



## The Ohio Faculty Council

### Members Present:

University of Akron (Rudy Fenwick [Chair] and Harvey Sterns), Ohio State University (Myroslava Mudrak and Jim Rathman), Ohio University (Nicholas Kiersey) Shawnee State (Mike Barnhart and Andrew Feight), and Youngstown State University (Ken Learman and Chet Cooper [Vice Chair])

### Members Absent:

Central State University, Kent State University, Cleveland State University, and Miami University. Wright State University, Northeast Ohio Medical University, University of Cincinnati, University of Toledo, and Bowling Green State University

### Special Guests:

Mr. Michael Nefh, Executive Director of STRS

Ms. Terri Bierdeman, Director of Government Relations, STRS

Rudy Fenwick called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM on March 9, 2012.

In the absence of Dan Krane, OFC Secretary, Chet Cooper volunteered to record the proceedings of the day's meeting.

The meeting's agenda was approved by consent of those present.

### **Status of STRS Changes**

OFC Chair Rudy Fenwick introduced Mr. Nefh and Ms. Bierdeman. Ms. Bierdeman provided a legislative update to the OFC regarding the status of proposed changes to the STRS. In short, last year's issues surrounding Senate Bill 5 stopped legislative consideration of the proposed STRS changes. There is a 50/50 chance that the Ohio Senate will approve the changes this year, but given the remaining time left this for legislative action it would be difficult to immediately implement them. Ms. Bierdeman reported that, instead, the Governor was receptive to including pension changes into the upcoming biennial budget discussions.

Mr. Nefh then discussed recent changes to actuarial assumptions pertaining to STRS and how these might possibly impact the pension reform plan. These changes will likely include a 2% COLA increase and a 1% increase in employee contributions. However, these changes will not happen this year and are not likely to be implemented until 2015.

A question and answer session followed between OFC members, Mr. Nefh, and Ms. Bierdeman. After this, the latter individuals excused themselves from the meeting.

## **Minutes**

The minutes of the February 10, 2012 meeting of the Ohio Faculty Council were approved by unanimous consent of the members present with the following two corrections:

The new parking fee for Ohio State will be \$720 per year.

The campus report from Shawnee State University was missing. Representatives from this institution will send the report to OFC Secretary Dan Krane for inclusion in the revised minutes.

## **New Business**

Rudy Fenwick reminded members that Vice Chancellor Dave Cannon will join the OFC meeting next month

## **Campus Reports**

### Shawnee State University

- The Higher Learning Commission has accredited the university through the 2018/2019 academic year.
- The Teacher Education Program is preparing for their upcoming NCATE accreditation visit.
- The 2012 Princeton Review has ranked the university's Games Simulation Program as 7<sup>th</sup> best in the country.

### Ohio State University

- Proposed rule changes regarding caps on Clinic Track Faculty are being discussed with particular concern raised related to the implications upon tenure.

### Youngstown State University

- No report

### Ohio University

- The Board of Trustees will be considering a faculty resolution regarding the implementation a more scrutinized approach of contracts signed to permit fracking on university property.

### University of Akron

- Renovations for various campus buildings are being planned.
- The Higher Learning Commission has notified the university that it now falls under new accreditation rules.
- Revisions to the general education policy are being considered.
- Mergers between different colleges are proceeding with new relationships being struck up among various departments.
- A University Council has been established that will take over some of the functions that were lost upon unionization. There are five different constituencies represented of which the faculty are one.

Wright State University

- The following report was submitted electronically by Dan Krane. It is presented in its entirety as received.

"Final exams for our last winter quarter will be given next week. Three dean searches (Business, Medicine and Liberal Arts) are underway and to the point of having either airport or campus interviews. The WSU Faculty Senate passed 13 resolutions and made 2 policy changes all aimed at better ensuring the success of at risk students. Work is underway to formulate admissions policies, and to develop summer bridge programs that better prepare incoming students for coursework."

The next meeting of the Ohio Faculty Council will be on Friday, April, 13 2012 at 12:30 PM.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chet Cooper', written in a cursive style.

Chet Cooper, Vice Chair (Secretary Pro Tem)