

Faculty Assembly Minutes
Wednesday, March 22, 2023 (4:30pm)

Present: Steve Abedon, Terri Bucci, Cynthia Callahan, Eric Anderman, Jamison Kantor, Dawn Kitchen, Phil Mazzocco, Kate Shannon, Carolyn Skinner, John Thrasher, Kip Curtis, Carol Landry, Amy Brunell, Gabe Karns, Glenn Hartz, Sergei Chmutov, Mirel Caibar, Joe Fahey, Steven Joyce, Elizabeth Kolkovich, Molly Cavender, Heather Tanner, Faith Wyzgoski, Del Lindsey, Terri Winnick, Scopas Poggo, Dennis Shaffer, Kelly Whitney, Suma Robinson

Guests: Rob Jech, Helen Malone, Jacqueline Honeck, Patrick Louchouarn

1. Approval of 2/20/23 Faculty Assembly meeting minutes

A motion to approve the 2/20/2023 Faculty Assembly meeting minutes was made by Heather Tanner and seconded by Scopas Poggo. The minutes were approved with 19 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 3 abstentions.

2. Dean's Report

- We applied for an engagement grant—made available from Ryan Schmiesing's office. We were awarded the grant and received funding for STEAM Days, Robotics days, school personnel breakfasts to talk to guidance counselors in the Cleveland and Akron areas, community workshops, and luncheons for community business partners.
- At this point, several guests entered the Zoom to present the Alumni Award for Distinguished Teaching award to Dr. Amy Brunell. Presenters of the award included Helen Malone, Patrick Louchouarn, and Rob Jech—representatives of the Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) and the OSU Alumni Association. After the special guests left the Zoom, the Dean's report continued.
- The regional Deans have made a data request to OAA (institutional research) that will allow a deep dive at the program level. The data has been recently received, and analyses will begin.
- We have made progress in terms of offering college credit courses in local schools.
- We are still working on the budget for 2023-2024.
- We are up a small percentage in enrollment from this same time time last year.
- Our ongoing social media campaign is showing positive results.
- Scholarship notifications will go out 3-4 weeks prior to students needing to make enrollment decisions.

3. Committee Reports

Student Support and Enrichment

The committee has been working on finding winners of various campus awards. Faculty are encouraged to attend the Student Research Frenzy, taking place March 30 during common hour. Senior Vice Provost Charlene Gilbert is planning to attend this event.

Professional Development

On March 9, the PDC sponsored a faculty research frenzy organized and hosted by Del Lindsey. The committee has also been evaluating supplementary travel funding requests. Otherwise, the committee's work for the semester is complete.

Resource Stewardship

The Resource Stewardship committee and the OSU-M Mansfield Office of Diversity and Inclusion in conjunction with the Drake Institute will offer a DEI workshop on **10 April** focusing on equity in the classroom and practical teaching strategies to facilitate it. Erin Mercurio of the Drake Institute will conduct the Zoom meeting which counts toward a Drake Institute teaching endorsement.

Teaching and Learning

Kate Shannon delivered a brownbag presentation entitled "Using Adobe Creative Cloud in your Classroom" on March 2nd. Also, Donna Farland-Smith is proposing a program for our campus to train educational administrators at our campus. The Teacher Leadership Endorsement will be offered as a pilot effort of the coming year. This is a three-course series that we would be offering in collaboration with the Department of Educational Studies in Columbus. At this time there is no cost to us, but if enrollments grow, we will need to potentially pay for a portion of the instructional costs. Interested students must sign up by May. This program counts as a professional development experience for many local teachers.

4. Student Awards Update

Associate Dean Dawn Kitchen Faculty strongly encouraged faculty to be more proactive in providing information about student award winners to remove some of the burden from planning the Student Day of Celebration event. Several faculty members suggested that the Associate Dean should not be involved in the process. They suggested that the Student Support and Enrichment Committee should handle this by themselves, perhaps with the support of relevant staff members. Starting the process earlier in the semester was also suggested. Associate Dean Kitchen said that she would still be okay coordinating the event if faculty would be more prompt and responsive with providing winners and additional relevant information in a timely fashion.

5. Senators' Reports

University Senator

In lieu of a University Senate Report, a moment of silence and reflection was held in honor of the recently passed Bill Putikka.

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

At a 2/22/23 meeting of the Arts and Sciences Senate, the following topics were discussed: (1) A recent report elucidating various problems with Standardized Evaluation of Instructors (SEIs), and possible remedies; (2) Improvements that could be made to Student Life and Disability Services; and (3) Making a formal request to the Board of Trustees about the reason or reasons for President Johnson's departure. The next meeting is March 29th.

6. President's Search

A search firm has been hired to run the search for a new University Presidential. The plan is to have a new President installed Fall Semester 2023. Dean Anderman and some others met with this firm and communicated a great deal of information, including the fact that this is some concern that there is no regional campus representation on the search committee. Each campus will, however, be able to submit a one-page report to the committee regarding our perspectives and interests regarding the search.

We have the opportunity to contribute in a meaningful way - what characteristics do we want to see in the new president? The following suggestions were provided by various Faculty Assembly members.

We are interested in a President who:

- Understands and supports our passion for research.
- Will support Regional Campus faculty research, especially in light of our enhanced teaching loads.
- Has an academic background, especially a liberal arts background, as opposed to a solely corporate background.
- Will prioritize Arts & Sciences and a liberal arts education.
- Will prioritize the hiring of faculty.
- Will prioritize visits to the regional campuses.
- Will support the regionals in general, especially in terms of funding models.
- Understands and appreciates our land resources, and human resources.

Dean Anderman added that he has been asked to submit nominations of specific individuals who might be qualified and interested in the position of University President. Those with suggestions can pass them on to Dean Anderman with a brief explanation of why and he will submit them.

7. Enrollment

We are in the final push for 2023-24 enrollment. Associate Dean Kitchen proposed that various faculty, by discipline, could write personal letters to students rejected by Columbus that are automatically accepted to OSU Mansfield. These letters can explain program options, tell personal stories, highlight

the Buckeye tradition and experience, and maybe include personal stories from faculty members, etc. Students and parents are likely to be greatly impacted by such letters. A number of faculty volunteered to help write such letters.

It was also noted that six faculty members will be assisting recruiting/enrollment efforts by presenting mock lectures for visiting students/parents on March 24th. These six faculty members are Amber Rader, Phil Mazzocco, Ashley Smith, Ozeas Costa, Suma Robinson, and Kate Shannon.

The meeting adjourned at 5:55pm

Minutes taken and prepared by Phil Mazzocco, Faculty Secretary.