

Initiatives Committee
Ohio Board of Regents
Minutes of the Meeting of January 18, 2001

The meeting was called to order by Committee Chair, Regent Tahlmann Krumm, Jr.
Regents present were:

Tahlmann Krumm, Jr., Regent
Ralph E. Schey, Regent

Ohio Board of Regents' Staff:

Harry Andrist, Director, Research and Graduate Programs
Michael Brown, Director, Marketing
Jack Connell, Administrator, Program Approval, Academic and Access Programs
Cathy Hill, Administrator, Workforce Development
Thomas Rudd, Director, Grants and Scholarships
Leslie J. Sawyer, Associate Director, Access Initiatives
Jonathan Tafel, Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic and Access Programs
Michael Taggart, Director, Workforce Development
Garry Walters, Vice Chancellor, Academic and Access Programs

Guests:

John Buttelwerth, Cincinnati State Technical and Community College
John McGrath, Stark State College of Technology
W. Randy Smith, Vice Provost, The Ohio State University
Terry Thomas, Ohio Association of Community Colleges
Kenneth Yowell, President, Edison State Community College

Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the Initiatives Committee from the December 14, 2000 were reviewed and approved.

January 18, 2001 Agenda Items

Previously reviewed by the Committee:

- Community Hospital School of Nursing, Institutional Reauthorization
- Ohio Wesleyan University, Institutional Reauthorization
- Allegheny Wesleyan College, change of degree designation from Bachelor of Religious Education degree program to Bachelor of Arts degree program
- Cedarville University, Master of Education
- University of Notre Dame Du Lac, Notre Dame, Indiana, Off-Campus Executive Master of Business Administration degree program in Cincinnati
- Kent State University, Master of Science in Information Architecture and Knowledge Management
- University of Cincinnati, Master of Architecture
- Reduction in the interest rate paid on loans made in the Nurse Education Assistance Loan Program (NEALP)

Tentative Board Agenda Items – March 2001

- Heidelberg College, Psychology Major in an Off-Campus Degree Completion Program at Maumee
- Trinity International University, Trinity Evangelical Divinity School, Deerfield, Michigan, Institutional Reauthorization for Off-Campus sites in Akron and Mason
- Columbus State Community College, Associate of Applied Science in Applied Technology
- Stark State College of Technology, Associate of Applied Science in E-Solutions Technology
- Release of Non-Credit Job Training Facilities Grant appropriations

Reports

- **Degree Approval:** Dr. Garrison Walters reported on two topics. First, he introduced the plan developed by the Max M. Fisher College of Business at The Ohio State University to offer the Bachelor of Science in Business Administration (BSBA) degree program at its regional campuses using distance learning technology from the main campus. Dr. Walters emphasized that, according to current staff practice, a distance learning effort of this kind is not a new degree or off-campus program and, therefore, does not require Regents' approval. While the staff will continue to monitor activities in this area, there does not seem to be any need to extend regulatory oversight at this time (the same issue was discussed in the Performance Committee). Ironically, close control of such programs when offered by Ohio-based colleges would place them at a competitive disadvantage, given that the law does not permit any regulation of similar programs from out-of-state colleges and universities. Dr. W. Randy Smith, OSU Vice Provost, responded to questions and gave an overview of the University's plans to provide undergraduate business courses of the highest academic quality within the undergraduate offerings of the various regional campuses utilizing the talents of full-time business faculty who are resident on the main OSU campus. The plan was judged to be a highly cost-effective enhancement of the OSU undergraduate regional campus offerings in business. Regent Krumm asked whether distance learning courses in business were a concern of the American Assembly of Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) in their accreditation reviews. Dr. Walters responded that, in his experience, they were not, but noted that The North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA) does monitor such offerings. On the second topic, Dr. Walters presented a newly proposed modification of Regents' policy for approval of off-campus technical baccalaureate degree programs. For a public university desiring to offer a technical baccalaureate degree program at one of its branch campuses the policy change will mean that the Regents will now be granting program approval on a time-specific basis **for all of the university's regional campuses** rather than on a case-by-case basis. On the other hand, if a public university desires to offer a technical baccalaureate degree program at one of its regional campuses that has not previously been offered on the main campus, Regents' review and approval will still be required before the program can be mounted. After an extended discussion of the proposed policy change, Dr. Walters stated that the proposal would be distributed to campus representatives for comments and reaction.
- **Research:** Dr. Harry Andrist said that he and Dr. Garrison Walters had been working for some period of time with the Research Deputies in the Ohio Department of Development and the Governor's Office of Science and Technology to achieve, ultimately, close alignment of the major science and technology investments provided by the State of Ohio. There is widespread agreement that maximum effectiveness of

