



The Ohio Faculty Council

DRAFT

Minutes of the Meeting held November 9, 2007

Present: Lopez, Wright (OU); Gunning (UT-HSC); Ahuja (YSU); Cuppoletti (UC); Billman (OSU); Milburn (Central State); Bernhard (BGSU); Casper (KSU); Gelman, Ray (CSU); Fenwick (UA)

Chair Cuppoletti called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm.

New Business

Dr. Ahuja introduced Bruce Johnson, President of IUC and form Lt. Governor to discuss IUC and its role in the strategic planning process for the University System of Ohio.

Mr. Johnson described the roles of IUC: (1) to facilitate collaboration among university administrations; and (2) advocate on behalf of university administration to the state and federal governments.

Mr. Johnson also discussed the role of Chancellor, and why the position should be an appointed position by the Governor. Governor appointment places the Chancellor inside the budget process, and allows the higher education budget to become part of the Governor's overall budget.

Mr. Johnson stated that at present, the Chancellor's strategic planning process with still ad hoc. It was focusing more on broad categories rather than specifics. It was focusing on the number of students in the state's higher education system, quality elements, i.e., what is a quality educational experience, and what kinds of investments in facilities, faculty, students, etc., would be needed. Currently, 31% of physical facilities were classified as marginal. It was also focusing on accountability, affordability and access. The plan was to go to the governor by December 31, 2007.

Question: Was IUC also focused on quality issues, and what were they?

Answer: IUC was focused on quality issues- broadly. But didn't want to get too detailed.

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Question: Any discussion on “centers of excellence”?

Answer: Yes, there was discussion of mission differentiation, and deepening the strengths of programs on selective bases, primarily at the graduate rather than undergraduate level.

Question: Was IUC discussing these issues within the Chancellor’s strategic planning process?

Answer: Yes. There was discussion as to what the “University System” means. What were the goals? Clearly, increasing the number of students was a goal. There was also discussion of value added issues and they would be measured. For example, would there be some type of cognitive testing? There was discussion that the increase in students was more likely to be of non-traditional students. We have goals, but not yet the plans to reach them.

Question: Were there risks if the legislature doesn’t like the strategic plan?

Answer: Possible, but that would mean the legislature “likes” what has happened in the past twenty-five years. The strategic plan would mean increased financial support for Ohio higher education, but increased support means more oversight.

Question: What was the role of faculty in the strategic planning process?

Answer: They should be part of the process.

Question: Why doesn’t IUC have a subgroup of faculty senate chairs?

Answer: Good idea. Other groups should be included too: students, trustees. There are other groups that meet at the OBOR but are not part of IUC, such as deans, medical school deans, etc.

Question: Separation of graduate and undergraduate programs could present problem. Graduation programs are needed to help promote undergraduate research.

Answer: Agreed, but there may not be enough “peanut butter (resources) to spread” across all graduate programs.

Question: Any discussion of professional schools, merging, consolidation, etc.?

Answer: Discussion of governance changes (e.g., mergers) take a lot of time and it is not clear that they are worthwhile.

Question: Did IUC have a position on SB 151 regarding textbooks?

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Answer: If asked, IUC would vote “no.” The bill will probably not become law, although the underlying agenda- the affordability of textbooks- will continue.

Question: What was the thought regarding the roles of regional and community colleges?

Answer: The Chancellor’s position seems to be that community colleges will produce associate degrees, but regional branches seem to fill markets where they find them.

Question: Was there discussion of making university boards bipartisan, such as half Democratic and half Republican?

Answer: Many Ohio state boards require bipartisan make up of members, but there was no discussion of requiring university boards to do so.

Question: Were there any current forums for Ohio university boards to discuss educational issues among themselves?

Answer: Board secretaries do get together. At one time IUC had been an organization of university presidents and board members, but that was no longer the case.

Question: Could OFC become a group of IUC?

Answer: Mr. Johnson said he would look into it.

Dr. Cuppolleti and the rest of OFC thanked Mr. Johnson.

There was a brief follow up discussion about the pros and cons of having OFC as a group of IUC. Would that mean dropping its affiliation with OBOR? It was pointed out by several members that affiliation with OBOR had been very positive and OFC should continue that affiliation.

Campus Reports

YSU

Started search for new provost. Faculty labor contract negotiations ongoing. NCA to visit in spring '08 for 10 year reaccreditation.

UT/UT-HSC

Talks on merger of UT and UT-HSC faculty senates have resumed.

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OU

On-going discussion of faculty role in the development of the five year plan. Attempt to gauge faculty opinion. There have been two special faculty senate meetings regarding the five year plan. These meetings produced 11 resolutions regarding the plan. Graduate student and undergraduate student senates had also passed resolutions regarding the plan.

UA

There will be an NCA focused visit on university governance in April '08. The university's self study is in the process of being written. The University was continuing to purchase land for an on-campus football stadium. The University has requested a state ethics investigation into the purchase of property for the stadium from the son of a member of the Board of Trustees. Dr. Margaret Wineman has been appointed Dean of the College of Nursing.

CSU

There were interim deans heading 3 or 4 colleges. The university had instituted a new payroll system- My Time- and was requiring all supervisors to take 6 hours of training to learn the system. Many had questions and problems with using the new system

KSU

An updated strategic plan had been approved by the BOT. An academic plan is to be initiated by the provost, with faculty and presidential input, later in the academic year. The university had constituted a Presidential Commission on Inclusion, Chaired by Rev. Fowler. The university was finalizing the search for Dean of Arts and Sciences. Four finalists had been interviewed. The university was moving ahead with responsibility based budgeting.

BGSU

The university was going forward with strategic planning with "slim to no" faculty input. The faculty senate's budget committee was meeting with the bookstore manger to look into the possibility of initiating a textbook rental program.

Central State

Preparations were being made for faculty labor contract negotiations.

OSU

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OSU had reduced the quarter hours required for a BA from 191 to 180. The university was preparing a report on graduate education and developing metric to evaluate the quality of graduate programs internally. There is an ongoing search for a new VP for Health Sciences.

UC

The provost for Health Sciences had stepped down. UC may go to one provost system. UC had a \$27 million budget cut to absorb. UC was trying to address salary compression issues.

Old Business

The Minutes of the October 12, 2007 meeting were approved.

The next meeting of OFC will be December 14, with Chancellor Fingerhut.

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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