

**Access and Communications Committee
Ohio Board of Regents
Minutes of the Meeting of November 13, 2003**

The meeting of the Access and Communications Committee of the Ohio Board of Regents was held at the Regents' offices, 30 East Broad Street, 36th Floor, Columbus, Ohio. In attendance were the following:

Ohio Board of Regents members:

Members of the Access and Communications Committee

Gerald M. Miller (Committee Vice Chair)
Jeanette G. Brown
Ralph E. Schey

Other Regents in attendance

Bruce R. Beeghly
Thomas W. Noe
J. Gilbert Reese
Edmund J. Adams

Ohio Board of Regents staff:

Jamie Abel, Assistant Director for
Media Relations
Harry Andrist, Director, Research &
Graduate Programs
Roderick Chu, Chancellor
Bret Crow, Assistant Director for
Communications
Jocelyn Frasier, Assistant Director of
Ohio Innovation Alliance
Kris Frost, Vice Chancellor for
Operations
Deborah Gavlik, Associate Vice
Chancellor for Finance and
Governmental Relations
Darrell Glenn, Director for
Performance Reporting and Analysis
Robert Kerr, Consultant, Workforce
Development
Andy Lechler, Senior Analyst, HEI

James Nargang, Assistant Director,
Capital Development
Rich Petrick, Vice Chancellor for
Finance
Neal McNally, Assistant Director for
Finance and Governmental Relations
Tom Rudd, Director of Student
Financial Access
Leslie Sawyer, Director Access
Initiatives Programs
Janet Schilk, Associate Director, K-16
Initiatives
Charles Shahid, Assistant Director,
State Grants and Scholarships
Garrison Walters, Vice Chancellor for
Academic Affairs & Economic
Advancement
Bill Wagner, Research Analyst
Shaun Yoder, Legislative Liaison

Guests:

Chris Baldwin, Owens Community
College
John Buttlerwerth, Ohio Faculty
Senate

Linda Carr, University of Toledo
Larry Christman, Association of
Independent Colleges and Universities
Laurie Day, Cleveland State University

John McGrath, President, Stark State
College of Technology
Gena Miller, Association of
Independent Colleges and Universities
of Ohio

Perry Moore, Wright State University
Dayna Ritchie, Association of
Independent Colleges and Universities
of Ohio

The meeting was called to order by Regent Miller, who noted that the committee would receive a full update from Mr. Dick Pogue on the latest work of the Governor's Commission for Higher Education and the Economy. Regent Miller then introduced Mr. Dick Pogue, Chairman of the Commission and Dr. Katherine Canada, Project Director for the Commission.

Update on the Governor's Commission for Higher Education and the Economy

Mr. Pogue started by providing an overview of the composition of the Commission. Mr. Pogue noted that this is an outstanding group of people who are well positioned to make strong recommendations for the improvement of Ohio's higher education system and its impact on the economy.

Mr. Pogue also explained that there are three committees of the full Commission. The three committees include:

- Economic Competitiveness Committee,
- Access and Success Committee, and
- Delivering Results Committee.

Each committee is guided by two co-chairs. Mr. Pogue also extended praise to Dr. Katherine Canada, who, as he said, "does a marvelous job of analyzing and compiling the work of the Commission."

Mr. Pogue explained that each committee is in the process of developing a series of policy options to guide further discussion of the Commission's work. In the development of the policy options, Commissioners apply the following set of baseline questions:

- Is the policy option significant and applicable at a statewide level?
- Does the policy option relate to the economy?
- Is the policy option politically worthwhile? and
- Can the policy option be sustained beyond the Commission?

It is the goal of the Commission to end its work in March, and there are currently 41 policy options that must be whittled down before the final report. Within the 41 policy options lies a plethora of topics and ideas. But, as Mr. Pogue noted, one of the most significant options at this time is to create a compact among higher education, business and legislative stakeholders. The Commission has been challenged thus far to appropriately and effectively get businesses involved in its work. Mr. Pogue also explained that there is currently a tremendous culture gap which exists between higher education and the legislature. The Ohio Legislature

seems to maintain a certain amount of skepticism toward the higher education community.

Details of the Policy Options:

Mr. Pogue went on to explain the nature of the 41 policy options: some are detailed, some require the legislature to commit more money for higher education – which might be difficult during these economic times, and some require greater collaboration among Ohio’s institutions of higher education.