the State's total portfolio of economic development investments will be achieved through strategic alignment of all such programs to create an integrated economic development system for Ohio. The two major science and technology programs currently are the Technology Action Fund and the Biomedical Research and Technology Transfer Trust Fund. These two programs, hopefully, will be buttressed in the forthcoming operating budget with the addition of The Ohio Plan for Technology and Economic Development, which will be administered by the Ohio Board of Regents. At this point in the planning process, consensus has been reached with regard to the three most significant aligned conditions of support: 1.) quality in terms of national/international standards of scientific and technological merit as a minimum threshold criterion; 2.) relevance to private sector commercial opportunities; and 3.) demonstration of private sector involvement in a process to continuously evaluate the resulting commercialization opportunities. The most relevant set of evaluation criteria under each of the three alignment factors has been identified. Regent Krumm initiated the discussion with the suggestion that private sector involvement might be enhanced if there were an advisory council such as the Higher Education Funding Commission to provide a forum for discussions of alignment issues. Dr. Andrist expressed appreciation for that suggestion and said that the next step in the development process would involve a consultation with the university research officers.

- **Workforce Development:** Mr. Michael Taggart described the strategic partnerships and expanded facilities that would be supported through the Non-Credit Job Training Facilities Grants. Ms. Cathy Hill presented a description of how the most critical criteria had been identified as the core of a comprehensive review process for awarding Non-Credit Job Training Facilities Grants. A number of noteworthy training projects were described.
- **Program Approval and Institutional Authorization:** Mr. Michael Taggart described the essential aspects of two Associate of Applied Science degree programs, one in Applied Technology at Columbus State Community College and the other in E-Solutions Technology at Stark State College of Technology. Mr. Jack Connell described the basis for staff approval of the proposals from Heidelberg College for an off-campus degree completion program at Maumee and from Trinity International University for institutional authorization of off-campus sites in Akron and Mason.
- **Access Initiatives:** Ms. Leslie Sawyer reported that the Ohio Success Express bus had its debut on the morning of January 10 at East High School in Columbus with Governor Bob Taft as the lead presenter. The purpose of the Ohio Success Express bus and its programs, Ms. Sawyer explained, is to get the message out to high school students that an investment in higher education truly pays for itself both in terms of personal income and individual self-fulfillment. She indicated that this effort is directly coupled with the Regents' articulation of Goal 1 related to aspirations. It is hoped that this initiative, and others like it, will eventually improve educational aspirations to the point where Ohio will no longer lag behind the national average in college attendance rates for its high school graduates. She described the pilot previews and the breakout sessions. Regent Krumm asked Ms. Sawyer whether or not community leaders participated in the January 10 event, and she responded that indeed their participation had been a key element of the early success of this program. Ms. Sawyer emphasized the importance of enlisting community and campus access as well as outreach programs to provide additional information to students and their families as appropriate follow-up to each bus visit.

- **K-16 Initiatives:** Dr. Jonathan Tafel described the recent accomplishments of the Articulation and Transfer Council including continuing progress in the areas of postsecondary enrollment options, universal K-12 standards for articulation with higher education, and placement assessments in relation to the Tech Prep program. Dr. Tafel concluded his report with a synopsis of the final report of the Governor's Commission on Student Success.