

Minutes of the Meeting held on October 12, 2007

Present: Ahuja (YSU), King (YSU), Gunning (UT-HSC), Muego (BGSU), McKee (OSU), Bernhard (BGSU), Milburn (Central State U), Lopez (OU), Bloemer (OU), Cuppoletti (U Cincinnati), Fenwick (UA)

Chair Cuppoletti called the meeting to order at 12:30 pm.

New Business

Dr. Cuppoletti reported on the meeting between the Ohio AAUP Conference and Chancellor Fingerhut. The AAUP had expressed concerns about the discussion [in one of the working groups developing the University System of Ohio, or where did the discussion occur?] of teaching college courses in high schools.

A number of OFC representatives responded by saying their schools had been engaged in similar instructional activities for many years, including distance learning in high schools, and having high school students taking college courses on campus for college credit.

Dr. Cuppoletti also reported on a draft of the report on "Ohio's Economic Condition." He summarized the report as concluding that "Ohio's economy was not doing well. He then passed out copies of the report to OFC representatives.

Dr. Cuppoletti then reported on his conversation with Chancellor Fingerhut. He provided a summary of updates on the various University System working committees.

The committee on Affordability was developing goals that would:

- Having college costs that would be no more than some (yet to be determined) percent of the median family income in Ohio, along with appropriate means testing.
- Provide financial aid that should add up to one-half of a family's income
- Increase enrollment by 230,000 students by 2017
- Increase graduate student enrollment by one-third, from 64k to 94k
- Increase graduation rates by 20%

The Affordability committee recognized that meeting these goals would cost an additional \$1.3 billion per year to the state budget. Beyond that, the goal of increased enrollment will be difficult as the number of high school aged Ohioans will continue to

decline through 2014. Therefore, there will be a need to tap into the adult aged population interested in attending/returning to college.

The working group on benchmarking was emphasizing “excellence and stewardship” through “mission-centered institutions.”

Funding initiatives would be to harmonize university, state and federal funding sources.

Maximize state support for efficiencies, such as in Minnesota and Oregon plans.

Focus will be on community colleges and transfer students at first.

Discussion in the economic growth working group focused on “deep collaboration” among universities to stimulate economic growth for each region of the state;

More research, with the goal to be at the national average of per capita research dollars: \$94, by 2016. Ohio is currently at \$64 per person in research dollars.

Double the number of students from 130,000 to 179,000 [attending where?] (including incarcerated population).

The working group on outreach and public support was developing strategies for working with different higher ed constituent groups in different regions.

Dr Cuppoletti returned to the discussion with AAUP leaders. Another AAUP concern was the discussion of having a single statewide textbook for similar introductory courses at the different institutions. Dr. Cuppoletti stated that in response to this concern, Chancellor Fingerhut stated that this was not his proposal.

Dr. Cuppoletti then brought up Senate Bill 151 which was an attempt to reduce the costs of textbooks by addressing certain practices of university bookstores and book publishers (e.g., “bundling,” buy-back rates, text “rental” programs). In addition, on provision of the bill would prohibit faculty from profiting from using educational material they authored in courses they taught.

After a lengthy discussion of the pros and cons of this provision, OFC endorsed it and further suggested that any royalties faculty received from the sale of their books or other authored educational material used in their classes be put into a fund to help needy students purchase textbooks.

Campus Reports

(BGSU)

Reported intensive planning efforts as to how to align with the University System. The effort includes reports from colleges, and compacts (agreements) from colleges as to how they will align.

BGSU will host Chancellor Fingerhut on November 7 and 8.

The Faculty Senate Executive Committee had discussion on the possibility of having flexible part time appointments for tenured/tenure track faculty, for health and/or family reasons. (e.g., flexible tenure). OFC was asked for thoughts. It was suggested that STRS be consulted.

BGSU held joint event with U. Toledo to highlight the impact of the arts on the northwest Ohio economy. The arts bring in \$2.4 billion per year.

(Central State University)

Enrollment was up substantially. New faculty were being hired, but many of the new hires made by the administration were not the top choices of the hiring departments. There was a brief discussion as to whether this violated any rules. It was unclear without knowing what Central State's rules on hiring are.

Contract negotiations would begin soon.

Dr. Milburn had completed development of OFC@yahoo.com as website to facilitate policy discussion groups.

(OU)

The Board of Trustees had asked OU administration for a 5 year strategic plan with a November deadline. Faculty senate was to meet and present feedback to the plan.

Graduate programs were undergoing evaluations to see how they aligned with the University System. The task force undertaking the evaluations was put together by the OU administration without initial input from the faculty, although faculty were able to acquire some input.

(UA)

The university's academic alignment plan had been presented to Akron community and political leaders. Their response was unknown.

(YSU)

YSU administration was developing a proposal for a 2 year nursing program. There were questions as to whether this would be a good idea in light of the possible separation of 2 and 4 year programs under the Ohio higher education systems.

YSU was celebrating its 100 year anniversary.

The university was purchasing property in the Smoking Hollow neighborhood.

Contract negotiations were beginning, with the hope that they would be concluded by February.

Dr. Ahuja reminded OFC that he had invited Bruce Johnson, President of the IUC, to meet OFC at the November meeting. This would have to be coordinated with the visit of Chancellor Fingerhut.

(UT-HSC)

The attempt to merge the faculty senates of UT and UT-HSC had fallen apart. There appeared to be "cultural distrust" between the faculties.

(UC)

Contract negotiations had been completed. Faculty members are to receive an 8% raise over a three year period. There was an increase in the faculty contributions to health care. The contract includes a provision granting domestic partner benefits.

There is concern about compression of faculty salaries.

UC is developing a plan for the University System. In doing so, the President had asked each college for a "grade card" on the performance of their programs.

UC is planning to go to semester terms, but it was unclear as to when.

(OSU)

OSU had a new provost.

OSU remained the largest university in the nation with approximately 52,000 students on its main campus.

A question was raised as to whether OSU was moving to semester terms. The answer was yes, but it was not known when that would occur.

Minutes of the September 14, 2007 OFC meeting were approved with minor changes.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
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