

Ohio Board of Regents Minutes
Ohio Board of Regents, Columbus, Ohio
December 16, 2009

I. Welcome

Regent Chair Tuschman welcomed the Regents and Trustees to the trustee engagement facilitation and explained that the mission for the day was to bring leaders together to help guide and give directions to the University System of Ohio (USO). The task is to help define and refine the concepts of the USO, to determine how to run an effective and efficient institution of higher education, and how to make it assessable and affordable to students and citizens for the state of Ohio. He said proactive stewardship is needed to create an effective higher education system.

Regent Alvarado said that discussions from the meeting would help to shape the future of higher education. The goal of the state is to move from thirty-five percent of Ohioans with associate degrees or higher to a highly educated workforce.

II. Framing

Chancellor Fingerhut said the state has already taken a major step by creating the University System of Ohio. Ohio is the largest comprehensive system in the United States and he said a value could not be placed on this investment that is paid for and owned by the public. If Ohio uses its assets to its fullest, Ohio could be out in front with nothing to stop it in this competitive age. Higher education needs to think of itself as a collective asset instead of an individual asset. The Strategic Plan is the beginning of the process of thinking collectively and creating statewide goals and strategies to implement the plan. The Chancellor and Regents are trying to create a system of collective leadership with trustees from around the state. It is a very challenging task that will take time and commitment.

III. Introduction of Facilitators

Regent Alvarado introduced facilitators Tuesday Ryan-Hart, Deb Helber, and Phil Cass. She said the facilitators would be focusing on the word "sustainability" during the day's session. She explained the day's agenda and the process it would take to define stewardship of the USO and the path needed to get there.

IV. Facilitated Discussion, Building a Culture of Collective Stewardship

The facilitators asked the trustees and regents to introduce themselves and answer the question, "What was my inspiration for serving higher education in Ohio?" Following their responses, the participants were asked to look at their personal stewardship and to break into small groups to answer the question, "When you think of stewardship, what things come to mind?"

A session on group stewardship was facilitated in which the group was asked to answer the following question: "What do I gain and what do I give up as we move toward collective stewardship?" A time of discussion was held as the group gave their responses to this question. They were then asked to answer the question: "What are the tensions and how can we manage them?"

The facilitators summarized the responses and asked the group to go into a time of reflection to consider the question: "What excites me about today and what do I fear?" A time of group discussion was held around the various answers offered by the group.

The facilitators offered a proposed organizational structure for the trustee engagement showing various levels of involvement and a proposed operating system to move the project forward and have buy-in from others.

The facilitators' next session involved building the path to go forward by asking the question, "What are the next five steps to move us forward to collective stewardship?" The responses were categorized into early, middle, and ending steps. The goal was defined as creating an achievable, affordable, and accountable system of higher education. Discussion was held around the purpose and goals of the University System of Ohio.

The participants were asked to respond to the question: "What am I thinking about as I leave here today?" Each member gave a brief answer to this question as they considered their involvement in the core group.

Chancellor Fingerhut thanked everyone for their time and brain power and reiterated his personal commitment for a sincere, deep, and ongoing process. He said this is a public responsibility and public mission, and that the conversation will be broadened to include working with the private higher education institutions in the future.

V. Next Steps

Regent Alvarado asked for those that would be interested in serving on a core group to further develop the trustee engagement project to let her, Chair Tuschman, Chancellor Fingerhut, or Charles See know.

Chair Tuschman said that Ohio is fortunate to have Eric Fingerhut as its Chancellor. He said today was a "small step on a long walk," and he hoped that the trustees will continue to walk with the Regents as they move forward. He thanked Regent Alvarado and the facilitators for their excellent job.

VI. Adjourn

Chair Tuschman adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.

Walter A. Stealing Jr.
Ohio Board of Regents

January 6, 2010
Date