

**Access and Communications Committee  
Ohio Board of Regents  
Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday, January 19, 2006**

The January meeting of the Access and Communications Committee of the Ohio Board of Regents was held at the Harry C. Moores Campus Center on the campus of Capital University in Columbus. The following Board of Regents Members were in attendance:

Donna M. Alvarado, Committee Chair  
Edmund J. Adams  
Bruce R. Beeghly  
Jenny Brown  
Anthony D. Houston  
Jim Patterson  
Walt Reiling  
Jerry Tatar  
Jim Tuschman

The meeting was called to order by Regent Alvarado and the minutes of the November 10, 2005 Access Committee were approved without objection.

Major items for discussion:

**Directions for Access – Jon Tafel and Garry Walters**

The committee was briefed by Vice Chancellor Jon Tafel and Vice Chancellor Garry Walters on directions for Access initiatives. They indicated that progress has been made in bringing Ohio's higher education participation and attainment rates in line with national averages. This success was attributed to the following: a) development of high school to college pathways such as Tech Prep; b) the improved performance of high school students in the area of mathematics, science, and composition; c) success initiatives such the Articulation and Transfer initiative and the Student Portal for Higher Education Information; and d) improved financial access programs such as the Ohio College Access Network and the new Ohio College Opportunity Grant.

Regents Brown and Patterson both said they would like to see an emphasis on informing the public of the progress that has been made and the new opportunities that exist for students.

Vice Chancellor Walters told the committee that one of the big challenges that we face is how to entice the adult workforce and nontraditional students to return to college to earn a degree and improve their lives. There is a need to develop a way to better coordinate the education resources in communities around the state that have recognized the importance higher education. One of the ways to accomplish this would be a pilot program bringing together business, education, and government leaders to coordinate resources to meet the needs of students in the community. There is legislative interest in implementing such a pilot program and it could become a template to be used statewide.

The committee expressed concerns over the possibility of creating a new bureaucracy and the difficulty of measuring the success with such an initiative, and questioned if

there was legislative support for the idea. Vice Chancellors Tafel and Walters explained that the project would not create a new bureaucracy, but build on existing programs such as OCAN. Success can and has been demonstrated in other programs that expose high school students to real college level work, and there is legislative interest in moving forward with the idea.

### **Release of Improving Teacher Quality Grants**

The committee unanimously approved a resolution for the release of Improving Teacher Quality Grants to 26 sites approved by a review panel of representatives from the secondary and postsecondary education communities. Russ Utgard of the Regents staff explained that the Improving Teacher Quality Grants are intended to increase student achievement by schools improving teacher quality through innovative professional development programs.

### **Resolution to Amend Administrative Code**

The committee unanimously agreed to ask Regents staff to file an amendment to Administrative Code §3333-1-06 to update the notice requirements for public hearings to consider the adoption, amendment, or rescission of administrative rules.

### **Legislative Update**

Associate Vice Chancellor Deborah Gavlik gave a legislative update on the Higher Education Funding Study Council, recently introduced legislation pertaining to higher education, and new leadership for the House Democratic Caucus.

### **Media Update**

Jamie Abel, Associate Director for Communications gave a media update and informed the committee about recent and upcoming press releases.

The meeting was adjourned.