

**Ohio Board of Regents Meeting Minutes
Eastland-Fairfield Career Center
September 16, 2009**

I. Call to Order

Chair Tuschman expressed his appreciation to the Eastland-Fairfield Career Center for hosting the September Ohio Board of Regents meeting and for the work of the Chancellor's staff in preparing for the meeting. He called the meeting to order.

II. Roll Call

Regent Secretary Reiling called the roll. Those present were:

Donna M. Alvarado
Bruce R. Beeghly
Timothy Burke
Bonnie K. Milenthal
Lana Z. Moresky
James F. Patterson
Walter A. Reiling, Jr.
James M. Tuschman

Secretary Reiling stated "the record reflects that notice of this meeting was given in accordance with provisions of the Board of Regents' Ohio Administrative Code § 3333-1-14, which rule was adopted in accordance with section 121.22(F) of the Ohio Revised Code." A quorum was present.

III. Approval of Minutes

Chair Tuschman asked for approval of the July 15, 2009 minutes as submitted. There being no additions or corrections to the minutes a motion was made by Regent Burke and seconded by Regent Milenthal to approve the minutes. The minutes were approved.

Chair Tuschman announced that Chancellor Fingerhut will be present for the afternoon session. Chair Tuschman gave opening comments and reviewed the day's agenda. He also reviewed the agenda for the Trustee Conference to be held the next day in Newark, Ohio. The Regents will participate in the meeting and serve as facilitators for the small groups in the afternoon. He thanked the Regents for their help in encouraging the trustees to attend and said there were between 110-115 registrations for the meeting. Discussion was held regarding the speed networking session of the trustee conference whereby trustees will have the opportunity to briefly introduce themselves to each other. A video will be played and displays will be set up in the registration area of the conference to visually showcase and highlight the Ohio Board of Regents.

V. Presentation by Eastland-Fairfield Career Center

Ross Dunlap, Interim Superintendent gave a history of the Career Center. It has grown from five districts to sixteen with an enrollment of approximately 1,200 students in 35 different programs. With satellite programs in other locations, the school also serves another 1,400 high school students. The career center has advanced courses and supplies the equipment the students need to succeed. The students spend half the day in academics and the other half in career training. Eight hundred students are enrolled in a tech prep option that combines technology courses with labs. Fifty-seven percent of the students enroll in post secondary education after graduation. A recruitment video geared to high school sophomores was shown as part of the presentation.

Karen Dearbaugh, Director of Support Services, spoke on career curriculum and the Career Center's dual enrollment program. Most of the students are first generation college students. The three major college partners are Hocking College, Ohio University Lancaster Campus, and Shawnee State University. The Center's teachers have master's degrees so they can serve as college adjunct professors. The school has 162 students enrolled in the program and they must have a "B" average to receive college credit. The college credits will stay with the college that issued the credit. There are 136 different pathways for the student with ten different colleges.

Discussion was held regarding how a student enrolls in the Career Center. Students visit the schools and recruiters work with the home schools. Twenty-six percent are special needs students. There is extensive evaluation of the transcripts to determine if the academic profile matches what is required in the program, an assessment is made of the students to make sure that they will be successful and a panel works with the counselor for additional screening. Approximately one-third of the students that apply are accepted. It was emphasized that space is limited, but students are given other options if there course is not available. Discussion was held regarding the student programs and enrollment options.

Nancy Gossett, Guidance Counselor, spoke to the success of the career students. She said that many times students in the career tech program graduate with more credits than are required from their home school district. Students can also receive college credits and she gave as an example one student who graduated with 40 college credits from the course work at the Career Center.

Angela Ward, Adult Workforce Director, said a skilled workforce is crucial for Ohio's businesses. The center currently serves 7,000 adult learners with 11 full time development programs and 150 part time career enhancement programs. She said many of the students are single parents, displaced workers, or undereducated workers. She asked the Board of Regents to continue to invest resources into the training of Ohio's workers; establish credit transfer for certificated programs, be mindful of the value of Adult Workforce programs as they respond to business and industry needs, and promote the Adult Workforce programs as an alternative to the two and four year programs.

Chair Tuschman thanked the Career Center for their very interesting presentation and introduced Dr. Barbara Danley, Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and System Integration. He congratulated her on her appointment to the presidency of Rio Grande Community College.

