

**Access and Communications Committee  
Ohio Board of Regents  
Minutes of the Meeting of Sept. 18, 2003**

The meeting of the Access and Communications Committee was held at Youngstown State University's Kilcawley Center in Youngstown, Ohio. In attendance were the following:

Ohio Board of Regents members:

Edmund J. Adams  
Donna M. Alvarado, Committee Chair  
Bruce R. Beeghly  
Jeanette G. Brown  
Gerald M. Miller  
Thomas W. Noe  
J. Gilbert Reese  
Ralph E. Schey

Ohio Board of Regents Staff:

Jamie Abel	Shane DeGarmo	Leslie Sawyer
Harry Andrist	Deborah Gavlik	Yvonne Stertz
David Barber	Darrell Glenn	Jonathan Tafel
Roderick Chu	Catherine Hill	Garrison Walters
Jack Connell	Jay Johnson	Shaun Yoder
Bret Crow	Robert Johnson	

The meeting was called to order by Regent Alvarado. Regent Alvarado opened the meeting by sharing a conversation she had recently had with a professor from a highly regarded Ohio private college. The professor expressed dismay over the fact that one of his colleagues had been denied tenure. His colleague was exceptionally gifted in the classroom, but had not produced enough research. Ms. Alvarado questioned the wisdom of policies that seem to disregard the importance of teaching, especially when the Regents have observed that better educating more Ohioans is of prime importance.

Ms. Alvarado reviewed the purpose of the Access Committee. The objective is to better educate more Ohioans. The goal is to increase seamless access to affordable, quality higher education for all Ohioans.

**Access and Student Success Council of Ohio** – Jon Tafel

Vice Chancellor Jon Tafel presented details on the proposed Access and Student Success Council of Ohio. He explained that myriad programs address access to higher education in Ohio, but there is a need for collaboration and coordination of these efforts. The council will bring access coordination under the supervision of the Ohio Board of Regents. The goals of the council will be: to facilitate greater communication between state and access groups; to advise the Ohio Board of Regents on access issues; and to assist in the development of a common database. The Council would

also help to administer the OhioAspires Scholarship Program, which would address early college planning and aspiration, better academic preparation and affordability issues. The Council also could guide the development and administration of the Student Portal project, which is designed to market higher education and provide information in a one-stop shop for prospective students and their parents.

### **Co-Located Planning** – Garry Walters

Vice Chancellor Garry Walters relayed concern about co-located branch campuses and technical colleges. Legislation in the last General Assembly calls on the Board of Regents to look at the issues. Under that legislation, the Ohio Board of Regents is to consider: improved responsiveness to community needs and improved articulation and transfer. VC Walters stated that uniform models may be recommended, but not necessarily adopted for each community. The staff proposes the development of a Co-Located Advisory Committee, comprised of members with wide representation. The committee would form subcommittees for each of the seven communities. Regent Noe recommended including legislators early in the planning process. Larry Christman pointed out that there are other examples of co-location in the state, but Regent Beeghly commented that the committee should keep focused on the legislative mandate involving the original seven campuses.

### **Media Update** – Jamie Abel

Clipping indexes were supplied to the Regents and top media stories for the previous month were listed: Tuition increases and fee caps; Maurice Clarett eligibility; ghostwriting vs. plagiarism – OSU professor; recording industry lawsuits against illegal downloading; OSU open container violation crackdown; ACT, SAT scores holding ground, up for Ohio test-takers; administrative pay raises, legislative reaction; Governor’s Commission on Higher Education & the Economy; and Miami University union contract impasse.

### **Governmental Relations Update** – Deborah Gavlik

Associate Vice Chancellor Deborah Gavlik briefed the committee on a bill proposed by Rep. Jim McGregor. Under the bill, state employees’ salaries (except for professors and researchers) that exceed the Governor’s salary would be frozen. She also discussed the Rep. Annie Key’s proposal expanding the War Orphans Scholarship program include children of soldiers killed in the war with Iraq. She explained that the staff has concerns with the Key proposal in light of the need for additional appropriations. AVC Gavlik shared the September edition of *The Issue*, which focuses on the topic of governing versus coordinating boards. She noted staff concern about a Congressional report recently released by Congressional Education leader titled “The College Cost Crisis: A Congressional Analysis of College Costs and Implications for America’s Higher Education System.”

### **OCAN/GEAR-UP Conference** – Jon Tafel, Leslie Sawyer

Vice Chancellor Jon Tafel described a successful Ohio College Access Network/Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs conference held recently in Cincinnati. The conference was attended by Regent Tom

Noe, Regent Jenny Brown and OBR staff. Leslie Sawyer shared a recently published "Catalog of Ohio College Access Best Practices," which is being prepared for distribution around the state and already receiving national attention. She explained a new newsletter on access issues is being produced and distributed by the Regents staff.

The minutes of the July 2003 Access and Communications Committee meeting were approved without objection.