



The Ohio Faculty Council

Members Present:

University of Akron (Rudy Fenwick[Chair] and Harvey L. Sterns), 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 (F.U. Eruo), Ohio State University (Tim Gerber and Myroslava Mudrak), Ohio University (Ann Paulins), Youngstown State University (Ken Learman and Chet Cooper), Cleveland State University (Steve Duffy).

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

Meeting called to order at 12:28 pm.

Old Business

Regarding the resolution to support University System of Ohio. Chair crafted draft. Any discussion?

UC – Since Kasich has been voted in, Chancellor’s emphasis about growing business. Fourth whereas “essential to attracting and retaining business in Ohio in the 21st century”

Chair – could also add to third or add another whereas.

KSU – add something about encouraging entrepreneurs to be an important part of business development.

OSU – as educators, we would not want to put the economic thing first

UC – Selling the higher education plan is to grow the economy. Chancellor made clear he is head of higher education establishment. Role in economic development is what keeps him up at night. In his view, job is to equally higher education and economic development. We are emphasizing value of higher education.

OU – Context is important. Businesses that employ people and are productive for our economy need people who can think critically, write and think well.

M I N U T E S

O F C Meeting • January 14, 2011

Chair – Cultural issues are in the fourth clause.

OSU - Cultural should be first.

Chair – we are trying to emphasize that which fits governor's agenda. Looked for data to support our efforts in higher education, but data was from 2004.

UC – Higher education brings in external research dollars and adds values to our communities

Chair – 400 million for railroads

UA –creation of innovative products and services and jobs.

UT – need to emphasize job creation of research efforts. Research dollars not tied to subsidy.

Chair – will take comments and reformat and send it out next week to vote on by email.

OSU – audience for this?

Chair: Leadership of both houses

OSU – How delivered?

Chair – by snailmail.

OSU – how will we ensure they read it?

WSU – give copy to Chancellor and ask him how to deliver it.

UC, OSU, Chair – good idea.

UC – Share also with OFS and USC

UT – they will get a lot of self-serving resolutions. Why aren't we calling for a summit on higher education? Talk about role and function of higher ed. Governor is not talking about higher ed. Resolutions are nice, but maybe we should organize a summit instead.

OSU – Top of to do list is crafting budget legislation. Resolution is needed now, summit should come from Chancellor. Will he be continuing? Term is through March 2012. In past three weeks, individuals are leaving administration.

UT - Some Strickland appointments have been retained.

UC – approach Chancellor about summit.

M I N U T E S

OFC Meeting • January 14, 2011

UT - need something where we all get together. Bring us together and see if our interests align.

UC – Trying to keep colleagues calm. Not sure our message would be heard by Kasich.

Chair – will approach Chancellor about resolution and summit.

OU – want to clarify. Reached consensus with content. Lifelong learning, philosophy of learned society, attracting business and entrepreneurs.

Chair – found economic reports that suggest jettison old education. Best U of Wisconsin in Milwaukee argued nationally the biggest way higher education generates economic benefit is through undergraduate education and not technology transfer.

OSU – one document to refer to is the third BOR report on the condition of higher ed. May be language you can borrow for the resolution.

Chair – any other ideas?

UA - All talk of privatization? Will this happen in higher education?

OSU – not much chance of that.

UA – something we should be concerned about.

New Business

Chair - Did not invite a guest this month so we could talk about issues. To address rumors. What have people heard about what our concerns are?

1 – Subsidy we receive from state. How much will it be cut?

2 – STRS what changes could be made?

3 – What actions will governor take with collective bargaining rights?

Received communication from Akron AAUP – email handed out. Mentioned Rudy Fichtenbaum who is author of email he received. Increase employer contributions over time and cut benefits. Increase retirement age. Suggests governor would not support increasing employer contributions.

UC – everything that is happening is on front page of AAUP website. Considering reducing cola. Increase number of years for final average salary. Both have been around for number of years. Increased retirement age too. Memo before us is not an official communication of AAUP. It does not contain anything new.

UC – how many in this room are STRS?

OSU – don't know how many at my institution.

OU – choice was offered in early 90s.

