

Ohio Board of Regents
STUDENT ACCESS AND SUCCESS COORDINATING COUNCIL
March 11, 2005

The Student Access and Success Coordinating Council of Ohio (SASCCO) convened a meeting March 11, 2005 at 10:00 a.m. at the offices of the Ohio Board of Regents. Those in attendance were:

Bruce Beeghly, Ohio Board of Regents, SASCCO Co-Chair
Christina Milano, National College Access Network, SASCCO Co-Chair
Jennifer Blatz, Ohio College Access Network (OCAN)
Katie Bontrager, Sallie Mae Ohio
Maria Boss, Cleveland Scholarship Program
Larry Christman, Assoc. of Independent Colleges & Universities of Ohio (AICUO)
Paralee Compton, Canton City Schools GEAR UP Partnership Program
Paula Compton, University of Toledo (guest)
Jim Craig, State Board of Education
Jim Eickhoff, Student Loan Funding
Samuel Gresham, Columbus Urban League
Geraldine Hayes Nelson, Kent State University/TRIO programs
Billy Hensley, OCAN (guest)
Leonard Hubert, Governor's Office/CAAM
Tom Humphries, Youngstown/Warren Regional Chamber
Brian Paskvan, Owens Community College
Mayme Patthoff, OCAN (guest)
Dayna Ritchie, AICUO
Wendell Schick, Ohio Northern Univ./Ohio Assoc. of Student Financial Aid
Administrators
Len Simutis, Eisenhower National Clearinghouse (ENC) (guest)
Tom Stein, Otterbein College
LaToya Sykes, Great Lakes Higher Education Corporation
Jacqueline Williams, OTTA
Shaun Yoder, Governor's Office

OBR Staff Attending: Kristina Frost, Jon Tafel, Leslie Sawyer, Charles Shahid, Jamie Abel, David Barber, Bret Crow, Erin Emerine

Regent Bruce Beeghly opened the meeting with brief introductions and a welcome to Columbus.

Articulation and Transfer Initiative Update

Jon Tafel provided an update on Ohio's articulation and transfer efforts. The Ohio General Assembly challenged the Board of Regents and the public higher education institutions to create a more seamless educational system for students. Over the past two years, a transfer guarantee has been created to provide students a seamless pathway through the educational system. Transfer Assurance Guides (TAGs) will

provide a guarantee to students and improve academic advising. The TAGs reflect pathways into 38 major/degree programs across 8 disciplines. A universal course equivalency system will allow campuses to transfer course information through the Higher Education Information System (HEI). HEI will serve as the clearinghouse of information. Later, a more sophisticated transfer of information will take place through a statewide electronic hub, allowing for the instant electronic transfer of transcripts between campuses. The hub will be developed in the coming year. Institutions will be required to submit their information into the Higher Education Information (HEI) system by the end of August. Eight schools are involved in a pilot to begin sharing information regarding TAGs between schools. The private colleges have been involved in the discussions, but their involvement with HEI is limited. The TAGs are a statewide guarantee for public institutions. Ohio's new articulation and transfer system should improve graduation rates across the state.

Ohio GEAR UP Grant Submission

Jon Tafel and Jennifer Conner Blatz provided an update on Ohio's GEAR UP grant submission. When Ohio applied for the federal GEAR UP grant six years ago, two sites were selected to be part of the state's program – Cleveland and Ironton. The state's program is administered by the Ohio Board of Regents. There are an additional nine local partnership grant programs in Ohio, and both the state program and the local partnership programs are funded for six years with funding renewed each year. The Cleveland and Ironton sites serve as models for identifying best practice access strategies in both urban and rural communities. The results seen thus far through GEAR UP are improved grade point averages, increased numbers of students taking rigorous math and science courses, higher proficiency test scores, improved attendance and increased college awareness.

Ohio is now applying for another six years of federal GEAR UP funding and is proposing eight "lighthouse" sites to be established in conjunction with OCAN. Services offered by the lighthouse sites will include advisory services, early assessment of mathematics and writing needs, mentoring and tutoring services, parental involvement strategies, professional development for teachers, and last-dollar scholarships for students. OCAN will work with the selected schools and communities to close achievement gaps and encourage college aspiration, access and educational achievement. The sites will build on and continue the state program's emphasis on providing best practice models that can be replicated across the state. The student outcomes will be increased college aspiration, participation, and success; reduction in number of students who need remediation during first year of postsecondary education; an increased number of students passing the Ohio Graduation Test; and an increase in the number of students who take the ACT/SAT tests. Community outcomes include the development of a replicable model that can be successfully shared with surrounding communities, deepened school capacity and community involvement/support; and understanding of the relationship between education and the economy. Questions which still need to be addressed are how SASCCO can initiate the call to action in the eight communities, how to determine and measure success, how to market to communities, and how to address the scholarship component.

