



Ohio Faculty Council

*Chair, Ben Givens, Ohio State University  
Vice-chair, Laura Luehrmann, Wright State University  
Secretary, Cynthia Ris, University of Cincinnati*

## **OHIO FACULTY COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES 11 Sept 2020**

12:30 – 2:30 PM  
Virtual via Zoom

### **Members Attending (via Zoom):**

Bowling Green University: Christopher Frey, David Jackson  
Central State University: Leanne Petry  
Cleveland State University: Andy Slifkin, Anup Kumar  
Kent State: Ed Dauterich  
Miami:  
NEOMED:  
Ohio State University: Ben Givens, Ken Lee  
Ohio University: Benjamin Bates  
Shawnee State University: Kyle Vick  
University of Akron: Linda Saliga  
University of Cincinnati: Greg Loving, Cynthia Ris  
University of Toledo: Timothy Brakel  
Wright State University: Laura Luehrmann, Brian Boyd  
Youngstown State:  
Ex-officio: Wright State University, Former Chair Dan Krane

### **Guests:**

Bill Neville and Nick Treneff from STRS  
Paul Suchy from Global Entrepreneurship Network  
Terry Filicko  
Dan Krane

Meeting came to order at: 12:32

Start with introductions

- 1. Approved agenda**
- 2. Approve minutes**

### 3. On-boarding for new OFC members • Laura, Cynthia, Ben

#### Laura:

- We are an official advocacy partnership organization designed to promote shared governance principles and advocate for faculty colleagues at the state level.
- May add to testimony from faculty representatives
- Also aligned with leadership at ODHE
- Passed white papers and other policy statements to articulate, advocate, and communicate various principles

#### Cynthia:

- As Secretary, I'll contact you to update roster and listserv that is handled by Linda Saliga out of Akron or to confirm information in minutes.
- Meetings are 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month and Attendance at meetings is expected—a quorum of at least 8 institutions is necessary for a vote
- Three reps—two voting (head of senate and a second rep that is identified by the institution) and one alternate (who can vote in case another rep is absent)
- Bylaws permit electronically conducting business

#### Ben:

- Responsive to each of our members; Feel free to send agenda suggestions and items to officers.
- Useful to use listserv as well to share ideas.
- Suggest legislators and others to be invited to meetings; e.g., we're scheduling a meeting with Bob Cupp, House Speaker; Chancellor and staff have been invited to meetings, Stephanie Kunze, Higher Education Chair is another possibility.

#### Laura:

- More can be done between meetings as well; encourage reaching out—can help each other and build up work toward white papers and testimony between meetings.

### 4. State Teachers Retirement System • Bill Neville, Executive Director

Ben introduction: OFC is 14 public institutions and we represent those institutions

Bill: Also here is Nick Treneff, STRS communication director

- Been at STRS 16 years—Created 100 years ago when there were 44 teacher pension funds managed at local level with 50% insolvent and rest headed toward insolvency; took on responsibility and liability for pensions that schools would otherwise need to absorb
- Manage: (1) defined/traditional pension plan initially; created ARP therefore mitigating rate—portion of employer rate; (2) Defined contribution plan and (3) combined plan
- 70% of assets in house; more diversified mix; investment return at about 3.14% including real estate around country which is fairly unique.
- Completed fiscal year review mid-March: down 10%, then up 6.4% so back to around 5%
- Outside consultants—Callan LLC; for 3, 5, 7, and 10 year time periods 6.91% outperforming benchmark of 6.6%--added \$550 million to pension fund

- Use CEM benchmarking that shows cost-effectiveness; 2<sup>nd</sup> lowest in peer groups (part of 17 large public funds)—saved \$107m by managing funds in house
- One retiree for every active member—negative cash flow—closed down \$1.8b payments \$7.5b contributions \$3.3b
- Funding challenges: Funded ratio (assets vs liability): 74%; greater than 1 in 4 chance of dropping below a 50% funded ratio in 10 years. Plan is to be more sustainable.
- Next year: asset-liability study & actuarial review and reset as needed
- Right now well-funded and funded ratio in excess of 100%. No funds currently going into this though.
- Q about Board membership: mix of elected in various ways and some appointees—investment experts are working well; discussions are open and useful.
- Q: How do elected faculty know enough about this area? Outside courses before Investment experts on board; Superintendent of Public Education reps are well-informed. Continuing education throughout tenure on board. Ample opportunity to also tell staff where they need help. Bring in experts to speak and public pension forums to learn more about it.
- Unfunded liability around 16-17 years. If all assumptions go as they will, then unfunded liability will go to 0. At 4.47%
- Q about ability to move from ARP to STRS: Set in law and not sure if state law is controlled by federal law. Without a break in service, ARP election is permanent
- Q about how to advise a new faculty member on STRS vs ARP: Lifetime prof in state of Ohio generally STRS is usually good. It depends on where you are and where you think you're going. Reselection option at the 5-year mark.
- Q on COLA: Cost of 1% COLA \$6.3b and doubles from there. Will pay everything it can prudently pay, and will consider, but cost may keep it prohibitive.

