



The Ohio Faculty Council

Present: Fenwick, Sterns (UA); Lloyd, Rousmaniere (Miami); Cuppoletti, Hall (UC); Duffy, Sawicki, Ray (CSU); Hamilton (SSU); Gallegos (NEOUCOM); Bloemer (OU); Wolff (UT)/ King, Cooper (YSU); Bernhard, Williams (BGSU); Billman, Gunther (OSU); Sudkamp (WSU)

Guests Present: University Government Affairs Representatives: O'Brien (OSU); Briggs (UA); Geiger (OU); Suver (IUC); Cook (KSU); Binning (YSU)

OFC was called to order at 12:25.

Minutes of October 10, 2008 meeting approved with minor corrections.

Dr. Cuppoletti announced that OFC would meet with Associate Chancellor Danley-Gelman at the December 12 meeting.

Material for the OFC website has been received by OBOR.

OFC discussed whether there should be a formal agenda sent to members one week prior to the monthly meetings.

12:40 Conference call with Chancellor Fingerhut

Chancellor Fingerhut reported progress toward goals of the USO plan: Growing enrollment; the lowest tuition increase of any state (0%). A report about the plan was coming out in the *Chronicle of Higher Education*.

The Chancellor discussed budget issues regarding developing the USO. He stated that higher education will continue to be a top budget priority. The new budget will be developed at the "low point" of the economic cycle, so improved budget prospects would come as the economy improved.

Q: Could the Chancellor provide details on the budget?

A: The budget would be a "contraction" budget; it would be smaller than last year's budget. State revenues were declining- decline in income and sales taxes.

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Priority would be given general subsidies (SSI and general financial aid) over specific line items when developing the new higher education budget.

Q: Would the tuition freeze continue?

A: It was the Chancellor's hope that it would; it was his hope that the state could maintain its level of SSI support. Many factors would be examined before a decision could be reached. It was vital to maintain the USO goal of affordability.

Q: What happens if the economic recovery begins in 2009 or 2010?

A: The state could build in contingencies for more funding if and when the economy picks up during the budget cycle.

Q: What impact would President-Elect Obama's promise of free tuition for national service have?

A: Ohio will participate and help develop the plan. State would align with national policy.

Q: What are the impacts of the economic downturn on private colleges?

A: The USO plan is for public schools. Although private colleges impact overall state educational attainment, the impact is not as great as that of public universities.

Chair Cuppoletti thanked Chancellor Fingerhut for taking time to talk to the OFC.

1:00 Conference Call ended

Follow up

OFC discussed whether an absolute tuition freeze would remain; or whether tuition increases (if they happened) would be tied to changes in overall and school specific state subsidies.

Q: Was the "Chancellor's Directive (establishing the OFC as official group) done?

A: (Cuppoletti) It was not complete.

Dr. Sudkamp reported on the "Senior to Sophomore" program. The most critical concerns were (1) quality, and (2) admission criteria.

Who will teach in the program offering off-site dual enrollment credits? The Higher Learning Commission's criteria: MA in the field. There were problems with the standard, especially in math. How appropriate are college entrance requirements for program when students would be applying when they were HS juniors?

OFC discussed potential questions for the university government affairs representatives. Possible questions: what is the scope of their duties? Is there an organization of government affairs representative, an organizational structure? What changes were/would occur after the November election? What are their roles in the budget process; intervention points in that process?

1:30 Introduction of Government Affairs representatives and discussion

Government affairs described their roles as advocacy and monitoring the legislative process.

Q: Is there a new approach to the budgeting process with the USO? What happens with the new budget? When are there intervention points in the process?

A: Government affairs representatives try to have a singular voice for higher education. Would know by late January what the budget would look like from the governor's office. But then the legislative process takes over.

Q: Would contingencies be built into the budget for increased higher education funding if the economy and financial situation of the state picked up?

A: It would be more likely that there would be supplemental budgets.

Q: Have faculty met with legislators and university government affairs representatives?

A: Many have.

Q: Where/how can faculty help?

A: Develop working relationships with the universities' government affairs representatives. Faculty should consider the government affairs representatives as resources. We will need help from faculty senates and from unionized faculty.

