



The Ohio Faculty Council

Members Present: University of Akron (Rudy Fenwick[Chair]), University of Toledo (Nick Piazza), Wright State University (Dan Krane and Jacqueline Bergdahl [Secretary]), University of Cincinnati (John Cuppoletti), Kent State University (Ralph Lindeman), Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine and Pharmacy (Claire Bourguet), Ohio State University (Tim Gerber, Jim Rathman and Jonathan Nutt), Central State University (Anthony Milburn), Ohio University (Ken Hicks and Ann Paulins).

Members Absent: Youngstown State University, Belmont Community College, Shawnee State University, Bowling Green State University, Lakeland Community College, Cleveland State and Miami University.

Call to Order:

The monthly meeting of the Ohio Faculty Council (OFC) was held on Friday, October 8, 2010 in the Ohio Board of Regents' office. Chair Rudy Fenwick called the meeting to order at 12:33 pm.

Agenda: Rudy presented the meeting agenda that was approved by consent.

Minutes: September minutes were approved with changes.

Rudy introduced our guest speaker: Vice chancellor for Academic Affairs and System Integration, John A. Brighton.

Tuesday he is starting a new position – special assistant to the chancellor for a new program with deans of engineering and an industry round table to organize a new entity. This entity will be to develop new research dollars and hopefully be helpful in economic growth. Dr. Brighton knew this change was coming but met with us anyway. He outlined his experience in academia and asked for questions. Person taking position is Stephanie Davidson – suggests we ask her back to present.

Question: UT (Nick Piazza): What is the purpose of this new entity? Is this public information?

Answer: It is not a secret, but something in the making. The deans of engineering have dean's council which meets regularly.

Purpose? To create jobs and find funding working with private sector. To help the state economy. Engineering tends to work closely with industry. This effort is building on what has already come together informally. It will bring in a business round table and national manufacturing area and other engineering organizations to seek more collaboration. It has the potential to match up universities to pool resources.

Question: UA(Rudy Fenwick): What is your current job?

Answer – To step in and work with academic affairs groups. Stephanie Davidson oversees new programs and has a faculty committee that meets regularly to discuss and review new programs (RAGS). Paula Compton is leading the effort in articulation and transfer to move students from high school to college. In the past there was little that transferred from associate's program to a four year program. She is working to make the core classes transferable. Tom Borgenhorcher (need correct spelling) works in teacher education for K-12. Bill Russell focuses on adult education. He works a lot with two year programs and career centers.

This group works well together and they collaborate a lot. It is a very complex system with this many colleges, community colleges and career centers. But it works pretty well despite the complexity.

Question (Tim Gerber): The chancellor serves at discretion of the governor?

Answer: More than just the chancellor could change with new governor.

Question (Tim Gerber): Could the drive to get more Ohio residents college degrees be undone with new governor?

Answer: Yes, it could happen.

Cuppoletti: - The current academic plans enjoy support from both sides of table. We could encourage our constituents to get out the vote.

Brighton: The current financial situation dictates we need to do things that get results. Fingerhut has a lot of support in many areas.

Ken Hicks – Chancellor has helped keep tuition down with larger SSI. If SSI was reduced could caps be raised on tuition?

Answer – I realize you need income enough to do a good job with instruction. Changes could occur, but it still needs to be reasonable for students.

Nick Piazza – Most of his institution's students are part-time because they have to work and this hurts his department's time to degree.

Brighton: I am sympathetic – many things affect student's time to degree.

Cuppoletti – It is nice to hear about how your group works and it is useful to create avenues of communication. Gave example of usefulness of last presentation. Often hard to find out who to talk to in leadership of college to get information needed.

Answer – good leadership is key.

Cuppoletti – Triple D – dean, directors and dept heads. Information goes to them and doesn't go further.

Brighton: I have been in my role 8 months – there is still is a lot to learn. Sorry to come under false pretenses, but I enjoyed it. The current economic thing will pass –I have been through the wars, it can be taught.

Motion to approve agenda for October 8th meeting? Approved.

Approval of minutes of September 10th meeting? Approve with changes.

HB 365 – Regarding collective bargaining rights to adjunct faculty and graduate student. Move to approve and seconded.

Discussion –

Jim Rathman – There is a reluctance at OSU to approve this. Graduate students have other routes to doing things that are better than collective bargaining. But has not asked student body about it. At this point not comfortable in approving.

Cuppoletti – I was at the 2009 symposium on contingent faculty and graduate students. A graduate student from OSU presented the bill and he was horrified at description of how they were treated. Graduate students are exploited. Rebuts OSU position. Bill allows people to get together and discuss working conditions – something they cannot do now without being fired.

Rudy – Akron also exploits grad students and adjunct faculty – we are not singling out OSU. The current bill allows full time faculty to collectively bargain – this new bill modifies current legislation to include excluded groups. It may be put forward in lame duck session in December.

Cuppoletti – AAUP supports this new bill.

Gerber – Was the graduate student representative of OSU graduate students?

Cuppoletti – No, just telling her story.

Gerber -- I want to ensure that instances of exploitation are addressed. Was she representative of all graduate students? Or just an exception?

Nutt – Exploitation happens. Is this right process to deal with it?

Cuppoletti – This is not unionization.

Nutt – There is a process.

Cuppoletti – But it is not allowed by state law.

Gerber – It is not against the law – OSU has a council of graduate students.

Cuppoletti – Unions get people together to talk about wages and work conditions. People can be fired without appeal.

Gerber – There are other avenues like the graduate student council.

Cuppoletti – Wages are so low and they can't do anything about it as a group.

Gerber – Is it okay to lump graduate students and contingent faculty together?

