



The Ohio Faculty Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on February 13, 2009

Present: Fenwick (UA); Bernhard (BGSU); King (YSU); Wolff (UT); Billman, Gerber (OSU); Ray (CSU); Sudkamp (WSU); Bourguet (NEOUCOM); Bloemer (OU); Cuppoletti (UC)

12:15 Meeting called to order by Chair Cuppoletti

Minutes of the January 9, 2009 meeting were approved unanimously.

New Business

Chair Cuppoletti began by discussing the recent request from the Chancellor/OBOR's office regarding the "Second Educational Conditions Report" on universities infrastructure and technology. OFC had been asked to comment on three questions:

1. Have the proper questions been asked in the report?
2. Are the data on infrastructure and technology valid?
3. What should be emphasized?

Chair Cuppoletti sought suggestions from the OFC for his letter in response to these questions.

Suggestions:

- While electronic learning can do some things, many buildings need updating and repair before they would be ready.
- Schools should be linked electronically.
- Should be user input about the design of electronically delivered education

Conclusions to emphasize:

- Make sure we have the appropriate hard and software before we begin.
- Need to make sure we have the adequate number of personnel to make the system work.
- Make sure we have a well developed knowledge/theory of electronic pedagogy.

OFC then discussed the OFC ad hoc committee on higher education committees representation.

Cuppoletti began the discussion by asking whether and how OFC should be involved in statewide OBOR committees, especially if they included representation from other higher ed constituents: IUC, students, community colleges, etc.

Do such committees have any power since the chancellor now has many of the powers over academic programs that belonged to OBOR. These powers are described in #3333.04 of the Ohio Revised Code.

Should OFC help create or be a part of a body that has representatives from the other higher education constituencies?

Pros of OFC involvement: Such a body would create a mechanism in which all stake holders have a place to hear each other and offer advice to the Chancellor.

Cons: Such a body would be less a source of advice for the Chancellor and more a vehicle for disseminating information from the Chancellor's office.

Such a joint body would water down the influence/voice of the OFC and university faculty.

It was suggested that OFC receive a monthly email from the Chancellor when he could not attend the OFC meeting. Such an email would detail ongoing issues and developments in higher education. It was also suggested that the email should be received and disseminated to the OFC at least one week before the OFC meeting.

OFC then voted to remove from the table and discuss the resolution (introduced in January) endorsing the "Employment Nondiscrimination Act" (HB 502/SB 305). After discussion, the OFC voted in favor of the resolution 10-0, with one abstention.

OFC then discussed the election of its officers for the next 2 academic years, starting in September 2009. The election would be at the OFC April meeting. Hugh Bloemer, OU, was selected as the nominating committee. OFC members were polled as to whether they would be continuing for the next 2 years. A proposal was discussed to change OFC bylaws to allow the OFC chair to hold the position even if their term of elected OFC representative from their respected university had expired. If the chair continued to be an official representative from their university, the university would be allowed to elect a replacement representative since the chair is a non-voting officer.

Campus Reports

OU

The BOT resolved to add two faculty representatives to the board: The vice-chair of the senate and the chair of the senate's Finances and Facilities Committee

The president modified the search committee for provost to abide by the Faculty Handbook language and a resolution of the Faculty Senate.

The provost decided to use on-line evaluations of college deans. The senate was concerned that this type of evaluation would have unexpected effects.

OU was continuing with the transition to semesters.

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OSU

Tim Gerber has been elected chair-elect of the Faculty Council.

Deans had been asked to begin planning for budgets with possible cuts of 5% and 10%.

The school of agriculture had been hit hard financially because of the cuts to various line items in the state budget.

The University Senate will vote in March on the proposed conversion to semesters.

UA

The university was developing plans for potential budget shortfalls of between \$2-5m, based on maintaining spending lines in the last fiscal year budget, and \$7-10m, providing for new academic investments and employee raises.

Provost Stroble is leaving to become President of Webster University in St. Louis, MO.

Dr. Chand Midha, currently associate provost, has been appointed as acting dean of the college of arts and sciences.

YSU

Included in potential budget cuts are cuts to summer course offerings of 10%.

A hiring freeze had been instituted for staff and administrative positions unless the provost specifically agreed to continue the hire. There was no freeze on hiring for academic positions.

There was concern regarding how the university budget and the overall economy will affect scholarships.

UT

The university was developing budget models that included possible 7% and 15% cuts, although it was unlikely that cuts would be that deep, but dollars were being shift around with UT.

There was a semi-freeze on new searches, with approximately 20 continuing.

An increase in teaching loads was possible due to reducing visiting faculty positions.

There had been discussion about reducing the number of sabbaticals.

BGSU

President Cartwright had been appointed to a 2 year term as president.

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The provost had resigned, and a search was on for a new provost. A committee had been announced.

A new enrollment manager had been hired.

Budget cuts were estimated at \$7m.

It has been rumored that there will be a reconfiguration of BGSU.

Membership in the BGSU chapter of AAUP had grown to over 100.

UC

The president was leaving to become chancellor of the SUNY system.

UC had cut 19% (\$5m) from the arts and science college budget. The medical and engineering colleges had also taken big hits.

Clinical faculty (no longer covered under the AAUP contract) were now covered by the Faculty Senate through the Faculty Handbook. This also would include adjunct faculty.

Currently rewriting the bylaws in the Medical School.

The faculty senate had voted to approve the move to academic terms of 14 week semesters plus exam week.

2:30 OFC adjourned

Next meeting: Friday, March 13, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,
Rudy Fenwick
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