

Faculty Assembly Minutes
Wednesday, January 25, 2023 (4:30pm)

Present: Steve Abedon, Terri Bucci, Cynthia Callahan, Eric Anderman, Jamison Kantor, Dawn Kitchen, Phil Mazzocco, Scopas Poggo, Kate Shannon, Carolyn Skinner, John Thrasher, Terri Winnick, Ozeas Costa, Kip Curtis, Bill Putikka, Carol Landry, Amy Brunell, Kelly Whitney, Gabe Karns, Glenn Hartz, Faith Wyzgoski, Sergei Chmutov, Mirel Caibar, Joe Fahey, Steven Joyce, Ashley Smith, Elizabeth Kolkovich, Molly Cavender, Agus Munoz-Garcia, Heather Tanner.

1. Approval of 12/8/22 Faculty Assembly meeting minutes

A motion to approve the 12/8/2022 Faculty Assembly meeting minutes was made by Bill Putikka and seconded by Scopas Poggo. The minutes were approved with 25 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 3 abstentions.

2. Committee Reports/Updates

An opportunity was provided for standing committees to present reports or make announcements.

- Professional Development Committee (PDC)
 - Spring PDC application deadlines have been distributed via email.
 - Dennis Shaffer will present on student research on Tuesday, Jan. 31 during common hour in Founders Auditorium.
 - A Promotion Workshop focusing on the Associate to Full promotion will take place Feb. 22 at 4pm on Zoom.
 - The Faculty Research Frenzy will take place March 9 during common hour over zoom. Contact Del Lindsey if interested in presenting.

3. Senators' Reports

University Senator (Bill Putikka, Senate Rep.)

The University Senate will not meet for the first time in Spring semester until Jan. 26. However, Faculty Council met Jan. 12. One main topic of discussion was that faculty 72 years and older and still working OSU will be required to take mandatory distributions from various retirement accounts. In the proceeding years this threshold will be changing to 73 and then 75 respectively. These distributions may involve large sums and affected faculty should be aware of possible tax implications. The Council also discussed advocating for more representation on the search committee for the new University President. Regarding the exit of the current University President, the Faculty Council were given no additional information due to privacy guidelines.

Arts and Sciences (A&S) Senator (Heather Tanner, Senate Rep.)

The main bulk of time in the last meeting was spent on a presentation by James Orr, Provost of Strategic Enrollment Management. Dr. Orr shared that there has never been any meaningful coordination regarding enrollment between the various campuses. Short- and long-term plans are being devised focusing on how Columbus can facilitate regional campus enrollment efforts. For example, Columbus

Marketing can share information that will help the regionals to fine-tune social media communications. Survey results regarding applicant's decisions to attend or not can also be shared. One focus of these efforts will be on college-aged, college-eligible students who have chosen not to attend any college (approx. 8.3 million individuals at present). Two reasons why these students are opting to forgo college is (a) desirable alternative economic opportunities, and (b) the growing perception that a college education is not of sufficient value in the workplace, or in life.

Second, a vote was held concerning a proposed change to the new Race, Ethnicity, Gender, and Diversity Foundation category Expected Learning Outcomes. Specifically:

- Current Language: "Expected Learning Outcome 2.1: Successful students *are able to demonstrate* critical self-reflection and critique of their social positions and identities."
- Proposed Revision: "Expected Learning Outcome 2.1: Successful students *will engage in* critical self-reflection and critique of their social positions and identities."

The purpose of the revision was to more strongly encourage students to engage in meaningful self/group-reflection efforts. However, some expressed concern that mandating reflective experiences might cause students to have to relive trauma, or to feel pressure to renounce social or political ideologies. The motion passed with 66% voting in support, 17% voting in opposition, and 17% abstaining.

