

**Access and Communications Committee
Ohio Board of Regents
Minutes of the Meeting of Wednesday, May 18, 2005**

The meeting of the Access and Communications Committee of the Ohio Board of Regents was held at the Board of Regents offices in Columbus. In attendance were the following:

Ohio Board of Regents Members:

Donna M. Alvarado, Committee Chair
Bruce R. Beeghly
Jeanette Grasselli Brown
Edmund J. Adams
Anthony D. Houston
Jim Tuschman

Ohio Board of Regents Staff:

Jamie Abel, Assistant Director, Communications
Harry Andrist, Director of Research and Graduate Programs
Roderick G. W. Chu, Chancellor
Bret Crow, Assistant Director, Communications
Jocelyn Frasier, Assistant Director, Communications
Kristina Frost, Vice Chancellor for Operations
Jane Fullerton, Associate Vice Chancellor for Educational Linkages & Access
Deborah Gavlik, Associate Vice Chancellor for Finance & Government Relations
Darrell Glenn, Director, Performance Reporting and Analysis
Cathy Hill, Administrator, Workforce Development
Tony Landis, Administrator, Workforce Development
Neal McNally, Assistant Director, Budget & Resource Planning
James Nargang, Assistant Director, Capital Development
Rich Petrick, Vice Chancellor for Finance
Leslie Sawyer, Director, Access Initiatives
Ryan Scribner, Legislative Liaison, Finance & Government Relations
Jonathan Tafel, Vice Chancellor for Educational Linkages & Access
Garrison Walters, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs & Economic Advancement
Nick Wilson, Asst. Director Art. Transfer

Guests:

John Buttelerwerth, Ohio Faculty Senate
Larry Christman, Association of Independent Colleges & Universities of Ohio
Chris Baldwin, Owens Community College
Tony Barnes, University of Akron
Bob Bowers, Ohio Department of Education
Linda Carr, University of Toledo
Laurie Day, Cleveland State University
Rich Healy, Inter-University Council

Kathryn Kelley, Ohio Super Computer Center
Cindy McQuade, Inter-University Council
Jim McCollum, Inter-University Council
Pat Myers, Kent State
David Price, Legislative Service Commission
Margie Rolf, University of Cincinnati
Cathy Shively, Ohio Department of Education
Zak Talarek, Legislative Service Commission
Terry Thomas, Ohio Association of Community Colleges
Paul Unger, Owens Community College

The meeting was called to order by Regent Alvarado and the minutes of the April 2005 Committee were approved without objection.

Reports and Updates:

Budget Language Change

Vice Chancellor Kris Frost informed the committee of legislative language that had been developed in cooperation with President Keese from Rhodes State College to clarify the role of technical colleges and ensure the transferability of technical college coursework within the new articulation and transfer system for Ohio.

Regent Beeghly asked about the differences between community and technical colleges and whether the language would effectively make differences indistinguishable. Kris Frost responded by saying that the new language clarifies that technical colleges offer a limited scope of academic/non-technical course offerings. Garry Walters added that the Regents program approval process would address the issue of technical colleges proposing non-technical degree programs in the future.

The committee agreed that the language was acceptable and requested that the Chancellor write a letter to Sen. Padgett expressing support for the change.

Senate Testimony

Associate Vice Chancellor Deborah Gavlik gave a recap of OBR budget testimony presented in Senate Finance and Education committees on April 26th and April 28th. She recalled that the testimony, presented by a mix of Regents, university presidents, faculty, students, and business leaders, focused on the areas of productivity and efficiency, the return on educational investment, student access and success, university research and workforce development, and university outreach to communities. She also informed the committee that Chancellor Rod Chu provided testimony to the Senate Finance Committee on April 26th.

McGregor Bill

Deborah Gavlik informed the committee that House Bill 174, Rep. McGregor's bill to expand the authority of the Board of Regents, had its third hearing the week of May 26^h before the House Finance and Appropriations committee. There was no proponent or opponent testimony presented on behalf of the bill.

Access and Success in College and the Workplace

Vice Chancellor Tafel, along with guests Bob Bowers and Cathy Shively from the Department of Education, shared with the committee some of the cooperative efforts underway between the Regents and the Department of Education to address the alignment of content standards and the development of graduates ready for college and the workforce.

A video of an articulation and transfer presentation Nancy Zimpher made to the Congressional Subcommittee on 21st Century Competitiveness in Washington, D.C. on May 5th was shown to the committee.

Bob Bowers talked about the American Diploma Project that is focused on aligning high school curriculum and standards with the higher education community's expectations for college readiness with the goal of reducing and ultimately eliminating the need for remediation. He indicated that the Ohio Graduation Test is not the best standard to tell if students are college ready, and that the Department of Education is examining the alignment of its standards with those of the ACT test and other tests to gauge college readiness. Jon Tafel responded that we were very good at aligning standards, but the real challenge is to define what it means to be workforce ready.

Regent Alvarado explained that through her work on the Workforce Advisory Board, she had learned that the greatest challenge identified by employers is finding employees with the necessary work ethic and "soft skills". Cathy Shively explained that the teaching of these skills is included in many of the Department of Education's current curriculum, but that the assessment and requirement of such skills can raise legal issues.

Regent Brown commended the presenters for their efforts and gave an example of a Cleveland internship program that emphasized soft skills such as dependability and promptness. She asked if there were courses included in the curriculum to teach these skills. Cathy Shively replied that all the Department's technical education programs incorporate these skills in their curriculum. Bob Bowers indicated that there were "skills in the workplace" courses in at least one school district.

Regent Tuschman asked about ODE's timeline for reducing remediation rates. Bowers stated they had no specific date yet, but that ODE will look at the latest test scores to gauge if students are learning well enough to reach remediation reduction goals. He added that ODE is examining whether students should be advanced without meeting certain proficiency levels.

Regent Houston talked about his belief that a mastery of a rigorous curriculum should be required of all students, even if they are from impoverished communities such as Cleveland. Bob Bowers replied that they cannot make schools offer specific courses, but they can set standards to be met. He confirmed the need to stress that low income students can learn at a high level and that there is no reason to lower standards for them.

Regent Alvarado stated that she would keep these issues on the committee agenda for further discussion, and added that she would like to see the newly formed Partnership for Continued Learning examine them as well. She thanked the representatives from ODE for coming and adjourned the committee.