Regent Miller asked for a detailed overview about any policy options that might relate to college access and closing the cultural gap that seems to exist between higher education and the legislature.

Mr. Pogue noted that a structure must be in place whereby all parties will be able to communicate effectively. This structure would be a forum where important state leaders would be able to meet, resolve problems and then effectively publicize any comprises and agreements reached. Mr. Pogue believes that the culture gap between higher education and the legislature exists due to a severe lack of understanding that separates the two entities. In order to close this gap, a structure must exist with tools for marketing, discussion, and compromise – essentially a forum that brings all vested stakeholders together.

Mr. Pogue explained that 13 policy options have come forward from the work of the “Access and Success Committee.” Many of these policy options build on and support the work being done by the Board of Regents. The options are organized into the following four large topics: **Awareness and Aspiration, Academic Preparation, Affordability and Availability and Responsiveness.**

Awareness and Aspiration

(One policy option)

- Develop a comprehensive marketing plan to raise awareness of post-secondary education and communicate the importance of advanced education. This will help raise aspirations in the state. An example marketing plan could include the Success Express Pilot, which seemed to be a successful tool for higher education.

Academic Preparation

(Two policy options)

- The Joint Council is urged to take actions in easing the transition from high school to post-secondary education.
- Ensure that the K-12 education system has an adequate supply of quality teachers in mathematics, science and technology.

Affordability

(5 policy options and 2 placeholders)

- Reconstitute the Ohio Tuition Trust Authority.
- Improve and consolidate financial aid programs.
- Revise financial aid strategies with greater emphasis on needs-based awards.

- Target a pool of financial aid funding to support the economic priorities of the state.
- Conduct a Board of Regents audit of various financial aid practices across the state.
- Two placeholders for discussion: Tuition caps and financial aid for out-of-state and foreign students.

Availability and Responsiveness

(3 policy options)

- Create a single, common electronic application form for all public colleges and universities.
- Facilitate the ease of transfer and articulation of coursework throughout the state.
- Develop technology-based certification programs to increase access to advanced education for returning adult learners.

After Mr. Pogue outlined the policy options of the Access and Success Committee, Regent Adams asked Mr. Pogue for his reaction to yesterday's (November 12th meeting of the full Commission) meeting. Mr. Pogue responded that he thought the meeting went very well, as there was thoughtful and productive discussion. He did express concern, however, about the lack of participation from legislative commission members. He noted that the legislature must be involved through the work of the commission to ensure their support of the final recommendations, which will ultimately be implemented by legislative means.

Regent Beeghly noted that these policy options are generally very detailed. What will be the next course of action for the Commission?

Mr. Pogue explained that Dr. Stephen Portch would suggest that the Commission has too many policy options, which could be ineffective. Portch would advise that the Commission take seven to nine recommendations and focus sharply on achieving their implementation. The Commission seems split on this topic; that is, some want detailed policy options, while others suggest more general, far reaching policy options.

Mr. Pogue also outlined the work of the Economic Competitiveness Committee and the Delivering Results Committee. Main issues addressed in these committees include greater collaboration between universities, increased efficiency, workforce development issues, transfer of technology, and funding of higher education.

Finally, Mr. Pogue noted that there is discussion afoot surrounding the selection process and qualifications of trustees. There is currently a recommendation to study and possibly alter certain conditions of university trusteeships including the length of term served, the number of trustees at one institution, and the residential requirements for trustees.

After Mr. Pogue's presentation, the Access Committee heard a brief update from Vice Chancellor Jon Tafel. A planning meeting for the Student Access and Success Coordinating Council of Ohio occurred yesterday. Tina Milano, of the College Access Network, and Regent Bruce Beeghly will co-chair this Council. The Council

will develop a matrix which will be used to provide accountability for increasing the college going rate in Ohio. The first meeting of the full Council will be in January.

Finally, Vice Chancellor Tafel explained that the Board of Regents will also be applying for another National Science Foundation Mathematics and Science Partnership grant this December. Our submission last year was reviewed favorably and we plan to use the same structure to increase the capacity of Ohio in mathematics and science education. This structure focuses on our Centers for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Education and the Ohio Resource Center for Mathematics, Science and Reading. While Ohio has been awarded several grants, we are hoping that quality will overcome geography and we will be successful in our resubmission.

Upon the conclusion of Vice Chancellor Tafel's update, Regent Miller thanked the guests from the Governor's Commission for Higher Education and the Economy for their presentations and adjourned the Access and Communications Committee.