



The Ohio Faculty Council

Members Present:

Dan Krane (Wright State), Wendy Berry-West (Central State University), Beth Quitslund (Ohio University), Marc Scott and Kyle Vick (Shawnee State University), Ben Givens and Mike Hogan (Ohio State University), and Ed Dauterich (Kent State University).

Those participating via web conference:

Amy Lee (NEOMED), Thomas Atwood (University of Toledo), Vickie Gallagher (Cleveland State), John McNay (University of Cincinnati), and Michael Kalafatis (Central State University).

Members Absent:

University of Akron, Bowling Green State University, Youngstown State University, and Miami University

Chair Dan Krane called the meeting of the Ohio Faculty Council (OFC) to order at 12:33 PM on December 8, 2017. The meeting was held in the 7th floor conference room of the Ohio Board of Regents building (25 South Front Street, Columbus, Ohio).

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The meeting's agenda was approved by unanimous consent of the members present.

APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES

The minutes of the November meeting of the OFC were approved by unanimous consent of the members.

NEW BUSINESS

Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathways (Paula Compton, Associate Vice Chancellor, Articulation and Transfer, ODHE)

A more detailed description of the principles and steps for the Pathways is included in the Powerpoint presentation distributed online to members of the OFC.

- Ohio Guarantee Transfer Pathways are mandated in the O.R.C. Section 3333.16(C) and will allow students to efficiently use their associate degrees toward the completion of baccalaureates. Ms. Compton noted that 80% of students who start at two-year institutions want baccalaureate degrees, but that only a fraction of them achieve that goal; research out of Columbia University shows that a clear pathway makes the transition to and completion of the four-year degree more likely.
- The ODHE approach has been to create a Steering Committee and an additional broader committee with one representative from each Ohio public HE institution.

- The Steering Committee created seven “clusters” representing families of four-year degrees, and institutional representatives with faculty subject experts are working on creating a standard statewide pathway of transferrable foundation courses in each cluster.
- Part of the benefit will also be to assist CC+ students in choosing classes that will count toward their future majors, thus bringing together complementary ODHE initiatives.
- Faculty working on the project overwhelmingly preferred to create the pathways as much as possible out of TAG courses because of the work already invested in them.
- The initial pathways will apply to A.A. and A.S. degrees, rather than to the 70-80% of Associate degrees that are in technical majors.
- Ms. Compton emphasized that participating faculty have been instructed to communicate with stakeholders at their home institutions (see attachment).
- It was suggested that there be an Ohio Faculty Council representative on the Steering Committee, because faculty as subject experts are not always the same thing as Faculty in the sense of being representatives for shared governance. It was also pointed out that faculty working in their own fields, even broadly defined as clusters, may not see the broader consequences of their curricular decisions on other parts of their universities. After additional discussion, Ms. Compton agreed that there should be specifically faculty governance representation on the project. She said that she would bring the matter to the attention of the current Steering Committee.
- Ben Givens noted that OSU is revising its general education requirements and wondered how the Guaranteed Pathways would interact with that effort. Ms. Compton alluded to the current ODHE conversation about general education and revising the OTM, and lamented that work on Gen Ed was not more advanced before the Guaranteed Pathways had to be developed.
- Further discussion queried what was new about the Pathways and concerns about the effect on program distinctiveness.

Transfer Credits from For-Profit Institutions Study Group (Beth Quitslund)

The biennial budget legislation requires the Chancellor to convene group of stakeholders to study transfer credits from for-profits to state public institutions of higher education.

- Dan has lobbied for OFC representation on the task force, and the ODHE has agreed to include a member. Beth Quitslund agreed to serve as the representative, and the members in attendance endorsed her taking on that role.
- Dan agreed to argue for additional representation if there were other members or institutions with a strong desire to join.

Capital Bill (Dan Krane)

Representatives have expressed concern about a lack of transparency about how the IUC makes decisions about funding requests, including how much of the total request goes to each institution. There may be an opportunity for some form of faculty review. Dan forwarded to us the imminent request for the current capital bill from the IUC, which is not yet widely shared elsewhere.

