



Ohio Faculty Council

OHIO FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
8 May 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 in Person:

Bowling Green University: Jenn Stucker, David Jackson,
 Central State University: Leanne Petry
 Cleveland State University: Andy Slifkin
 Kent State: Ed Dauterich
 Miami University: Dana Cox
 The Ohio State University: Ben Givens
 Ohio University: Sara Helfrich, Robin Muhammad
 Shawnee State University: Tony Ward, Kyle Vick
 University of Akron: Linda Marie Saliga; Jeanne-Helene Roy
 University of Cincinnati: Cynthia Ris, Greg Loving
 University of Toledo: Tim Brackel, 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

Jim Bennet
 Chancellor Randy Gardiner

INSTITUTIONS WITHOUT REPRESENTATION:
 NEOMED

May 8, 2020, 12:30 – 2:30 PM Location: Zoom

- 1. Approve agenda at 12:30 a.m.**
- 2. Approve minutes at 12:30 p.m.**

3. University of Akron Redesign Linda Saliga, UA Faculty Senate Chair • <https://www.uakron.edu/oaa/initiatives/redesigning-ua/index>

There was information in the *Chronicle* about the redesign—but more information requested from Linda:

- Major panic from faculty. There are 11 colleges; 3 non-degree granting. Going down to 5, including loss of the 3 non-degree granting. (Linda showed an org chart); Two were being truly dissolved.
- The 5 resulting colleges: A&S, CoB, Law, Eng & Tech, Health & Human Services; Plus final column under Provost (e.g., Grad School, Honors college, Distance Learning, etc.). College of Education getting shrunk and will be in A&S; College of Applied Sciences and Technology—getting split up everywhere; no program cuts identified, but those will happen; shared governance has been happening; College of Polymer Science and Polymer Engineering doesn't want to go in with other colleges but is expensive and can't be independent. Possibly under Provost as institute. BA of Supervision/Assoc. of Tech. Studies should be in Business, but not comfortable there. Difficulties as to placing these areas.
- Got input from Faculty Senate—using input before going public. Opposition from faculty who don't want college split up as some will go into 3-4 different colleges. If they're trying to do a redesign, it isn't going far enough. A&S is twice as large as others; that imbalance is problematic with so many units in A&S. Some colleges with 4 depts. vs others with 15 as extremes.
- New provost still in Idaho. Hired 1 month early before changes completed.
- Jeanne-Helene: Sees it as troubling and rushed. Asked for numbers and how this is going to save money; don't have this information or the cost of redistribution. Provost noted that it was already completed so question is whether it is really in response to COVID. President expressed that Div. 1 athletics is being maintained. Q if push is coming from the Board of Trustees.
- Linda: admin is side-stepping question of whether it will save money. There is a University Council Budget & Finance Committee. What will happen is that college budgets will be reallocated and cut. \$65m cut in budget.
- Discussion of faculty lines? Put bargaining with AAUP on hold for all units; none allow for furloughs, so renegotiation is needed. Claim negotiations are starting but haven't yet. Starting to decide who is necessary from past merit docs and ages—the latter of which may be a concern.
- Overspent on auxiliary buildings and in deep debt; auxiliary services aren't bringing in funds to cut debt. Argument that cuts can't be only academics; need to cut something else.
- Unclear if cuts differentiated between TT and NTT
- 20% reduction across all units at UA

4. Update from the Ohio Department of Higher Education Randy Gardner, Chancellor, and aide Jim Bennet 1:00 p.m.

Requirement by June 30 to have balanced budget; required 20% of final quarter reduction. Two principles: no decrease to aid/scholarships for this year; worked for IUC to prioritize SSI; SSI more than 80% of General Fund monies; ended up at 3.8% w/o cutting scholarships or direct student aid.

FY 21: Hopeful that this can help; \$2.7B in rainy day funds; income and sales tax will hit this or be double or more of this total.

More information middle to end of June: Q about what will happen for Fall; a lot of questions for parents and others; no guidance per se in terms of revenue; re connections with US House—some money that is not flexible; \$2.3B that state has that is fairly restricted as to how it can be utilized. Could be as high as 20% cuts; if revenues do better and reopening helps—possible that it might be less than that.

Q: Rainy day fund for higher ed? It's hard to know what would be used as rainy day fund—such a fund may be more important.

Chancellor noted that he was teacher and so were family members; institutions affected most so far by budget challenges are those who are concerned about enrollment, room & board, tuition losses. Most K-12 don't have these issues, so those are stable. Higher ed impact is dramatic for losses to maintain quality programs to give breadth and depth of diversity of opportunity; we need them all to do as much as they can to keep them here in Ohio. We are a net importer of students from other states so the Chancellor will be arguing for as much state support and to provide flexibility to provide in-person instruction and in-person return to be determined.

Q: Are we doing everything we can to ensure safety? We can't have a robust return otherwise. Governor is sequentially reopening businesses so we can collect data there.

Q: will there be similar guidance for education? Asked community colleges, IUC, and non-profit to put together reports on things they believe are important; providing that to Governor's office. Not ready for that yet; need more time for specific guidance. Lab work going on right now on some campuses. As long as other guidance provided, they can start to get back to work. Hopefully toward middle of June we can have a better idea of Return to Campus (RTC). Don't want to say what can be done if things change dramatically. Should plan to be on campuses

Q: Is there anyone pushing to change Ohio's collective bargaining law during this crisis? Doesn't know of any except what is occasionally heard from those not supportive of collective bargaining. In this situation, this may come up again but nothing particularly introduced that he is aware of.

