

Ohio Board of Regents Meeting Minutes
Kent State University
July 15, 2009

I. Call to Order

Chair Tuschman welcomed the Regents to the Kent State University meeting of the Ohio Board of Regents and called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call

Regent Secretary Reiling called the roll. Those present were:

Bruce R. Beeghly
Daniel B. Hurwitz
Bonnie K. Milenthal
Lana Z. Moresky
James F. Patterson
Walter A. Reiling, Jr.
James M. Tuschman

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." A quorum was present.

III. Approval of Minutes

Chair Tuschman asked if there were any edits or changes to the minutes submitted in advance for the Regents' review. Chair Tuschman asked for approval of the minutes as submitted. The minutes were approved.

IV. Opening Remarks from the Regent Chair

Chair Tuschman thanked Dr. Lefton for the tour of the campus and commented on the outstanding operations the Regents visited. He thanked Dr. Lefton for the University's hospitality and the opportunity to meet with the trustees over dinner. He spoke to the need of partnerships with the Chancellor, higher education trustees, administration and students to look collectively to keep quality educational services in the state.

V. Report of President

A PowerPoint presentation was given by Dr. Lester Lefton, President of Kent State University (KSU). Dr. Lefton spoke to the strategic plan's focus on student enrollment growth, financial growth, research development, and attracting high achieving students from outside of the state and keeping them in Ohio. KSU would like to position itself academically with a stronger academic core with a focus on excellence that will lead to higher retention rates. He said that KSU was ranked by US News & World Report as one of the top 150 schools in the nation and they are working on the goal of being in the top 100 schools.

Dr. Lefton said in addition to increasing program excellence, the university is pursuing methods to market high quality degrees through on campus and online courses. He spoke of the university's endeavors to encourage students to graduate and said that the national standard for time to graduate is now six years. Students can get credit for life activity if they meet the criteria set by the professor.

KSU's mission is to provide leadership for Ohio by driving economic revitalization, supporting a higher quality of life and increasing collaboration with public and private institutions. KSU is in the top quartile in number of degrees awarded, total enrollment, number of STEM degrees awarded, total adult learners, number of degrees awarded to first-generation students, and internship/co-op participation. Dr. Lefton said signature programs that could be considered centers of excellence include: Liquid Crystals/Bioscience/Nanotechnology; Information/Knowledge Management; Health of Individuals and Communities; Fashion; and STEM Preparedness/21st Century Teacher Leaders. Up and coming programs are Sustainability/Urban Design; and Entrepreneurship and Business Innovation.

VI. Discussion on Condition Report

Regent Patterson gave an update on the progress of the Third Condition Report. Since there is no August meeting of the Board of Regents, the critical path schedule will be revised. The focus of the Third Condition Report will be how Ohio's higher education institutions are student centered.

Scott Sherwood, Howland, Ohio; Shena Jose, India; Leah Brady, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio; Kevin Stone, Wiesbaden, Germany; Jessica Lumpp, Masury, Ohio; and Chadd Smith, Maple Heights, Ohio composed a student panel to answer various questions regarding being a student at KSU and how well they perceive the university as being student centered. The students spoke to their experiences in applying to the university, their future educational plans, and campus life. The students were positive about their experiences on campus, the activities available to them when not in class, residential life, the school's affordability, and faculty. They said the availability of resources varies from class to class and they voiced their concerns regarding faculty that did not have the skills to employ new technologies in their classrooms. They questioned the need to take curriculum that was outside of their major and suggested more aggressive promotion of the university outside of Ohio and internationally. They expressed their dislike for the plus/minus scale of courses, that tuition is due before student aid is disbursed and problems accessing adjunct faculty. One panelist said that because STEM classes are very time consuming, it is difficult to maintain a high GPA and have a life outside of school.

The students said that college is too expensive to experiment with class selection. They suggested that higher education create more opportunities for students to experiment with classes that their high schools do not offer. They also said more high school students would attend college if funding was available and if high schools offered a diversity of college classes and presented supplemental instruction in preparation for college. They suggested the high schools expand their post secondary programs so that students can attend classes on a higher education campus.

The students had an opportunity to ask questions of the Board of Regents. When asked what the plans were for using technology in higher education, the Regents said they would like to see an expansion of distance learning, more support provided to faculty to integrate technology in the classroom, and more communication to faculty about available resources. Discussion was also held regarding scholarship opportunities for in-state and out-of-state students and the Choose Ohio First Scholarship program. The University System of Ohio is reaching out to international students and would like to formulate partnerships with Ohio and other nations. Chancellor Fingerhut said that a Memorandum of Understanding has recently been signed with the president of Iraq to send 50,000 Iraqi students to study abroad. It will be a single pipeline for students to come to Ohio and study.

Chair Tuschman thanked the students for their participation in the panel.

Discussion was held regarding the implementation of a survey to students on all the USO campuses as part of the Third Condition Report. The survey cost may be an issue. They will ask Consultant Albright to see if there are any surveys from other higher education institutions that could be used regarding student engagements and satisfaction.

