

Minutes
OHIO BOARD OF REGENTS
February 21, 2008

The public board meeting was called to order by Regent Bruce Beeghly at 11 a.m.

The roll was called by Secretary James M. Tuschman. Those present were:

- Bruce R. Beeghly
- Jeanette G. Brown
- Walter A. Reiling Jr.
- Jerome F. Tatar
- James M. Tuschman

Regent Tuschman stated that “the record reflects that notice of this meeting was given in accordance with provisions of the Board of Regents’ Ohio Administrative Code § 3333-1-14, which rule was adopted in accordance with section 121.22(F) of the Ohio Revised Code.”

Regent Beeghly announced that the goals of the meeting were to look at the *Condition Report* and to review the conclusions under each section of the report.

Regent Tuschman stated that the Regents had provided copies of the *Condition Report* to major groups and to presidents and trustees. He reported that the trustees teleconference was very successful and provided excellent feedback which the Regents have tried to integrate into the report. He said that the Regents hope to improve on contacts with constituencies through regional meetings with trustees and other major stakeholders.

Regent Tuschman further stated that the report would be submitted by the deadline of March 31. He said that the Regents would confer with the Chancellor on how to roll out the *Condition Report* with the Chancellor’s Strategic Plan. He also reported that the Regents would work with the Chancellor regarding visits to editorial boards and meetings with key legislative leaders to provide them with information in the report.

Regent Brown talked about her belief that student learning is highly correlated to the quality of a course and that components of an excellent course (from her view) come down to the quality of the teacher, the depth and breadth of the curriculum, and how much students are challenged and how much experiential learning. She also talked about how to measure success, citing that the quality of courses, curriculum, the depth and breadth of courses make a big difference in creative critical thinking rather than the number courses/credits taken.

Brenda Albright gave a section-by-section review of the updated *Condition Report*. She reported that the report contains much of the feedback she has received

from Regents and others. The following is a summary of the title and conclusion of each section, with comments about items that will be added or altered.

Section 1: Ohio's Economy and its Relation to Education

Conclusion: Based on per-capita data Ohio has fallen behind other states and must increase degree attainment, workforce training, research and technology transfer.

Section 2: Educational and Degree Attainment. More data will be added.

Conclusion: Ohio's educational and degree attainment is below other states, particularly economically strong states and is not competitive for the 21st Century. Some estimates are also in this section regarding what is needed to make Ohio competitive.

Section 3: Participation

Conclusion: Ohio's participation parallels the nation, but is not adequate to meet the needs of a 21st Century economy.

Brenda Albright stated that the demographics show that Ohio has an aging population. She said that the report can qualify that fact by showing that Ohio's 18 to 25 age participation is similar to other states.

Regent Beeghly stated that he wants to make sure that the statement is a true reflection of where Ohio ranks. He questioned whether the report would imply that other states' participation is not adequate to meet the needs of the 21st century economy.

Section 4: Preparation

Conclusion: Ohio's citizens are not adequately prepared for college this trend must change.

Regent Tuschman reiterated that too many Ohio citizens are not adequately prepared.

Regent Tatar liked the idea of trying to get more seniors to earn college credits. He said that we need to identify students in their junior year so they can get the remedial courses taken care of in their senior year.

Regent Brown stated that GEAR UP programs are in place, and that early awareness is important in the 8th grade, not waiting until students are in 12th grade.

Chancellor Fingerhut stated that the whole idea of the Seniors to Sophomore program was not just about having seniors take college courses. He said the program is about raising awareness about the level of preparedness needed to succeed in college at a much earlier stage. He said that it is his hope that through this incentive (a year of college for free), parents and students can focus on what it takes to be prepared for college. He also indicated that the Seniors to Sophomores Program has forced the Board of Regents and the Department of Education to bring to closure some conversations that have been

going on for a very long time about specifically defining a level of preparedness. He agreed with Regent Tatar about the need to have assessment tools to ascertain where a student is relative to the level of preparedness needed to enter college without remediation. He said that he thinks it is very important to make clear to students where they need to be in order to take advantage of opportunities and that then we can get engaged in aggressive ways to make sure students have that opportunity. The Chancellor stressed that it is his hope that the Seniors to Sophomores Program will accelerate the phase-in of the Core curriculum as we make it clear to parents what courses students will need to take in order to take advantage of the program.

Regent Brown stated that aspiration issues are important. She said that the earlier you reach the kids, and get their parents involved the better.

Chancellor Fingerhut said that once we have a clear standard in place, we are going to be very aggressive in implementing it.

Section 5: Affordability

Conclusion: Ohio's colleges and universities are among the least affordable in the nation – this situation must change.

Chancellor Fingerhut said he wanted to let the board know that the USO is seeking to make available to every student in Ohio and adult and non-traditional students, a very low cost associate and bachelor degree. He said that at the main campuses he will probably pursue more of a net cost strategy to focus less on the sticker price but more or less on the affordability to all students based on their income and need. Because of this dual approach, he stated that he isn't sure where Ohio will end up on national averages. He said that the USO is setting a goal of being at or below the national average.

Regent Reiling suggested an additional bullet that mentions that some of our tuition cost is debt service and that it impacts the sticker price now and in the future.

Brenda Albright responded that she would work with Rich Petrick on getting debt service data.

Regent Brown requested a change on page 27 of the document to read that, on average, students have unmet financial needs, of \$6,000.

