



## The Ohio Faculty Council

### Members Present:

University of Akron (Rudy Fenwick [Chair] and Harvey Sterns), Wright State University (Dan Krane [Secretary]), Northeast Ohio Medical University (Fred Eruo), Central State University (Anthony Milburn), Cleveland State (Joanne Goodell, Brian Ray), University of Toledo (Lawrence Anderson), Shawnee State (Mike Barnhart and Andrew Feight), and Youngstown State University (Chet Cooper [Vice Chair]).

### Members Absent:

University of Cincinnati, Kent State University, Ohio University, Ohio State University, Cleveland State University, Bowling Green State University, and Miami University.

### Special Guest:

Vice Chancellor (of Finance and Data Management) David Cannon

Rudy Fenwick called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM on April 13, 2012.

The meeting's agenda was approved by unanimous voice vote.

The minutes of the March 9, 2012 meeting of the Ohio Faculty Council were approved by unanimous consent of the members present.

### New Business

OFC Chair Rudy Fenwick introduced Vice Chancellor Dave Cannon.

Vice Chancellor Cannon began by saying that he would have liked to have had more information to share with the OFC regarding the State Share of Instruction (SSI) consultation but that the consultation process had been delayed at the request of the policy people in the Governor's Office. He will be meeting with those individuals on April 30 and does not anticipate any major differences or changes in the State's funding formula to be in the works.

Vice Chancellor Cannon asked if faculty were feeling pressure to graduate students so as to better capture funding from the State. Members of the OFC responded that faculty perceive that university administrations are sensitive to that.

Discussions turned to a perceived inequity associated with the way that the SSI formula rewards degree completion for transfer students. The Vice Chancellor provided a spreadsheet (attached) of the projected SSI distributions for the next fiscal year. It was

noted that 20% of the SSI funds (approximately \$206.6 million) will be awarded on the basis of how many degrees were awarded. Several members of the OFC commented that many students study at one university for one, two or three years but then obtain a degree from another institution. Since “degree attainment” is based solely on the number of degrees awarded (and not on the portion of a degree that was earned at each institution) there is a potential unfairness in the way those funds are being awarded. Vice Chancellor Cannon thought that his office would have the data in hand that would allow him to determine the extent to which this unfairly benefits or harms each Ohio university and that he would be able to report back to the OFC on that at the May OFC meeting.

Vice Chancellor Cannon repeated that he would like to obtain additional input from the OFC as part of the SSI consultation process and that he would be interested in attending the May and June OFC meetings for that input.

### **Campus Reports**

#### Shawnee State University

- Faculty are preparing to enter into contract negotiations with their administration.

#### Cleveland State University

- The university is coming close to the end of its first year on a new contract that contains substantial changes in workloads. Only one grievance has been filed so far.
- Not all faculty are represented by AAUP (e.g. faculty in the law school are not included). Discussions are underway to determine how to characterize workload and expectations in the university’s Policy Handbook for faculty who are organized and those that are not.

#### Wright State University

- The university’s Faculty Senate approved a workload agreement for the university’s non-bargaining unit faculty (approximately 150 instructors, lecturers and senior lecturers) that was likely to be rejected by the university’s administration.
- A search for a new dean of the College of Liberal Arts had failed. Searches were underway for deans for the Medical and the Business schools.

#### Central State University

- There has been a major restructuring of the university’s colleges.
- Searches are underway for two deans as well as an associate dean for the university’s University College. Searches are also underway for a new Provost and the university’s president will be retiring. Faculty have been disappointed with their involvement in the search process.
- Faculty have worked for year without a contract. Negotiations with the administration are on-going.

#### University of Toledo

- The university completed a two-year long revision of the general education portion of its curriculum.
- The university's Board of Trustees bylaws are changing. There is a concern that conversations with the Board will be curtailed by the implementation of a policy that would have the Board "speak with one voice."
- The university's President is supporting the creation of a "University Council" in addition to the university's existing Faculty Senate. The proposed council would consist of approximately 34 individuals including students, alumni and staff and will be allowed to control the university's curriculum (the Faculty Senate would report to the council).
- The university's Provost is retiring. A provost search advisory committee has been working to have a new provost by July 1.
- It has been announced that the university's medical benefits have been incorrectly reported on W2 forms for the past several years.

#### NEOMED

- A committee is working to give advice on pay structures and increases.

#### Youngstown State University

- The last two Academic Senate meetings have had spirited discussions regarding the need to require students to learn a foreign language. The matter was resolved by a 31 to 27 vote in favor of allowing BS programs to remove foreign language requirements as they saw fit.

#### University of Akron

- A new strategic plan has been fully published. It has benefited from a large amount of faculty input.
- A new University Council has been in place for about five months. It is designed to take back many faculty functions that were assumed by the administration when the faculty unionized. Caucuses about potential budget cuts of up to 6% have led to a series of budget information forums for the campus community.
- Two colleges, Arts and Sciences and Professional Arts, have been joined together.
- The university's Provost has asked units to report the likely effects of either a 3% or 6% budget cut in the next fiscal year.

#### The Ohio State University

- The university's HR department will soon begin the process of rolling out a series of rather large changes to our health benefits system. We are moving more strongly towards a system in which the cost of a given plan will be directly tied to how well employees and their dependents satisfy certain expectations (e.g., seeing your doctor at regular intervals) and meet health-related goals based on biometric screenings. Broad discussions are just beginning but faculty seem generally supportive as long as expectations and goals are not extreme.
- An ad hoc committee of faculty from our regional campuses will report on their efforts over the past year to identify and address issues specific to these faculty positions. We believe this will be a positive step forward to insure that our

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- regional campus colleagues are treated fairly and are properly recognized and appreciated within their TIUs on the main campus.
- The Buckeyes made it to the Final Four and whipped Kansas convincingly in the first half of their semi-final game. Unfortunately, there was a second half.

The next meeting of the Ohio Faculty Council will be on Friday, May 11, 2012 at 12:30 PM.

It was suggested that a discussion regarding the roles and structures of faculty governance at each of the OFC's member institutions would be helpful. The advantages and disadvantages of university councils in particular might help guide discussions at institutions considering creating such councils.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:35 PM.