M I N U T E S
O F C M e e t i n g • J a n u a r y 1 4 , 2 0 1 1

UC – right around 85 our people were Tiaa-Cref and before that city retirement.
OSU – most public schools and OSU when hired, we were required to be STRS.
Retirement Study Group making strong case for defined benefit plans. Press has been taking potshots. Defined benefits plans seen as doing better than private sector.

UA – nationally down to 22% having defined benefit plans. Many philanthropic went from defined benefit to defined contribution. Economic downturn – we get loss of pension wealth.

YSU – all pots drop in bad economy.

OSU – Moving away from defined benefit would mean \$8.4 billion drop in costs. STRS has proposed changes to a defined benefit plan. Taxes paid on benefits helps locally. STRS is being to make this argument. Retaining the defined benefit is crucial.

OU – 20 years ago, that was one of the talking points – excellent retirement plan.

UC – came from CALPERS to STRS

OSU – second page of memo talks about what is happening now. Bernardin. Governor will not sign legislation that increases employer contributions and doesn't achieve 30 year funding goal.

UC – want employer increase for healthcare. Don't need it to have solvency of pension. Increase is for solvency of health care.

Chair – invite STRS guy back.

UC – memo is alarmist. Lots of things can happen. Lets wait and see.

OSU – bigger issue is making sure legislation does not languish in general assembly. If bill can be crafted that only takes a month or two. The longer it sits, the longer the press has to take pot shots at public pensions. This is bigger than just us. Governor is clear that increased employer contributions will not fly and what public does not want. Need bill amenable to everyone. Need to make sure public doesn't take potshots at rich with defined benefit plan and double-dippers. Fire chief for Cincinnati – had 34 year career and retired. Took pension and then took new job. But it is the kind of thing educators get criticized for all the time.

UC and YSU – he was criticized.

YSU – if you are employed you don't need a pension.

UA – used to be okay – good retirement planning. Double dipping considered negative is new.

M I N U T E S
O F C M e e t i n g • J a n u a r y 1 4 , 2 0 1 1

OSU – Ken’s observation is interesting.

YSU – doesn’t like defined benefit plan. It is old school.

OSU – Portable plans – people can direct actual investments. If you do it yourself (in STRS you cannot) you don’t do as well.

YSU – does not agree.

UC – not everyone in defined benefit plan.

UA – know about STRS? 1910 debate about higher education being dragged down by older faculty members. Tiaa-Cref started by Carnegie.

YSU – kind of defined benefit plan is important. Those that come directly from tax dollars are different from others funded differently.

UA - municipal and county plans are in trouble.

YSU – yes, that’s why the public gets upset.

UA – why not step downs? Every institution figures that out.

Chair – ask STRS rep back. Who replaced Book?

UC – should still be there.

UA – reason we should be concerned. Colleagues are trying to figure it out for themselves and it affects our faculty at all our institutions.

OSU – if 35 year thing goes by 2015 June 1 – 88.5% of average. One year later, 10 percent less for rest of lives. That is not chump change.

YSU – propose graduate decline

Chair – no discussion of grandfathering

OSU – it is not double-dipping. 30-35 years work means they earned the pension. It is not double-dip.

UC – understanding that U will contribute 14%. What you get is your pension. It is my money – I put it in and I can take it out. I don’t buy that is wrong to work 30 years, take benefits and then go on to next phase of life.

M I N U T E S

OFC Meeting • January 14, 2011

OU – what does become difficult is when the economy is bad and jobs are scarce. Good old boy system and have more experience so they are taking jobs that those coming up need.

UA – vacancy analysis research done – shows that jobs go away – they are not slots that will stay open.

OU – in education we know a lot of people in same job earning pension and salary.

UA – numbers of faculty that are working longer is small. Those that do have major research programs. Teachers want out – researchers want to stay.

Chair – ask visitors to address STRS

UC – we need to get away from alarmist stance to more intellectual stance. This group has not supported _____ some increase?

OSU – chamber of commerce and business round table has supported current allocation of 1014. Chamber has endorsed more of a 1212 model. STRS .5 percent over 5 years to 12.5 proposal. Governor won't sign it –

UC – 2.5% is for healthcare

UA – points to need for fact sheet to be used for basis of planning.

