



The Ohio Faculty Council

Present: Bloemer (OU); Hall, Cuppoletti (UC); King, Cooper (YSU); Bernhard (BGSU)l Wolff (UT); Ray (CSU); Billman (OSU); Fenwick (UA)

OFC was called to order at 12:25.

Campus Reports

(UT)

Voting on labor contracts- one for tenure track faculty and the other for instructors was to finish on October 13.

Student enrollment was up 4-5%.

(BGSU)

There was a decline in student enrollment that led to a \$2.9m budget deficit.

BGSU was preparing for its 100 year anniversary. Along with Kent State it would be a joint celebration.

There was enough faculty interest to plan an FYI series, panel discussion on October 21 on “Collective Bargaining and Shared Governance in Ohio Universities.

(YSU)

Chancellor Fingerhut visited YSU and met with many constituencies. Discussion included developing a community college for the Mahoning Valley. When it is developed, “open access” will become the purview of the community college and YSU would become an urban research university

The community college is a four county project to begin in the fall of '09. Initial offerings would cover gaps in YSU offerings.

YSU was celebrating its 100 year anniversary on October 25.

An evaluation of the YSU president was underway and a report was due out soon.

There were rumors of budget cuts.

Student enrollment was up, to an overall total of about 14k.

The OFC website was transferring to OBOR.

YSU was undergoing a VSA assessment of undergraduates, developing a university “profile.”

(UC)

Enrollment was up to over 37k. ACT scores, retention rates and athletic academic scores had all increased.

There is a high level of involvement by faculty in governance at the university level, but not at the college level.

Clinical faculty were continuing to work with the administration to redefine their conditions of employment.

The faculty senate executive committee was looking into writing a handbook for faculty.

(UA)

Student enrollment was up over 5%.

(OU)

Trustees had approved the transition to semesters beginning in 2012.

The faculty senate was to vote on October 13 on a resolution as to whether to go forward with efforts at unionization of faculty.

There was an on-going discussion between the faculty senate and the BOT to get non-voting faculty representatives on the BOT to improve communications between the two parties.

(OSU)

There were discussion on moving from quarters to semesters, but no decision on the conversion had been made, no committee to study the transition had been formed. OSU might coordinate its possible transition with those of other universities making the transition, but nothing had been decided.

Student enrollment was about the same. ACT scores for freshmen were the highest in school history. The freshman retention rate was 92.4%.

(CSU)

CSU is looking for a new president. Former OFC rep Sheldon Gelman was on the search committee.

CSU and Miami University had objected to the new funding formula that came from the IUC, in that the formula only takes into account entering freshmen and not transfer students.

New Business

OFC discussed possible guests to invite to the meetings. Suggestions included the new Speaker of the House, once that was decided after the elections. Possible invite the Speaker for February. Other suggestions were the Majority leader of the Senate, members of the House and Senate budget committees.

Other suggestions included Bruce Johnson, president of the IUC, Butleworth, chair of the organization for Ohio community colleges.

OFC would try to invite the legislative liaisons representing the different universities to the November meeting in order to discuss the challenges facing Ohio universities and how faculty could help meet them. OFC members were asked to contact their respective liaisons with the invitations and have them contact Chair Cuppoletti, who would coordinate.

Another possible invitee was Randy Gardner, the Chair of the House Education Finance Committee, maybe for December.

OFC needs to check on the progress of the Chancellor's Directive establishing OFC as an official body.

It was suggested that OFC ask for a monthly Chancellor's Briefing, a written document to the OFC update the group on issues in higher education.

OFC adjourned at 2pm.

Next meeting: Friday, November 14, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,

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M I N U T E S
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