



The Ohio Faculty Council

Members Present: University of Akron (Rudy Fenwick[Chair]), Youngstown State University (Ken Learman), University of Toledo (Nick Piazza), Wright State University (Dan Krane and Jacqueline Bergdahl [Secretary]), Belmont Community College (Carter Kaplan), University of Cincinnati (John Cuppoletti and Richard Harknett), Shawnee State University (Clifford Poirot), Ohio State University (Myroslava Mudrak), Kent State University (Ralph Lindeman).

Members Absent: Youngstown State University (Chet Cooper), Bowling Green State University (Keith Bernhard), Central State University (Anthony Milburn), Lakeland Community College (Patrick McLaughlin), Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine and Pharmacy (Claire Bourguet), Cleveland State, Miami University, and Ohio University.

Call to Order:

The monthly meeting of the Ohio Faculty Council (OFC) was held on Friday, September, 10, 2010 in the Ohio Board of Regents' office. Chair Rudy Fenwick called the meeting to order at 12:32 pm.

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

Minutes: Minutes were approved with changes.

Ohio Board of Regents, Associate Vice Chancellor of Program Development and Approval, Stephanie Davidson made a presentation on the organization of the Academic Affairs and System Integration section of the office and also talked about the program approval process.

In response to a question about the role of regional accreditation versus the role of state approval, she indicated that, where there is redundancy, her office is accepting what is turned in to the regional accreditor (e.g., for online delivery or taking programs offsite). She also indicated that regional accreditation tends to focus on an overview of the institution as a whole, while specialized/professional accreditation delves deeply into the specifics of curriculum. Her office's charge falls between these two types of accreditation.

She reported that program approval for all types of institutions (public and private) and programs (undergrad and grad) now falls under one vice chancellor. Her office is developing one manual with the rules and processes for all types of program approval. OFC will get a chance to review and comment.

In discussing the draft manual, the following points were made regarding the process:

- A letter of intent is reviewed by the staff before the full proposal is submitted for review—this letter of intent can be submitted while the proposal is being approved the institution's internal program approval processes
- Minors are excluded from review and review of certificates will follow the regional accreditor's process
- Substantive changes (significant curricular modifications, changes to online or flexible delivery, moving programs to off-campus locations) will require staff review
- Campuses that are converting from quarter to semester will not need review if just repackaging courses for semesters rather than quarters.

She also discussed a number of guidelines/rules that currently exist in Ohio Administrative Code and indicated that these have been preserved in the draft manual:

- Faculty teaching general education courses must hold master's degree or higher in subject matter discipline or closely related area.
- Degree programs must be led by a full-time faculty member.
- Full-time faculty must be involved at each location where more than 50% of a program can be completed.
- Full-time faculty must teach 60% of curriculum for a degree

Finally, she discussed some of the changes that are being proposed in the draft manual:

- General Education – changes to align with Ohio's Articulation and Transfer Policy
- Review Processes – Proposals to be circulated via a listserv to other campus contacts. 1) to seek written comments 2) chancellor's staff works with institution and contact to address questions or concerns. It will be more like the graduate process currently in place. It will take approximately 4-6 months for all steps of approval process.

M I N U T E S
OFC Meeting September 10, 2010

Dr. Davidson participated in a discussion related to the pros and cons of using in-state peers in the program review process. One participant noted that some review organizations see same state review as a problem. RACGS review – some reviewers saw peer reviewers as competitors – like Target reviewing Walmart. Dr. Davidson noted that external reviewers could be used, but this would be expensive (as it is for the privates) and she indicated that staff members in the office are aware of the conflict of interest and generally are able to handle these issues in a fair manner.

Dr. Davidson also received a question about budget of Chancellor's office—she wasn't aware of the exact budget, but offered there were about 60 employees.

Rudy: Today's meeting was to help create transparency about processes.

John encouraged us to take this information back to our faculties and noted there was no process to complain or challenge decisions.

