

**Communications Committee
Ohio Board of Regents
Minutes of the Meeting of September 19, 2002**

The meeting of the Communications Committee was held at the Cuyahoga Community College Eastern Campus in Cleveland, Ohio. In attendance were the following:

Ohio Board of Regents members:

Edmund J. Adams
Tahlman Krumm, Jr.
Edward J. Riguard
Ralph Schey

Ohio Board of Regents staff:

Jamie Abel	Jack Connell
Randall Edwards	Jocelyn Frasier
Jane Fullerton	Cathy Hill
Deborah Gavlik	Tom Rudd
Leslie Sawyer	Robert Sheehan
Yavonne Stertzner	Michael Taggart
Jon Tafel	Garry Walters

Guests:

Larry Christman, AICUO
Sally Perz, University of Toledo

The meeting was called to order by Regent Krumm. The minutes of the June 2002 Committee meeting were approved without objection.

Governmental Relations

Associate Vice Chancellor Gavlik briefed the committee on the September edition of "The Issue," a newsletter produced for legislators and other agenda leaders. The most recent issue was titled "Will this Course Transfer," and explored the topic of college transfer credit and the general principles of why some credits transfer and count toward the final major while others do not. The topic for this edition was chosen in response to inquiries from various legislators. Regent Krumm reminded staff and Regents that any suggestions for future topics of "The Issue" be given to Deborah Gavlik.

Ms. Gavlik briefed the committee on the hearings of the House Select Committee on Ohio's System on Higher Education. Seven hearings have been held at various colleges and universities around the state since late July. Two

Regents, the Chancellor, and Regents' staff have testified at these hearings. The Board of Regents' website features a page dedicated to these hearings, providing agendas, links to testimony, and question and answer summaries. Some of the themes that have surfaced at the hearings include the following: the need for the participation of more Ohioans in higher education, remedial education funding, the State Share of Instruction formula, funding out-of-state graduate students, and faculty workloads. These meetings seem to be positive and have given legislators exposure to a wide range of issues in higher education.

Deborah Gavlik updated the committee on the Third Frontier Network Partnership(TFNP) for medical and scientific research and education. Through this initiative, lead by Vice Chancellor Garry Walters, the largest broad band network in the country will be developed. Staff from the Board of Regents and other members of the higher education community have visited Congressional members and staff, and Regents and other individuals have sent letters of support. Garry Walters said that this strategic partnership is a first for Ohio and would reach all campuses. All of Ohio higher education, public and private, is supportive of this request. The federal funds sought for this initiative will complement rather than compete with existing requests for federal support. Ohio has committed \$10 million for the backbone network. The potential of this initiative includes the sharing of powerful and expensive instrumentation on campuses and hospitals as well as the possibility of long distance surgery.

Ms. Gavlik provided communication committee members with a copy of "The Policy Maker's Guide to Higher Education in Ohio: 2002." A black and white copy will be sent to all candidates running for election in November. This guide will also be available on the Board of Regents website. Regent Krumm also suggested that the guide be sent to all legislative offices after the election as it would be a handy reference for those in office.

Ms. Yavonne Stertzler briefed the committee on a workshop for legislative aides held in July 2002 on the topic of student financial aid. The workshop included presentations from Board of Regents staff and financial aid representatives at public and private universities. The workshop was designed to give the aides background on financial aid in Ohio to assist them in addressing constituent concerns. Feedback from those in attendance indicated an interest in future workshops on tuition, cost and state support and the challenges.

Communications

Mr. Randy Edwards briefed the committee on the Board of Regents' web site. Changes to the current web site will make it more useful with more of a one stop navigation format. A scrolling banner will highlight fresh headlines from Capital Wire. A new search engine which sorts search results by relevance will replace the current search engine. If information is not found on the web site individuals usually call either Jamie Abel or Randy Edwards.

Mr. Jamie Abel briefed the committee on the Ohio Higher Ed Update including the following topics:

- Budget recommendations
- Four-year Bachelor of Arts degree guarantee
- New appointments to the Board of Regents
- House Select Committee on Ohio's System of Higher Education
- Eminent Scholars
- OSU's new President, Karen Holbrook
- Budget cuts/ State Share of Instruction Formula

Outreach

Ms. Jocelyn Frasier updated the committee on the Knowledge Economy Awareness Initiative. There have been four presentations with audiences ranging from 20 to 250, and four additional presentations are scheduled for the Northeast Ohio area. The answer to the question of "brain drain" will be part of the work in progress of Frequently Asked Questions and Answers. The finalized materials will include CDs, Brochures, and comment cards.

Vice Chancellor Kris Frost briefed the committee on the trustee training. The Governor is interested in training all new trustees. The previous training was two years ago. A date and place for this training will be set with December as the most likely month.

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