

**Access and Communications Committee
Ohio Board of Regents
Minutes of the Meeting of Thursday, April 21, 2005**

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

Ohio Board of Regents Members:

Donna M. Alvarado, Committee Chair
Jenny Brown
Edmund J. Adams
Bruce R. Beeghly
Anthony D. Houston
Thomas Noe
J. Gilbert Reese

Ohio Board of Regents Staff:

Jathiya Abdullah, College Access Information Coordinator
Jamie Abel, Assistant Director, Communications
Harry Andrist, Director of Research and Graduate Programs
David Barber, Consultant, Academic & Access Programs
Roderick G. W. Chu, Chancellor
Bret Crow, Assistant Director, Communications
Erin Emerin, Administrator of College Access Information
Jocelyn Frasier, Assistant Director, Communications
Kristina Frost, Vice Chancellor for Operations
Jane Fullerton, Associate Vice Chancellor for Educational Linkages & Access
Deborah Gavlik, Associate Vice Chancellor for Finance & Government Relations
Darrell Glenn, Director, Performance Reporting and Analysis
Cathy Hill, Administrator, Workforce Development
Jay Johnson, Assistant Director, HEI
Neal McNally, Assistant Director, Budget & Resource Planning
James Nargang, Assistant Director, Capital Development
Rich Petrick, Vice Chancellor for Finance
Ryan Scribner, Legislative Liaison, Finance & Government Relations
Jonathan Tafel, Vice Chancellor for Educational Linkages & Access
Garrison Walters, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs & Economic Advancement

Guests:

John Buttelwerth, Ohio Faculty Senate
Larry Christman, Association of Independent Colleges & Universities of Ohio
Chris Baldwin, Owens Community College
Tony Barnes, University of Akron
Laurie Day, Cleveland State University

Kathy Gray, Columbus Dispatch
Madeline Iseli, Sinclair Community College
Jim Johnson, OFSTCC/Sinclair
Steve Johnson, Sinclair Community College
Kathryn Kelley, OSC
Cindy McQuade, Inter-University Council
Jim McCollum, Inter-University Council
Pat Myers, Kent State
Jim Plummer, University of Cincinnati
Margie Rolf, University of Cincinnati
Zak Talarek, LSC
Terry Thomas, OACC
Vikki Williamson, Central State University
Shaun Yoder, Governor's Office

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

Reports and Updates:

Provisions of HB 66, the budget bill, As Passed by the House

Deborah Gavlik gave an overview of the budget bill recently passed by the House. She told the committee that although there had been no cuts in dollar amounts for higher education from the executive budget, there were concerns with some changes the House had made. Ten key provisions in the bill related to higher education were outlined for the committee to discuss. These included:

Consolidation of SSI, Challenges and Supplement line items – Regent Brown noted that the Regents had worked hard to establish the line items the House had eliminated, and that the consolidation would make it more difficult to track how institutions are spending those dollars. Regent Adams indicated a need to point out the success of the Challenge line items. Jim McCollum addressed the committee, stating that the Challenges were created to address specific goals, and that the IUC was not afraid of taking a serious look at the SSI formula. Terry Thomas added that he was in agreement with the sentiments of the committee and urged the committee to be proactive in its efforts to have the Senate reverse the changes proposed by the House. Regents Beeghly and Brown recommended that the Regents ask the Senate to reinstate the line items and add language calling for a study of the State Share of Instruction formula by the Board of Regents in conjunction with the higher education community, members of the General Assembly, and other interested parties with recommendations to the General Assembly for the 2008-2009 biennium.

Consolidation of medical line items – Regents Brown and Adams suggested that the consolidation of the medical line items be addressed in the same manner as the consolidation of the Challenges and Supplements.

Return on educational investment (ROEI) – The committee agreed that the Regents should continue to advocate for the \$30 million ROEI provision that the House failed to fund.

Reorganization of state government – Regent Adams stated that it would be counterproductive to divide the two and four year institutions into separate departments because doing so would hinder the collaborative spirit that has recently been increasing. The committee agreed with his assertion that the Regents should support the study of state government, but ask for the elimination of the provisional reorganization plan.

Fee Caps – The committee discussed what position to take on the 6% fee cap provision in the House budget. Regent Brown stated that she does not believe in fee caps, but that it is inevitable that there will be caps in the budget. She suggested that the Regents advocate for the Governor’s proposal to allow an additional 3% increase to be used for financial aid. Regent Alvarado questioned whether the Regents should push for the additional 3% in the Senate since they had not done so in the House. Regent Beeghly added that he felt strongly about the 6% cap and did not believe the additional 3% was necessary because of the new Ohio College Opportunity Grant. The committee members agreed with Regent Alvarado’s conclusion that they advocate for restoring the Governor’s provision for the additional 3%, but that in no event should the 6% base be reduced.

Single prime language – The committee agreed to ask the Senate to restore the Executive Budget language that would allow the use of single prime contracts for capital projects.

Study of public institution programs – Chancellor Chu stated that the Governor’s Commission on Higher Education and the Economy had called for a more comprehensive program review, and that if the Regents were going to do the study, it should be done thoroughly. Regent Alvarado agreed and stated that the \$250,000 the House had provided for the study was inadequate. The committee decided to ask the Senate to either provide adequate funding for the study or redeploy the allotted funding to promote regional collaborations or consolidations of academic and administrative programs.

Fleet management – The committee decided to ask the Senate to make the House budget requirement to use DAS software and fuel oil contracts contingent upon the campus saving money through the use of those tools.

Study of medical plans – Regent Alvarado pointed out that there was no funding provided for the Regents to conduct the feasibility study of multiple life and medical plans for employees at institutions of higher education. Chancellor Chu added that he lacked the resources and staff that would be necessary to conduct the study. The committee agreed to ask the Senate to either provide the necessary resources to the Board of Regents to conduct the study or eliminate the unfunded mandate.

Stop-loss provision – The committee agreed to ask the Senate to retain the House provision that set the stop loss at 97% versus 95% in the Governor’s budget.

Preparation for Senate Testimony

Deborah Gavlik presented the higher education testimony schedule for the upcoming hearings in the Senate Finance and Education committees. She indicated that those presenting testimony will represent a cross-section of the higher education community and that testimony would focus on the following areas:

- Productivity and Efficiency
- Return on Educational Investment
- Access and Student Success
- Economic Development through Research and Workforce Development.

Terry Thomas shared with the committee his concerns with language in the House budget affecting the Post Secondary Enrollment Options program (PSEO). He agreed that there are issues with the program, but that they should be addressed outside of the budget. Vice Chancellor Tafel suggested that the newly formed Partnership for Continued Learning could study the issue. Regent Alvarado agreed and suggested that the Regents push to have the PSEO language removed from the budget bill and insert language to require the Partnership for Continued Learning to study the program and make recommendations to the General Assembly. The committee members agreed with this suggestion.

Trustees Conference

Kris Frost gave the committee an overview of the upcoming Statewide Trustee Conference in May. She detailed the agenda for the conference and the list of speakers which includes Governor Taft and Speaker of the House, Jon Husted. It was suggested that institutions encourage their trustees to register for the conference to ensure that attendance goals are met.

The Issue

Deborah Gavlik informed the Board that they would soon be receiving a draft version of The Issue on doctoral review.

Regent Alvarado adjourned the committee.