

**Communications Committee
Ohio Board of Regents
Minutes of the Meeting of April 10, 2003**

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

Ohio Board of Regents members:

Edmund Adams
Donna Alvarado
Bruce Beeghly
Jeanette Grasselli Brown
Jerry Miller
Tom Noe
Gilbert Reese
Edwin Rigaud
Ralph Schey

Ohio Board of Regents staff:

Jamie Abel	Bret Crow
Kris Frost	Deborah Gavlik
Neal McNally	Janet Schilk
Yavonne Stertzner	Michael Taggart
Garry Walters	Shaun Yoder

Guests:

Linda Carr, AICUO
Larry Chirstman, AICUO
Gaylyn Finn, Bowling Green State University
Laura Fidler, University of Cincinnati
Jim Johnson, OFSCTC
Joy King, AICUO
Joan McKay, OFSCTC
David Maley, Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine
Gena Miller, AICUO
Jim Plummer, University of Cincinnati

The meeting was called to order by Regent Alvarado. The minutes of the January 2002 Communications Committee meeting were approved without objection.

Governmental Relations

Associate Vice Chancellor Gavlik briefed the committee on the January edition of *The Issue*, a newsletter produced for legislators and other agenda leaders. The most recent issue is titled "Success Challenge" and provides information about this Board of Regents line item. The article explains what Success Challenge is, how the distribution is calculated, and what types of campus programs help students succeed. In addition, the article describes Bowling Green State University's successful use of Success Challenge funds to support increased student success.

Ms. Gavlik briefed the committee on the progress of the FY2004-2005 Biennial Budget bill. Yesterday at 11:30 p.m., the House passed its amended substitute bill with decreased higher education funding. Included in the House version of the budget bill are both funding changes and language provisions that will have an effect on the higher education community of Ohio. The comparison document provides an overview of several funding changes that will have an impact on higher education, including a decrease to the State Share of Instruction, elimination of the Capital Component, and a decrease to the College Readiness line item. Several other items of concern to the higher education community are:

- Articulation and Transfer language provisions calling for the creation of a universal course equivalency system by April 15, 2005
- Elimination of the "hold harmless" guarantee
- Introduction of a pilot tuition plan for Miami University
- A moratorium on academic programs and capital expenditures
- A comprehensive plan for Higher Education including a consolidated public medical college system
- A study of collocated campuses
- Introduction of Warren county pilot community college program
- Several provisions that would impede the Board of Regents' and colleges' and universities' abilities to manage themselves

During the budget bill hearings, a consistent message was presented to the House Finance committee and the House Higher Education Subcommittee by the Regents, Regents' staff, the Inter University Council, the Ohio Association of Community Colleges, and the Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. Thanks were expressed to the associations and all involved for this joint effort.

Ms. Gavlik briefed the committee on outreach initiatives underway to convey the impact of budget legislation on the higher education community. Legislative aides have reported that Representatives and Senators are receiving letters and emails regarding the higher education budget. The budget bill will now go to the Senate. Profiles of Senate Finance committee members were provided.

Ms. Gavlik updated the committee on S.B. 2/ H.B. 2, the implementation of the Governor's Commission on Teaching Success recommendations. Regents' staff is currently working with Senator Gardner to address the recommendations. Regent Alvarado thanked the staff for their work and presenting a united front on behalf of higher education.

Vice Chancellor Garry Walters updated the committee on the Third Frontier Network. Presently there are 1600 miles of dark fiber in contract and a RFP for lighting of the dark fiber. A full network is expected to be in operation by September of this year. Ohio is the first state to build and use a network of this capacity. The three core areas of benefit made available through this network are shared instrumentation, science education, and medical services. Regents and staff have visited Washington, D.C. to work with the federal government on various funding scenarios including grants through the executive branch. Vice Chancellor Kris Frost added that this has been a tremendous learning experience of the federal system.

Outreach

Vice Chancellor Garry Walters gave the committee an update on the Knowledge Economy Awareness initiative. To date, 189 sessions have been conducted with an average of 25-30 people attending, and 228 sessions have been scheduled. The sessions are also used to invite participants to Community Leader Forums. The forums offer an opportunity to engage leaders in discussion about their communities and to start action planning for the conference in June.

Vice Chancellor Kris Frost updated the committee on the progress of the conference for Communities, Higher Education and the Changing Economy. Bruce Johnson is confirmed as the breakfast speaker and Stephen Portch as the dinner speaker. Presentations on the Third Frontier, workforce development, and ideas from other communities should result in working partnerships between higher education and communities. Any additional ideas for speakers or presentations are encouraged. The target level for attendance is 500 with a majority of participants expected from our Boards of Trustees. This conference will also require outside funding support. Sponsorship ideas are also welcome. A suggestion from the Regents is to describe the outcome of this conference when seeking sponsorship.

Mrs. Frost briefed the committee on the Governor's Commission on Higher Education and the Economy. The Governor's office is close to naming commission members and a chair, possibly in May. The funding for this initiative is included in the Governor's budget proposal, but not in the House proposal. The commission will provide the opportunity to receive external expertise and advice on our current practices. Regent Adams asked how the funding figure of \$400,000 was arrived at and if this can be done with less. The committee discussed other commissions that have required similar budget levels and received other funds to achieve their goals.

Communications

Mr. Jamie Abel distributed the Ohio Higher Ed Update. In the future, notes along with daily email distribution of news clips will replace a full report. Two to six news clips will be sent via email per day. Regent Noe suggested that the email include one sentence to provide a synopsis of the article. It was also noted that daily distribution of news clips is important during the budget process.

Mr. Abel informed the committee that updated Regents' biographies and photos are displayed on the web site.

Regent Noe thanked the staff for their support as he and Regent Alvarado traveled around the state.