Q: Will robust return also include OL learning for those courses that require some kind of contact? Physical distancing will be part of this. Aware that reduction in personnel all around will be needed and therefore OL classes expected/anticipated. Err on side of being as safe and healthy as possible. Need to show parents now that we will be a healthy environment. Higher Ed's important to the state.

Q: CARES Act Funding; decrease other than state support beyond SSI that is related to CARES Act Funding that a university receives? Here and GEARS Act—includes funds to K-12. Money may be distributed related to special circumstances; payroll challenges to remain open.

Welcomes additional questions; State needs to take into consideration concerns known by faculty: “We’re all in this together.”

5. Campus discussions and decisions about plans for Fall

Wright State—Laura: Conversations are starting; want to see what non-academic units are going to be cut; concern about real estate and athletics; it’s on the table, but nothing concrete yet being shared. \$60m across next three years.

OSU—contract tracing being considered for students in fall; question about faculty buy-in for this. Proliferation of committees for all this.

U of Toledo—Tim: In response to universities submitting plans as to how to reopen (due week ago Th); UT has 6 different scenarios depending on where we’re at July 1 from Scenario 1 (totally online) to Scenario 6 (back 100% F2F); scenarios in between are predominantly OL, handful on campus for labs, etc.; will present to FS meeting.

BGSU—Jenn: FS faculty w/disabilities if we have F2F expectation what protects those who are returning to classroom and choice to be OL; other struggle choosing F2F but students can’t; how do we offer parallel experiences; unit putting together plans to give autonomy to faculty members. Ad hoc committees. David: BG and Miami tied for high% residential affecting university if only OL in fall.

OSU—All faculty survey for use of PPE, tolerance for hybrid, etc. Decided to take it past Provost first to send out to get buy in; considering OSU “melts”—those who don’t show up in fall and what will influence these; virus is in charge and will determine course of how we move forward. Concerns about state numbers of cases holding and even creeping up. PPE—who provides, who is required to use; etc.

UC—Cynthia: surveys for technology; in-house surveys for how faculty are able to be in class, teach OL, etc.

Cleveland State—Andy: not doing these things, no ad hoc committees discussing issues, etc., somewhat concerning. On campuses, how are these being done? Response: variety of “venues”: President, provost, academic affairs, etc.

Linda—surveys for OL learning to see how they are taking forward information. Questions raised about requiring protective equipment, cleaning, spacing, room & board; commuting rule about expanding that to decrease density, opening up athletic performance spacing. Also have 19 senate structures with students and others that don’t meet in the summer. Do we try to use standing committees or ad hoc? Called two additional senate meeting—for May and June.

Youngstown—Mike: got directive to eliminate 38% of sections of courses to eliminate lower enrollment or coalesce to provide larger classes to reduce total number of sections. In contract year and all Tentative Agreements (TAs) thrown out with new negotiations. OL course negotiations likely. Related to IP.

Shawnee State—Kyle: Senior leadership committee which has faculty representation is leading campus response and the Faculty Senate executive committee is handling the faculty response. No special committees yet at either level. Tony Ward: will start negotiating toward end of next year; nothing firm yet from President or Provost but changes just noted with Faculty Senate and Collective Bargaining. CBA has financial connotations to design courses online—need to pay for development; anticipate negotiations in the work on this. Cancelled courses that couldn't be transitioned online, forced more Gen Ed courses, and agreed to pay for course development but paid smaller rate that only applies for summer/MOU for contract. Anticipate something similar for 20-21.

U of Toledo: Q from Ainsworth—tracking and comparing enrollment rates for fall; levels down UG and Grad; Tim: blended enrollment drop of 7.5%

OSU: Have drawn enrollments from other state universities; OSU's numbers are good.

6. Old Business • Bylaw update / Review of suggested changes:

- For Mission Statement: used some other model bylaws—suggest including mission statement in bylaws;
- Start of terms of representatives: originally October;
- Under Organization—deletion of unnecessary references;
- Meetings—
 - what is a quorum? Is it number of institutions? Check Robert's Rules;
 - Electronic meetings permitted;
 - Orientation of new members in first meeting;
- Comments? Linda S. liked but questioned dates of elections
- 2/3rd or super-majority question—Robert's Rules
- One week notice for agenda?
- Move to strike Robert's Rules' line?
- Dan: there have been representatives who were very much sticklers to Robert's Rules.
- Difficult to sometimes include requirements regarding notice as things come up quickly.
- Won't vote on these today, but vote for June.

ACTION ITEM: Send suggestions for these

7. OFC officers Election

Officers reelected (Chair serves a two-year term; Vice-Chair and Secretary serve one-year terms):

- Chair Ben Given, OSU (2020-22)
- Vice-Chair Laura Luehrmann, Wright State (2020-21)
- Secretary Cynthia Ris, Univ. of Cincinnati (2020-21)

8. Campus examples of shared governance successes and challenges

ACTION ITEM: Send in

9. Adjourn 2:33 p.m.

The meeting was held remotely via Zoom: Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://osu.zoom.us/j/3637602628> Telephone Dial: 1 646 876 9923 Meeting ID: 363 760 2628

Note this is a different zoom address than has been used in previous meetings.

Chair, Ben Givens, Ohio State University

Respectfully Submitted,

Cynthia Nitz Ris, Secretary
Ohio Faculty Council