

**Access and Communications Committee
Ohio Board of Regents
Minutes of the Meeting of Wednesday, April 25, 2007**

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

Members of the committee:

Anthony D. Houston, Committee Chair
Walt Reiling
Jerry Tatar

Other Regents in attendance:

Bruce R. Beeghly
Donna M. Alvarado
Jenny Brown
Jim Patterson
Jim Tuschman

The meeting was called to order by Regent Houston and the minutes of the March 2007 Access Committee were approved without objection.

Opening Comments

Regent Anthony Houston touched on two recent events that he felt were especially relevant to the issue of higher education access in Ohio.

- The 11th Annual STARS Conference was held at Bowling Green State University in March. The purpose of this program is to prepare under-represented student populations for higher education and to encourage them to enter the higher education pipeline.
- Working together, OCAN and the Lumina Foundation are using Ohio to alunch their “Know How to Go” initiative. The purpose of this campaign is to spark interest and prepare low-income and under-represented students for higher education.

Committee Discussion Topics:

Campus Security Task Force

Deborah Gavlik presented an update on the recently created Campus Security Task Force. Ms. Gavlik provided the Board with a draft charge for the newly created Campus Security Task Force and indicated that she has been working with experts in the field to determine the most important questions that the task force should address.

Deborah explained that the Campus Security Task Force membership is made up of a large group of individuals from across Ohio with very diverse backgrounds. The task force will also include four smaller working groups designed to focus on specific issues – Prevention, Response, Resources, & Communication.

The first meeting of this group will be held on Monday, April 30th via video conference from eight sites across Ohio. The working groups will be meeting for the first time in late May to discuss immediate changes that can be made to improve campus security in Ohio. Ms. Gavlik then opened the floor for questions and comments.

Regent Jim Tuschman emphasized the importance of including legal professionals on the Campus Security Task Force due to personal privacy issues that may enter into the discussion. Regent Tuschman also explained his concern about proper notification systems being in place and whether they are frequently tested. He summed up his remarks by stressing the need to create a realistic action plan for events that are often unforeseeable and irrational.

Regent Jenny Brown echoed Jim Tuschman's comments regarding the importance of realistic goals for the Campus Security Task Force. She expressed concern that the issues at hand can run very deep, including personal privacy and gun control.

Vice Chancellor Kris Frost suggested that it would be valuable for the Campus Security Task Force to include individuals with experience in FERPA regulations. It could also be beneficial to include mental health professionals in discussions.

Regent Walt Reiling reminded the group of the sensitive nature of security and emergency response planning. He stated that some aspects of these plans should not be in the public domain and will not be able to be discussed in the Campus Security Task Force.

Deborah Gavlik said that the purpose of the Campus Security Task Force is to create general best practice guidelines and heighten awareness of campus security concerns in Ohio. Each campus will need to establish personalized emergency management plans.

Regent Jerry Tatar suggested that there are two different approaches to campus security planning - preventing an event from happening and responding to an event that has already taken place.

Regent Anthony Houston suggested that the Campus Security Task Force examine factors on a campus that can contribute to an atmosphere that permits some emergency situations to arise.

Ohio Learning Network

Kate Carey, Executive Director of the Ohio Learning Network (OLN), spoke to the Board about the work being done by the OLN. Vice Chancellor Jon Tafel explained that distance is still an issue for many Ohioans in continuing their education beyond high school. E-Learning is a great way to address these concerns.

The Ohio Learning Network (OLN) has been in existence since 1999 and has made strides in expanding internet-based learning in Ohio. In order to meet Governor Strickland's goals of greatly increasing the number of college graduates in Ohio, E-Learning will play an important role. The OLN is focusing on adult learners who can be trained to meet the needs of the job market in Ohio.

Ms. Carey told the Board about the OhioLearns catalog, which has been created to help Ohioans find courses and degrees that are available online. Currently the OhioLearns catalog lists over 182 degrees available online in Ohio, covering subjects including business, health, IT, education, and criminology among others. Another offering of the Ohio Learning Network is the Ohio E4Me course. The Ohio E4Me course is a free, web-based course designed to help those interested in returning to school.

The OLN is also in the process of creating an online, collaborative “Regents Degree” program for launch in Spring 2008. This program is designed to allow students to start their studies at a 2-year institution and then seamlessly continue their program at a 4-year university.

Ms. Carey & Mr. Tafel opened the floor for questions and comments.

Jerry Tatar emphasized how important E-Learning is to the future of Ohio’s higher education system. Not only can these programs reach out to more Ohioans, they are also often a more affordable alternative to traditional classroom learning.

Regent Jim Patterson echoed the comments of the group in agreeing that online learning certainly has huge potential for the future.

Chairman Donna Alvarado added that the tracking of our online students and their successes will be important as we move forward and expand these types of programs.

Postsecondary Education Opportunity

Regent Jenny Brown shared with the Board an excerpt from the Postsecondary Education Opportunity newsletter citing growth in Ohio’s higher education participation rates among low income individuals. From 2002 – 2005 there has been a 4.8% increase in these numbers.

Committee Actions:

Virginia Tech Resolution

The Board of Regents read and accepted a resolution in support of the Virginia Tech Community in the wake of the recent shooting on the campus. In acceptance of the resolution Regent Walt Reiling emphasized that first and foremost the Board of Regents expresses its condolences for those at Virginia Tech and that the wording of the resolution should be adjusted to reflect that sentiment.