



The Ohio Faculty Council

Members Present: Bowling Green State University (Keith Bernhard [Vice Chair]); Central State University (Steve Duffy); Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine and Pharmacy (Claire Bourquet); Ohio State University (John Gerber); Ohio University (Sergio Lopez); University of Akron (Rudy Fenwick [Chair]); University of Cincinnati (John Cuppoletti); and Youngstown State University (Chet Cooper [Secretary] and Ken Learman)

Members Absent: Cleveland State University; Kent State University; Medical University of Ohio at Toledo; Miami University; Shawnee State University; University of Toledo; and Wright State University

Call to Order:

The monthly meeting of the Ohio Faculty Council (OFC) was held on Friday, December 11, 2009 in the Ohio Board of Regents' office. Chair Rudy Fenwick called the meeting to order at 12:40 PM.

Rudy presented the meeting agenda. It was moved and seconded that the agenda be accepted. The motion was approved unanimously.

Minutes:

There was no OFC meeting on November 13, 2009. Instead, per Rudy's email communications, select OFC members attended the "Difficult Dialogues" session (see below).

Old Business:

- Senate Bill 129 update: Rudy briefly reviewed the status of this bill which is intended to extend collective bargaining rights to part-time faculty and graduate assistants. A group discussion included the drafting of a resolution by OFC in support of this bill. Rudy will draft a resolution and distribute it to OFC members.
- House Bill 176 update: The bill is now in the Senate Rules committee and has yet to gain a sponsor. Rudy will make inquiries about the bill and report its status at the next meeting.
- Report on Difficult Dialogues discussion: Those OFC members who attended the session on November 13, 2009, as well as other interested parties, suggested changes to the draft report to the Chancellor. The purpose of the Midwestern Higher Education Compact (MHEC) was also discussed. Many who attend the session felt the opportunity was missed to challenge the premise made by the MHEC that higher education is in crisis and that we are not prepared for it. The implications of the MHEC report was discussed and it was decided that the issues should be brought forth to our individual faculty/academic senates and that their responses brought back to a future OFC meeting.

New Business:

- A discussion regarding the threats to STRS prompted all to agree to take the issue back to various constituencies and administrative offices on our campuses. The issues also have the potential to impact other retirement systems in place at our home institutions.
- A discussion ensued regarding potential guests at future OFC meetings. The group noted that the Chancellor, government relations personnel, and heads of government legislative committees would be appropriate invitees.

Campus Reports:

Bowling Green State University (Keith Bernhard)

- The AAUP campaign is underway and very close to being successful
- The new Provost is already playing a role on campus including his activities in:
 - Reconfiguration of the campus and clustering of colleges by themes; and
 - Involvement in a separation incentive that is causing some distress among faculty and staff

Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine and Pharmacy (Claire Bourquet)

- A new president has been hired
- The outgoing president announced a 2% across the board salary increase
- Regents approved three new graduate programs
- Board of Trustees approved a new college of graduate studies

Ohio University (Sergio Lopez) – A new provost is now on board.

Central State University (Steve Duffy)

- A new president is in place and a new vice president for research has been hired
- The director of admissions did not have his contract renewed
- There is ongoing discussion pertaining to reconfiguring the colleges
- Faculty union agreed to no salary increase for one year

Ohio State University (John Gerber)

- President Gee was named by *Time Magazine* as the number one university president in the country
- Applications for admissions are up by 20%. The University is expecting 25,000 applications for 6,300 positions next year.
- New deans for the business and veterinary schools are now on board.
- Consolidation of arts and sciences is ongoing
- The new library has opened
- A new student union will soon open

Youngstown State University (Chet Cooper)

- The search for a new President continues.
- A new Human Resources director has been hired.
- A new football coach will soon be hired.

University of Akron (Rudy Fenwick)

- The previously convicted Board of Trustee member noted in past meetings was removed from office by the State of Ohio legislature.
- A Board of Trustee policy to perform criminal background checks, to include DNA testing and fingerprinting, was passed. However, it was deemed that the DNA testing violated a number of laws. The DNA testing has been rescinded from the policy.
- Contract negotiations continue and are up against next week's expiration date. There are a number of outstanding serious issues. The process is presently in mediation and may go to fact finding.
- On a happier note, the men's soccer team is playing for the national championship

Adjournment:

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made, seconded and unanimously approved. The meeting closed at 2:45 PM.

The next meeting of the OFC will be held on Friday, January 8, 2010 at 12:30 PM in the Ohio Board of Regents' office.

[NOTE ADDED: DUE TO SEVERE WEATHER CONDITIONS, THE JANUARY 8, 2010 MEETING WAS CANCELLED. THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON FEBRUARY 12, 2010 AT 12:30 PM].

Respectfully Submitted,



Chet Cooper, Secretary
Ohio Faculty Council

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