

**Access and Communications Committee
Ohio Board of Regents
Minutes of the Meeting of Friday, October 21, 2005**

The October 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
Edmund J. Adams
Bruce R. Beeghly
Anthony D. Houston
Jim Patterson
Walt Reiling
Jerry Tatar
Jim Tuschman

Ohio Board of Regents Staff:

Jamie Abel, Assistant Director, Communications
David Barber, Consultant, Academic & Access Programs
Roderick G. W. Chu, Chancellor
Bret Crow, Assistant Director, Communications
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
Katie Hensel, Administrator, HEFC
Cathy Hill, Administrator, Workforce Development
Tom Linley, PC/LAN Support
Neal McNally, Assistant Director, Budget & Resource Planning
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:

Tony Barnes, University of Akron
Larry Christman, AICUO
Laurie Day, Cleveland State University
Jennifer Fehnrich, Owens Community College
Madeline Iseli, Sinclair Community College
James Johnson, OFSCTC
C. Todd Jones, U.S. Dept. of Education
Rich Lewis, NEOUCOM

Cindy McQuade, Inter-University Council
Pat Myers, Kent State
Margie Rolf, University of Cincinnati
Richard Stoff, Ohio Business Roundtable
Terry Thomas, OACC

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

Major item for discussion:

How Do We Educate Students for a World Economy Driven by Innovation? Is Ohio at Risk?

The committee engaged in a panel discussion with guests Richard Stoff, CEO of the Ohio Business Roundtable and Luis Proenza, President of the University of Akron. The discussion was centered on four key questions:

1. Is Ohio producing enough science, technology, mathematics, and engineering graduates?
2. What are the dimensions of the problem?
3. What are the appropriate steps to be taken?
4. Should the Regents support H.B. 359, Rep. Earl Martin's Science and Engineering Income Tax Incentive Program?

Chancellor Chu opened the discussion by noting that the Regents have considered these issues for a long time. He pointed out some accomplishments including the work of the Ohio Resource Center and Centers of Excellence at different institutions.

Mr. Stoff urged the Regents to adopt the ambitious goal of doubling the number of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) graduates in Ohio by the year 2015. He stressed the importance of approaching this goal in a systemic and holistic manner and not relying on "random acts of improvement." He outlined a strategy to reach this goal that would focus on building public awareness of the issue, motivating students, upgrading the quantity and quality of K-12 math and science educators, reducing barriers to attracting and retaining the finest students, and boosting the funding for research.

Dr. Proeza agreed with Mr. Stoff, noting that all the recent reports and discussion of the issue are providing the needed energy to drive actions in addressing STEM needs. He also emphasized the importance of addressing these needs with a comprehensive approach.

Regents Beeghly and Adams informed the committee of their recent conversations with Rep. Earl Martin in regards to his tax incentive bill, House Bill 359. They indicated they thought the bill had merit and could serve as an attraction and recruitment mechanism for schools and employers.

Regent Reiling questioned whether there would be jobs available if the number of STEM graduates was increased drastically as a result of initiatives such as HB 359 and the work of the Business Roundtable.

Regent Alvarado also expressed concern that the tax incentives provided in HB 359 might be seen as a mechanism to supplant appropriations for higher education.

Mr. Stoff informed the committee of the sophisticated analytical capabilities the Business Roundtable has at its disposal. He offered to work with the Board of Regents to examine the fiscal implications of HB 359 and other initiatives.

After discussion of the need for and potential impact of HB 359, the committee agreed to support the objective of the bill as potentially one of a number of solutions to the challenge of creating and retaining more STEM graduates in Ohio. The Regents agreed to continue to consult with partners in the higher education and business communities on this issue.