

Ohio Board of Regents Minutes
Ohio Board of Regents, Columbus, Ohio
January 6, 2010

I. Call to Order

Chair Tuschman called the meeting to order and asked that the roll call be read.

II. Roll Call

Secretary Reiling stated, "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."

Secretary Reiling called the roll. Those present were:

Donna M. Alvarado

Bruce R. Beeghly

Timothy M. Burke

Bonnie K. Milenthal

Lana Z. Moresky

James F. Patterson

Walter A. Reiling, Jr.

James M. Tuschman

Secretary Reiling declared there was a quorum present.

III. Approval of December 15 and December 16, 2009 Minutes

Chair Tuschman asked for approval of the December 15, 2009 and December 16, 2009 minutes. A motion was made by Regent Alvarado, seconded by Regent Milenthal to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

IV. Chairman's Report

Chair Tuschman said that the agenda included two presentations regarding textbook affordability that were very interesting and beneficial to the students of the State of Ohio. The afternoon's agenda included a review of the Condition Report, the Chancellor's report and a discussion on trustee engagement.

V. Trustee Engagement

Chair Tuschman and Donna Alvarado began the trustee engagement report with a summary of the December 16, 2009 facilitation session. The Regents said the trustee engagement facilitation was superb and solidified the need to have trustees involved in the planning and defining of the University System of Ohio. The Regents reviewed the report of the meeting and the proposal from the facilitators. Future steps include:

- Convene a Core Planning Group for trustee engagement to include representatives of Regents and trustees of the University System of Ohio.
- Report to the Communications Working Group on the status of the trustee engagement initiative.. Invite some of their members to serve on the Core Group.
- Select 12-14 trustees from across the state to serve on the Core Group.
- Regents Alvarado, Burke, Milenthal and Moresky will serve on the Core Group.
- Solicit further guidance from the Chancellor and his staff on the purpose and definition of the University System of Ohio.

The Regents expressed their desire that the momentum from the facilitation session continue and that there is buy-in from the trustees to ensure the trustee engagement's success.

VI. Staff Presentation on Textbook Affordability Strategy

Paolo DeMaria, Executive Vice Chancellor, presented a PowerPoint on the Chancellor's Textbook Affordability Strategy. The strategy was created with input from the state's colleges and universities. He said the state's vision is to be a recognized leader in innovation and commitment to bringing down student expenditures on textbooks and other educational material while enhancing educational quality, encouraging innovation, and supporting academic freedom. Mr. DeMaria listed the principles and the context in which the strategy will be developed. He said it was not about promoting used textbooks, reducing the price of the typical textbooks, or about mandating common textbooks. It is about options for low-cost, high quality resource materials.

Mr. DeMaria listed the umbrella strategies and various activities already employed by the Chancellor's office to help make textbooks more affordable. He said recommended activities include making sure there is a clear message about available resources and making sure institutions know what is being done elsewhere; improving data collection and reporting; developing a guide of institutional best practices, working on a faculty development guide to resources and making it easy to find materials; developing a resource inventory; continuing innovator awards and affordability grants; using digital and modularized content negotiations to make resources available to students at lower costs and improving accessibility for disabled students. He said the Chancellor's office has a contract with the Rehabilitation Services Commission to help with access for the disabled. Key metrics include the number of course sections taught with low or no-cost educational resources and working with campuses to better understand how they gather information from faculty regarding how many teach course sections with low or no cost educational resources. He would also like to do a price comparison of low cost vs. high cost between similar courses. Mr. DeMaria presented several success stories regarding lowering textbook prices.

Discussion was held regarding holding faculty accountable for making their classes affordable and how the various innovations such as Kindle and online resources will affect the schools' bookstores.

VII. Textbook Affordability Presentation by Brand Education

BrandEd and FlatWorld Knowledge gave a presentation entitled "Ohio Open Textbook Initiative" that outlined a proposal to work in partnership with the Chancellor and his staff to make textbooks more affordable by using open content options. Their presentation aligned with the Ten Year Strategic Plan and was designed specifically for Ohio. They said the cost of textbooks has risen by 72 percent in the last twenty years and this increase has become a serious barrier to students enrolling and staying in higher education.

Discussion was held by the Board of Regents regarding the presentation. The Board asked Mr. DeMaria to speak with the company representatives regarding the proposal as soon as possible. Ohio was the first state to receive the presentation and the Board thanked the group for their fascinating presentation.