Dr. Danley introduced staff members presenting on the topic "How the University System of Ohio serves students/citizen." She also introduced Dr. Michael Thompson, ACE Fellow, and Dean of Academic Affairs at West Campus, Cuyahoga Community College.

Dr. Melissa Cardenas, Director, Academic Quality and Assurance and Dr. Tom Bordenkircher, Associate Vice Chancellor, Academic Quality and Assurance presented on dual enrollment. Many of the previous funding sources are no longer being funded so they are taking a new look at the funding issue. Dual enrollment provided a pathway for those students moving from high school to post secondary education and includes high schools blending high school and college credit, online courses for college credit taken either through the student's school districts or on their own, and the dual focus on career readiness for all students and especially for students that did not do well in high school but need to go on to post secondary education. Two major barriers to improvement include lack of funding and lack of credentialed teachers that can teach and issue college credits. Five pilot schools are working on a career path that will help teachers earn master's degrees and if it is successful, five more schools are ready to

begin the program next year. The schools will pay for the training. They are working on a dual enrollment model that would be a win/win with qualified teachers and no funding loss to the schools for dual enrollment.

Dr. Paula Compton, Associate Vice Chancellor, Articulation and Transfer reported that the articulation and transfer program is making excellent progress. A major challenge is the conversion of the higher education institutions from quarter to semester systems as part of the Chancellor's strategic plan. Schools have agreed to guidelines with new methods of teaching based on 750 minutes of formalized instruction and the semester lasting between 14 to 17 weeks. All 36 higher education institutions accepted the recommendations of the ad hoc group. This conversion will be completed by 2012.

The Transfer Assurance Guides (TAG) define the pathways to a Baccalaureate degree. She noted that the TAG courses will be reviewed for transferability and quality and that the pathways are for two – four year students. The career transfer assurance guides are a statewide guarantee that credits will transfer. There are seventeen approved programs.

TAG does not apply to private institutions; however, they are very interested in becoming a part of this system. Three schools are currently working with the Chancellor's staff to align courses. The private schools are better about accepting transfer credits than public institutions. This is the largest curriculum reform in the state of Ohio and was faculty driven and student focused.

Dr. Stephanie Davidson, Associate Vice Chancellor presented on the topics of Program Development and Making the System Easier to Navigate. Dr. Davison said that under H.B. 1, the Chancellor and his staff approve all academic programs that come into the state. The Academic Affairs and Systems Integration area has been reorganized so that the approvals are under one vice chancellor. A manual detailing the guidelines and procedures for approval for new academic programs, changes to existing programs and periodic review of institutions is being created. Dr. Davidson said that there will be a common set of standards for all institutions. Standards that may encounter resistance include the requirement that faculty members hold a masters degree or higher in the subject matter discipline, each degree program be led by a full-time faculty member, and a minimum of 60% of the curriculum generally be taught faculty members who have full time teaching and administrative responsibilities.

New procedure proposals include a peer review process, and formal periodic reviews of public and private schools. Informal and formal input on the new guidelines will be sought from stakeholders. Discussion was held regarding soliciting input from the business community. Ninety percent of the programs reviewed by the Chancellor's staff are approved although few are approved on the first submission. The Chancellor's staff takes a proactive approach to make sure the programs do not fail. Many schools will mention how their programs fit into their Centers of Excellence.

A summary of the Choose Ohio First scholarship program was presented. The approach to the application process is being refined to make sure the monies are spent to strengthen the state's ability to compete in the STEM fields and the program is being tied closely to those individuals who want to become STEM educators.

Dr. Kate Carey, Special Assistant to the Vice Chancellor, spoke on the statewide distance learning initiatives. A twenty-five member committee is meeting to envision where Ohio should be in the next five years. Small work groups will be active during this biennium to advance distance learning.

The committee will present their recommendations to the Chancellor in December. The state has more than 110,000 people enrolled in e-learning and offers 324 distance learning degrees and certificates. Institutions saw double-digit growth due in part to the economy and high gas prices. Statistics show that the greatest users of distance learning are woman with almost half of the users twenty-five years of age or older. Regional campuses are very involved in e-learning.

