

**Access & Communications Committee  
Ohio Board of Regents  
Minutes of the Meeting of September 23, 2004**

The Access & Communications Committee of the Ohio Board of Regents met at the Louis Stokes Center on the campus of Central State University in Wilberforce, Ohio. In attendance were the following:

Committee members:

Donna Alvarado, Committee Chair  
Jeanette Brown  
Gerald Miller

Other Board members in attendance:

Edmund Adams  
Bruce Beeghly  
Anthony Houston  
Thomas Noe  
James Tuschman

Ohio Board of Regents staff:

Jamie Abel, Assistant Director  
Harry Andrist, Director, Research & Graduate Programs  
Roderick Chu, Chancellor  
Jack Connell, Assistant Director for Degree Programs  
Bret Crow, Assistant Director for Communications  
Jocelyn Frasier, Assistant Director, Knowledge Economy Awareness Initiative  
Jane Fullerton, Associate Vice Chancellor, Educational Linkages & Access  
Deborah Gavlik, Associate Vice Chancellor, Government Relations  
Darrell Glenn, Director for Performance Reporting & Analysis  
Cathy Hill, Administrator for Workforce Development  
Neal McNally, Assistant Director, Budget & Resource Planning  
Rich Petrick, Vice Chancellor for Finance  
Jon Tafel, Vice Chancellor for Educational Linkages & Access  
Garry Walters, Vice Chancellor for Access & Academic Programs

Guests:

John Buttlerwerth, Cincinnati State Technical & Community College  
Larry Christman, Association of Independent Colleges & Universities of Ohio  
Brian Davis, University of Akron  
Laurie Day, Cleveland State University  
Cynthia Ferguson, Shawnee State University  
Milt Hakel, Bowling Green State University  
Jim Johnson, Sinclair Community College  
Chuck Mann, Owens Community College  
Jim McCollum, Inter-University Council  
Cindy McQuade, Inter-University Council  
Pat Myers, Kent State University  
Bill Napier, Cleveland State University  
Marcia Tolliver, Shawnee State University  
Paul Unger, Owens Community College  
Shaun Yoder, Governor's Office

The meeting was called to order by Regent Alvarado. Regent Alvarado made opening remarks by noting a key principal of Peter Senge's *Fifth Discipline*: the act of creating is more important than problem-solving because the latter seeks to eliminate that which is undesired, whereas the former seeks to create what is truly desired. The fundamental question, then, should be: What are we trying to create?

The minutes of the July 2004 Committee were approved without objection.

### **Items for discussion**

Vice Chancellor Tafel told the Committee that within the College Readiness program is the Chancellor's Discretionary Fund, which may be used to support campus initiatives that place a special emphasis on P-16 collaboration and student success. Projects are identified in numerous ways and finalized through a proposal, and only the most innovative proposals are funded. Ohio Eminent Scholar Milt Hakel made a PowerPoint presentation on one such project at Bowling Green State University: Exploring Electronic Portfolios as a Technology to Facilitate Student Transfer. Dr. Hakel described the project as a means to allow students, faculty and student advisors to track and evaluate student progress and success at every stage of the academic process. The project also improves course transferability by allowing each student to maintain an electronic record containing detailed information on each course in which they have enrolled. Regent Adams noted the Articulation & Transfer Council's efforts to make credit transferability more seamless, and he asked if this project would in anyway inhibit course-transfer. Vice Chancellor Tafel said that certain guarantees are already in place that would preclude this project from becoming a barrier to course transfer and noted that the next step is to move toward identifying and assessing competencies for schools and students. Regent Alvarado asked if this technology could be used for students enrolled in noncredit coursework. Paul Unger responded in the affirmative, and described the project as a refined mechanism for evaluating student outcomes—a win-win for students and campuses. Regent Tuschman observed that employers may soon demand e-portfolios from prospective employees because of the comprehensive information they contain.

Cynthia Ferguson made a PowerPoint presentation on Project M.A.P. at Shawnee State University. Ms. Ferguson described this project as a regional model for educational, environmental and economic development that aims to improve P-16 educational outcomes and increase literacy among the adult population in Appalachia, 26% of which does not possess a high school diploma or GED. The project aims to break the cycle of poverty and low educational achievement by helping children and under-educated adults develop an interest in reading through technology. By connecting the state-of-the-art learning center via technology to the entire southeast Ohio region, it could serve countless more pre-school professional, teacher education pre-service students and researchers. Chancellor Chu asked for examples of how Project M.A.P. works and how funds would be used. Ms. Ferguson cited the installation of webcams that allow for distance education and mentoring at elementary and high schools, as well as other area colleges and universities, such

as Ohio University and the University of Rio Grande. Distance education provides students with access to coursework that might otherwise be unavailable. Regent Houston asked how the program transforms the daily lives of its target population. Ms. Ferguson said Project M.A.P. works to motivate students and broaden people's perspectives so that they are aware of and uninhibited by technology. Regent Alvarado asked committee members to forward comments regarding the proposal to Jon Tafel by October 1.

### **Additional Items**

Associate Vice Chancellor Gavlik told the Committee that the Regents' government relations strategy had been revised to include the comments made by the Regents in July. The revised document contains a message on how higher education relates to jobs and the economy.

Vice Chancellor Tafel noted that the University of Toledo had recently been awarded a \$6 million federal grant for math and science teacher improvements. This was made possible by the Northwest Ohio Center of Excellence in Science and Mathematics, a Regents-funded project. This grant was the largest ever received by the University of Toledo.

Jocelyn Frasier gave the Committee a marketing update, noting that the Student Access & Success Coordinating Council recently convened a marketing consultation. This group laid groundwork for describing Ohio's position in the knowledge economy. Participants included campus representatives as well as business leaders from Ohio.

Jamie Abel gave a brief media update and noted that the draft edition of the *Issue* for September highlights the Third Frontier Network. Regent Brown asked if the Third Frontier Network is interacting with One Cleveland. Vice Chancellor Walters said that discussions with One Cleveland are underway but are incomplete because One Cleveland has not yet provided all of the required information to OARnet. Regent Brown emphasized the importance of aligning the state's resources to ensure optimum effectiveness.

Seeing no other business before the Committee, the meeting was adjourned by Regent Alvarado.