

**Initiatives Committee
Ohio Board of Regents
Minutes of the Meeting of May 22, 2003**

The meeting was called to order by Regent Brown at 10:30 a.m. Regents present were:

Edmund J. Adams
Donna M. Alvarado, Committee Member
Bruce R. Beeghly
Jeanette G. Brown, Committee Chair
Gerald M. Miller, Committee Member
Edwin Rigaud
Ralph E. Schey, Committee Member

Ohio Board of Regents Staff:

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| Eric Almonte | Catherine Hill |
| Harry Andrist | Tom Rudd |
| Dick Arndt | Leslie Sawyer |
| Jack Connell | Janet Schilk |
| Shane DeGarmo | Jonathan Tafel |
| Jane Fullerton | Michael Taggart |
| Garry Walters | |

Minutes of the April 10, 2003 Meeting

Minutes of the April 10 meeting were unanimously approved by the Committee.

Information for the Committee

Mr. Jack Connell distributed a document entitled, *The Status of Tuition Reciprocity in Ohio*.

Dr. Harry Andrist informed the Committee about the changes to the Ohio Eminent Scholars Program for this year. The program will be tied to the Wright Centers of Innovation. Two endowed chairs are funded in the FY2005 budget. This will connect the Ohio Eminent Scholar program with the Third Frontier initiative. The goal is to align science and technology programs across the state. New Eminent Scholars will contribute to strengthening Ohio's high technology research capabilities.

Two institutions have applied to the Regents' Advisory Committee on Graduate Study for graduate degrees. This information was presented to the Committee. Ohio University is applying to have the Ph.D. degree in Environmental and Plant Biology reinstated. Dr. Andrist stated that after a program review the degree was discontinued and merged with the Biological Sciences degree in 1996. Since this review the institution has recruited new faculty and developed a greater focus on plant biology and an active research agenda. They plan to make this a world-class degree program if it is reinstated.

There was significant discussion of this item. It was agreed that external consultants be engaged to conduct a rigorous review of the program including program focus, world-class excellence and marketability of graduates.

Shawnee State University is applying for Master's degrees in education and occupational therapy. They would limit the graduate program to these two degrees for the next 10 years. The occupational therapy degree is in response to a change in the accrediting body policies. There was significant discussion of this. Two issues raised concerned the continued push of accrediting bodies for graduate degree programs and the ability of the institution to maintain quality graduate degrees. It was agreed that alternatives to a Master's in Education be considered before a formal external review is done. Several questions need to be addressed including duplication, infrastructure, marketing and delivery systems (distance learning).

Committee Reports

K-16 Initiatives

- Dr. Dick Arndt provided the Committee a brief update on the progress of the Articulation and Transfer Committee Policy Review. Several subcommittees have been empanelled. The Impact Committee is currently visiting campuses to see “what’s really happening” with the transfer module. The Policy Review Committee is reviewing the current Articulation and Transfer Policy. The policy is being reviewed on both the applied and operational levels. The Course Applicability System (CAS) Review Committee is investigating the barriers that exist in the system. This is a state-of-the-art course transfer review system. Students can enter courses in a web-site and determine where they will transfer.
- Vice Chancellor Jonathan Tafel distributed information regarding the Technology Initiatives Program to the Committee. This is \$3.6 million of funding from the capital budget. The funds will be used for competitive proposals in four main initiatives. The Ohio Digital Commons will be developed as a data base with shared course material for use by the entire K-16 system. Funding will also be available to expand disseminate the materials developed by the Distributed Learning Workshop (electronic mathematics tutorial modules). An up-front assessment of mathematics content knowledge linked to Ohio’s academic content standards will also be developed. The other initiatives include Third Frontier Applications and Back Office Shared Services. New modules may also be developed with a distribution framework.

Regent Brown stated that the ability to use these resources to benefit K-12 education is critical. She again stressed the important need to work with the Ohio Department of Education on obtaining unique student numbers that can be used to track students into higher education.

Due to time constraints all other reports were tabled for the June meeting.

May 22, 2003 Board Agenda Items

- Ursuline College, Master of Management
- Xavier University, Master in Occupational Therapy
- Ohio University Southern Campus, Associate of Applied Science degree in Nursing
- Ohio University, Master of Science in Nursing

Two new programs were reviewed with the Committee for Board approval today (first two items listed). These programs are fast-tracked so that they can be marketed over the summer.

The Xavier Master in Occupational Therapy is developed in response to changes in accrediting body policy. The Ursuline Master of management degree is developed to meet the needs of the community. Graduates and executives are satisfied with the current M.B.A. program but there is a need for a program that focuses more on working with people – to balance the art and science of management.

Regent Alvarado moved to place these items on the Board's consent agenda. Regent Miller seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Tentative Board Agenda Items – June 2003

- Mount Union College, Institutional Reauthorization
- Northwest State Community College, Associate of Applied Science degree in Plastics Engineering Technology
- Youngstown State University, Associate of Technical Study (Type B) degree in Business Technology
- Kent State University, Bachelor of Arts in American Sign Language
- Youngstown State University, Bachelor of Science in Applied Science in Forensic Science

Staff provided background information and answered questions regarding these agenda items. Northwestern Ohio is attracting new plastics companies so the degree in Plastics Technology meets a need for this growing industry.

The Type B degree is a specialized technical degree for the returning workforce when the content knowledge for the career has changes. The changing needs of the Youngstown community are the driving force for the Type B degree in Business Technology.

The Bachelor's degrees proposed by Kent State and Youngstown State recognize evolving areas of study – American sign language and forensic science. The forensics degree is a collaborative degree between a number of science disciplines.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 p.m.