Many concerned about mitigating rate for ARPs at Ohio State; not clear how much it's a concern elsewhere

#### **5. OFC Technology Commercialization Award • Update – Ben**

- For exceptional research discoveries and translating this to marketable products. Akron, UC, Akron, NEOMED, Ohio State, and Toledo.
- Identified judges and ODHE, and other representatives, including Rick Perales, Ohio Rep, can ask Stephanie Kunze next year, to participate. Pick a winner in next three weeks with second place.
- Nice to have state government representative to attend. Will appreciate good turnout.
- Q about 2 members from each university: One selected by Provost and one by Faculty Senate.
- It has born good fruit—showed up how well institutions are doing and open up lines of communication with Chancellor and others. Considering what other awards can be given.

#### **6. Global Entrepreneurship Network • Paul Suchy**

- Entrepreneurs are attracted to where they can take advantage of those who produce programs and other means of success. He is state coordinator. Coalition of stakeholders with 8 partners at different universities; will have 40 partners in Ohio.
- Works with 27 other state coordinators and regional organizers in those states. 170 different countries with larger network on growing entrepreneurship.
- He's lead in Ohio and first time working on state level.
- 66 days to kick off Nov 16 – 22: a week to organize from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. with different presenters (including those in MI PA NY—joint programming and different industry experts in from different states).
- Want to attract talent and capital to the regions. Looking for folks to join. Want a robust program with people who are leaders in their field to connect emerging entrepreneurs with others to get them excited about working on these. Lot of creative freedom to host many things: incubation spaces. Mostly all virtual.
- Through Kaufmann Foundation. Private-Corporate-Institutional.  
Q What we can do? See <https://gewohio.com/> Do have incubation centers engaged; haven't targeted Deans so much but happy to have them contact. Places like Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at Cleveland State.
- Faculty as nodes and students may not see this as relevant in some way, so perhaps faculty can help promote this to students. Want assets and resources to be known to students and others to get them started especially if they find this discouraging.
- Q: How can students interface with group? Anything like a listserv (for students and future jobs)? There is a form at bottom and form pops up after about 20 seconds to join. A month and half out will be putting more up for Nov week.
- Will send information with a packet for educators.

Laura—Liberal arts is something that also should be highlighted and encouraging folks in these areas to make a variety of connections and to encourage interdisciplinarity.

Dan—Kendall Goodrich is at Entrepreneurial Center at Wright State and to work on panel to discuss deal flow and other things in place in Ohio, as well as gaps so state agencies so as to help fill gaps. Innovate Ohio is an important link to workforce Ohio.

## 7. Old Business • Draft white paper on the role of faculty in decisions around university reorganization

- Laura—Background: Significant numbers were in the process of or starting on reorganization; Laura and others talked with those who were engaged with this. Some institutions' processes were more transparent than others, but agreed that all are impacted and that faculty should be included in that: Wright S, Cleveland State, Akron, YSU who were engaged in reorganization, plus Shawnee Sate and Central State who wanted to discuss.
- Anup and Leanne: will have to take to leadership; for Anup, they will be hearing plans next week
- Laura: WSU had drafts in the summer and two revisions that a group were involved in and will hear guidance from timeline—important looking at different levels, so may be at least two timelines.

- As we share, various groups of faculty have worked on it and are supporting shared experiences.

## **8. Campus examples of shared governance successes and challenges**

- OSU: Pass/no pass option last Spring. Students want to see similar option for fall and now scrambling to see different options will work (no/low/high/pass system). Good shared governance. No one at Big Ten is going with mid-course correction. Has a dashboard; set aside 858 beds for isolation; have half still available. 1814 positive cases, but a lot choose to go home.
- Kent State: P/F option late in semester but changes from Spring and did work with administration. Testing still unclear and no contact tracing. About 25 tests a day (all they have the staff for). Meetings that had been engaged didn't result in goals sought.
- BGSU: Similar issues with grades; more in-person mixed, but many leave up to faculty as to how to schedule courses; F2F in classroom and part remotely; very few in building
- Cleveland State: 100 tests a day w/Cleveland Clinic; no P/F mechanism for fall; not forthcoming with reports of cases. Decision soon on Spring—some are leaving up to fall and spring for individual faculty members;
- Toledo up to faculty members
- UC: Compliance good on campus, contact tracing just started; outbreaks traced to 8-10 parties off campus. 4 employees have tested positive; positivity rate under 2; off campus was 10 but now down to 5; off-campus is where biggest problems arise; UC dashboard was sporadic and behind but just got it more accurate; had been exponential but more linear and reasonable

## **IN CLOSING**

Ben: Vote regarding white paper on reorganization—will send email with Qualtrics to each person for a vote.

## **9. Adjourn at 2:30 p.m.**

Respectfully submitted,

Cynthia Ris, Secretary  
Ohio Faculty Council