



The Ohio Faculty Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on January 9, 2009

Present: Fenwick (UA); Ingram, Bloemer (OU); Guntner, Billman (OSU); Milburn (Central State); Wolff (UT); Bernhard (BGSU); King (YSU); Duffy (CSU); Sudkamp (WSU)

12:30 Keith Bernhard, in place of John Cuppoletti, called OFC to order.

There was a brief informal discussion of OFC responses to state policy initiatives.

Old Business

Update on OFC website: would be up and running within 3-4 weeks.

New Business

Discussion of state-wide faculty governance models in other states.

Would a system-wide “academic senate” model undermine the faculty senates of individual universities?

Would continuing the OFC as an “institutional liaison” between state policy makers and university faculty senates be better?

Need to understand how decisions are made at the state level. What role does the IUC play?

Need to maintain faculty control over curriculum and educational quality.

It was suggested to have OFC representation on the OBOR, and/or have OFC representatives on OBOR committees as advisory members.

King (YSU) suggested OFC establish an ad hoc committee to look into OBOR committees and decision- making structures? Also should it look at laws and rules that give faculty control over academic affairs and curriculum; then report back to OFC?

Guntner (OSU), Ingram (OU), King (YSU), and Milburn (Central State) volunteered to serve on the committee.

OFC needs to be watchful of any attempts by the state or other bodies to homogenize educational curriculum and delivery.

Discussion of proposed bill “Employment Nondiscrimination Act” (SB#305/HB#502).

It was decided to postpone discussion until the February meeting because of a number of questions: what does bill actually say; where is it in the legislative process; how many university faculty senates have passed similar resolutions?

Campus Reports

WSU

Received news of upcoming budget cuts.

Continuing to explore moving to semesters. A campus-wide meeting would be held at the end of January to discuss to move. Such a move would have to be negotiated with the AAUP, regarding the academic calendar, teaching loads, etc.

CENTRAL STATE

Budget cuts were announced.

A hiring freeze was announced.

The AAUP was working without a contract; a fact-finding process was on-going.

OSU

Was moving to restructuring 5 A&S colleges into 1 with 3 divisions.

The Faculty Council had proposed having two faculty representatives on the BOT, and was expecting a response by April.

The Faculty Council was creating a position of faculty ombudsman.

The FC was attempting to strength the Governance Affairs Committee.

A committee had been formed to study the transition to semesters. Its report and a vote by the University Senate were due by the end of the winter quarter.

OU

Was transitioning from quarters to semesters. The estimated cost of moving to semesters was put at between \$2-3m. Faculty working on the transition would be compensated.

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Outsourcing the email serve for students was under discussion.

UA

The faculty senate had approved the creation of two colleges- a new health services college and a fine arts college by splitting the existing College of Fine and Applied Arts.

The Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences has stepped down. An acting dean would be appointed.

YSU

Broke ground for a new business school facility.

The head of HR had stepped down because of questions regarding the inappropriate reclassification of the lead negotiator for the staff union with a \$20k raise.

CSU

Had suspended all new searches, and froze all non-essential travel.

There would be an internal hire of a new engineering school dean.

UT

There was the possibility of budget cuts and position cuts, but it was still unclear what would happen.

The Faculty Senate was continuing discussions with the administration over faculty governance and its future role.

BGSU

The provost had stepped down.

The acting president had been offered and had accepted the position on a permanent basis- for 2 years.

The AAUP chapter was hoping to begin a union card campaign soon.

43 administrative staff had been laid off.

2:00 OFC adjourned

Next Meeting: Friday, February 13, 2009.

Respectfully submitted,
Rudy Fenwick

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