



The Ohio Faculty Council

Members Present: Bowling Green State University (Keith Bernhard [Vice Chair] and Ellen Williams); Central State University (Anthony Milburn); Shawnee State University (Chip Poirot); University of Akron (Rudy Fenwick [Chair]); University of Cincinnati (John Cuppoletti); University of Toledo (Harvey Wolff); and Youngstown State University (Chet Cooper [Secretary], Ken Learman, and Nancy Wolfgang)

Members Absent: Cleveland State University; Kent State University; Medical University of Ohio at Toledo; Miami University; Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine and Pharmacy; Ohio State University; Ohio University; and Wright State University

Call to Order:

The monthly meeting of the Ohio Faculty Council (OFC) was held on Friday, October 9, 2009 in the Ohio Board of Regents' office. Chair Rudy Fenwick called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM.

Rudy welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting that this was his first meeting as the new Chair of the OFC. He thanked John Cuppoletti for his service as the immediate past chair of the organization.

Secretary Chet Cooper briefly reviewed the status of the OFC web page and asked for help from OFC members in suggesting changes and corrections. He will continue to serve as the liaison between the OFC and Mr. Richard Taylor, the Ohio Board of Regents (OBOR) web master in charge of the web page. In addition, Chet noted that he will be unavoidably absent at the November OFC meeting. Vice-Chair Keith Bernhard agreed to serve as secretary pro-tem for this meeting.

Given the number of new faces at the meeting, Rudy asked all those present to introduce themselves.

Minutes:

A draft of the minutes from the September 11, 2009 OFC meeting was distributed previously to members by email. Some minor corrections were requested. In addition, there were some questions regarding comments made by Chancellor Fingerhut, who had attended the previous OFC meeting. It was moved and seconded that the minutes be approved pending corrections from the Chancellor. The motion was approved unanimously.

New Business:

- John Cuppoletti and Rudy Fenwick presented information regarding the academic summit they recently attended that included representatives of the AAUP, OFT, AFT, and OEA. The summit mainly focused on the conditions of part-time faculty employment and the treatment of graduate teaching assistants. Currently, in accord with sections 4117.01 and 4117.03 of the Ohio Revised Code, these individuals do not have the legal right to form collective bargaining units. A task force has been formed to pressure the legislature to reverse this law by passing Senate Bill 129 that makes the pertinent amendments to the above sections. A white paper will be forthcoming from this task force. John and Rudy indicated that this issue has a significant effect upon the quality of education, given the very large percentage of part-time faculty in our institutions of higher education and particularly since OBOR recommends that 60% of higher education curricula be taught by full-time faculty.
- Rudy reported that House Bill 176, which prohibits using public funds to promote discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation or gender identity, was passed by the legislature. Rudy was to draft a resolution in support of this bill for the OFC to consider at this meeting. Given passage of the bill, he did not present his draft for consideration. House Bill 176 is now in the rules committee.
- Rudy had previously sent to members by email a letter from James M. Tuschman, Chair of the Ohio Board of Regents, who sought feedback for the *Third Annual Report on the Condition of Higher Education in Ohio*. Discussion by OFC members focused on a number of issues including: the implications of outcome based assessment; problems associated with remedial education; academic decisions being made by non-academics; how the new funding formula, based upon graduation rates, may increase pressure to pass students; and how quality will be maintained in classes.

The discussion prompted the following motion by Chip Poirot that was seconded by John Cuppoletti:

An ad hoc committee shall be created to study equity in funding issues pertaining to the TAG process and the VSA as it affects the quality of education in Ohio.

The motion was approved unanimously.

Rudy appointed Chip to chair the ad hoc committee and directed that the committee report its progress at each OFC meeting. Chip will recruit additional members for this committee.

- Rudy noted for informational purposes that Senator Tom Coburn (R-OK) has offered an amendment to the National Science Foundation appropriations bill to eliminate the agency's funding of political science research altogether. This is an issue that our campuses should consider since passage of this amendment has potential implications for funding in other areas by the National Science Foundation and other federal agencies.