VIII. Third Condition Report Draft Discussion

Jim Patterson introduced the Third Condition Report portion of the agenda and said that Consultant Brenda Albright would do a general review of the draft and will delve deeper into the report based on the day's input. Stakeholders will be sent the report without conclusions, and will be asked to forward their input to Charles See by the end of the month. Consultant Albright will incorporate their comments into the draft report. The Board will do another review of the draft in February and adopt it in March. The Condition Report will be presented to the Governor and legislators prior to being released to the public.

Consultant Albright reviewed the draft report, the conclusions and the rationale for them, and identified key issues presented by the Board. The report was divided into Part I: How well is Ohio student-centered; Part II: Key Trends Updating the First Condition Report; and Appendices with supporting data. Each section was presented to the Board for comments and discussion. She said the report must make clear that there should be sustained work and focus on the necessary changes. It will paint a picture of the variables that Ohio is grappling with and the reality of the status quo as compared to where Ohio needs to be. She said there is a positive story of collaborations and strategies for growth. However, there is a need to gather data from students who did not go to college and did not finish school. The report needs to express how far Ohio has come in academics but look at how students are handling initiatives. Changes will be made to the report based on the feedback and comments from the Board.

The next step will be to share the draft report with higher education presidents, board chairs and stakeholders for their comments.

IX. Chancellor's Report

Prior to the Chancellor's Report, the Board agreed to "go green" and no longer print handouts unless specifically requested by the Regents.

Chancellor Fingerhut introduced Kate Harkin, the Executive Director of the eTech Ohio Commission. eTech Ohio is a separate agency that encompasses educational broadcasting. Chancellor Fingerhut said Ms. Harkin, had the task of completing a State Technology Strategic Plan just thirty days after starting her new position. Ms. Harkin greeted the Board and said she was able to complete the task because of the excellent eTech Ohio staff. She is looking forward to working with the Chancellor and his staff to meet the educational technology needs of the state.

eTech Ohio is one of several agencies that work with the Chancellor to create a single technology infrastructure. These organizations must work together to communicate to educators the available resources in Ohio and fulfill the goals of the Strategic Plan. Chancellor Fingerhut said George Steele is the director of the Ohio Learning Network. Recruitment is underway for directors for the Ohio Supercomputer Center and OhioLINK.

Chancellor Fingerhut introduced Stacia Edwards who was recently hired by the Chancellor as the Director of Workforce Development Initiatives to work in the areas of economic advancement/work force development. Ms. Edwards said her role is to help higher education meet the demand for highly skilled workers and communicate those business needs to Ohio's students. Her responsibilities will include the Ohio Skills Bank.

The Chancellor reported that the Legislature gave him three months to put a pilot program in place regarding construction reform. The pilot projects are to be in geographically diverse locations and be different types of higher education projects. Criteria include being bid ready and having funding in place by June 30, 2010. They will be built under the construction

reform methodology. Selection of the projects will be through an RFP process with the Chancellor recommending the final three. There is a provision in the bill to ask universities to contribute to the cost of consultants to monitor the projects appropriately.

X. Trustee Engagement (continued)

- A phone call will be convened between the Regents Alvarado, Milenthal, Burke and Moresky to hone in on the proposal by the facilitators to sharpen the concept and determine its direction. They will then meet with the facilitators to discuss the direction for the facilitation for the trustee engagement.
- The Board needs to communicate with foundations regarding funding for the initiative after the trustee engagement core group defines the purpose and definition of the University System of Ohio.
- Stage one of the facilitation should include the Communications Working Group and focus on the purpose and definition of the University System of Ohio, trustee engagement, and stewardship.
- The Core Group will be given training to lead strategic conversations with trustees, will make recommendations for next steps to obtain input from trustees throughout the system, and will create a timeline for the final product ready for implementation by August 2010. The remaining Regents will be updated on the results of the call. Regent Alvarado will be included in on the next executive committee call with the Chancellor.

XI. Adjourn

There being no further business, Chair Tuschman asked for a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Regent Moresky and seconded by Regent Burke to adjourn the meeting. All Regents were in favor of the motion. The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

The next Board of Regents meeting will be held February 3, 2010 at the offices of the Ohio Board of Regents, 30 E. Broad Street, 36th Floor, Columbus, Ohio.


Ohio Board of Regents

February 3, 2010
Date