Rudy notes that the membership of TAG committees was not listed on the OBR website. This is to protect the committee members. Faculty do not know who sits on these committees nor how people are appointed.

Chip (Shawnee) told story of TAG process from his perspective and experience – he found it either vague and general or too intrusive.

Rudy went to Lakeland Community College to attend the OEA meeting for a panel “Higher Education Square Table” that discussed staffing and financial issues facing higher education faculty in Ohio.

On November 3, Rudy will present a draft report to OBR on the Fourth Year Condition Report on Higher Education, which will focus on how higher education is serving underserved populations. He has not yet seen the talking points. Any assistance would be appreciated.

Updates:

House Bill 365 extends collective bargaining to adjunct faculty and graduate students. It is still not up for a vote. It is being withheld from vote until after the election.

STRS changes on hold until after the election.

Two Lumina Foundation reports of interest: “Trends in College Spending” and “Changing the Conversation about Productivity.” Google “delta cost project” to locate. Rudy notes the Ohio faculty are well represented in the second report.

Ralph asked if OFC vote on the resolution was representative of campus opinion.

Answer: No, it was representative of OFC but could be taken back to each campus Faculty Senate for resolution.

UC - Santa Ono is new provost from Emory. There are three new deans. A Faculty assembly was held on September 19 to examine the issue of creativity. Hopes to start tradition of assembly.

SSU - The following is a brief summary of recent events and issues at Shawnee State University since last June.

In July of this summer the Board of Trustees approved several initiatives brought forward by the President of the University, Rita Morris.

1. The Board approved a change in the University's Mission Statement to include the words "applied regional research." Previously, the University's Mission Statement had only emphasized teaching.
2. The Board approved a re-organization/expansion of Academic Affairs. This re-organization includes plans to hire a full time Dean for a newly created University College, to eventually create a new Vice President to oversee regional research, STEM programs and other similar initiatives of the USO, and to convert the Associate Provost position to a full time position. These changes also entail changing where some academic programs such as the Honors Program, the GEP Program and composition classes are housed.

With the partial exception of the University College, the Faculty Senate had not been consulted on any of these changes, save for the Mission Statement. With respect to the Mission Statement the Educational Policies and Curriculum Committee had recommended last spring that the UFS not vote on the Mission Statement until there had been a greater chance for the University Community to fully consider the implications of the proposed change. The UFS President was not informed of the plans to bring the Mission Statement to the Board.

The planned administrative re-organization and expansion have raised questions and concerns about the implications for priorities and the use of scarce resources as well as the accuracy of the data used to justify these changes.

In each case, the primary justification for these changes is that they were necessary and follow as a direct result of the creation of the University System of Ohio.

I should note that in many ways the University System of Ohio has been greeted with some skepticism on the part of faculty at Shawnee State University. I believe I am describing a general sense shared by at least many of my colleagues, held to varying degree on different issues if I characterize the concerns as follows:

1. There is significant pressure for SSU to adopt policies that are not consistent with our historical mission and may not necessarily be entirely appropriate for SSU;

M I N U T E S

OFC Meeting September 10, 2010

2. Many of the proposed changes (e.g. focus on retention) do not adequately take into account the actual factors underlying student dropout rates from open admission Universities such as SSU that primarily serve financially strapped students;
3. The system is creating new and more complex levels of administrative bureaucracy;
4. The plan is over focused on STEM and is based on unrealistic assumptions about the role of human capital formation in attracting employers to specific locations;
5. Though the TAG process predates the USO, the multiple, bureaucratic aspects of it have also rankled multiple faculty;

On several occasions the President of the University has expressed some similar concerns to me. However, it is difficult to know to what degree she really shares these concerns and to what degree she simply states them for my consumption. I have suggested that if she and other high level administrators have these concerns, they should express them clearly and unambiguously and directly to the Chancellor or at the numerous meetings they attend state wide to bring these issues into clearer focus.

More recently, the President of the University abolished the President's Advisory Council which had badly degenerated over time into a simply information conduit with no discussion and no advice. It was my clear impression on the several occasions I offered advice or discussion that this was not wanted.

