



## The Ohio Faculty Council

### Minutes of the Meeting Held August 8, 2008

**Present:** King, Cooper (YSU); Billman (OSU); Sudkamp (WSU); Sawicki, Gelman (CSU); Bernhard (BGSU); Lopez (OU); Cuppoletti (UC); Sterns, Fenwick (UA)

**OFC was called to order at 12:15**

**The minutes of the June 13 OFC meeting were passed unanimously.**

#### **New Business**

There was a general discussion of talking points for the Chancellor's visit to OFC.

1. State-wide faculty governance system, e.g., a state-wide faculty senate, as in California
2. Plans for making OFC an official part of the state higher education system, like IUC
3. Should responsibility for maintaining the OFC website rest with the Chancellor's office/OBOR/
4. Should OFC ask the Chancellor to appoint a particular staff person as a liaison with OFC, or would that change the status of OFC as independent group?

Q: What is the current status of the OFC?

A (Cuppoletti): We are the creation of the OBOR, but not in any official documents, so we are not official.

Dr. Sudkamp then reported on the meeting with the Senior to Sophomore Advisory Group (which also advises on other dual enrollment programs. The meeting was in June. The meeting discussed the following issues and concerns:

- One goal is to increase from 5 to 20% the number of Ohio students who have one semester of college credits before entering college;
- The program is to begin in the fall of '08;
- College representatives expressed concerns about the program related to (1) maintaining the quality of instruction; (2) the preparation of HS student entering the program; and (3) teaching college credits in HS.

There was also discussion of the state standard for AP course credit and PSEO (post-secondary education options).

Would HS discourage enrollment since the money goes to colleges?

No recommendations were made at the meeting.

Q: What are the HS concerns.

A (Subkamp): The money- who pays; where does the money for the program come from since there is no new money.

Q: How much diversity exists in AP programs across the state?

A (Sudkamp): It wasn't clear.

Q: Are there any benchmarks by which to measure Ohio's Senior to Sophomore program?

A (Sudkamp): Unclear.

Dr. Cuppoletti then reported that a bill on textbook costs had passed the U.S. House this week and was going to the Senate.

There was a general discussion about how to maintain academic standards in implementing the USO plan.

A proposal was offered that: *Requirements for the Senior to Sophomore program be higher than the minimum standards for college entrance; that they should be closer to those of the PSEO program, and that this proposal be taken to the Senior to Sophomore Advisory Committee.*

The proposal was seconded and passed unanimously.

Q: What was the preparation of HS teachers to teach in the Senior to Sophomore program?

A (Sudkamp): They must meet North Central college teaching requirements, but little else.

Dr. Bernhard handed out copies of the "American College and University Presidents Climate Commitment Report" in which numerous colleges and universities (including Ohio University and the University of Cincinnati) pledged to follow a number of steps in pursuit of climate neutrality. Each school would be scored on how well they did.

**Chancellor Fingerhut was introduced at 1:20**

The Chancellor announced that the “Choose Ohio First” Scholarship Program had awarded \$50m in the first year with the goal of increasing the number of STEM graduates.

Universities had applied for the right to give scholarships based on the quality of their STEM programs.

A committee chaired by Dr. Andrist would invite feedback on the RFPs for the program. The Chancellor expressed concerns that decisions regarding the universities’ RFPs had been made by administrators with no input from faculty. The Chancellor wants faculty input in the RFP for year two.

The Chancellor’s office was developing a budget for the next biennium starting in 2009. They were looking at changes in funding formulas, etc. that would help realign the budget with the USO plan.

The Chancellor then asked what 3-4 things could be done that would have the greatest impact? For example, regarding funding of teacher education programs there were currently no differences in funding based on the quality of the program. That needs to change. There must be incentives to develop programs of greater quality.

There would be a limited amount of funding available for the next budget, but need to find a way to send the message that whatever happens in the next budget because of the state of the economy the state commitment to higher education will continue to be strong.

Dr. Cuppoletti stated that the OFC would continue to be committed to working with the Chancellor.

The Chancellor then announced three initiatives that had been taken to help reduce/contain the costs of textbooks.

1. The Chancellor’s office/OBOR had signed an agreement with a digital textbook company (Course Smart) for a reduction in textbook costs.
2. Need to change the ‘business model’ - offer \$250k in \$50k grants to faculty to develop course materials in heavily enrolled course. The state would buy the royalties and intellectual property rights so the material would be in the public domain. The state would put the package together and give to students electronic copies or sale sell hard copies at printing costs.
3. \$10k in additional money was being set aside to award faculty who have already found ways to reduce textbook costs while maintaining quality. The awards would be \$1k each.

