



## **The Ohio Faculty Council**

### **Members Present:**

Wright State University (Dan Krane [Chair] and Doug Petkie), Youngstown State University (Chet Cooper [Vice-Chair] and Amy Flick [Secretary]), Bowling Green State University (Ann Marie Darke), University of Akron (Leann Schaeffer), Cleveland State University (Nigamanth Sridhar), Shawnee State University (Michael Barnhart and Jennifer Pauley), Kent State University (Ed Dauterich), University of Cincinnati (Tracy Herrmann and Marla Hall), and University of Toledo (Linda Rouillard), Central State University (Anthony Milburn), Ohio State (Deb Steward and Ben Givens), Ohio University (Beth Quitslund)

### **Members Absent:**

Miami University and North East Ohio School of Medicine

Chair, Dan Krane called the meeting of the Ohio Faculty Council (OFC) to order at 12:32 PM on September 11, 2015. The meeting was held in the 7<sup>th</sup> floor conference room of the Ohio Board of Regents building (25 South Front Street, Columbus, Ohio).

### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

The meeting's agenda was approved by unanimous consent of the members present.

### **APPROVAL OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

The minutes of the May 8, 2015 meeting of the OFC were approved by unanimous consent of the members present.

Time was taken to allow members to introduce themselves. Chair noted that the updated OFC roster is on the website, and invited members to email any corrections that need to be made pertaining to their institutions.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

UPDATE ON GOVERNOR'S TASK FORCE ON HIGHER EDUCATION (Tracy Herrmann)

Chair stated that there is no OFC representation on the Governor's Task Force on Affordability and Efficiency. He also explained that the plans to organize a legislative

task force on Senate Bill 4 were removed from the final version of the bill. As of now the Governor's Task Force is up and running, and had a meeting on August 17. Tracy Hermann represented OFC. Her primary concern about the presentation centered on the idea of faculty productivity. It was stated that faculty productivity is down 2%, but it is unclear how this was measured. There was discussion about how this might impact faculty workloads and curricular and programmatic integrity. Regarding programmatic integrity, a recent article in Inside Higher Ed (<https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2015/08/31/essay-describes-retired-presidents-experience-nontraditional-course-provider>) depicted a university president's experience taking an American Council on Education created sociology course. His experience demonstrated a clear lack of academic rigor, which is a concern. Chair stated that he would invite Sarah Kilpatrick from AAUP, Brett Visger, Associate Vice Chancellor, Institutional Collaboration and Completion, and Bruce Johnson of the IUC to speak at the October OFC meeting. It was also resolved that an OFC representative should be present at the meetings of the Task Force on Affordability and Efficiency. It was suggested that we become more versed in the rhetoric from organizations like Complete College America and the Lumina Foundation, so that incorrect information can be refuted. Linda Rouillard will work to gather this information for the next meeting. Lastly, it was suggested that we partner with our institutions' government affairs offices. Chair said that it might be useful to have someone from OSU's government affairs office visit the OFC's October meeting.

#### NON-TENURE ELIGIBLE REPRESENTATION IN FACULTY SHARED GOVERNANCE (Beth Quitsland)

Beth Quitsland assembled a white paper on the role of non-tenure eligible faculty in shared governance at the state universities in Ohio. The OFC agreed to post this information on the OFC website. After sharing the data, she explained that her primary takeaway was that the roles played by non-tenured faculty vary greatly from one institution to another. Chair then asked if there is action we'd like to take. He stated that each institution could take this information back and use it as a bargaining tool. The OFC could also write a letter urging certain action. Or we could do something stronger; however, given the diverse needs and processes at each university it might be difficult to make a sweeping resolution. There was discussion about what this would mean to tenured faculty.

#### CURRICULUM APPROVAL PROCESSES (Nigamanth Sridhar)

OFC representatives were asked about curriculum approval procedures at their institutions. Nigamanth Sridhar has taken that information, as well as information that he was able to find pertaining to these matters on institutional websites and created a draft white paper (this was sent out with the agenda). The information is not complete and he asked that representatives look help to fill in missing information. He will share an updated draft at the October meeting of the OFC. Eventually, this may lead to the OFC making a recommendation regarding a policy to ensure curricular rigor.

