



The Ohio Faculty Council

Members Present:

Dan Krane (Wright State), Cynthia Ris and Greg Loving (University of Cincinnati), Anthony Milburn (Central State), and Kyle Vick (Shawnee State University).

Those participating via web conference:

Ed Dauterich (Kent State University), Wade Lee (University of Toledo), Laura Luehrmann (Wright State), Amy Lee (NEOMED), and Marc Scott (Shawnee State).

Members Absent:

Miami University, University of Akron, Cleveland State University, Youngstown State University, and Bowling Green State University.

Guest

Sara Molski, Operations and Policy Analyst, ODHE

Chair, Dan Krane called the meeting of the Ohio Faculty Council (OFC) to order at 12:30 PM on January 11, 2019. The meeting was held in the 7th 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 December meeting of the OFC were approved by unanimous consent of the members present.

Old Business

Chancellor Position

Randy Gardner was nominated by Governor DeWine to become the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education. Dan noted that Gardner will be the first Chancellor who has worked extensively with the OFC (he has addressed the OFC and the FCO). The membership discussed a draft letter to the Chancellor welcoming him to the role and inviting him to work with the OFC. Dan mentioned including some innovation initiatives that appear to align with legislative interests:

- Establishing an Ohio Institute of Technology and/or training faculty for I-Corps;
- Pairing faculty expertise with ODHE, particularly in the area of data analytics;

- Developing a clearinghouse for coordinated instructional opportunities in which students can take online courses at other institutions for transfer credit.

Dan also suggested that the OFC could offer to assist the Chancellor in training new trustees—particularly in understanding the role of shared governance and other key differences between higher education and the private sector.

Assessment of Outcomes White Paper

Members of the OFC should follow up on question responses in the next month. Dan may discuss responses with the Chancellor.

Campus Free Speech Resolution

Dan urged members through their faculty senates to either 1) consider adopting a variant of the Cleveland State resolution on free speech or 2) identify a resolution and/or policy that espouses the same support for free speech and academic inquiry. A solid showing from faculty may head help to convince the 133rd General Assembly that the issue is being taken seriously by faculty and establish that it is not necessary to bring back legislation like HB 758 from the 132nd General Assembly.

Evaluation of Administrators

A revised set of questions were shared with the group:

- 1) How does your faculty evaluate or provide feedback on your institution's administrative personnel?
 - a. Are such evaluations or feedback mechanisms described in a Board policy or procedure, a faculty governance bylaw, or some other document?
- 2) How often are such evaluations conducted or feedback generated?
- 3) How is that data shared with administrative personnel, faculty, and/or other stakeholders?
- 4) Can you share the instrument(s) your institution uses to conduct such evaluations or generate feedback on administrative personnel?

The members wanted to see specific reference to academic administrators and a distinction between academic administrators (deans, provosts) and department chairs. The group also agreed that the survey should include a question about how such feedback has been used. The authors of the draft agreed to make such changes and distribute the revision to the group.

New Business

Legislative Update

Dan discussed HB 66. The study committee established by the legislation would need to form within 90 days of the bill becoming law. Dan will speak to legislators and the incoming chancellor's team about the other faculty (and student) appointments on the committee. There was discussion about the review team's deliberations and what questions and topics they might pursue: What is the "right" amount of interaction with tenure/tenure-track faculty? How might data analytics help us understand state-wide trends in the impact tenure/tenure track faculty have on undergraduate education? Where are we heading as a state-wide system of higher education? How do we define, measure, or account for quality of education in these deliberations?

Faculty Representation on Boards of Trustees

Dan discussed some of the email traffic on the OFC-L about faculty representation on boards of trustees. Currently there are only three or four institutions with faculty serving in some capacity on its boards. Dan noted that the fiduciary responsibilities of Boards of Trustees may make it

inappropriate/unhelpful for faculty (and students) to have voting rights. It was decided to revisit the discussion at the February OFC meeting as old business.

Statewide Affordability and Efficiency Reports

Sara Molski from ODHE compiled the Statewide Affordability and Efficiency report and she shared some observations about the report with the group:

- Overall, the report shows that state institutions are doing much good work. She commended efforts at the four-year institutions specifically.
- No new initiatives were unearthed in the report, but the long-range benefits of previous efforts are becoming evident.
- Institutions are using data from the reports internally and in press releases.
- It's unclear what will happen with this report in the next administration.

Our guest asked for recommendations to improve the report and the process surrounding it. Dan suggested that the task force mandating the report could use more expertise from higher education. He also discussed adding faculty involvement in the next report as a discussion item with the new chancellor.

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

- No report submitted

Cleveland State University

- No report submitted

Northeast Ohio Medical University

- No report submitted

Kent State University

- No report submitted

Youngstown State University

- No report submitted

Central State University

- No report submitted

Shawnee State University

The university continues to look for additional cost savings in order to meet a board mandate to keep the deficit at or below than \$3M. It's unclear if the institution will be able to meet that objective, though the board commented favorably at its December meeting on the administration's efforts. The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) issued its preliminary accreditation report of the institution and the administration is seeking clarification on some statements in the report. HLC has agreed to reaccredit the institution and place it on the Standard Pathway.

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University of Cincinnati

Wright State University

The University's Board of Trustees imposed a last, best offer as its contract with faculty on January 4. The faculty union, AAUP-WSU, has announced that a strike will begin at 8 am on Tuesday, January 22 and has filed an unfair labor practice claim with the State (alleging that there were no negotiations after their membership rejected a Fact Finder's report before a contract was imposed). The last day for students to withdraw with a full refund of their tuition is January 25.

University of Akron

- No report submitted

Ohio University

- No report submitted

University of Toledo

- No report submitted

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Marc Scott
Shawnee State University