Dr. George Steele, Director of Educational Access, Ohio Learning Network gave a presentation on web-based student services. The Ohio Learning Network has used the Center for Transforming Student Services (CENTSS) audit to look at all the student services in a portal environment. He said all student services should be integrated and focused on the students. The audit has been around for five to six years and focuses on 20 plus student services. Over 1,000 higher education institutions have taken the audit to see where they should be regarding web-based student services. The levels of web-based participation are broken down into four generations ranging from no services on the web to an advanced web based approach similar to online banking. Future best practices will move the generations available toward mobility so that student services are on the cell phones through applications. New services can include e-tutoring and customer relationship management systems that help to integrate individual data on the students to address their needs and concerns. Web-based programs can include e-tutoring and student tracking.

Discussion was held regarding reporting on how the University System of Ohio uses the CENTSS data to serve students.

Dr. Barbara Danley, Vice-Chancellor, Academic Affairs and System Integration spoke regarding adult learning. Adult learners need to know that they need to learn something, why they are in class, and learn best when the topic is of immediate value. Community colleges and private institutions do a better job of teaching adults than larger public institutions. Nontraditional students have often delayed enrollment, attend school part time for at least part of the academic year, are much older than twenty-five years of age and are considered financially independent. Many times they have dependents and/or are single parents. Many times they are not pursuing a degree but have needs that need to be met within a teachable moment. They are original in their own learning and the faculty member becomes a facilitator of that learning. In order to meet learning needs schools should change their master schedules to accommodate adults and hire faculty who can interact with adult learners, make them feel welcome, safe, and integral to the course. Schools need to use a variety of delivery formats and build support student services for adults. Adult learning is important and needs to be encouraged.

Dr. Bill Russell, Associate Vice Chancellor, Adult Education and Institutional Collaboration gave a presentation on Workforce Development. He said that there are 51,000 incarcerated people in Ohio and 28,000 will be re-entering our communities. The Chancellor's staff is working to reduce the barriers to rejoining the community. The State Adult Basic Literacy Education Program (ABLE) helps to prepare adults for the GED test. There are sixty-eight ABLE centers across the state. The programs are being consolidated to make them more efficient. The program has stackable certificates for placement tests for those who do not meet the standards for college entry on those topics.

The main priorities for this year in college and career transitions include teacher and support staff preparation, career development opportunities, credit transfer, program development and improvement, service for special populations and partnerships with key stakeholders. It is very important to have a seamless transfer of credits from secondary to postsecondary education as a value

added. College Access in Ohio has served 30,000 students to date. It is an initiative to prepare students for entry into higher education.

The Adult Workforce Education (AWE) program is using facilities in the evening for adult education to serve adult students that will not go to a traditional campus but will go to a career center. Nearly 100,000 individuals were served in FY09.

There are 1.3-1.4M adults in Ohio that do not have a GED or high school diploma. In 2008, 20,000 people received their GED. He would like to help educate the population so that businesses will move to Ohio and stay here. The Ohio Skills Bank initiative is working to determine what kind of jobs will be available in the future and what skills will be needed. There has been success in creating regional partnerships between employers and adult education and training providers. One of the adult education goals is to align systems to address regional occupation and skill gaps through education and training programs that are industry-recognized and have portable credentialing. A survey to determine the satisfaction of businesses with the University System of Ohio (USO) will be one of the twenty accountability measures the Chancellor will use to tell the public how the USO is doing.

Chair Tuschman thanked the Chancellor's staff for the informative report and the opportunity for the Regents to interface with them. He said it was evident that this is a first class team and that he was extremely thankful for their insights. Regent Burke said it was a very valuable presentation.

VI. Chancellor's Report

The Chancellor thanked the Regents for their cards and the fruit basket he received while he was recuperating. He apologized for being late and explained he was at a meeting with the Workforce Investment Board. The Board's thrust is to fund training programs for low income, unemployed persons. The Chancellor would like to work with the Workforce Investment Board to provide a career path to their clients to give them the skills they need to retain work.

The Chancellor said his priorities for the next six months to a year are affordability issues and economic advancement. Affordability is the cornerstone of the strategic plan. There has been a setback on financial aid, but even with the setback higher education is more affordable every day. Funding for the Pell Grant has been increased and the tuition increases are the lowest in forty years. The average increase will be one percent, with very few schools increasing tuition the full 3.5 percent this year.