Q: Can you foresee problems with the change from Republican to Democratic control in the Ohio House?

A: For universities located in urban areas, longtime local Democratic House members will have more influence in next legislature (committee chairs, etc.).

There are many new legislators due to the turnover created by term limits. Government affairs representatives would get to know them and identify "rising leaders" among new legislators.

Q: How could faculty make known our roles in state economic growth outside the classroom- our role in research, community involvement?

A: Be responsive to questions, requests from government affairs departments; provide quick turn around on requests.

Q: When it comes to influencing policy/legislations, what are the distinctions between the role of faculty and our roles as private citizens?

A: Faculty are representing their university and should go through and coordinate with the university's administration. As private citizens, do not use university resources in communicating with legislators.

Q: What are the "hot" legislative topics regarding higher education?

A: The USO plan.

Q: What was being done regarding Obama's plan to provide free tuition for those who have performed national service?

A: At this point, that policy is at the federal level.

Q: Recently, there have been issues involving how faculty perform their roles, e.g., "creationism" and the "academic bill of rights." How can government affairs representatives help faculty address these issues?

A: Inform university government affairs representative; coordinate with universities' professional affairs committee.

Q: What was the status of HB 315 (regarding retirees' health insurance)?

A: It would be reintroduced in January.

Q: Has the IUC taken a position on the bill?

A: IUC has communicated support for "a solution" to the problem of health care solvency as a way to attract faculty to Ohio universities.

OFC members thanked the government affairs representative for engaging in this discussion.

2:30 Discussion with Government Affairs Representative ended.

Campus Reports

(Miami)

The university was undergoing budget cuts and the reallocation of graduate assistantships was turning into cuts in those assistantships.

(OSU)

\$10m of the school budget was being held in reserve to cope with anticipated budget short falls.

A Conversion Committee was looking into switching to semesters. A report was due during the winter. It seemed the switch (if it occurred) was likely in 2012.

(BGSU)

Dr. Ellen Williams was the new chair of the faculty senate.

This has been a “season of forums” regarding (1) the budget, (2) non-tenure track faculty, who comprise about one-third of all faculty, and are concerned with having a voice, (3) AAUP membership and organizing, and (4) the advantages/disadvantages of collective bargaining.

(YSU)

There had been a campus wide forum on violence.

YSU had joined the HLC Assessment Academy.

(OU)

The BOT had hired a national firm to evaluate the president and paid the firm \$35k.

The faculty senate passed a resolution to pursue collective bargaining.

Enrollment was up; and there had been no budget cuts.

(WSU)

Enrollment increased 5%, to a total of 17k.

The university was identifying criteria for centers of excellence.

(UA)

The university was moving toward a new governance structure that would include a University Council in addition to the Faculty Senate. The UC would have representation from 8 university constituencies.

The university was developing initiatives in Bio-innovation, linking UA, NEOUCOM, and area hospitals.

(NEOUCOM)

Hiring to be limited to “time specific” faculty.

Campus development plan had been put on hold.

(UT)

Two labor contracts had been approved by their memberships: (1) tenure track faculty and (2) non-tenure track lecturers. There would be a 16% salary increase over 4 years, but health care givebacks.

The university was re-examining position openings and whether to continue the hiring progress.

(SSU)

Enrollment had increased to a total of over 4,000 for the first time in school history.

The faculty and university administration were entering into union contract negotiations.

(UC)

The semester conversion plan was presented to the BOT.

Committees were looking at centers of excellence, and college restructuring.

The College of Engineering and the College of Applied Science was being combined with no faculty input.

The faculty senate was planning to look at by-laws.

There was a hiring “frost.”

There might be mid-year budget cuts, but UC was in relatively good shape.

(CSU)

The Presidential search committee was having an open forum. The committee was composed of 14 members, of whom 2 were faculty members.

There had been a one day strategic planning event. Two centers of excellence had been proposed: (1) health and (2) civic engagement.

3:05 OFC adjourned.

Next meeting: Friday, December 12, 2008.

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Respectfully submitted,

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