

**Resources Committee  
Ohio Board of Regents  
Minutes of the Meeting of October 19, 2000**

The meeting of the Resources Committee of the Ohio Board of Regents was held in the Martin University Center on the campus of the University of Akron. In attendance were the following:

Ohio Board of Regents members:

Ralph Schey, Committee Chair  
Gerald Gordon  
Tahlman Krumm  
Gerald Miller  
Stephen Perry

Ohio Board of Regents staff:

Roderick Chu, Chancellor  
Clyde Eberhardt III, Director for Capital Development  
Neal McNally, Assistant Director, Budget & Resource Planning  
Robert Sheehan, Associate Vice Chancellor, Performance Reporting & Analysis

Guests:

Phil Bartlett, University of Akron  
Corky Cahderone, University of Akron  
Larry Christman, Association of Independent Colleges & Universities of Ohio  
David Creamer, Kent State University  
Ted Curtis, University of Akron  
Richard Dusha, Miami University  
Len Endress, City of Oxford Fire Department  
Marvin Gutter, Columbus State Community College  
Adolph Halslar, Miami University  
Becky Herrnstein, University of Akron  
J. William Hill, Hocking Technical College  
Robert Keller, Kent Fire Department  
John Kotowski, Ohio University  
Michael G. Kraft, Division of the State Fire Marshal  
David Maley, Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine  
Ted Mallo, University of Akron  
Chuck Mann, Owens State Community College  
Jimmy Matthews, Ohio University  
Tom Mayer, University of Akron  
James McCollum, Inter-University Council  
Dale McGirr, University of Cincinnati  
John McGrath, Stark State College of Technology  
Bill Napier, Ohio State University  
Jan Alan Neiger, Office of the Ohio Attorney General  
Michael Orto, Youngstown State University  
David Osterland, University of Akron  
Roy Palmer, Hocking Technical College  
David J. Pierson, University of Akron  
Luis Proenza, University of Akron

Michael Rilley, Columbus Association for the Performing Arts  
Ron Rutti, Cleveland *Plain Dealer*  
Michael Santry, Ohio State University  
Richard Thatcher, University of Toledo  
Caryl S. Tickner, Stark State College of Technology  
Paul Wallen, Cleveland State University  
Joe Walter, Toledo Fire Dept. and the Ohio Fire Chiefs Association

The meeting was called to order by Regent Schey.

## **Reports and Updates**

Associate Vice Chancellor Sheehan briefed the Committee on the fall 2000 preliminary headcount of students at Ohio's state-assisted public colleges and universities, noting that a 0.6% increase in enrollments is expected. This increase is fueled largely from growth at the two-year sector, which according to Associate Vice Chancellor Sheehan provides support for the belief that Access Challenge is working. Associate Vice Chancellor Sheehan cautioned that the figures contained in this report should be regarded as soft since, for example, Ohio State University provided actual rather than preliminary figures, and Miami University modified its add/drop dates and policies. Such inconsistencies lend the data to variances. Regent Schey asked if data exists on the percent of Ohio's population attending college in Ohio. Associate Vice Chancellor Sheehan responded that such data does in fact exist, and that the percentage of the population attending college appears to be on the rise, especially in the number of adult-learners who are enrolling to upgrade their work skills and not necessarily to pursue of a degree. Chancellor Chu stated that Ohio is doing better than the national average in terms of its high school graduation rate, but that Ohio is below average in terms of the college-going rate among high school graduates. Larry Christman stated that enrollments at Ohio's independent private colleges and universities are up 2.4%, which marks the 15<sup>th</sup> consecutive year of growth. Regent Gordon commended private campuses for successfully using tuition scholarships to assist students. Regent Miller suggested that the success of private campuses could perhaps be used as a model that Ohio's public campuses might emulate. Regent Perry said that there is still a large gap that needs to be bridged, as the technology industry continues to experience a shortage of skilled workers. Regent Schey asked if campuses make efforts to identify less competent students so that they might be mentored by more competent ones. Chancellor Chu responded that the budget request for the Jobs Challenge line item contains a *Skills Assessment* component that addresses the important issue of funding talent.

Toledo Fire Department Assistant Chief Joe Walter briefed the Committee on the importance of fire safety in student housing facilities, noting that the vast majority of dormitories on Ohio campuses are not equipped with sprinkler systems. Citing various statistics, Mr. Walter stated that sprinkler systems represent a technological solution to a critical safety problem. Mr. Walter acknowledged that no law exists to require campuses to retrofit dormitories with sprinkler systems, but asked for the support and cooperation of the Ohio Board of Regents in building a coalition with fire departments to improve dormitory safety via sprinkler systems. Regent Perry asked why some campuses such as Wright State University have more dormitories that are sprinkler system-equipped. Mr. Walter surmised that these facilities were probably built after

the passage of a law in the early 1990's requiring sprinkler systems to be installed in newly constructed dormitories. Regent Gordon stated that this represents an important issue. Regent Gordon also observed that more students probably die each year in dorms from drug abuse than from fires, and noted that the Regents have very limited authority regarding student housing, as dormitories are funded independently by campus auxiliaries.