Regent Beeghly requested that a paragraph or two about net price and sticker price be included in the section on affordability.

Section 6: Institutional Context – breadth and quality

Conclusion: Ohio's higher education system is well-positioned for a thriving 21st Century economy.

Section 7: Financial Condition and Productivity

Ohio's higher education system is well positioned for a thriving 21st Century economy and bold steps that foster greater collaboration are need.

Regent Tatar commented that he is again concerned about getting productivity in order to make college more affordability. He said that if we can get the productivity curve more in line, we would have a flat line on tuition for an extended period of time.

Regent Reiling asked if the University System of Ohio is prepared to accept a significant number of students, from a facility standpoint alone. He said that institutions can increase productivity by offering courses in off-peak hours, etc. but that ultimately there comes a breaking point where the number of individuals enrolled exceeds the capacity of the institutions.

Chancellor Fingerhut stated there are a number of issues embedded in Regent Reiling's concerns. On the facilities issues, he said that he thinks we have adequate facilities - in the broadest sense of campuses and locations - to offer higher education to the people of Ohio. He said that it doesn't mean that within each campus the mix of buildings is exactly right or won't have to change. He also noted that there is a capital backlog. Overall, the Chancellor said that he agreed with the conclusion in the report as phrased, but that doesn't mean that there aren't challenges in adapting those facilities to the way they are going to be needed. The second part of this issue has to do with online learning and distance learning. And the third issue is enrollment. Increased enrollments means we will mean that we will need more support from the Governor and the General Assembly, but since higher education is one of their strategic goals we feel relatively confident that they will be willing to assist with the funds that are needed.

Rich Petrick commented that part of the answer is better management of what we have.

Regent Reiling said he would like the conclusion to read "Ohio's Higher Education System is well positioned for a thriving 21st century economy "but" (instead of "and") bold steps that foster greater collaboration are needed.

Regent Beeghly said that, on behalf of Chair Alvarado, she just wanted to convey that perhaps we are painting too rosy a picture in this section.

Section 8: Economic Development

Conclusion: Ohio has made tremendous progress, yet still lags many other states, and expansion of these activities is critical.

Regent Tuschman stated because these points may be quoted we need to offer more explanation. He suggested that the sentence "Ohio has made tremendous progress in workforce training, research" be added.

Chancellor Fingerhut said he would like to divide the workforce development conclusion from the research conclusion. He said that the research conclusion is very accurate but with the workforce conclusion, although have a handle on the problem, he wouldn't claim that we've made progress.

Brenda Albright said that if you look at all the data and if you look at the different areas for the future, there are ten challenges. The intent of the final summary and next steps section was to summarize what the challenges are based upon the data.

Regent Brown noted that the conclusions on page 43 are not consistent with those on page 10.

Bruce Johnson, President and CEO of the Inter-University Council, gave a presentation on the Voluntary System of Accountability.

Regent Tuschman asked if all of Ohio's four-year institutions have signed up for the VSA.

Bruce Johnson, stated that they have agreed but not yet signed up. Mr. Johnson said that, in working with the Chancellor, the IUC is suggesting that there be an Ohio College Portrait. The IUC is also asking that the format be amended slightly so that universities are permitted to add a page called Community Engagement. That page would demonstrate the extent to which the University is interwoven in its community. We said that the IUC would standardize how universities would report and let them voluntarily report other good things.

Regent Tuschman asked if the VSA applies to the two year schools.

Bruce Johnson said that it did not. It is a four year institution issue. He recommends that the two-year colleges come up with a similar reporting mechanism. The VSA is designed for four year institutions. One of the criticisms of the VSA is that it does not reflect graduate programs.

Regent Beeghly asked how long the VSA has been in use and the number of institutions using it.

Bruce Johnson said that it has been a couple of years in the making and all of the IUS institutions are involved. Nationwide, it is 70% of the student population in approximately 600 institutions. Institutions began signing up in January. Fourteen of the IUC presidents have agreed to use it.

Chancellor Fingerhut stated that the IUC has shown wonderful leadership on this initiative and thanked the IUC for its leadership.

Regent Brown asked if the VSA web page is compatible with HEI and the OCAN system.

Bruce Johnson said that he wasn't sure what she meant by the word "compatible." He said that the information comes from generally available data.

Chancellor Fingerhut said that the *Condition Report* and the Strategic Plan will be designed by the same designer using the same principles. They will look like matching documents. He said that other state's strategic plans are very long documents because they are both a "condition report" and a strategic plan. Ohio's reports will be

graphically interfaced using Department of Development's style book. The Chancellor stated that he doesn't intend to make a lot of hard copies of the reports, and that they will be readily available on the web site. He said that he thinks it would be best to release the reports together, through press conferences and editorial visits. He hopes to have a member or two of the Board of Regents accompany him on the editorial board meetings. He said that he is beginning to schedule a set of legislative briefings that will precede the release, and there will be a formal release. He said that both reports are newsworthy, and he believes the press will pay attention to both reports.

Regent Tuschmen stated that the Regents will coordinate with Donna Alvarado will and be there to assist the Chancellor. He requested that the Regents be given as much advance notice as possible.

Regent Beeghly stated that the next meeting is on March 20 and the start time is 10:00 am. He asked that any comments be sent to Brenda Albright as soon as possible.

The meeting was adjourned by Regent Beeghly.

Secretary Regent

Date

Francis Tuschmen

Feb 21, 2008