



The Ohio Faculty Council

Members Present:

University of Akron (Rudy Fenwick [Chair] and Peg DiMarco), Wright State University (Dan Krane [Secretary]), University of Cincinnati (Rich Harknett), Youngstown State University (Chet Cooper [Vice Chair]), University of Toledo (Nick Piazza), Miami University (James Kiper), Ohio State University (Myroslava N. Mudrak and Jim Rathman), and Bowling Green State University (Mark A. Earley).

Members Absent:

Lakeland Community College, Shawnee State University, Ohio University, Belmont College, Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED), Kent State University and Cleveland State University.

Meeting called to order at 12:35 pm, September 9, 2011.

Agenda approved.

June 3, 2011 minutes approved.

New Business

Introductions were made among the members of the Ohio Faculty Council (OFC) in attendance.

Possible guests to invite to subsequent OFC meetings include: Chancellor Petro and/or his political liaison, Mike Neff (Director of STRS), Gary Kates (Vice Chancellor), Bruce Johnson (IUC) and state legislators with an interest in higher education.

Old Business

Chair Fenwick gave an update on three issues that were considered by the OFC in the previous academic year: 1) Senate Bill 5 (Issue 2 on the November statewide ballot); 2) enterprise universities; and 3) proposed changes to STRS.

Regarding Senate Bill 5, a resolution was passed by the OFC on March 18, 2011 and has been posted on the OFC website. Cleveland State University faculty as well as Shawnee State and the AAUP chapter of Akron University have pursued freedom of information requests regarding the insertion of “Yeshiva language” by the Intra-University Council

into Senate Bill 5 – they have gotten thousands of pages of emails in response to that request and are in the process of evaluating them. A motion was made to change the March 18, 2001 OFC resolution regarding Senate Bill 5 to reflect the its listing on statewide ballots as “Issue 2.” The following resolution passed unanimously:

“In line with the Ohio Faculty Council’s March 18, 2001 resolution concerning Senate Bill 5, the Ohio Faculty Council supports a ‘no’ vote on State Issue 2.”

Regarding enterprise universities, UC created an ad hoc committee on charter universities. A report that committee released in May, 2011 found that higher education in Ohio was and is further along in terms of autonomy from state regulations than other states. Rules regarding construction contracts have already been made law in Ohio and would therefore not be part of an incentive program for enterprise universities in Ohio. UC reports that a study of the relief from regulations that the proposed enterprise university status would bring would result in a savings of \$250,000 per year but that that would come at the cost of \$30,000,000 in reduction of state support of instruction. A similar analysis for Ohio State revealed the same disparity (with both numbers being approximately four-fold larger). UC’s faculty senate will be considering a resolution that essentially says “the goals of the enterprise university proposal (affordability, accessibility, and work force development) are laudable but that the plan does not advance those goals.” An effort would be made to have Chancellor Petro speak to the OFC about the enterprise university proposal at the October meeting of the OFC.

Regarding STRS, proposed changes are on hold because a new commission is looking in to recommendations. An effort will be made to get Michael Neff (Director of STRS) to visit an OFC meeting again once that has been concluded. Proposed changes would go in to effect in 2015. OFC’s position (expressed in a resolution made in February, 2011) supporting the proposed changes to STRS is at odds with that of three public employee unions.

Campus Reports

CSU – Enrollment for the fall term is unexpectedly high. Contract negotiations are underway. The number of tenured faculty has increased by two – a small number relative to those who were recommended for promotion by the Promotion and Tenure Committee. A University College is being created.

Miami – A new provost began work in April, 2011 and is trying to change the university’s budget model to responsibility centered management. Enrollment is up and 40% of new students are from out of state (consistent with a goal set by the university). International student enrollment is up as well – largely from China.

U of Toledo – The interim provost has been made permanent. Enrollment is down a little less than 2%, perhaps due to cost competition which may prompt the university to look at

M I N U T E S

OFC Meeting • September 9, 2011

fees and tuition costs. The faculty contract has expired but an extension has been agreed to which will run through the resolution of State Issue 2.

WSU – Work is almost complete on a \$4,000,000 student activities center (25% funded from a private donor, 75% from student fees). Contract negotiations are underway. Three new deans have begun work and enrollment levels are unchanged relative to last year. The university has secured an \$11,400,000 grant to work with Wright Patterson Air Force Base on graduate education.

YSU – Faculty are concerned about paying a higher share of premiums for health care costs. Faculty pay for summer would be reduced at least 25% as part of a new contract proposed by the university's administration. Enrollment is unofficially down approximately 2%. A \$10,000,000 sports complex has been completed.

OSU – The conversion to semesters continues to be underway. Tuition has been increased by 3.3%. The Medical Center has several large construction projects underway. Faculty will get a small raise this year. Enrollment is slightly up. The university is exploring privatizing parking and considering requiring freshmen and sophomores to live on campus.

Akron – 29,699 students are currently enrolled (an increase from last year). The university is trying to move from urban to a more green-space university (it now has 34 acres of green space). Some colleges have recently been merged to create a “college of health professions.” Faculty will receive a roughly 4% raise this year.

BGSU – Negotiations are underway for a first contract. The university has a new president, an interim provost and six new deans. Enrollment is at record highs. The university's undergraduate curriculum is being re-vamped.

Meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.