Campus Reports:

Youngstown State University (Chet Cooper) – The search committees for the new Director of Human Resources and a new President are continuing their work.

University of Cincinnati (John Cuppoletti)

- The medical school is still struggling. A number of faculty have not had a contract for several years. The Faculty Senate will have oversight of policies pertaining to these individuals.

- The new president will join the University on November 1st.
- The Board of Trustees approved a 3.5% tuition increase, but subsequently waived it.
- Student enrollment has increased to approximately 39,700.
- The University's sustainability grade has increased from a C- to a B+.
- A task force has been formed to study the role of athletics in the University.
- A collaborative effort with the graduate and undergraduate student government associations is underway to establish a committee to develop a policy for the periodic review of senior administrators.

Shawnee State University (Chip Poirot)

- The constitution of the Faculty Senate is currently undergoing revision.
- Faculty are being asked to evaluate student behavior in class as a proactive measure to detect individuals that may need special counseling or intervention.

University of Toledo (Harvey Wolff)

- Budget woes continue at the University. There is talk of faculty furloughs and the President has been given the power to invoke this action. However, for now, this has not transpired, in part, due to the fact that administrators recently received salary raises.
- The Board of Trustees voted to seat faculty on various committees. The Trustees will choose the faculty and the committees.
- The administration is employing an outside agency to evaluate the President and Provost in an effort to head off this action by the Faculty Senate.
- The Board of Trustees created a College of Solar and Renewable Energy. The new college will have no academic powers, but is an entity having resources to "house" select faculty and perhaps form graduate programs.

Bowling Green State University (Keith Bernhard and Ellen Williams)

- The new Provost will begin implementation of the strategic plan developed last year, particularly revisions to the undergraduate program.
- The financial concerns of the University have been accompanied by rumors of enrollment caps being lifted.
- There are continuing discussions of reconfiguration, including capital improvements such as integrating living areas with academic areas.
- A number of policies revisions are being considered including faculty misconduct, flexible tenure, and permitting non-tenure track faculty to be voting members of the Faculty Senate.
- Faculty are in the process of unionizing via the AAUP.
- An infectious disease and contamination policy is being formulated. This includes the creation of policies by individual faculty to address classroom issues pertaining to public health emergencies.
- The arena building used by the hockey program is being repaired, but there is a need for operating funds.
- Tuition was raised 3.5% beginning in January 2010.
- The Faculty Senate passed a new policy to equally divide merit pay among all faculty, but the Board of Trustees would not approve this policy.

Central State University (Anthony Milburn)

- Because the number of text books available were not nearly sufficient for students this past semester, the University is taking over the operations of the bookstore.
- The University is preparing for the consequences of the H1N1 virus.
- Implementation of a drug free workplace policy is meeting resistance from faculty due to a concern of potential conflict with the union contract.

University of Akron (Rudy Fenwick) [Per Rudy's request, the following information was added after the meeting, which was adjourned due to the lateness of the hour.]

- The University has begun a national search for a new provost. There will be faculty representation on the search committee; appointments coming from both AAUP and the faculty senate. However, faculty consultation will only be in the last stage once the finalists have been chosen.
- CFO John Case is resigning effective February 28, 2010 (after he has used up his vacation and sick days). He was put on paid leave in September after a DUI arrest. Scott Borgemenke, currently associate vice president of "finance and strategy," will serve as interim CFO.
- Governor Strickland has asked the Ohio Senate to remove Jack Morrison from the University's Board of Trustees after conviction on two misdemeanor counts regarding ethics violations related to the University's acquisition of property owned by his son as part of the building of the on-campus football stadium and new dorm. Secretary of State Brunner is also moving to remove him from the Summit County elections board. He is appealing his conviction.
- University enrollment is up approximately 7% in both student count and credit hours.
- The University will increase tuition 3.5% for the spring 2010 semester.
- The University rescinded a \$5 additional parking charge to students parking in certain campus parking lots on home football game days.

Old Business:

None

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, November 13, 2009 at 12:30 PM in the Ohio Board of Regents' office.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chet Cooper, Secretary
Ohio Faculty Council

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