



The Ohio Faculty Council

Members Present:

University of Akron (Rudy Fenwick [Chair]), Wright State University (Dan Krane [Vice Chair]), Ohio State University (Kay Halasek), Ohio University (Nicholas Kiersey and Leslie Alexander), Youngstown State University (Chet Cooper [Secretary] and Ken Learman), Central State University (Anthony Milburn), University of Toledo (Mary Humphrys), Bowling Green State University (Ann Drake), Shawnee State University (Michael Barnhart and Drew Feight), and University of Cincinnati (Andrienne Lane)

Members Absent:

Northeast Ohio Medical University, Cleveland State University, Kent State, and Miami University

Guest:

Bruce Johnson, President of the Inter University Council (IUC)

Chair Rudy Fenwick called the meeting of the Ohio Faculty Council (OFC) to order at 12:30 PM on September 13, 2013. The meeting began in the 2nd floor conference room of the Ohio Board of Regents building (25 South Front Street, □Columbus, Ohio), then moved to the 7th floor conference room at 1:00 PM.

Given the presence of new representatives to the Ohio Faculty Council (OFC), each individual introduced himself or herself.

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

Corrections to the minutes of the May 10, 2013 meeting of the OFC were received from OBOR Vice Chancellor Stephanie Davidson (a guest at the previous OFC meeting) and Adriane Lane (University of Cincinnati). Pending these corrections, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent of the members present.

Old Business

None

New Business

Rudy presented a brief report regarding the response of the American Association of University Professors to President Obama's proposed educational reforms.

Bruce Johnson was introduced. He described the function of the IUC then addressed the following issues:

- A capital budget bill will be introduced to the legislature next year that requests \$500 million.
- A mid-biennial budget review will soon begin.
- Because general accounting rules are changing, universities will have to list unfunded pension liabilities.
- President Obama's proposals for higher education could be significant if they can be passed. He seemed to think this was unlikely.

A question and answer period followed Mr. Johnson's presentation. This was followed by a discussion of various issues subsequent to Mr. Johnson's departure from the meeting.

Dan Krane, along with David Hopkins, President of Wayne State University, has co-authored an op-ed piece (*Higher education: An Investment Guaranteed to Pay Off*) to be published in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* and possibly newspapers within Ohio. A copy of this op-ed article was distributed to OFC representatives. It was moved, seconded, and approved by unanimous voice vote that Dan sign this article as the incoming OFC chair.

(Secretary's note added subsequent to the OFC meeting: see the following URL - <http://www.vindy.com/news/2013/sep/22/value-of-college-increases-in-ohio>).

Campus Reports

Bowling Green State University (Ann Drake)

- No report at this time

Youngstown State University (Ken Learman)

- The new president has begun his tenure
- The university is experiencing a multimillion dollar deficit
- Enrollment is down by 3%
- The provost has put off retirement, at the new president's request, until June 2014.

Central State University (Anthony Milburn)

- A slight enrollment decrease will have financial consequences including the freezing of faculty hires.
- A new provost and a couple of new deans have been hired

University of Toledo (Mary Humphrys)

- Enrollment is down by 3.3%
- Faculty are still in negotiations having not had a contract in 3 years
- Shared governance has become an issue of concern among faculty given the present circumstances and events that have transpired.

Ohio State University (Kay Halasek)

- The former provost is now serving as interim president following Dr. Gee's retirement. A search for a new president is underway.
- An effort is being made to fund a ridership program for faculty and staff.
- A review is being conducted of the committee that examines patent rights and commercialization.

Ohio University (Nick Kiersey)

- Enrollment has increased this semester.
- Regional campus programs have expanded greatly.
- Non-tenure track faculty may now be considered for promotion, but not tenure.
- A request of OFC members was made regarding how each member institution is responding to new health-care mandates. A brief discussion followed.
- A \$200 million bond has been floated to build dorms
- An initiative has been started to fix salary inequities

University of Cincinnati (Adrienne Lane – provided by email)

Contract Negotiations, which started March 1, are continuing...these have been very,very slow.