Cuppoletti – They could be split out.

Rudy – It would give them the right to talk about conditions.

Milburn – It opens doors and gives options.

Rudy – Used to be able to be fired for talking about unions.

Claire – If bill passes, does this mean on unionized campuses that adjunct and graduate students are automatically included?

Rudy – No.

Nutt – The group is trying to unionize about graduate student fees. There has been an attempt to persuade students to join union without really clearing knowing what they are joining. What if they were made to strike? How does that effect relationship with adviser?

Rudy - If the bill passes graduate assistants would have the right to attempt to organize and vote on whether or not they wanted to be represented by a labor union in collective bargaining.

Nutt – The bill mentions striking and unauthorized striking

Rudy – It discusses how strikes are decided.

Gerber – Strikes are way out there. What's germane is relationship between advisor and graduate student. The graduate student has different relationship to the university than adjunct faculty.

Cuppoletti – Noted objections.

Gerber – I have not discussed this with faculty.

Paulins – It does not call for unionization, just allows it.

Rudy – Shall we table the bill until next month?

Ralph – We discussed it at one regional campus, but not before the faculty senate.

Cuppoletti – This is time sensitive – it doesn't give us much time to give our position.

Ralph – Shall we vote by email?

Cuppoletti – We should send our vote to the sponsors of bill and the Chancellor.

Rathman – I need more information, I don't know what the faculty thinks. I would like to postpone.

Claire – Postpone.

Cuppoletti – Motion to table until next meeting? Approved.

Graduate assistants are not graduate students. Google Ohio HB 365.

Rudy – He and Chet will be absent at the November 12th meeting. Cuppoletti will chair.

Updates:

STRS summer 2015 is rubicon. Legislature has not yet passed proposed changes to defined benefits – included Aug 2015 – top five years instead of top 3 years. Also enhanced benefit at 35 years eliminated – every year past 30 years, increase 2.5% of salary - Rudy calculated it would take him 6 years to get to current bump. Cost of living increases would go down from 2% to 1.5%. Trend is move from defined benefits to defined contributions.

Nov 3 – OBOR wants report on 4th year condition of higher education. It emphasizes serving underserved students (Race, adult learners, first generation learners). He hasn't got talking points yet. Any suggestions are welcome.

UC – UC has a new provost in the single provost model. Santa Ono. He is a really interesting man with great accomplishments. He is working with new president in great way. He handed out business cards at Faculty Senate. He lunches with students. An amazing fellow. UC got new AAUP contract, 0.6% across the board, but also compression going back 12 years and merit.

OU – Semester conversion is ongoing. Early retiree program is being discussed – can work 1 quarter, but discussing changes under semesters. July 1st 2010 began new academic structures – in first year for a number of units. Push toward unionization a year ago, decided not to go ahead with the vote. It has fizzled out. New provost seems to be much more faculty friendly. We hope that continues. Had a change in VP for finance – previous not transparent. New one wants to “responsibility centered management”. Hope it is a good thing.

CSU – Broke ground for 3 new residence halls and new student union. Interviewing for new dean of college of education. New VP of student affairs. Lots of stuff changing. New motto – “change is central”

OSU – Semester conversion ongoing. Budget planning and funding models. Retirement thinking about at institutional scale. Colleges being asked to consider cuts. Unified arts and sciences – from 5 to 1. Going well. Provost wants to re-evaluate faculty reward structure – especially associate to full – not enough of it. Teaching and service should perhaps count more – most promotions to full based on research.

KSU – Major issue at Faculty Senate is final vote on making experiential learning component at requirement for bachelor’s degree.

UT – President submitted reorganization plan – it involves library dean and merging library with graduate school. Eliminates the dean of education. Creates five new colleges. Arts & sciences split into three. Creates 10 interdisciplinary schools – funding unclear – not named. Plan opposed by faculty. AAUP filed grievance about because faculty not consulted. President has admitted it. Strickland-Kasich debate hosted at UT.

Nutt – Thank you for including students and putting students first.

Akron – Dr. Mike Sherman, our new provost, is on the job. Formerly he was an associate provost at OSU.

AAUP and UA administration negotiating reopeners on health care and compensation for years 2 thru 4 on contract ratified this past January. Currently we are in mediation. If no agreement is reached by late in October dispute will go to fact finding. The university is going self-insured for health care. Akron-AAUP has no problem with that, but we are negotiating for more options in health care provision, especially inclusion of an HMO choice. AAUP surveyed bargaining unit faculty, and many of those currently in HMOs want to continue with that model.

The university received a \$450k + grant from the Knight Foundation regarding issues of student success, in particular retention rates of African American males. APA gave UA a healthy workplace award. UA was named one of 99 best workplaces in northeast Ohio.

WSU – COSM new dean search initiated – hope to get one on board by July 1, same for Nursing (dean retiring end of academic year). Lake Campus dean search will wait until

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at least first of the year - interim now. Cuts of 3.5% in the works for next fiscal year.
Collective bargaining in process.

NEOUCOM - New dean of medicine started in his position in September. The executive associate dean of the college of medicine has moved to a position at Cleveland State as vice provost for health affairs. This move is part of the process of bringing Cleveland State into the College of Medicine consortium. The university president is championing an ambitious "Education for Service" plan in which a community or an organization will pay the expenses of a medical student in return for a commitment to practice in the community or organization after graduation. Strategic planning process is going forward for the university and for all colleges. The self-study for the reaccreditation of the medical school is nearly complete. Faculty diversity has been identified as a problem. Pressure on faculty to increase extramurally funded grant activity continues.

Adjourned at 2:33. Next meeting November 12th.