

Minutes of the Ohio Faculty Council – August 10, 2018

The Ohio Faculty Council (OFC) was called to order at 12:37 PM on August 10, 2018 by Chair Dan Krane. The OFC met in the 7th floor conference room of the Ohio Department of Higher Education (25 South Front Street, Columbus, Ohio).

Members Present on Site: Dan Krane (Chair; Wright State University), Terry Filicko (Ohio Faculty Senate; Clark State University;), Kyle Vick and Mitch Noella (Shawnee State University), Bill Bowen (Cleveland State University), Ben Givens (Ohio State University), Wendy Berry-West (Central State), Cynthia Ris and Greg Loving (University of Cincinnati), Pam Brim and Ed Dauterich (Kent State University), and Linda Saliga (University of Akron).

Members Present Online: Bill Rich (University of Akron), Joe McLaughlin (Ohio University), Michael Kalafatis (Cleveland State University), Amy Lee (NEOMED), and Wade Lee (University of Toledo).

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A proposed agenda distributed electronically by Dan Krane on August 3 was approved by unanimous consent.

APPROVAL OF MAY 11 MEETING MINUTES

Dan Krane distributed electronically a draft of the OFC meeting minutes from June 4, 2018. With the addition of names of those present, the minutes were approved by unanimous consent.

GUEST PRESENTATION

- David Yaskin (CEO/Founder of Faculty Guild; www.facultyguild.org).
- Mr. Yaskin led product strategy at Blackboard (1999-2007) and then founded and ran Starfish (2007-2015). Faculty Guild looks to leverage Gates Foundation sponsored research on teaching enhancement in much the same way as his earlier ventures facilitated on-line learning and data driven advising. The strategies around which Faculty Guild are built are articulated in the book “Taking College Teaching Seriously: Pedagogy Matters.” Faculty Guild helps faculty improve their own teaching through online structured learning communities (Teaching Circles) made up of faculty from a variety of institutions participating with seven peers. The online asynchronous work takes roughly two hours a week of reflection and interaction over the course of two to four semesters. Trained faculty (facilitators) lead the circles and a co-op model is available to have partner institutions provide the faculty to be facilitators. Data is collected to demonstrate improved teaching and supports correlation with outcomes (e.g. student pass/fail rates). Aggregate data, not identified to any individual faculty member, is provided to the faculty member’s institution.
- Discussion following Mr. Yaskin’s presentation touched on: the cost effectiveness of external programs like Faculty Guild; disparities between investments that institutions make in tenure-track and part-time faculty; some institutions are using peer mentoring already to enhance teaching effectiveness; the need for the OFC to prepare a white paper on approaches that Ohio public universities are employing to enhance teaching effectiveness (and to discuss the first draft of such a white paper at the September 2018 OFC meeting).

OLD BUSINESS

- Ohio Guaranteed Transfer Pathway (OGTP) – In Marc Scott’s absence, Terry Filicko summarized the discussion/presentation that Mark gave at the recent meeting of OGTP steering committee.
- College Affordability Joint Committee – The committee (co-chaired by Senator Wilson and Representative Duffey) has now met a total of three times and is expected to meet once more before issuing a final report in September. The OFC has expressed an interest in testifying and will submit text regarding textbook affordability to be included in the committee’s final report.
- Transfer Credit for For-Profit Institutions Update (Terry Filicko) – Terry reported that the group worked on draft interim report for the Chancellor. CLEP testing might be at the core of a means of determining if a student at a for-profit institution has earned credit for a public institution’s courses.
- Final Exam Scheduling for On-line and Hybrid Courses White Paper (Dan Krane) – A draft of the white paper was reviewed. A final draft will be circulated electronically and OFC members will have the opportunity to comment for one week before it is posted on the OFC website. In short, none of the public four-year universities in Ohio appear to have developed policies that completely solve this emerging problem. At present, most rely upon students and faculty to resolve final exam scheduling conflicts on a case-by-case basis as they arise. Some institutions are contemplating establishing time blocks during final exam weeks that are set aside for just on-line and/or hybrid courses.
- Wait Lists for Filled Courses White Paper (Dan Krane) - A draft of the white paper was reviewed. A final draft will be circulated electronically and OFC members will have the opportunity to comment for one week before it is posted on the OFC website. In short, many institutions have found that wait lists provide significant advantages to students (convenience), instructors (elimination of the need to manually sign students into a full class) and administrators (allows the tracking of demand for courses and better management of curriculum offerings).

NEW BUSINESS

- National Council of Faculty Senates, October 27 meeting in Texas: The OFC has been considering the role that a national organization that spoke on behalf of faculty senates might play. Several OFC institutions and the OFC itself have responded to an invitation to attend an inaugural meeting at the end of October but the organizers have not communicated since sending their email invitation.
- OFC Technology Commercialization Award (<https://www.ohiofacultycouncil.org/technology-commercialization-award>): The deadline for nominations is 5 pm on August 27.
- ODHE Affordability and Efficiency Reports: The template for this year’s reports has been electronically distributed. Institutions are to submit their Board approved reports by September 28. Faculty leaders should express an interest in generating and/or reviewing their institution’s report.

- OFC Meeting Dates for 2018-19: Meeting dates for upcoming OFC meetings have been posted on the OFC website (<https://www.ohiofacultycouncil.org/meetings>).

CAMPUS REPORTS

Institutions should submit their reports electronically. Only the following report had been received following the conclusion of the meeting:

Wright State University (submitted electronically by Dan Krane)

Wright State University appears to have ended the 2017-18 fiscal year with enough cash reserves to have avoided being placed on fiscal watch. A fact finder report regarding a faculty contract will be delivered by the end of August. AAUP-WSU leaders have suggested that if the contract is rejected that a strike could take place on October 2.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 PM. The next meeting of the OFC will take place at 12:30 PM on September 14 in the seventh floor conference room of the Ohio Department of Higher Education (25 South Front Street, Columbus, Ohio).

Respectfully Submitted by Cynthia Ris