

**Ohio Faculty Council
November 18, 2016
Minutes -- DRAFT**

Chair Dan Krane called the meeting to order at 12:30 p.m.

In attendance:

Dan Krane (Wright State, chair), David Border (BGSU), Lori Liggett (BGSU), Lee Fox (Kent State), Beth Quitslund (Ohio U), Michael Barnhart (Shawnee State), Andrew Feight (Shawnee State), Marla Hall (UC), Bill Rich (Akron), Chet Cooper (Youngstown State), Amy Flick (Youngstown State)

APPROVE AGENDA

The agenda was approved by acclamation.

APPROVE MINUTES OF THE October 14, 2016 OFC MEETING

The minutes were approved by acclamation.

OLD BUSINESS

New Award for Teaching and/or Service (Beth Quitslund for Joe McLaughlin)

Joe sent two questions:

1. Do we want to do an award for teaching? for service? both? combined or separate awards?
2. How do we want to think about our focus? I propose a theme that has to do with higher education's important role as preparation for active citizenship (dare I call this a core learning objective?) I would be very curious to hear the group's reaction to this idea and whether people have other ideas.

The chair noted that it was important not to trespass on the turf of any other award, e.g., any offered by the OEA and open to higher ed teachers. He also encouraged the creation of an award that could expand or spin off into subcategories. The consensus among discussants appeared to be that the award should recognize teaching OR service and that teaching was preferable as a way to shine a favorable light on OFC institutions. One idea was that each institution's own teaching award winners should be the nominees, but also that that might suggest a kind of run-off competition between institutions; two nominees from each school, one chosen by the Provost and the other by the Senate head might be a solution. There was also discussion of whether and how the OFC could recognize teaching award winners from OFC institutions, with the conclusion that a press release was possible but not anything costing actual money.

Op-ed on Quality (Dan Krane)

The one on quality has been published in four or five papers around the state. There may be more to come.

Developing Relationships with Policymakers (Dan Krane)

Dan has reached out to seven state legislators thus far, with limited results in terms of actual contact. He will chat in person with a couple of them in December. He also plans to schedule a short meeting with the Chancellor to encourage him to invite Dan's testimony on higher education bills.

NEW BUSINESS

AAUP-OH's Strategy for Increasing State Support of Higher Education (AAUP-OH President John McNay and Executive Director Sara Kilpatrick)

The reviewed some of IUC President Bruce Johnson's statements from last month, particularly his opinion that it would be helpful in working with legislators if the AAUP were less critical of administrations. He asked our guests to address that and other questions.

Kilpatrick summarized the AAUP's involvement in state governmental affairs in the last five years, beginning with her own start at the AAUP as the first sustained faculty voice at the statehouse and the simultaneous introduction of S.B. 5. The language in that bill regarding higher education came, she noted, from the IUC, and Johnson testified in its favor. She characterized both higher ed and the AAUP as "playing defense" since then. In 2015, the AAUP released a report on causes of increased costs in higher ed

(<http://www.akronaaup.org/documents/OCAAUP2015.pdf>), with the goal of helping legislators understand the real conditions of higher education. She conceded that the emphasis on bloat may have hampered the IUC's ability to ask for increased funding, but also noted that the last biennial budget included a real-dollar increase in higher education funding. Both McNay and Kilpatrick emphasized that the AAUP's position is that requests for more public funding must be accompanied by real reform and increased efficiency at institutions. This involves, from the AAUP's perspective, shifting focus away from faculty and toward other unnecessary costs.

The AAUP representatives noted some positive signs, with some legislators beginning to ask about quality, express concerns about CC+, etc. There may be potential for increased cooperation with the IUC in the current climate (although the AAUP will still insist on efficiency reforms). The group discussed the potential role of the OFC in these efforts, with general support for the AAUP's positions and a greater desire for collaboration or even some joint meeting. Kilpatrick urged the chair to press for OFC's right to testify before legislative committees. A joint lobby day was discussed, although cost is an issue.

Some members of the OFC expressed deep concern with various effects of the state's emphasis on efficiency last year and the ways that individual institutions' administrations are using those to justify academic changes. McNay agreed that legislators seemed more willing to tinker with academics than with administrative costs and structures. There was also discussion of the negative effects of the SSI formula on open-access campuses.

