

**Access and Communications Committee
Ohio Board of Regents
Minutes of the Meeting of January 22, 2004**

The meeting of the Access and Communications Committee of the Ohio Board of Regents was held at the University of Rio Grande – Rio Grande Community College in Rio Grande, Ohio. In attendance were the following:

Ohio Board of Regents Members:

Members of the Access and Communications Committee

Donna Alvarado, Committee Chair
Jeanette G. Brown

Other Regents in attendance:

Edmund J. Adams
Bruce R. Beeghly
Anthony Houston
Thomas W. Noe
J. Gilbert Reese

Ohio Board of Regents Staff:

Jamie Abel, Assistant Director, Communications
Harry Andrist, Director, Research & Graduate Programs
David Barber, Consultant, Academic & Access Programs
Brett Crow, Assistant Director, Communications
Roderick Chu, Chancellor
Kris Frost, Vice Chancellor for Operations
Deborah Gavlik, Associate Vice Chancellor for Government Relations
Darrell Glenn, Director, Performance Reporting
Cathy Hill, Administrator, Workforce Development
Neal McNally, Assistant Director, Finance & Government Relations
James Nargang, Assistant Director, Capital Development
Richard Petrick, Vice Chancellor for Finance
Janet Schilk, Associate Director, K-16 Initiatives
Russ Utgard, Project Director for Improving Teacher Quality
William Wagner, Administrator, Performance Reporting
Shaun Yoder, Legislative Liaison, Finance & Governmental Relations

Guests:

Matthew Abbott, University of Rio Grande – Rio Grande Community College
Tony Barnes, University of Akron
Luanne Bowman, University of Rio Grande – Rio Grande Community College
John Buttelerwerth, Ohio Faculty Senate
Linda Carr, University of Toledo
Larry Christman, Association of Independent Colleges and Universities of Ohio
Nick Claussen, University of Rio Grande – Rio Grande Community College
James Conway, University of Rio Grande – Rio Grande Community College

Guests Continued:

Laurie Day, Cleveland State University
Rich Healy, Inter-University Council of Ohio
Jim Johnson, Ohio Faculty Senate
Herman Koby, University of Rio Grande – Rio Grande Community College
Greg Miller, University of Rio Grande – Rio Grande Community College
Collin Roush, University of Rio Grande – Rio Grande Community College
Brian P. Rupert, University of Rio Grande – Rio Grande Community College
Greg Sojka, University of Rio Grande – Rio Grande Community College
Roy Taylor, University of Rio Grande – Rio Grande Community College
Terry Thomas, Ohio Association of Community Colleges
Peter Thom, Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra
Annette P. Ward, University of Rio Grande – Rio Grande Community College

The meeting was called to order by Regent Alvarado. The minutes of the November 13, 2003 Committee meeting were approved without objection.

Reports and Updates

The Committee received an update from Regent Donna Alvarado who recently attended two conferences: 1) Bridges to Opportunity, held by the Ford Foundation and the KnowledgeWorks Foundation; and 2) Closing the Achievement Gap held by the National Association of Black State Legislators/National Association of Hispanic State Legislators. The Bridges to Opportunity conference highlighted the role of the community college in creating career opportunities for low-income workers. It is a simple equation - when you upgrade a worker's skills, you increase his or her earning potential. The Closing the Achievement Gap conference examined the high drop out rates among African American and Hispanic youth. The conference placed a strong emphasis on the development of more partnerships with business, higher education, and the K-12 system.

Representative Clyde Evans provided the Committee with a legislative report and update. Representative Evans explained that Ohio is entering a "new era" with regard to higher education. As higher education has been flat funded for about five years, and state Medicaid health costs continue to increase, it does not appear likely that the state's pattern for funding higher education will change anytime soon. Representative Evans encouraged the higher education community to develop closer partnerships with the business community. Businesses need to start speaking out about the link between state investment in higher education and its positive impact on the business community. The business community ultimately reaps the benefits of a state rich in research institutions and world class researchers. Evans also explained that there is still a distinctive gap between the Ohio legislature and the higher education community. In these tight economic times, legislators have a sense that campuses are engaged in unnecessary spending patterns. This gap, which limits the legislature's support for higher education, should be addressed by maintaining open communication channels between the higher education community and the legislature. With open dialogue the gap will hopefully narrow, if not close completely. This must be a goal for the future, stated Representative Evans.

After receiving Representative Evans' update, the Committee also heard from Mike Beaver, of College Tech Prep, and Wayne White, of the Ohio Appalachian Center for Higher Education, who each discussed innovative access programs on the Rio Grande campus. The presenters pointed out that "people make a difference" with regard to the impact that counseling has on a student. Students receive individualized attention, as they are assisted on several levels of the college enrollment experience, from visits to campuses to completing financial aid forms and college entrance applications.

Several Tech Prep students discussed the importance of a good counselor, but also pointed out the degree of "hands-on learning" that equipped them with valuable job skills. Both tech prep students explained that they plan to pursue a bachelor's degree in Computer Science after completing their associate's degrees. Both students also explained that will most likely move away from Gallia County after completion of their degrees, due to the lack of information technology jobs in the Rio Grande area. The students identified start up funding for new companies and community support as two key factors in attracting potential information technology jobs to the Gallia County area.

Wayne White highlighted the work of OACHE and explained that the group has a long standing relationship with the Ohio Board of Regents. The program focuses on the barriers that preclude a student from pursuing a college education, including such factors as low self esteem and lack of family support. White noted that OACHE "unlocks the minds of Appalachia" through strong relationship building activities with students and sustained one-on-one assistance.

January Consent Agenda Items

Finally, the Committee reviewed and recommended the following resolutions:

- Item 3.1 – Action to revise Ohio's Articulation and Transfer Policy.
- Item 3.2 – Distribution of funds under the Improving Teacher Quality State Grants Program. On the evaluation and recommendation of an 18 member panel, the Access and Communications committee recommended the release of \$3,240,583 in funds for high quality professional development programs for K-12 teachers in Math and Science.
- Item 3.3 – Partial Release for Technology Initiatives Program Funds. On the recommendation of the Technology Initiatives Advisory Committee, the Access and Communications Committee recommended the release of \$1.1 million to implement the Ohio Commons for Digital Education – a collaborative that addresses the shortcomings of e-learning on college campuses.

In closing, Regent Alvarado noted that the first meeting of the Student Access and Success Coordinating Council of Ohio (SASCCO) will take place on Friday, January 23, 2004, in Columbus.

Regent Alvarado adjourned the meeting.