciences. College of Education reduced to the size of the math department. Want restructuring by Fall of 2021. In process before COVID and effects were pushed through within a month. Board approved the restructure on May 29. Layoffs are yet to come. Force du jour; there will be layoffs, but not sure what it will look like.

WSU: Also aiming for restructuring for Fall 2021. Small restructuring already in the works regarding the Health College; going from 7 colleges to 4; most of this has not been discussed and is an enormous surprise. Brought to Senate Exec. Committee as provided for Fall 2021. Concerned about ability to make change so quickly.

Cleveland State and YSU: Timing is also this fall

## **7. Old Business Bylaw update**

Will have to wait until next month

Ben: Concern that there is a dilution of honoring the disciplines and of professionalism.

8. Campus examples of shared governance successes and challenges—can be sent in.

**Meeting adjourned at 2:34 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Ris, Secretary  
with Laura Luehrmann on #3 above

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