An Op-Ed Piece on Student Debt/State Support (Dan Krane)

The pitch of this op-ed is for increased state support, particularly for disadvantaged students. Dan circulated a draft before the meeting, which, he said, did not match his original plan to have a piece that was customizable for institutions (e.g., comparing costs at a public university to those at a nearby private school). He invited members of the Council to help redraft it, but failing that will probably send it out under his own signature. Further discussion will take place at the December meeting.

Chair's Report on Conferences

Dan attended the Trustees' Conference

(https://www.ohiohighered.org/content/2016_trustees_conference_materials). There was much discussion of textbook affordability and about streamlining processes at universities (e.g., Lean Six Sigma techniques) that mostly involved business procedures. On textbooks, Shawnee State praised as an excellent example, although its approach does not seem very novel (posting textbooks early to allow for comparison shopping, paying faculty to create free lab manuals). There was some discussion of how to best inform students (or let them inform each other) about textbook bargains and which textbooks are actually required, and a digression regarding RateMyProfessor.com.

The inteG.R.E.A.T Ohio Symposium

(<https://odhe.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/ohio-integreat-symposium/info>), part of an initiative to lure international students to Ohio, was taking place as the OFC meeting progressed, as well as for the rest of the day. Dan attended briefly in the morning, and reported that there were about 200 attendees, including the General Counsel of Canada and cabinet-level ministers from India as well as the head of Siemens.

CAMPUS REPORTS

Bowling Green State University

- The campus is involved in a lot of construction, with the three “legacy” buildings (the oldest ones) being updated.
- At last Faculty Senate meeting a resolution for cutting the cost of textbooks (form a committee to study it and promise to cut costs by 50% by May 2017) was brought forward; it proved highly controversial and was tabled.
- The Provost's office is piloting a standardized university-wide student evaluation.
- Some post-election conflict has occurred on campus or involving students and local residents.

Ohio University

- The presidential search is ongoing, with a short list expected to be selected in early December.
- There has been substantial faculty organization around responses to potential immigrant or religious registration, including discussion of whether OU should become a sanctuary campus.

Shawnee State

- Post-election altercations have involved a black student being called epithets and Muslim student being yelled at, chased, and accused of complicity with ISIS. In the wake of these incidents, the Women's & Gender Equity Center opened itself up as a safe space, which then led to social media mockery from a local county commissioner. The President called for civil dialogue and a campus event for students modeling that was well-attended.
- Budget issues are pressing. The Provost has promised the Trustees to cut about \$1M/year over the next three years due to drops in SSI funding under the new formula. Appeals to the legislature for emergency funds are in progress.

- The Provost has recently indicated the need to cut low-enrollment programs to “get out in front” of imminent state mandates.
- Discussion is under way about shifting to an RCM budgeting model, with disagreement currently taking place over what unit will make up each Responsibility Center.

University of Cincinnati

- Current searches include those for President and General Counsel.
- The Faculty Senate passed a resolution to incorporate diversity/inclusion into the Gen Ed program as well as a resolution supporting current work on incorporating diversity and inclusion into program outcomes.
- Post-election and after the mistrial of Ray Tensing, there has been a sense of increased violence on or near campus. There have been several shots fired, including one that resulted in a campus shelter-in-place order. There has also been some harassment of international faculty members on campus.
- The new union contract has been negotiated and just has been or is just about to be ratified.

University of Akron

- The Interim President and Provost have been hired as permanent.
- A financial report is due shortly from Ernst & Young, which is expected to show that Akron is about a year behind Wright State in its financial distress (see below).
- Several dean searches are underway.

Wright State

- The institution is also in the midst of Presidential search, with a candidate expected to be selected by March.
- Budget issues at the university are severe, with cash reserves likely to be expended by end of this academic year.
- The AAUP chapter is initiating a vote of no confidence in the Vice President for Research & Dean of the Graduate College which culminates in a secret ballot ending December 9. Issues include a drop in research activity and Carnegie classification, delays in the unit that jeopardize research, and the way that the Wright State Research Institute has been incorporated into the university structure.

Young State

- The institution completed the Great Colleges ModernThink survey, with results that were overall highly negative (deans and department chairs had relatively good marks). A committee will be appointed to address the findings, but faculty are circulating a letter to the Board expressing lack of confidence in the leadership’s ability to make appropriate decisions.
- This is the union’s negotiating year, and the situation is not currently promising.
- The Provost is a finalist for the presidency of Florida Gulf Coast University.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:28 p.m.