OLD BUSINESS

HB 337 (State Sales Tax Exemption for Textbook Sales) (Dan Krane)

The OFC has been offered an opportunity to give proponent testimony on Tuesday morning (Dec. 12) before the House Ways & Means Committee.

- Beth Quitslund and Ben Givens will present the testimony.
- A draft of written testimony circulated by Dan on Dec. 8 will be revised and submitted in writing by 9 a.m. on Dec. 11.

HB 66 Status (Study Committee on Tenure) (Dan Krane)

The substitute HB66 has passed out of committee in the House, and is expected to pass in both the House and Senate. If it becomes law, it will be the first legislation to mention the OFC (as the Chair or his designee will by statute sit on the committee).

HB 363 Status (Campus Free Speech) (Dan Krane)

No additional hearings will be held on the current bill for the technical reason that its co-sponsor has resigned from the House and there is no mechanism that would allow him to be replaced or deleted from the bill. There may be a new (and substantially different) version of the bill in 2018.

Textbook Affordability — Open Education Resource Grant Program (Dan Krane)

Both Dan and Rep. Duffey are in the process of reaching out to foundations to raise money for this OFC grant program. Barnes & Noble has offered a 50% discount on the per-student fee for use of its learning platform. Dan has also met with Chancellor Carey, who expressed support but requested that the program not compete with the existing Ohio North Central State/OSU/Dominican College initiative for OERs. There was discussion about how the OFC would administer such a grant program in the event that funding is secured.

- Discussion included how the OFC would handle the logistics of administering the program. Dan noted that funds could be held by the ODHE or, failing that, an OFC member institution.
- The OFC will need to put out a call for proposals; grants could be adjudicated by an OFC committee or by faculty recruited from member institutions. It is likely that criteria emphasize the largest reduction in student expense per dollar spent from the grant.

Ohio Faculty Council Awards (Dan Krane)

The Chancellor was pleased to present the Technology Commercialization award in November and encouraged more such activity from the OFC. Dan asked the members to begin to think about what other kinds of awards would be useful, and said that he would forward a list of strategic questions from Pat McMahon, the creator of the Notre Dame Technology Commercialization Award, about how we want to use these awards.

- One idea with some support is the “triple threat” Professor of the Year, as most institutions do not already have an award that combines teaching, research/scholarship/creative activity, and service. It could emphasize the connections between those activities.
- Another suggestion was an award for community impact.
- Dan pointed to the Bellwether Awards (<https://education.ufl.edu/futures/home/bellwether-submission-guidelines/> and <https://education.ufl.edu/futures/home/2017-bellwether-winners/>), which go nationally to programs (many at community colleges) rather than individual faculty. Important criteria for each of the three categories of award is that the program be self-sustaining (not require continuing financial support) and transferrable (can be successfully put into use at other institutions).
- Discussion also included the reminder that not all research (scholarship) is lab-based or involves STEM, as well as the desirability of making the award speak to the priorities of those outside academe as well as inside it.

CAMPUS REPORTS (submitted electronically)

Bowling Green State University

- University President Mary Ellen Mazey announced that she would be retiring effective December 31, 2017 but will assist with the recruitment of a replacement. The Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs will serve as an interim president.

Central State University

- Central State University’s most prevalent accomplishment for faculty has been the finalization and acceptance of the AAUP contract. The faculty are elated with the contract and what it provides for faculty. Celebration on the contract occurred during the vote on the contract

yesterday. This vote had to take place so that changes could be implemented by the beginning of the year.

- Previously the university was to become a part of the Xenia township (annexation). There was great opposition to this by faculty because it would have caused an increase in taxes for many employees of CSU. Fortunately, the annexation failed by the Xenia Trustees.