Regent Patterson spoke to the need to share services for cost savings. He suggested a subcommittee of the Regents study the possibility of shared services, set a time frame, and work toward a goal of \$170M in savings. He suggested the Board engage a consultant or pro bono firm for the effort. The Chancellor's efficiency council can provide figures of what is currently spent and potential savings.

VII. Chancellor Report

Chancellor Fingerhut highlighted several budget issues and said he was aggressively researching ways for potential savings. The General Assembly adopted a performance based budget for distributing monies which is a big adjustment from last year, but in the coming years the change will not be so dramatic. The numbers are constantly changing due to the updating of performance and enrollment data. Improvements can be seen even in the middle of a biennium. The data is critical and more supportive when it is understood that the performance based formula is paying for the completion of courses and graduation from school. It was noted that higher education monies for 2010 are greater than that budgeted for 2009. Cuts were made in other areas to put the agency's money into basic funding for the institutions. There were significant losses in other areas of the budget causing the agency to set spending priorities.

The Chancellor's staff will endeavor to fill in gaps to the student's financial aid caused by reductions in federal aid. He suggested that a performance based financial aid package be considered whereby the students must complete their courses before they can sign up for the next year's aid. He also suggested matching grants with the institutions and asking donors to match scholarships. Foundations could be approached to help with student financial aid. The state legislature has given him the authority to decide on financial aid options. Funding was also reduced for the Ohio Skills Bank and alternative strategies are being sought. The Chancellor's staff will work with the Ohio Department of Job and Family Services to find a replacement source of revenue. The budget did not fund the Co-op and internship initiative and construction reform did not get into the budget. These remain a top priority for the Chancellor.

The Chancellor gave an update on the Ohio Tuition Trust Authority (OTTA) and a proposal to align OTTA with the Chancellor's office. Discussion was held regarding the guaranteed tuition program which would lock in a tuition rate for the future with the institutions.

The Inter-University Council of Ohio and the Ohio Association of Community College are working to form a group to plan a "fee for service" model for transfer and articulation. They would share governance of the program with the Chancellor's staff.

Responsibility for teacher education program approval has been returned to the Chancellor's office. He now has the ability to regulate the teacher education programs and fund them according to their performance. The OGT test will be replaced with either the ACT or SAT test which will provide college readiness data on every student in Ohio. This will let institutions see what students are achieving and will give a common level of communications among the institutions to help students achieve.

The Eastern Gateway Community College is ready to open. It will be housed on multiple sites around the area to bring education to the people. Dual enrollment is moving forward with more community colleges putting AP courses online. The Chancellor's staff will begin a pilot for high school students to put advanced placement courses online with the goal to gain support from school districts for the program.

The Gates Foundation continues to support Ohio higher education. They are providing the Chancellor's staff with support in writing a federal grant for focusing on school completion by low income students.

The Chancellor is now the point person for the renewal of the Third Frontier project and is working to build support for this project.

It has been an exciting month for the Centers of Excellence program. A team from the Chancellor's office has visited every university with the exception of Central State. Each school has identified their centers of excellence, obtained trustee approval, and sent their documentation to the Chancellor's staff. The Chancellor's staff has been interacting with the schools to tweak the proposals. They are also looking at the concept of emerging centers of excellence for the future. The information from the institutions will be reviewed and refined this summer and a Center of Excellence Report will be prepared for distribution in the fall. This report can be used to show the excellence of Ohio institutions and help show what they are doing for economic development. These centers may serve as a core element for obtaining research funding in the future. The Board of Regents will receive a summary statement of each Center of Excellence application for their review.

IX. Trustee Engagement Update

Chair Tuschman gave an update on the Trustee Engagement project. Facilitators Tuesday Hart-Ryan, Deb Helber, and Phil Cass will have a planning session with Chair Tuschman, Regent Alvarado and Chancellor Fingerhut on August 11, 2009. All interested Regents are invited to this meeting.

A meeting with all the Regents and facilitators will be scheduled in late August or September as a time of planning for the trustee engagement project, reviewing of needed resources, and calculating the project's cost.

Discussion was held regarding the process of building representative teams from the various institutions and what the goals for trustee engagement will be. The Regents want to develop a sustainable University System of Ohio that will have trustee involvement in decision making for the state of Ohio. The trustee engagement will be a thoughtful and thorough process that will include communication with and training of trustees.

Discussion was held regarding various means of holding the trustee engagement meetings. Ideas that were suggested include regional trustee receptions, creating a governance straw man, full representation from the two and four year higher education institutions, and the immediate need to form the communication and education working groups. It was suggested that in-person regional meetings be held in December. Regional meetings would allow the trustees in a specific area to get to know each other and provide a time of questions and answers with the Regents. The Chancellor's staff will ask the trustee chairs for nominations for a communications working group. Biographies of the nominees will also be gathered.

X. Adjourn

Chair Tuschman asked if there was any further business. There being no additional items, he declared the meeting adjourned.

The next scheduled Board of Regents meeting will be held September 16, 2009 at the Eastland-Fairfield Career Center, Groveport, Ohio.

Walter A. Reiter, Jr.
Ohio Board of Regents

September 16, 2009
Date