Chair - need experts and fact sheets for this group

UC – visitors we are planning to invite are experts in this.

UA – also need objective opinions.

Chair - Other new business?

CSU – staring down barrel of budget. Forecasting 20 million dollar budget cut – 8-10%. Going through process which admin calls strategic. There will be roster cuts on our campus. It will be done in a three year event horizon. Year one – throttle back maintenance budget. Has not seen numbers yet. Can't do it forever, but as stopgap measure. Which side of house will determine what kinds of cuts. Several searches – dean of law, college of science dean, dean of education – education search failed last time. Search for grad dean. Search for one more dean. Changes – everyone stuck on budget issues. How will we get through next academic year? Counting on not getting 12th payment.

OU – rec'd email from provost that there was no news on budget front. Meanwhile committees and meeting and everyone is worried. Ideas about enhancing revenues and

M I N U T E S

OFC Meeting • January 14, 2011

expenses cut. Searching for 2 core positions. Vice President for Advancement and President's assistant in government relations. Embarking on campaign – in quiet stage.

UT – Mary Powers attended in his stead last month. The UT-AAUP filed for a restraining order against the President's proposed reorganization claiming that he violated the CBA by not consulting with the Faculty Senate as required in the CBA. The judge hearing the case agreed that the contract had been violated, but held that delaying reorganization would cause greater harm than the contract violation. Consequently, the restraining order was denied.

Reorganization is proceeding. Deans have been named for the new colleges of Visual and Performing Arts; Language, Literature, and Social Sciences; and Natural Sciences and Mathematics. A dean was also named for the combined colleges of Education and Health Science and Human Service which will now be known as the College of Education, Health Science and Human Service.

The new colleges are engaged in budget development and development of organizational and operating policies and procedures.

The President has announced the creation of a FY 12 Budget Formulation and RE-Engineering Task Force of administrators, staff, and the FS Chair who will advise him on ways to cope with the expected budget cuts for FY 2012. Mostly we are waiting for the shoe to drop so that we have some idea of how big the cuts will be.

Searches continue for a Dean of the College of Law and for a Provost for the non-health related colleges and programs at UT.

WSU - COSM dean finalists next month. Nursing dean search. CZAR, budget, grad school

OSU – have consolidated colleges into college of arts and sciences. Budget fears. One major effort faculty are pushing on – streamlining process for paying for travel and other services. Seventy page rule book reduced to 10 – have not yet seen it. Sustainability Czar – faculty met with him and feel need to take things into own hands. Subcommittee formed. Many groups on campus interested in sustainability. Faculty feel need to take lead. Concerned about GI promise bill – sent to several committees to develop strong position on it.

KSU – Limited hiring freeze – positions filled on case by case basis. Has hired assistant head coach from OSU. Preliminary enrollment numbers show increased.

NEOUCOM – Faculty have not met yet.

YSU– dean search start negotiations next month. Strategic plan is problematic. Gen education and assessment plans need work according to last accreditation.

M I N U T E S

OFC Meeting • January 14, 2011

UA – “existentially rich” Plans for university council to work with faculty senate. Functions taken away from FS when unionized. Spent 4 years creating council plan. BOT will pass resolution into implementation phase. Alignment of council and faculty senate duties. Council more about planning. New board regulations will be written to capture new realignment. College of health and human services may join college of nursing. Dean of arts and sciences, president and provost met to change college of fine arts to join college of arts and sciences. College of fine and applied arts is new entity. Two college alignments are in process. Computerized curricular approval process – he is overseeing. New platform that it people created. At next FS meeting we will vote on new system. And then bring it down to college level. It will be great when it is finished. Could be model for others. Strategic planning ongoing. We have lacked strong planning initiative before. Revisit of Higher Education Initiative. Also starting for 2012-2013 Higher Learning Commission. Ongoing search for CFO – one search that failed. President and provost are forming new search committee. No budget news. But economic growth gives some hope of getting 12th payment. Gearing up internal search for associate provost for planning.

Chair speaks for UC – expecting 20% budget – 20 million.

Meeting adjourned at 2:13 pm.