



The Ohio Faculty Council

Minutes of the Meeting held on May 5, 2009.

Present: Fenwick (UA); Billman (OSU); Milburn (Central State); Sudkamp (WSU); Bourguet (NEOUCOM); Cuppoletti, Hall (UC); Bloemer (OU); King (YSU); Bernhard (BGSU); Ray (CSU)

12:15 Called to order

Minutes of the April 10 meeting were approved unanimously with minor corrections.

New Business

At the suggestion of Dr. Bourguet there was a brief discussion of whether OFC should continue to meet in person on a monthly basis or use video or phone conferencing. Meeting in Columbus was particularly problematic in winter months. It was decided that for present OFC would meet in person but look at the availability of occasionally using video conferencing.

Dr. Sudkamp led a brief discussion of OFC bylaw changes. The changes were approved unanimously with minor revisions.

Old Business

Dr. Bernhard introduced a draft resolution endorsing the OHERN rail project that OFC had discussed in its April meeting.

It was asked whether such a proposal was beyond the scope of OFC's mission, since it did not directly deal with faculty interests or academic issues.

Chair Cuppoletti reminded OFC that in March the Chancellor had asked OFC to seek out faculty expertise on rail transportation.

After discussion it was decided to change the title from "resolution" to "in response to your (the Chancellor's) request; eliminate the "whereas" and "be it resolved" clauses and send it to the Chancellor as a follow up to his March request on rail transportation.

Chair Cuppoletti then asked about suggestion for the OFC agenda in 2009-10.

Agenda suggestions included inviting various legislative leaders, especially the chairs of the Senate and House education committees, the Chancellor, the Vice-Chancellor for Budgeting, universities government affairs representatives.

It was also note by Dr. Sudkamp that on May 28, 2009 there would be a meeting on distance learning. The meeting would probably be part of a discussion as to which university would provide distance learning, rather than have each university provide these courses.

OFC decided to meet in June, but to suspend its meetings for July and August depending on whether critical issues arose over the summer. It would meet again in September to “pass the baton.”

For the June meeting it was suggested that OFC ask Kate Carey to speak on distance learning.

Campus Reports

NEOUCOM:

Was graduating 110 new physicians on May 16.

The BOT had decided to conduct a search for a new president and then the new president will initiate a search for a new dean of medicine.

WSU:

Possible budgets include 5% cuts to units, with some administrative units having larger cuts; consolidating two libraries into one, cutting the athletic budges, freezing hiring; encouraging early retirements, and layoffs.

CENTRAL STATE:

Was having budget conversation regarding restructuring. There was \$79k in faculty raises for 110 faculty.

OSU:

There had been no news on the university’s budget, but was planning for 5-10% in cuts.

Dr. Gunther had a tumor remove and it was benign. He was currently undergoing therapy. OFC had sent a get well card.

The BOT had approved OSU’s move to semesters.

OU:

Was interviewing provost candidates; three had already been interviewed.

Was electing new faculty senate officers.

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The faculty senate was preparing to do its own evaluation of the president.

OU had laid off some unionize employees.

Dr. Bloemer announced that this was his last OFC meeting

UA:

The provost was leaving to become president of Webster University in St. Louis, MO. Dr David Baker was to begin serving as interim provost.

The university had hired a new associate vice president for “budgeting and strategy.”

BGSU:

The search for a new provost was beginning. The goal was to complete the interview process in June.

The outgoing interim provost had emailed faculty asking that they reconsider the AAUP card campaign for collective bargaining.

The strategic planning, “Charting Our Future,” was coming to a conclusion.

The BOT had approved promotion of more non-tenure track faculty than tenure track faculty.

The faculty well-being committee reported that salaries and benefits of BGSU faculty were lagging behind the other “four-corner” universities (Miami, OU, KSU).

Graduate Student association from Ohio universities had organized an “Ohio Board of Graduate Students.”

YSU:

The Early College will graduate some students with associate degrees.

Budget problems may lead to cuts in YSU summer courses.

Was negotiating a contract with the FOP.

UC:

The 10 Higher Learning Commission report on UC looks positive.

Was in the initial phase of searching for a new president. An interim president had been appointed.

A joint governance meeting was held that included the faculty senate, the undergraduate and graduate student associations. A resolution was passed to develop an evaluation instrument for the president.

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There were continuing issues between the College of Medicine and the central administration.

UC was half way to its fund raising goal of \$1 billion.

Good of the Order

A resolution was made and seconded thanking Dr. Bloemer of OU for his service on OFC. The resolution was passed unanimously.

2:05: OFC adjourned.

Next meeting: Friday, June 12.

Respectfully submitted,
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