

**Access and Communications Committee  
Ohio Board of Regents  
Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday, January 18, 2007**

The January meeting of the Access and Communications Committee of the Ohio Board of Regents was held at the Board of Regents offices in Columbus, Ohio. All members of the Board of Regents were in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by Regent Houston and the minutes of the November 16, 2006 Access Committee were approved without objection.

**Opening Comments**

Regent Houston posed the following questions for consideration of the committee in the coming year:

- What does access mean to current and future students?
- What do we need to do to ensure access and successful matriculation?
- What are the best practices of institutions around the state and country that ensure access and success for all students?

**Committee Discussion Topics:**

- **Regents STEM & Foreign Language Academy Initiative:** Jon Tafel, Jane Fullerton & Bob Bowers of Regents staff talked with the committee about the 10 new STEM & Foreign Language Academies that have been recommended for funding in FY 2007 by the Regents Academy Statewide Advisory Committee. These academies will provide 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade students the opportunity to pursue, at no cost, college level foreign language, mathematics and science with a focus on secondary teaching. It is expected that the programs will stimulate new partnerships and innovative approaches to student learning through collaboration.

Regent Reiling asked about the admission criteria for the academies. Jane Fullerton told him that the process was largely left open, but that some guidance did exist to encourage the attraction of students who would not normally have the opportunity to participate in programs of this nature.

Regent Alvarado stated that she was interested in expanding distance learning opportunities as well as study abroad programs for high school seniors. She asked that efforts be made to track the progress of students that attend academies. Bob Bowers indicated that \$100,000 of the program budget had been reserved for program evaluation and the identification of best practices.

The committee unanimously agreed to move Agenda Item 3.1 – *Distribution of Funds for Regents STEM and Foreign Language Academies* to the consent agenda.

- **Improving Teacher Quality Grants:** Russ Utgard informed the committee of the 22 programs that have been selected to receive Improving Teacher Quality grants. These programs, which were approved by a review panel of representatives from the secondary and postsecondary education communities, are intended to increase student achievement by improving teacher quality through innovative professional development programs.

Regent Alvarado asked about tracking how student outcomes are affected by the grant program. Jon Tafel agreed for the need to track outcomes, but said that it was difficult to do because of the lack of a unified data system with the K-12 community. Regent Brown agreed on the need for the development of a unified data system.

The committee unanimously agreed to move Agenda Item 3.2 – *Distribution of Federal Funds Under the Improving Teacher Quality State Grants Program* to the consent agenda.

- **Ohio Core Legislation – Scope of Work for Regents:** Julie Schaid, Executive Director of the Ohio Partnership for Continued Learning, provided a summary of the final version of the Ohio Core legislation and detailed the work to be done to meet the new mandates and goals set by the bill. The work includes:
  - Determining the conditions for students to enroll in public 4-year institutions without completing the core.
  - Developing early assessment tools
  - Creating uniform standards for the awarding of Advanced Placement credit.

Regent Alvarado asked about projected enrollment increases as the result of the Ohio Core passage and suggested that a plan be developed to ensure adequate capacity.

Regent Tatar commented on the importance of an 11<sup>th</sup> grade evaluation to identify deficiencies to be addressed during the senior year, thus reducing remediation rates and saving money.

- **Speed-to-Scale Initiative:** Noting that there had already been extensive discussion of the proposal, Regent Alvarado commended President Garland, Interim Chancellor Walters and all those involved in the development of the Speed to Scale initiative.

The committee unanimously agreed to move Agenda Item 3.13 – *Ohio Board of Regents Resolution Speed to Scale* to the consent agenda.