



The Ohio Faculty Council

Members Present:

University of Akron (Rudy Fenwick [Chair] and Harvey Sterns), Wright State University (Dan Krane [Secretary]), Miami University (Sara Butler), Central State University (Anthony Milburn), Youngstown State University (Chet Cooper [Vice Chair] and Ken Learnman), University of Toledo (Nick Piazza), Ohio State University (Jim Rathman and Myroslava M. Mudrak), Belmont Technical College (Carter Kaplan), Cleveland State University (Brian Ray and Joanne Goodell), Shawnee State University (Clifford Poirot) and Ohio University (Ann Paulins).

Members Absent:

Northeast Ohio Medical University (NEOMED), Kent State University, University of Cincinnati, and Bowling Green State University

Meeting called to order at 12:30 pm, October 14, 2011.

Agenda approved.

September 9, 2011 minutes approved.

Introductions were made among the members of the Ohio Faculty Council (OFC) in attendance.

New Business

Chet Cooper informed the Ohio Faculty Council that OhioLink looked as if it would be entering into a crisis that would be likely to have an impact on all Ohio universities – specifically, a loss of \$5.2 million in capitol funding from the state. Publishers were taking a hard stance in negotiating with OhioLink such that it was unlikely that any reduction in cost for access to on-line journals could be obtained. The OFC decided to bring this matter to the attention of Chancellor Petro and to impress upon him the alarming implications not just for academicians but also for industry and citizens of Ohio in general.

Sheldon Gelman (a faculty member at Cleveland State) was invited to share with the OFC his findings from a review of the materials obtained in response to a public records request from the Inter University Council (IUC) regarding the inclusion of Yeshiva

language in Ohio Senate Bill 5. Professor Gelman explained that it is hard to tell exactly what happened during the deliberations of the IUC because it appears to operate in a way that very deliberately makes little in the way of specific records of its discussions (e.g. meeting minutes simply report “a discussion was held” without giving particulars of the discussion or who expressed opinions). However, his conclusion is that every university president on the IUC favored the inclusion of Yeshiva language in Senate Bill 5 on February 21, 2011 based on testimony given by the chair of the ICU, Bruce Johnson on February 22, 2011. Professor Gelman feels that the initiative to include Yeshiva language did not come from above (e.g. the governor or his staff) but rather from members of the IUC. Most of the materials he has reviewed are from IUC staff members rather than university presidents but it appears as if collective bargaining reform began to be discussed in the IUC in December, 2010. It was the General Counsel for Bowling Green State University that actually wrote the Yeshiva language that was ultimately included in Senate Bill 5. The primary motivation seems to have been to create an opportunity to “unleash the creative energy of university presidents.” Had there not been such strong negative reaction to Senate Bill 5, Professor Gelman feels that it is likely that there would have been subsequent efforts to out-law tenure. The IUC and university presidents do seem to have been very sensitive to push back from faculty on Senate Bill 5.

Campus Reports

Shawnee State – Reworking of faculty governance and the faculty constitution is underway. Debates are underway with the Provost regarding the roles of faculty.

University of Akron – A new university council has been established that should help with faculty governance. This council has been in the works for five to six years. A new planning phase is also underway with a new Provost getting off to a good start.

Cincinnati State – Faculty went on strike for the first week of fall term regarding workload matters.

Miami – Ground has been broken for a new student center.

Central State – The university’s president will be retiring before the end of the current contract. Faculty are concerned about the institution returning to the “1995-era,” a time when dramatic cuts in budget and staffing were made.

Wright State University – A new vice president for fiscal affairs has been hired and will be starting in January, 2012. The university’s Board of Trustees approved revisions to the Faculty Constitution and Bylaws. A new contract has been agreed to between faculty and the administration.

Toledo – Moody’s and S&P ratings for the institution continue to be A-1 and A+, respectively. Phi Kappa Phi recognized the university as a campus of merit.

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Ohio University – Classes under semesters will be starting at 7:30 AM. All vice president positions are currently populated but several dean positions are open.

Belmont Technical College – The name of the institution will be changing to “Belmont College.” Teaching load on semesters will be 5-5. The Ohio Faculty Senate will meet on October 21 and Chancellor Petro is expected to attend.

Ohio State University – The university is anticipating a reduction in funding and has begun considering creative ideas about supporting the core mission of the university. Ideas that are being considered include leasing parking facilities, divesting the university’s private golf course and airport.

Youngstown State University – A contract between faculty and the administration has been agreed to with faculty salaries rising 0, 0 and 2% (respectively) over the course of the next three years along with increases in faculty health care costs and cuts to summer salaries.

Cleveland State University – A new contract between faculty and the administration is in place. Instructors will become 20% of the faculty – some of the hiring will be at the expense of tenure track faculty lines. The university is working on a partnership with NEOMED that would assure 35 slots each year for Cleveland State graduates.

The next meeting of the OFC will be on Friday, November 18, 2011 at 12:30 PM.

Meeting adjourned at 2:40 pm.