The Governor proposed changes to the governance of the Ohio Tuition Trust Authority. The Chancellor will chair its executive committee in an effort to align the organization with the strategic plan. He will be able to appoint the executive director subject to the advice and consent of the Board. It is time to revisit prepaid tuition in Ohio. He will be required to deliver a report to the general assembly about the viability of the program in December 2009. The executive director's position will be filled as quickly as possible and will be an Associate Vice Chancellor on Affordability.

The Chancellor is working to develop a plan for the agency to be engaged in economic advancement. There are several opportunities on the federal level for research and workforce development. He is working to take advantage of all opportunities that may be available to the Ohio Board of Regents. He is also working with the Governor's office on shoring up Ohio's manufacturing base. A major subset of this is the renewal of the Third Frontier. When, how much, and what are the three questions regarding the renewal. The new guaranteed tuition program and renewal of the Third Frontier are two major pieces of legislation to be enacted in January.

The Ohio Learning Network, OhioLINK and eTech Ohio Commission offices were moved to the same rent free floor at 35 E. Chestnut Street. These agencies can now work together and build consensus.

The budget is critical for the next two years and he is watching it closely. The Chancellor is focusing on the next biennium budget because it will not have federal stimulus bill funds. He plans to have a strategy in place for the next biennium in the next few months.

The Trustee In-Person Conference will take place September 17, 2009. The Chancellor thanked the Regents for their help in its planning. The conference will let the trustees get to know each other and share best practices in an effort to build a sense of community among them. The Regents will facilitate the breakout sessions.

VII. Trustee Engagement

Regent Alvarado opened the session and introduced facilitators Phil Cass, Tuesday Ryan-Hart and Deb Helber. She said the facilitators offer the Board cutting edge approaches to working with the trustees that have been used around the world. The Chancellor said the session the facilitators put forward will let the Regents look inward before they go externally to the trustees. This process is very appropriate because of the dramatic changes to the Board of Regents in the last year with a new Chancellor, four new Regents, the budget and the recession. This process will build cohesiveness and shared vision among the board.

The participants were asked to respond to the questions: "How is my personal sense of purpose connected to my stewardship of Higher Education in Ohio?" and "What do I "dream" possible for our system of higher education and what would stewardship of these dreams look like?"

After the answers were summarized, the Regents discussed what they would need to give up and what would be gained by allowing trustees to steward higher education in Ohio.

The next steps for the trustee engagement process were discussed by the facilitators and the Regents. Various options were suggested to hosting the trustee conversations. The facilitators will provide a summary of the session to the Board with a suggested approach and timeframe. The Governor's office offered to host a reception for the trustees in December.

Chair Tuschman said the Board needed to explore their own ideas regarding the trustee facilitation a little deeper and divided the board into two groups to discuss the next steps by audio conference. The Regents were placed in the following groups: 1) Jim Patterson, Donna Alvarado, Walter Reiling and Bonnie Milenthal and 2) Bruce Beeghly, Tim Burke, Lana Moresky and Dan Hurwitz. The audio conference will give each Regent the opportunity to recommend a way forward on the trustee engagement issue. Chair Tuschman said this is one of the most defining initiatives of the Regents.

Chancellor Fingerhut said the facilitation session was excellent and expressed his appreciation to the Regents for the work they have done with trustee engagement this year. There is no short cut to getting the initiative accomplished. It will take a lot of hard and long work for the transformation. He will ask his staff to run off a printout of all the trustees he has talked to since becoming Chancellor. It is a personal priority to do a better job of working with the Regents.

The Communications Working Group will be finalized and participants notified. Charles See will get a summary of the governance law in Ohio.

VIII. Regent's Report

During the Regents' working dinner, Regent Alvarado reported on her recent bike trip to several higher education campuses in Ohio. She enjoyed the opportunity to be on the campuses and talk to citizens from the surrounding areas regarding the institutions. These conversations indicated that some of the schools need to do a better job of advertising themselves to their local communities.

IX. Adjourn

Chair Tuschman thanked the culinary art students for their excellent meals provided to the Regents throughout the day and the Career Center for their hospitality in hosting the meeting.

Chair Tuschman asked if there was any further business. There being no additional agenda items, he declared the meeting adjourned.

The next scheduled Board of Regents meeting will be held October 20, 2009 at the Ohio Board of Regents, 30 E. Broad Street, 36th Floor, Columbus, Ohio.


Ohio Board of Regents

October 20, 2009
Date