Concerned faculty are encouraged to reach out to ULAC-EC (The University-Level Advisory Committee for General Education): <https://oaa.osu.edu/council-academic-affairs/ulac-ge>

4. Dean's report

Dean Anderman provided a Dean's report to the Assembly:

- We have a higher number of applicants for Fall 23 than in many years. We were sent approximately 1300 students via Columbus, some of whom applied directly to the Mansfield campus as well. We have a great opportunity to recruit and enroll as many of these students as possible. We are working with recruiting and marketing to maximize eventual enrollments. We will be marketing on social media, radio, and via billboards. Faculty are highly encouraged to participate in the recruiting process.
 - Q. Will faculty be included in recruitment videos? A. That is a great suggestion that will be noted and hopefully incorporated.
 - Comment: We could have discipline-specific faculty experiences with associated recruits.
- Our Spring 23 enrollment is down 21.4% compared to last Spring. A sizeable proportion of this decline appears to be due to students who struggled academically and did not return. Another issue was College Credit Plus (CCP) students who took classes in Spring 22 and not Spring 23 (we are down to 85 compared to 116 last Spring).
 - Q. Do we know anything about why we do or do not have CCP students? A. Not at present.
- The Buckeye Opportunity Grant is now available to all Pell-eligible first year students.

- We hired a doctoral student to assist Cindy Wood with her activities.
- The University is continuing to engage in preliminary discussion about Buckeye Village in terms of its future. The current owners are conversing with the University regarding leasing or even potentially buying the facility.
- A new member will be appointed to the Board as another member transitions off.
- Q. The new Fiscal Officer overseeing regional campuses, Julie Sosa, will begin employment on Jan 31st. What implications are there for Faculty? A. Nothing major will change for us in the foreseeable future. The change will not alter anything in terms of the control of our budget. Inquiries will still go to Carol Freytag.

5. Discussion – Provost’s visit on Feb 1 (TIME?)

Provost Melissa Gilliam will visit campus on Feb 1. She will meet with faculty, staff, the Board, and students while on campus. The faculty meeting will take place from 2:15p-3:00p. The Faculty conversation is intended to be directed primarily by faculty concerns. However, the Provost will also want to know what are the things that this campus is doing well, and what are some unrealized opportunities. Also, what would we like from the Office of Academic Affairs (OAA)? Hence, the main purpose of the meeting is information-gathering. Similar visits will be taking place at all four regional campuses.

The Assembly discussed what issues we would like to address during the meeting. The following issues were mentioned as possibilities:

- How do we maintain our educational values/interests and the desires of incoming students?
- Budget issues: Can we get a higher percentage of state subsidies, lower costs for shared services etc., other forms of cost sharing?
- Can we build upon the last round of external reviewers? There is an existing document into which new issues can be incorporated.
- Presently, regionals cannot enroll international students or out-of-state students. Can that be addressed? Are there areas where we might not be perceived as competing with Columbus? Pilot programs? The Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology (BSET) program seems suitable. We would need to be certain we had the resources available to give these students, particularly international students, the kinds of supports and accommodations they would be likely to require. For example, we could set aside rooms in Buckeye Village for international students.
- We still have the underutilized campus environs. It might be worthwhile to propose programs to more fully utilize this resource.
- A Howard Hughes grant was supposed to support students from underserved communities in STEM fields. Our campus data was used to secure these funds—can we access any of these funds?
- After COVID many of our enrollment declines were due to Columbus over-admitting. This policy directly harmed our campus interests, but we are not allowed to do anything which is perceived as competing with the interests of Columbus. Can we reframe this debate?

- We have programs, like Ecolab, that tend to focus more on quality than quantity. Can we maintain the quality while increasing the quantity?
- Can Columbus invest in regional campuses transportation? Such as a campus bus?
- Could we access a portion of Jobs Ohio funds to offset our advertising/marketing activities (which will help our enrollment)? Particularly with respect to the BSET program?

Jamison Kantor agreed to share a Microsoft Teams invite to collect additional suggestions. It was proposed that it would be good idea to designate one or two people to bring a summary of the topics generated via discussion to the meeting. Amy Brunell and Carol Landry agreed to serve in this respect. Finally, it was strongly recommended that we craft compelling narratives related to our requests from the Provost and OAA and not just present a list of complaints/demands.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 pm

Minutes taken and prepared by Phil Mazzocco, Faculty Secretary.