Other strategies for containing textbook costs include getting information on textbook orders out earlier; more integration with IT.

Could use PBS more for college instruction. Ohio now has unlimited capacity for digitalizing these stations, which means the ability to store more information.

Dr. Cuppoletti reviewed the June 17<sup>th</sup> OFC letter to the Chancellor, emphasizing the group's concerns with the potential for increased administrative overhead as elements of the USO plan mover forward, and the overall governance structure for the USO.

Chancellor Fingerhut responded that with respect to governance, his office continued to be committed to appointing BOT who are committed to the USO strategic plan. There needed to be more communication between the Chancellor and the BOTs of the various universities. He would begin meeting in the fall with the BOTs of the public universities.

Chancellor Fingerhut announced that his office had hired a new Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs- Barbara Gellman-Danley. Among other duties this office would have authority over TAGs, etc. There was a need to improve the consumer friendliness of TAGs.

Chancellor Fingerhut and Dr. Cuppoletti discussed inviting Dr. BarbaraGellman-Danley to the next OFC meeting on September 12.

Dr. Cuppoletti brought up recent issues in maintaining the OFC website and asked the Chancellor if it would be appropriate to have an OBOR staff person maintain the site.

Chancellor Fingerhut responded that Mike Chainey was the person on staff to talk to.

Dr. Cuppoletti raised the concern that OFC has no official position or charge within the OBOR/ the structure of Ohio higher education.

Chancellor Fingerhut responded that he would be willing to provide some administrative support

Chancellor will prepare a directive would organize the OFC officially. Its role will be advisory to the Chancellor.

Q: What are the high impact items for budget change?

A (Chancellor): We are still in the process of developing the items, for example matching scholarship programs with university fund raising.

Providing forgivable loans instead of scholarships as incentives for graduates to stay in the state.

The Chancellor stated that he was opposed to mandating textbooks, but was not opposed to using incentives to encourage faculty to use low cost alternatives.

Dr. Cuppoletti thanked the Chancellor (2:15)

## **Campus Reports**

### **(OU)**

The President and Provost expressed interest in moving to semesters. A committee was to be formed in the fall to oversee the change. Aspects of the decision and the time table for such a change had insufficient faculty input.

A resolution calling for collective bargaining had been introduced in Faculty Senate in May. It would be reintroduced in September for first reading, with a Faculty Senate vote in October.

Q: Which bargaining unit.

A: Maybe AAUP.

### **(OSU)**

OSU will begin considering a change to semesters, but not until after changes in the computer operating system had been completed.

### **(WSU)**

The AAUP bargaining unit and WSU administration had reached agreement on a new contract. It included a 10% salary increase over 3 years, plus compression adjustments.

WSU had hired a VP for development.

A committee has been established to plan for the change to semesters.

Policies on free speech were being examined.

### **(CSU)**

A search committee for a new President had been formed, with two faculty members on the committee.

College requests for replacing vacant positions were being denied at an “unprecedented rate.”

### **(UA)**

Akron’s mayor had proposed leasing the city’s sewer system to a private corporation and using the lease money to fund college scholarships for Akron public school students to attend UA.

A dispute over the amount of money to be paid a landowner by UA for property to be used to build an on-campus football stadium and new dorm through eminent domain was still in court.

The NCA/Higher Learning Commission has just issued its report on the governance accreditation site visit.

**(YSU)**

Three of four unions have reached contract agreements with the YSU administration.

Two summer programs- an arts festival and honors program- emphasized STEM this summer.

Dr. A. Bennett, the head of NSF, had spent a day at YSU opening its new instrumentation building.

YSU had been accepted into the NCA accreditation academy.

**(BGSU)**

On July 22 a special session of the Faculty Senate had been held to discuss issues of shared governance. It was an information-sharing meeting so no resolutions were proposed, nor votes taken.

The university was in the process of becoming more involved in strategic planning. It would begin holding 'town hall' meetings in the various colleges to discuss strategic planning

**(UC)**

The AAUP and UC administration had agreed to take clinicians out of the bargaining unit.

**The meeting was adjourned at 2:40.**

**Next meeting: Friday, September 12, 2008**

Respectfully submitted,

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