Since OFC May meeting, UC has on-boarded the following:

Dean of Pharmacy
Provost...Dr. Beverly Davenport from Purdue
VP Student Affairs

We continue to have an Interim Dean of Engineering.

Overall enrollment is up: greater than 43,000 students. International student enrollment has increased also.

Faculty Concerns: 1) funding/subsidy of Athletics and funding of Nippert Stadium renovation and 2) Tenure/Tenure Track faculty viability related to pressures, changes, refoci, etc.

Wright State University (Dan Krane)

- Enrollment is steady this year after decreasing 6% last year

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- The university has entered into a mutually beneficial services agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation regarding the purchasing, storage, and usage of salt for the winter months
- A number of active searches for various administrative positions are ongoing.

University of Akron (Rudy Fenwick)

- Faculty contract has been extended until 2015 with a 2% raise.
- Enrollment has declined 6%.
- The deficit is at least \$25 million.
- The Board of Trustees passed a new admission policy that makes the university “slightly selective”

Closing Remarks

Rudy announced that no other nominations for OFC officers have been received. Representatives at the meeting did not place others on the ballot. Therefore, by acclamation, Dan Krane will be OFC Chair for the next two years; Chet Cooper will serve as Vice Chair for one year; and Ken Learman will serve a one-year term as Secretary.

Rudy further stated his best wishes for continued success of the elected officers and that he would continue to represent the University of Akron for the time being.

The next meeting of the Ohio Faculty Council will be on Friday, October 11, 2013 at 12:30 PM in the OBOR Building.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,



Chester R. Cooper, Jr., Ph.D.
Secretary, Ohio Faculty Council
Chair, Academic Senate, Youngstown State University

Higher education: An investment guaranteed to pay off

Never before has the value of a college education been questioned more. With tuition and student debt on the rise, many have posed the question: Is a college education really worth the expense? The answer is a resounding yes.

Over a lifetime, individuals with a bachelor's degree make 84 percent more than those with only a high school diploma (*The College Payoff*). And those numbers improve even further for individuals with master's, doctoral, and other professional degrees.

Even during the recent recession, college graduates were more likely to stay employed. Nearly four out of every five jobs destroyed by the recession were held by workers with a high school diploma or less (*The College Advantage: Weathering the Economic Storm*).

The reality is that a college degree has never been more important than in today's global economy. For Ohio to compete nationally and internationally, we must have an educated workforce. And yet, when it comes to educational attainment, Ohio is lagging behind. According to 2011 Census data, only 35.5 percent of Ohio's 6.1 million working-age adults (ages 25-64) hold a two- or four-year college degree. That's below the national average of 38.7 percent.

Those statistics become even more alarming when you consider that the days of earning a decent wage with only a high school degree are long behind us. By 2020, 59 percent of jobs will require a career certificate or college degree (*Complete College America*). For Ohio to thrive we must invest in our single most important resource: our workforce. Higher education is the down payment on that investment.

As state budgets have become more strapped, funding for higher education continues to dwindle. With individuals absorbing more and more of the costs for their college educations, we must remember that society as a whole also benefits from an educated workforce – not just the individuals who are being educated. The founders of our democracy counted on an educated citizenry because education produces critical thinkers, effective communicators, and a safeguard against government excesses. College graduates are more likely to vote, support cultural and community activities, and have reduced healthcare costs due to their healthier lifestyles. And, the greater tax base that comes with higher salaries translates directly to dollars in Ohio's budget.

We owe it to all past, present and future Ohioans to attract and train an educated workforce. College-educated or not, it is in all of our best interest to make higher education accessible and appealing to all to ensure the future vitality of this great state.

David R. Hopkins
President, Wright State University

Dan E. Krane
President, Wright State University Faculty
Chair, Ohio Faculty Council