Associate Vice Chancellor Sheehan turned the Committee's attention to Ohio State University's strategic plan, which he described as an ambitious plan that addresses institutional quality and resource planning. The plan also outlines strategies for achieving OSU's goal of becoming a leading research and teaching university. Associate Vice Chancellor Sheehan noted OSU's interest in having the 6% fee cap lifted – at least temporarily – to allow OSU to generate additional financial resources via tuition revenues. Regent Krumm noted that being updated on OSU's plan simply represents a courtesy on the part of OSU, and that neither Committee nor Board action is required. Asserting that the free market system works best, Regent Gordon said that by removing the fee caps, campuses would be free to exercise sound judgement that would result in lesser annual fee increases since the caps encourage maximum increases because of concerns over forgone revenues. Chancellor Chu said that increases in higher education-related costs reflect the fact that more educated and more skilled workers demand premium wages, and campuses must compete with the private sector to attract talented people. Regent Miller asked if the Board needs to take any extraordinary steps to request the removal of the fee caps, and suggested that perhaps the Regents could make this request if the higher education budget is not fully funded by the General Assembly. Regent Krumm suggested that the Regents should simply make the request as a matter of principle and that the strategy for making this request should be discussed at the appropriate time.

Chuck Mann updated the Committee on Owens State Community College's proposal to relocate its Findlay campus. Mr. Mann emphasized that Owens is not currently seeking additional state dollars but rather is seeking approval to reallocate its \$2 million capital appropriation to allow for the purchase of land along the I-75 corridor. Regent Krumm inquired into the original intent of the \$2 million Owens wishes to reallocate. Mr. Mann responded that the funds were originally intended to allow Owens-Findlay to expand by purchasing additional land near the campus's current location, but that the University of Findlay purchased the land first, effectively land-locking Owens' campus. Associate Vice Chancellor Sheehan noted that this issue would later be a Controlling Board item.

### **Items for review in October (action in November)**

Dr. Roy Palmer briefed the Committee on Hocking Technical College's request to pledge student fees in support of a bond issuance not to exceed \$3 million. Dr. Palmer said that by bidding this request into a single project, the College would save about \$400,000. Responding to Regent Miller, Dr. Palmer stated that this request would not impact student fees at Hocking Tech.

Dr. Marvin Gutter briefed the Committee on the proposed joint use agreement between Columbus State Community College and the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts (CAPA) in the amount of \$3 million. Dr. Gutter stated that Columbus State has one of the highest space-utilization rates among Ohio's public campuses, and that

Columbus State is basically running out of room. According to Dr. Gutter, the proposed agreement would afford Columbus State access to several of CAPA's facilities such as the Ohio Theatre, which would provide learning and employment opportunities for Columbus State students and staff. Regent Miller asked if this was a one-time request. Michael Riley of CAPA responded that this was indeed a one-time request. Regent Gordon emphasized the need for Columbus State to get its money's worth, and expressed concern that institutions sometimes get shortchanged on such joint use agreements. Regent Gordon stated that he feels that Cleveland State University was shortchanged on its joint use agreement with the Cleveland Playhouse. Dr. Gutter responded that Columbus State negotiated to ensure that it would have access to all seven of CAPA's theatres.

Associate Vice Chancellor Sheehan noted the release and distribution of the final FY 2001 instructional subsidy allocations, and the partial release and distribution of the FY 2001 Jobs Challenge funds. Associate Vice Chancellor Sheehan said that the Committee would receive materials pertaining to these two items in the mail well in advance to the Board's November meeting. The Controlling Board items were also noted.

### **Items for action**

Regent Gordon addressed the University of Cincinnati's proposed pledge of student fees in support of a bond issuance not to exceed \$213,019,000. Regent Gordon stated that although he is not opposed to the University's efforts, he might abstain from casting a vote on this proposal to protest the inconsistency of the fee cap language in the budget bill that allows institutions to raise fees above 6%.

Associate Vice Chancellor Sheehan briefed the Committee on the release and distribution of the remaining \$48 million of Success Challenge appropriations, which represents the second and final release of these funds for FY 2001. The joint use agreements on the agenda were also noted, as were the Controlling Board items.

The minutes of meeting of September 21, 2000 were approved without objection. The meeting was adjourned.