Student Information Portal Update

Len Simutis, David Barber and Jon Tafel provided an update on Ohio's student information web portal. The audiences for the portal will be students, parents and people returning to higher education from the workforce. It will take some time to pull together a fully functioning portal; however, a website should be in place this fall. It will provide information, but will not initially have the account functions or all of the interactivity that is envisioned with the fully functioning portal. David Barber located a website developed through the Indiana Commission on Higher Education, and the team has been studying Indiana's model. Ohio would like to collaborate with Indiana, copy the content and software from their site, and replace the Indiana information with Ohio-specific information. There has been a history of collaborating with Indiana, and Indiana's site closely resembles what the team has had in mind for Ohio. Jon Tafel submitted the idea of collaborating with Indiana to SASCCO for consensus, and there were no objections.

College Opportunity Grant

Charles Shahid announced that efforts are underway to improve the Ohio Instructional Grant (OIG). It will now be called the Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG). OCOG is receiving a favorable response from the Governor and other policy makers. The primary difference between the two programs is that the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) will be used to determine need in OCOG as opposed to the table-based approach of family income and total number of dependent children in the household used by OIG. The program will begin in FY 2007 and will be complete in FY 2010.

High School to College Articulation

Jon Tafel and Paula Compton reported that a high school to college articulation subcommittee has been meeting monthly for the last six months. Their goal is to address issues of alignment between high school and college entrance expectations in mathematics and English. Their work ultimately will help Ohio high school students know what skills and knowledge they need to be placed into credit-bearing college courses and to be successful in college and the workplace. Kentucky and some other states have already done this.

Marketing – Preliminary Recommendations

Kristina Frost presented an update on the preliminary recommendations of the marketing consultation. The objectives of the consultation have been to review ongoing marketing efforts; determine the role that the statewide higher education community could and should play in a marketing effort; consider where resources might be targeted; and evaluate how additional funding resources could be secured. The consultation has received presentations and information from private marketing companies, other states, Ohio campuses and other marketing efforts affiliated with Ohio government and has formed three teams to focus specifically on areas of

collaboration and coordination; research; and funding. Thus far, the consultation has concluded that additional market research is essential; significant funding will be needed (at least three to four years of support to reap positive and sustained results); a non-governmental, private entity should administer the funds for the campaign; and retention issues should be further explored. Campuses also need to be prepared to handle the new interest in higher education resulting from the campaign. The consultation will continue to gather additional information, develop concrete recommendations, assess funding levels and what can be accomplished at various levels, identify measures of success and submit its final report to SASCCO by June 2005. Money for the campaign has not been identified or raised. A business plan should be developed before going out to foundations to raise the funds.

College Access Information Hotline Update

Erin Emerine provided an update on the college access information hotline. It is designed to serve as an access tool for a wide range of audiences. OBR will hire a specialist with a financial aid/college access background to handle the hotline in April. The specialist will be able to direct callers to campus contacts for various questions and the hotline will be tied into the GEAR UP lighthouse sites. The hotline will be open from 10 AM – 6 PM. Marketing for the hotline will be necessary for it to be effective. Indiana dropped from 70,000 calls per year to 20,000 when they changed the name of their hotline and did not market the new name. In conjunction with the web portal, the hotline will be a centralized place for finding answers to basic questions on attending college.

Federal Support for GEAR UP/TRiO programs

Geraldine Hayes-Chavez passed around information about federal GEAR UP and TRiO programs and expressed the need to contact Congressional members to encourage them to reinstate these programs in the federal budget. As a graduate of Upward Bound, a TRiO program, Dr. Hayes-Chavez touted its success. Leslie Sawyer is responsible for following this issue at the Ohio Board of Regents.

Ohio Student Access and Success Conference

Mayme Patthoff reported that the Student Access and Success Conference will be held October 18-20 at the Renaissance Hotel in Columbus. OCAN will contact SASCCO members to get their databases so that they may send invitations. The cost for the conference has not yet been determined, but there will be daily registration rates.

Next Meeting Date/Adjournment

The next SASCCO meeting was scheduled for June 17, 2005. Co-Chair Bruce Beeghly adjourned the meeting.