



## **The Ohio Faculty Council**

**Members Present:** Bowling Green State University (Keith Bernhard); Cleveland State University (Brian Ray and Jim Wilson); Kent State University (Ralph Lindeman); Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine and Pharmacy (Claire Bourguet); Ohio State University (Tim Gerber); Ohio University (Hugh Bloemer); University of Akron (Rudy Fenwick [Chair]); University of Cincinnati (John Cuppoletti); Wright State University (Tom Sudkamp and Jackie Bergdahl); and Youngstown State University (Chet Cooper [Secretary])

**Members Absent:** Central State University; Medical University of Ohio at Toledo; Miami University; Shawnee State University; and University of Toledo

**Special Guest:** Chancellor Eric Fingerhut (to arrive about 1:00 PM); Matt Smydo

### **Call to Order:**

The monthly meeting of the Ohio Faculty Council (OFC) was held on Friday, April 9, 2010 in the Ohio Board of Regents' office. Chair Rudy Fenwick called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM.

### **Agenda:**

Rudy presented the meeting agenda that was approved without dissent.

### **Minutes:**

Ralph Lindeman moved that the minutes of the OFC meeting on March 12, 2001 be approved without correction. Claire Bourguet seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice voted.

### **Old Business:**

- Rudy noted that there have been no changes in STRS issues, but discussions are continuing. However, it appears that lesser benefits are being proposed.
- Rudy also noted that the legislation under consideration to allow part-time faculty and graduate assistants to unionize is still in committee.

### **New Business:**

- Discussion was held regarding HB 472 now being considered by the legislature. This legislation is known as the "textbook affordability act". Members agreed to query Chancellor Fingerhut about the status and details of this legislation when he arrives to meet the OFC later.

### **Conversation with Chancellor Fingerhut:**

The Chancellor arrived at 1:10 PM.

Chancellor Fingerhut presented two issues for consideration:

- He reported on the status and the importance of the Issue 1 initiative that would be on the upcoming general election ballot. In a show of support, the OFC membership agreed to ask their colleagues to support the Issue 1 by action and financial donations. Moreover, John Cuppoletti moved that all individual OFC board members support the Issue 1 campaign by making a financial contribution. Hugh Bloemer seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous voice voted.
- The Chancellor reported that the formation of the next biennial budget will present difficulties. Predicting potential revenues presents special problems. He requested that everyone work towards building a consensus regarding priorities and distribution of funds. He encouraged that a favorable environment be created for higher education which drives attempt to drive economic prosperity and we spend carefully, slowly, and efficiently.

The Chancellor responded to the issues regarding HB 472 by noting he was working behind the scene to develop a new business model for marketing textbooks. He then asked his legislative assistant, Matt Smydo, to join the meeting. Mr. Smydo reported that the House may pass HB 472, but he felt it would not be approved by the Senate.

Chancellor Fingerhut noted that he recently appointed a search committee to search for a new director of OhioLink. It appears that an interim director will soon be chosen.

At this time, the special guests left the meeting.

### **Campus Reports:**

#### University of Cincinnati (John Cuppoletti)

- Still searching for a new provost is underway

#### Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine and Pharmacy (Claire Bourguet)

- The search for a new Dean of Medicine continues

#### Youngstown State University (Chet Cooper)

- A faculty buy out plan is being proposed
- The Academic Senate, the Student Government Association, and the Board of Trustees have already endorsed Issue 1
- The Academic Senate passed a resolution defining “Urban Research University”
- A new women’s basketball coach is being sought following the unexpected resignation of the present coach

#### Bowling Green State University (Keith Bernhard)

- The University’s Centennial Celebration is ongoing
- A committee on professional affairs was organized to interact with legislators
- A proposal to develop a faculty misconduct policy was not approved by the Board of Trustees and will require additional work

Kent State University (Ralph Lindeman)

- New deans are being hired
- Issue 1 was endorsed by the Board of Trustees
- The University is also celebrating its Centennial

Ohio University (Hugh Bloemer)

- Faculty will receive a 1% raise, although the Senate had recommended a 2% raise
- \$600,000 has been given to the intercollegiate athletic program on top of the \$2 million given to it this past year
- A denial of tenure issue based upon a lack of collegiality was reversed by the President
- Parking fees appear to be charged to faculty and staff in the future

Cleveland State University (Jim Wilson)

- A K-12 international degree program is being introduced
- The Board of Trustees endorsed Issue 1
- There are rumors that faculty will receive a 2% raise
- A self-sustaining football program is under consideration

Wright State University (Tom Sudkamp)

- Currently, there are five dean searches with another to soon begin
- There has been a reorganization of the Provost's office
- There hasn't been any progress between the AAUP and the administration regarding the issues pertaining to quarter-to-semester conversion

University of Akron (Rudy Fenwick)

- A new provost has been hired
- A new member has joined the Board of Trustees
- The President received a \$30,000 raise
- Negotiations are underway towards becoming self-insured with regard to health care

**Adjournment:**

By consent, the meeting was adjourned at 2:35 PM.

The next meeting of the OFC will be held on Friday, May 14, 2010 at 12:30 PM in the Ohio Board of Regents' office.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chet Cooper, Secretary  
Ohio Faculty Council

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