



OHIO FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
FINAL Minutes – Approved, 10 September 2021, Leanne Petry
11 June 2021

12:30 – 2:30 PM
Virtual via Zoom

ATTENDEES (from May until changed)

Bowling Green University: David Jackson
Central State University: Leanne Petry, Mitch Eismont, Lubna Abu-Niaaj
Cleveland State University: Bob Krebs, Andy Slifkin, Anup Kumar
Kent State: Ed Dauterich
Miami U: Jen Green
NEOMED: Natalie Bonfine
Ohio State: Ben Givens, Ken Lee
Ohio University: Robin Muhammad
Shawnee State University: Kyle Vick, Erik Larson
University of Akron: Linda Saliga, Kate Budd
University of Cincinnati: Greg Loving, Cynthia Ris
University of Toledo: Linda Rouillard
Wright State University: Megan Faragher
Youngstown State: Mike Ekoniak
Ex-officio: Wright State University, Former Chair Dan Krane

Guests

Terry Filicko—Ohio Faculty Senate
John McNay—AAUP

June 11, 2021, 12:30 – 2:30 PM

Location: [Zoom](#)

1. **Approve agenda.** No objections
2. **Approve May 14 meeting minutes.** No objections
 - Introductions of members occurred
3. **Recent OFC communications with Board of Trustees chairs ([White paper](#)) and Provosts ([Tech Commercialization Award](#))**

Regarding White Paper:

- Re OFC White Paper on Boards of Trustees: Ben sent information to each institutions' Board Chair, to the attention of the Board Secretary, with copy to Chancellor; did get a response from Board Secretary at OSU to increase communication between Board and FS; no other institution received a response yet. White Paper is posted on the OFC Website.
- Various types of relationships between faculty and boards. White Paper can provide a means of suggesting more communication. Nothing especially controversial in the White Paper and much that provides useful consideration, including open meeting/sunshine laws comments and questions to prompt consideration of whether executive sessions are limited as they should be according to the rules for public meetings.
- Moving forward, will also consider suggesting alternate ways of choosing Board members, including through suggestions by faculty, Provost, President, etc. Association of Governing Boards provides good information on possibilities and is a trusted source, so we can consider more how relying on ideas from that Association that can benefit faculty.
- Presently no law covering faculty representation on board. Some institutions have faculty as representatives to the board (not *on* the board). Students are noted by law, but lack of reference to faculty does not mean that faculty are banned. Institutional practice differs on who is actually at the board table and who has floor privileges.
- Informal opportunities are useful to create connections with Board members. University also helps set agenda for Board, so talking to leadership in the University also helps promote information at the very least.

Regarding Tech Commercialization Award

- Provost and Vice President/Provost for Research as well as Tech Commercialization office were identified for Tech Commercialization Award as well as main Faculty Senate rep. Link to OFC was provided. FS can elect a faculty member under the FS name as well—Dan Krane can help with how to do that.

4. **Visit with Senator Jerry Cirino—delayed**

5. **Legislative Update**

- [State Budget](#)
 - Link to document that compares the Governor's budget, the House Budget, and the Senate Budget. Department of Higher Ed budget comparisons are on pages 262-284. Comparison provides what Executive branch proposed and changes by House and Senate committees. It shows how SB 135 (p 262) appeared in budget bill, with Chancellor required to approve nursing BSN programs at community colleges. Rhoades State Community College has been arguing for this (Lima OH—where Speaker of the House and President live). Speaker, President, and Governor vote on it, so it may become law.
- [SB 135](#)
 - Liaised with AAUP to consider responses to substitute bill. Senator Cirino did address some of the comments. One that changed dramatically is the voucher system that became a

grant program and new \$3m budget allocation to help those who have not graduated (e.g., \$2000/person to get them back and enrolled); provides new state money to complete degrees.

