



The Ohio Faculty Council

Members Present:

University of Akron (Rudy Fenwick [Chair] and Bill Rich), Wright State University (Dan Krane [Vice Chair]), Ohio State University (Kay Halasek), Ohio University (Nicholas Kiersey), University of Cincinnati (Adrienne Lane), and Cleveland State University (Joel Lieske), University of Toledo (Nick Piazza), Kent State (Mack Hassler and Ralph Lindeman), Youngstown State University (Ken Learman), Central State University (Anthony Milburn), Shawnee State University (Michael Barnhart and Andrew Feight), and Bowling Green State University (Mark Earley).

Members Absent:

NEOMED and Miami University.

Chair Rudy Fenwick called the meeting to order at 12:30 PM on February 8, 2013.

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

The minutes of the December 12, 2012 meeting of the Ohio Faculty Council were approved by unanimous consent of the members present.

Old Business

Governor Kasich's proposed budget would result in a 1.9% increase in the state's allocation for SSI (State Share of Instruction). It would allow the greater of: a 2% increase in tuition and fees (only for fees that are paid by all students), or the mean increase in dollars that the 13 state universities could raise tuition and fees (so as to allow institutions with historically low tuition and fees to increase more than those with higher tuition and fees). The budget does not contain a mandated workload for faculty.

New Business

Nick Piazza informed the Ohio Faculty Council that the University of Toledo is predicting that it will have a \$25-40 million shortfall over the next 1.5 years. The university's administration says that its only profit center is tuition and that cost centers need to be minimized. This strategy is leading to a reduction in the number of part time faculty and an increase in the teaching load for tenure-track faculty. The administration is endeavoring to get as many faculty as possible to teach a full 12 credit hour per semester load. For a class to count toward that load it must contain a minimum of 30 undergraduates, 15 MS students or 8 doctoral students. A new contract between the

university and AAUP has not been approved in more than two years and workloads are now being approved at the provost-level (not by chairs or deans). Faculty are concerned that the university is \$450 million in debt, has spent \$330 million on construction in the past 7 years and is beginning construction on a \$36 million simulation center.

The University of Cincinnati, Akron University, Ohio University and Central State University representatives all report that there are discussions regarding an increase in workload their institutions too. The general trend seems to be to place non-tenure eligible faculty on short-term contracts

Chair Rudy Fenwick suggested that it would be helpful for faculty senates at the four-year state universities in Ohio to discuss what is happening at the University of Toledo and consider passing a resolution in support of the faculty's position there. It is a concern that the University of Toledo's approach will provide it a competitive advantage that will cause other state university administrations to adopt the same strategy.

Mark Earley reported that the administration of Bowling Green State University had announced in January that benchmarking had found that the institution employed 100 too many faculty. Forty to 60 faculty leave/retire from the university every year. It is expected that approximately 50 part time faculty positions will need to be reduced so as to meet the goal of eliminating 100 faculty positions. Average class sizes at the university will certainly increase. Bowling Green's Senate is asking why faculty positions are being targeted before budget items associated with the university's athletics program or its administration. The concern that cuts due to attrition are not strategic and inconsistent with current searches for 26 tenure-track positions.

Chair Rudy Fenwick began a discussion about Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) by saying that the University of Akron is considering being involved in the development of a MOOC for introductory courses where students would need to pass a series of tests to demonstrate mastery of the subject matter. The American Council on Education (ACE) announced at the end of January that it was recommending that five MOOCs were eligible for college credit. It was pointed out that universities are no longer in the business of selling knowledge now that information is abundant – instead universities need to focus on what they can deliver that adds value to how students use and communicate information. Ohio State is developing a writing/composition MOOC with funding from the Gates Foundation so that they can control the pedagogy. Completion rates for MOOCs to date has been quite low – generally 5% or less.

Campus Reports

Wright State University

- The university has successfully completed a dean search for its College of Liberal Arts.
- A search for a new permanent provost is underway with six finalists (two internal candidates and four external) interviewing on campus over the span of three

weeks. An appointment is expected in the middle of March with the new individual starting work on campus not later than July 1.

- Searches for a new associate provost for faculty and staff affairs and a new dean of the graduate school will begin once a new provost is appointed.
- The university's Faculty Senate is reworking its constitution and by-laws to make it easier to make innovative changes to the curriculum.
- The university's Faculty Senate is strongly recommending that the university create a new administrative position, chief information officer, at the vice president level. The interim provost has acted very quickly on the recommendation and is bringing in a group of three CIOs to review the proposal and assess the university's needs.

Ohio State University

- New Provost (effective July 1, 2013)—Joe Steinmetz (currently Executive Dean, ASC—has been appointed
- New VP for HR (effective February 25, 2013)— Andraea Douglass, “a seasoned professional, with particular expertise in aligning organizational culture with strategy and structure. She has worked with a diverse range of organizations, from Nationwide Insurance to Merck Pharmaceuticals to the United States Air Force”—has been appointed
- Mike Hofherr has been promoted from Senior Director of Learning Technology to Associate Vice President of the newly reorganized Distance Education and eLearning
- Faculty Council has named an ad hoc committee to review the SEI (Student Evaluation of Instruction), with a report anticipated by the end of Spring term.
- The University community continues conversations regarding a tobacco-free campus environment
- Initial inquiries regarding STRS investments in weapons manufacturers have been forwarded to Faculty Leaders, who have solicited information from OFC and CIC faculty senates.
- A collaborative working group (faculty, staff, and administration) continues work toward a proposal for a faculty/staff ridership program with COTA.
- Recently, questions have arisen regarding processes for investigating and hearing accusations of faculty research misconduct. The Senate Steering Committee and Faculty Leaders are integrally involved in discussions regarding possible revisions to University Rules.
- The Sophomore Transformational Experience Program (STEP) is moving forward under the leadership of Faculty Council chair-elect Professor Leslie Alexander.
- At its January 2013 meeting, the University Senate passed (and the Board of Trustees approved at its February meeting) a new rule that extends the length of contracts for auxiliary faculty from one to three years. Individual units may elect to now extend contracts of that length to its auxiliary faculty (but are not obligated to do so).

Kent State University

M I N U T E S

OFC Meeting • February 8, 2013

- Our student enrollment for Spring 2013 is holding steady, in fact with a small increase. But our student services are fully aware of demographics and tell us to anticipate working with fewer students in the near future.
- The hire of a new dean for Arts and Sciences is in the final phases, and of the three finalists two are women.
- The bargaining unit for our NTT Faculty has nearly concluded negotiations for a new contract with the Administration. As with the recent TT contract, the bargaining has taken many months.
- With regard to faculty who are a part of the College of Podiatric Medicine, which is now part of Kent State, our Administration and Senate have yet to determine the representation that these faculty will have on Faculty Senate. Our current bylaws recognize only two types of faculty, TT and NTT. We are wrestling with “Professional Faculty” in this new college in our system.
- The MidWest Decision Sciences Institute will hold its annual conference at Kent State’s new Regional Academic Center in April. Papers are due March 1.

University of Cincinnati

- Provost search active – over 100 applicants, narrowing to couple dozen – then to 8 or so.
- Also searching for deans including: engineering, pharmacy, graduate school and CECH.
- Response to CCO – addressing awarding of credit for experience. Getting into MOOC – Innovations and Design course. Faculty Senate interested in more involvement with CCO response.
- Athletics – goal for stadium renovation – not from General funds – looking to move out of Big East.

The next meeting of the Ohio Faculty Council will be on Friday, March 8, 2013 at 12:30 PM.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 PM.