There is however a bit of positive or at least not necessarily bad news. The UFS had voted on and approved a Student Conduct Code but had also noted multiple reservations. Apparently, the new University Counsel also shares some of those same concerns and the Code will now be rewritten. At the same time, the Vice President for Student Affairs who had a reputation for being rigid and authoritarian, at least among some faculty, is leaving.

Finally, we are moving ahead on overhauling the governance system and the UFS Constitution. Much to my surprise, the President communicated to me that she believed I had given her the OK to move ahead this fall with implementing what are at best presently draft proposals. I was able to impress on her why this was unwise. The proposed overhaul raises many complex issues about the role of faculty in the governance system and the role of other constituency groups.

YSU – There is a new president. Enrollment is up. Chancellor approved their first Ph.D. program in material science and engineering. Strickland called them an “urban hub of innovation” when visiting. It is a negotiation year for unions and there is a new football coach.

M I N U T E S

OFC Meeting September 10, 2010

UT – The University of Toledo has a two provost system. One provost resigned to accept a new position. There is an acting provost in place while a national search for a new provost is underway. The Colleges of Education and Arts & Sciences are currently operating with interim deans. A&S has had an interim dean for three years. Big news is a proposed reorganization. The president hopes to transform UT. Under the proposed reorganization plan, Arts and Sciences would be affected the most. The proposal would create 6-8 new deans and a number of new schools. There is a new College of Pharmacy building. Enrollment is stable. UT has an agreement with Promedica to manage their graduate education (post graduate internships, residencies etc.). Provost in charge of health and medical programs will head up this collaboration with Promedica and has been promoted to chancellor to reflect his new responsibilities.

KSU – First appointee to the Minority Ambassador Program is Andre Thorton of the Cleveland Indians. There is a push for experiential learning. The preliminary enrollment figures for fall show enrollment up, both at the Kent Campus and the Regional Campuses.

OSU – Consolidation of Arts and Sciences into one college. Established Faculty Advisory Council - all determined by faculty. Regarding conversion to semesters, a university level advisory committee on general education figured out the core for semesters. They used to have 13 multiple and diverse GECs going on, but will now have a central core going into semesters. Maymester was not deemed feasible under quarters but trying to make it work for semesters. The Maymester is a value-added educational opportunity to be included in the new semester calendar, to being in the 2012-2013 academic year. Academic affairs is working hard on conversion to make the Maymester feasible.

WSU – Tom Sudkamp promoted to Associate Provost for Undergraduate Studies and University College. Enrollment is up. Dean of Lake Campus and dean of science and math searches failed – interims in place. New deans in education and engineering & computer science.

BTC – enrollment was up 22% last fall (2009) and 7% for this fall. Regarding semester conversion, there is a draft of the new GE.

UA – First week estimate that enrollment is up over 4% and that there is record freshman enrollment. UA has a new provost, Dr. Mike Sherman formerly of OSU. Labor negotiations are continuing on health care and compensation reopeners for years 3 and 4 of the contract. The administration has proposed postponing compensation negotiations until after the state budget picture is clearer in the spring while finalizing agreement on health insurance changes this fall so they can begin in January. AAUP's argument is that the contract states that the reopeners on compensation and health care are to be negotiated together. One or more ULPs may be filed by AAUP. Currently, the two sides are in mediation; if no agreement is reached by mid-October there could be fact-finding.

M I N U T E S

OFC Meeting September 10, 2010

One ULP was filed by AAUP over the summer because of change in status of incoming instructors in the English Language Institute from bargaining unit faculty to contract professionals, who would be outside bargaining unit.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacqueline Bergdahl, Secretary
Ohio Faculty Council

Department of Sociology & Anthropology, Wright State University, 3640 Colonel Glenn Highway,
Dayton, OH 45435. Telephone: 937 775 2666; Facsimile: 937 775 4228; Email:
Jacqueline.Bergdahl@wright.edu