- Can anticipate that Sen. Cirino will be involved in Education moving forward and is interested in hearing and modifying proposals.
- Testimony included argument that duplication of BAs at community colleges and 4-year colleges is not helpful. This BA requirement may be in the budget bill or elsewhere. Also language that students have to live in Ohio to be eligible for in-state tuition. Same issue with grad students who can maintain in-state tuition. UC currently have reciprocal arrangements in nearby KY and IN.
- [HB 327](#)
 - Critical race theory (CRT)—disallows the conversation about whether it is even valid. Teaching it as true is not what is even discussed. Many classes may continue this kind of conversation. Concern: intrusion into disciplines; it is not just undermining CRT, it's other things that are built into it from other disciplines.
 - Short title: “Prohibit teaching, advocating, or promoting divisive concepts”
- [HB 248](#)
 - Short title: “Enact vaccine choice and anti-discrimination act”: point to prohibit rules requiring COVID vaccine. Concern that this could also affect requiring meningitis vaccine for students in dorms. Uncertain what IUC stand is; IUC nominally supports student government.
 - Requiring testing at some institutions; can be an incentive to get vaccinated by permitting vaccinated students to get monthly, as opposed to more frequent, testing.

6. **OFC Meeting Schedule**

(July 9)

(August 13)

September 10

October 8

November 12

December 10

January 14

February 11

March 11

April 15

May 13

June 10

Ideas for virtual vs. in-person meetings for upcoming Academic Year:

- Technology at ODHE may have improved
- Ohio Commercialization Award should be in person
- If Chancellor or other high-profile individuals are at meeting, perhaps some representatives from OFC can also be present
- Combined meeting with community college representatives
- Send calendar invite for entire year at outset of year so it can be a standing calendar commitment

7. **Campus Reports** - shared governance successes and challenges

Ohio University: Resignation of President; meeting of Board of Trustees thereafter. Expectation was that an interim president would be appointed with consultation of faculty plus the opening of a national search. Outcome of special meeting was that Hugh Sherman would be the next President with a 2-year term appointment. Faculty Senate and Board of Trustees had conversations about this—Senate was concerned and Board explained reasoning that they considered this urgent to fill. Faculty noted, however, that the emergency situation of COVID involved faculty, staff, and students and shared governance didn't slow down plans and changes, so argued that bypassing University policy for this appointment wasn't satisfactory. Senate wants to make sure that this doesn't happen again since this won't be the last leadership change. Board will meet on June 17 and this should be one of the topics. White Paper that was shared was helpful for this purpose.

Cleveland State: Provost and CFO searches underway; latter search slowed down and no faculty involvement. Provost going forward with faculty and administration commitment.

BGSU: Dean of A&S started but delayed because there was consideration of breaking up college; Provost unilaterally took away Falcon Media to give to Student Affairs—no faculty, student media committee, or other engagement. Decision has been put on hold.

UC: Finishing up Provost search and decision should be made today.

OSU: Provost search completed and new Provost is in Medicine. (Half of faculty and budget is in the Medical portion of campus.)

U of Toledo: President, appointed interim positions without a search, and the interims then became permanent without faculty input: for President, Provost, and at least one other position in the Provost's office. VP of Academic and Faculty Administration position open; faculty representatives have not yet been included in interviews. No national searches for many high leadership positions. Rearrangement and increased hires in the Provost office.

Akron: Provost office was huge; winnowed over 10-year period to 1 person. MOU regarding shared governance to figure out how to implement items (AAUP and administration)—not clear yet how that will work—Senate has to implement so is trying to figure that out; also getting increased financial transparency.

Wright State: Interim Provost now also Interim Dean for new health college in wake of national search for permanent Dean and faculty have not had input on this. Structural changes without input include Centers for Teaching and Learning

Kent State: Heads stay a voting faculty member. Exempt in their own category with other members who are knowledgeable in teaching and learning.

It was noted that this is the Secretary's last meeting—she's appreciated her time onboard OFC.

8. **Adjourn**

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Nitz Ris, Secretary
Ohio Faculty Council