#### OFC TRI-FOLD BROCHURE (Dan Krane)

There is a possibility that the tri-fold brochure be included in the materials that attendees to the Board of Trustees Conference receive. There was no discussion of revisions to the trifold, so we will move forward with printing and distributing this.

#### NEW BUSINESS

#### PROPOSED CHANGE TO OFC BYLAWS (Dan Krane)

Chair proposed a change in OFC bylaws. Currently, the language regarding past membership reads: "The immediate past Chair may serve as an ex-officio, non-voting member." Chair proposes language change to: "Past Chairs may serve as ex-officio, non-voting members."

Proposal was voted on and unanimously approved.

#### AWARDS FOR COMMERCIALIZATION AND FOR TEACHING INNOVATION (Dan Krane)

Chair proposed the creation of a \$20,000 cash award to the single full-time faculty member from one of our 14 public universities that in the past year has been responsible for "the most creative and best translational behavior in the area of technology commercialization" and a separate \$20,000 cash award to the single full-time faculty member from one of our 14 public universities that in the past year has been responsible for the most important innovation in teaching. He suggested that the OFC select individuals who would serve on evaluation committees and that each of our institutions would be allowed to nominate two individuals for each award (one from the Provost and one from the chair of the Faculty Senate). Ohio-based banks and venture capitalists would be solicited for funds to support the technology commercialization award (as well as a recognition ceremony/dinner for the winner and all the finalists). At this point, the proposal has been introduced to the Chancellor, who is bringing it to the attention of the Governor.

While everyone liked the idea of recognizing faculty, there were reservations expressed about this award being STEM focused. Several faculty members mentioned that they would like to see more awards given that spoke to the range of faculty work in all departments. The idea of recognizing a Professor of the Year was also proposed. Chair suggested that we craft this so that we can include language to award other fields (ex. improving the human condition in Ohio). He believes that this would be a good thing, a positive thing, for OFC to head up.

In the end, it was decided that we would wait for feedback from the governor before engaging in further discussion or planning.

## COMPARISONS OF OFC INSTITUTION FINANCES (Dan Krane)

Chairman Krane presented a spreadsheet that allowed for a direct institutional comparison of costs associated with intercollegiate athletics, university finances and institutional debt. Dr. Krane pointed out that there is some information missing, and he asked the OFC members to look at the data and asked that they correct incorrect information about their institutions or provide information that was not able to be found.

The athletics numbers are for 2013-14 and come from [http://www.cleveland.com/datacentral/index.ssf/2015/07/wright\\_states\\_athletic\\_budget\\_1.html](http://www.cleveland.com/datacentral/index.ssf/2015/07/wright_states_athletic_budget_1.html). The SSI and debt numbers are published on the Board of Regents web pages. The staff, student and endowment numbers come from the Wikipedia entries for each of our institutions. There was discussion about whether these numbers all represented the same information for each school (i.e. is this an apples to apples comparison?). Chair said he'd like to come back to this next month and invited everyone to contribute and check the numbers on the OPED site.

CAMPUS REPORTS (1 to 3 minute oral reports limited to updates on senior administrative openings, major initiatives, curricular matters and/or matters of general interest to faculty such as contract negotiations)

### **Campus Reports**

By consent of the members present, the following campus reports were submitted following the conclusion of today's meeting:

#### Bowling Green State University

- The freshman class had a 12% increase over last fall, and graduate students increased 13%. For the third year in a row the best academically prepared class was admitted to the University. Retention is near a historical high at 77.5%. Currently applications for Fall, 2016 are 10% ahead of last fall and admits are around 20% ahead. Total head count and credit hours are ahead by 1.5-2% compared to last year.
- 2. We hired 69 new faculty this past year with a combination of both tenure track and non tenure track. We had a number of retirements, however some of them did not come in until later, therefore, we did not do as much of a search as we would have, had we known about the retirements sooner. We will be doing faculty searches this year.
- 3. There are several major construction projects on campus. From new classroom spaces to new housing for fraternity and sorority life, the University is investing in state-of-the-art facilities to improve the student experience in and out of the classroom.