Cleveland State University

- The university recently formed a textbook sub-committee and they will be charged with the following, as outlined by Bill Bowen:
“As per the Academic Steering Committee, the charge of your committee is "to (a) develop and recommend to the Academic Steering Committee a faculty textbook adoption policy as mandated by HB49, (b) review/inventory various campus wide initiatives for reducing textbook cost and develop a set of recommendations to place these initiatives in the hands of proper standing committees or unit(s) of the administrative team, (c) investigate and develop recommendations for joining any statewide initiatives to reduce textbook costs and for placing their implementation in the hands of the proper standing committees or unit(s) of the administrative team.”

Kent State University

- Kent State University offered an Early Separation Plan (UESP) to full-time faculty this AY. 94 faculty members (55 of which were tenured/tenure-track faculty) took the UESP offer. 31 faculty members will defer separation until May 31, 2019. The others will separate on May 31, 2018. KSU plans to invest the savings from the faculty UESP into new tenured/tenure-track faculty hires. In the Spring of 2016, KSU offered a UESP to non-faculty. 141 employees took that UESP offer. KSU plans to engage in “strategic hiring” to “right size” the non-faculty employed by the university.

Shawnee State University

- The university administration wishes to increase online offerings. In addition to providing incentives to faculty to generate online pathways for students, the university has made inquiries with private companies about managing our online programs. Faculty attended a presentation by Learning House in late November and were impressed by the company's marketing and recruitment abilities, but were concerned about the impact on shared governance, academic freedom, intellectual property rights, and the university's bottom line (Learning House shares up to 50% of tuition revenue of students enrolling in online programs).
- The Provost at Shawnee State has sought the warehousing of low-enrolled academic programs and is expected to notify impacted departments in the next week. Pressure for warehousing has come from the university president and its Board of Trustees. Faculty have been involved in conversations with administration, and the university's faculty-led curriculum committee and its senate will vote on whether or not to recommend the programs for warehousing. However, the Provost has reminded us that he has the authority to warehouse programs despite the faculty's recommendations.

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Wright State University

- Fact finding is still scheduled to begin in January and February but the University Administration has agreed to begin contract negotiations again for the first time since March of 2017. Plans to conduct an expedited national search for a Strategic Planning Officer at the vice president level have been put on hold. Enrollment and tuition revenue for the spring semester are both lower than projections in the fall but avoiding fiscal watch still remains a priority for the Board of Trustees.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

Creating Campus-Wide Discussion of the ODHE Guaranteed Transfer Pathways

Provost and Dean Level Awareness and Promotion

- The Chief Academic Officer or Provost should be kept aware of your campus' involvement in this initiative.
- The appropriate person in Academic Affairs or the Provost Office should encourage the Provost to share the progress of the initiative with the deans and relevant vice presidents (e.g. Curriculum, Enrollment Management, and Transfer Students).
- One strategy is to request that this initiative be placed on a Council of Deans agenda.
- Provide the deans with the link to the ODHE Guaranteed Transfer Pathways website that contains documents related to the process, structure, and timeline of the initiative:
<https://www.ohiohighered.org/transfer/guaranteed-transfer-pathways/important-documents>

Cluster Level Awareness and Promotion

- You may be familiar with only 1 or 2 disciplines in the cluster you are representing for your college or university.
- Let the department chairs or directors from the other disciplines in your cluster know that you are the faculty representative for your campus for this cluster.
- If you do not feel comfortable reaching out to the other chairs, ask a person from the Provost's or Academic Affairs office familiar with this initiative to contact the other department chairs or directors.
- With the help of Academic Affairs or the Provost's Office, encourage the directors and chairs to provide general, curricular information you need for the first ODHE meeting. That information should include a list of outcomes for the major and a list of the courses required for the major.
- After the meeting, request a meeting with the chairs of the other disciplines to discuss the important points of the ODHE meeting. Again, utilize the assistance of a person in Academic Affairs to convene this meeting.
- When sending emails to other department chairs in the cluster, include the dean or associate dean of the colleges that house those disciplines.
- Inform the faculty senate president of the progress of the ODHE Guaranteed Transfer Pathways initiative.
- Encourage dialogue on your campus with other faculty of the positive and potential unintended consequences of the work being done to arrive at common transfer pathways.