

**Access and Communications Committee  
Ohio Board of Regents  
Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday, March 9, 2006**

The March meeting of the Access and Communications Committee of the Ohio Board of Regents was held on the campus of Cincinnati State Technical and Community College. The following Board of Regents Members were in attendance:

Members of the committee:

Donna M. Alvarado, Committee Chair  
Anthony D. Houston  
Jim Patterson  
Walt Reiling

Other Regents in attendance:

Edmund J. Adams  
Bruce R. Beeghly  
Jerry Tatar  
Jim Tuschman

The meeting was called to order by Regent Alvarado and the minutes of the January 19, 2006 Access Committee were approved without objection.

Major items for discussion:

**Governor Taft's Ohio Core Proposal**

Susan Bodary, Executive Assistant for Education and Workforce for Governor Bob Taft, gave an overview of Governor Taft's Ohio Core Proposal. She explained that the proposal, which was introduced by the Governor in his State of the State address, will significantly ratchet up the academic rigor required for Ohio high school students to graduate from high school. It is intended that more students will graduate with the academic preparation necessary to enter higher education. The key provisions of the plan as outlined by Ms. Bodary include:

- Require all high school students to take a more rigorous core curriculum
- Make completing the Ohio Core a requirement for admission to Ohio's public four-year colleges
- Move all remedial education to Ohio's two-year public institutions
- Require all students to take a college/work ready assessment in their junior year
- Add a measure to the School Report Card to indicate how well graduates are prepared for college and work

Regent Tuschman asked what impact mandating that remediation be offered only at two year institutions would have on four year schools that are currently providing remediation courses for their students. Jim McCollum from the Inter University Council responded by saying that some four year institutions have missions to serve unprepared students. He urged Ms. Bodary to consider unintended consequences of a one-size-fits-all approach to remediation reform. Ms. Bodary indicated that the Governor's staff is open to discussing the issue as the legislation moves forward.

Regent Reiling asked if there were any initiatives underway to address the shortage of secondary educators that will be needed to make the Ohio Core a reality. Ms. Bodary replied that they were considering a number of ideas to address the issue including the use of adjunct faculty, K-12/Higher Education collaborations, and a review of teacher education programs.

After discussion of the plan, the committee unanimously recommended a resolution to the March board meeting agenda. The resolution reflects Regents' support for the Ohio Core and Regents' commitment to work with the Governor and education stakeholders to develop the implementation details.

### **Overview of Student Portal**

Vice Chancellor Jon Tafel and Len Simutis from Ohio State University updated the committee on development of the web based student portal. The portal will gather and organize information and make sure it is readily available. Students will have, at their fingertips, information on prerequisites, academic preparation, financial aid and career opportunities at one location. All of this information is available on the Internet but is detached and hard to locate.

Regent Alvarado suggested that perhaps free wireless access to the portal should be made available to students and parents.

### **Legislative Update**

Associate Vice Chancellor Deborah Gavlik updated the committee on the progress of higher education related bills of interest and recent legislative inquiries handled by Regents' staff.

### **Trustee Conference Plans**

Vice Chancellor Kris Frost updated the committee on the plans for the June 2006 Trustees' conference. The conference topic is the tax and spending limitation amendment on the November ballot.

### **Media Update**

Jamie Abel, Associate Director for Communications, updated the committee on recent and upcoming press releases.

The meeting was adjourned.