### Cleveland State University

- Provost search; enrollment looking good (up 300 students); grad enrollment down (evens out); budget planned for 3 mil shortfall, but with stable enrollment there will be more funds than anticipated

### Northeast Ohio Medical University

- No report submitted

### Kent State University

- No report

### Youngstown State University

- Faculty raise negated by rise in Union dues and STRS; ADA issues continue; enrollment is flat

### Central State University

- Signed contract with a clause to reopen negotiations because of newly acquired land grant; assessment and program review; changes in general education curriculum; declining enrollment; faculty numbers down because the admin fails to replace retired faculty; hired new VP of Student affairs; completed student center with ribbon cutting in October.

### Shawnee State University

- Shawnee State has a new President, Rick Kurtz (formerly of Ferris State College in Michigan), and its faculty union has a new 3-year Collective Bargaining Agreement, which was ratified just this week. Overload pay was cut and insurance co-pays, deductibles, out-of-pocket, prescriptions costs were all dramatically increased over the life of the contract. Salaries, however, will be raised so that the healthcare costs will be offset, in most instances. Under the current financial condition of the university, the union had little choice but to agree to these concessions. The University Board of Trustees is set to approve a budget that will draw on reserves to cover a million-dollar-plus shortfall, which has been caused by a decline in enrollment, along with the reduction of state support for at-risk students. The administration has reported that overall enrollment is down 8.3% this fall over last fall. This year the Faculty Senate is hoping to wrap up a major reform of our General Education Program and is also set to approve a new Academic Program Review policy and procedure.

### University of Cincinnati

- Following the Sam DuBose tragedy this summer, the campus is working to rebuild relationships with the community. An external reviewer came in to look at the campus police department.

- New Vice Provost; slight uptick in enrollment; better retention of underrepresented students; moving toward tobacco free campus; taking look at integrated process; new stadium (hopefully not only for athletics, but for everyone); faculty negotiations

### Wright State University

- Wright State announced on Monday, August 16, 2015 that it fired its Provost, Sundaram Narayanan. Two others (the head of the university's International Gateway and a senior advisor to the provost) were also fired. Tenure or other CBA protections remain in place for Narayanan and the one other faculty member. The action is related to an investigation by federal authorities into possible criminal misuse of the H-1B visa program. A joint statement by Wright State's president and its chair of the Board of Trustees said "This past spring, we were presented with credible evidence that somewhere between two and five years ago not every H-1B employee sponsored by the university was actually working at the university." After consultation with faculty leadership, past Faculty President Tom Sudkamp has been named the new permanent provost and chief academic officer. Chief Financial Officer Mark Poltajko has been named chief operating officer.

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee has been told that the university spent approximately \$20 to 25 million more in the past academic year than it brought in as revenue.

- Yi Li, Dean of the College of Science and Mathematics (CoSM), has been appointed Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs at California State University, Northridge.
- Craig Woolley has been named Chief Information Officer.
- The Fall Semester 2015 end of 1<sup>st</sup> week enrollment is 17,720, a 1.7% increase from last year.

### University of Akron

- President spent two hours with faculty discussing the decisions made over the summer. The university is \$60 million dollars in debt, which led to many of those decisions, which included staff reduction. Hopefully things are on the upswing. Transparency is increasing.

### Ohio University

- Opening of four new residence halls; protesters demonstrated in opposition to the university paying for the university president to move into a new home. There are also business ethics issues involved in this, resulting in an ongoing investigation.

### University of Toledo

M I N U T E S

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- New president; faculty morale guardedly optimistic; fifth year declining enrollment; enrollment administrator let go

Ohio State University

- New president beginning 2<sup>nd</sup> year; he is known as the affordability president; developing teaching learning institute to elevate education as well as research

The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Flick  
OFC Secretary  
Youngstown State University