

Faculty Assembly Minutes
Thursday, April 25th, 2024 (1:00pm)

Present: Steve Abedon, Jamison Kantor, Dawn Kitchen, Phil Mazzocco, Kate Shannon, Amy Brunell, Joe Fahey, Molly Cavender, Heather Tanner, Dennis Shaffer, Kelly Whitney, Carol Landry, Mirel Caibar, Ozeas Costa, Del Lindsey, Elizabeth Kolkovich, Agus Munoz-Garcia, Terri Winnick, Terri Bucci, Glenn Hartz, Adrienne Hopson, John Thrasher, Andy Kinney, Steven Lifer, Kip Curtis, Faith Wyzgoski, Sergei Chmutov, Steven, Suma Robinson, Donna Farland-Smith, Aaron Francis.

1. Nomination of Secretary

Steven Joyce was nominated from the floor to serve as Secretary for the following academic year, and he accepted the nomination.

2. Elections for 2024-25 Executive Committee open positions

1 year

Faculty President – Kip Curtis
Faculty Vice President – Ozeas Costa
Faculty Secretary – Steve Joyce

2 year

At Large Representative – Joe Fahey
University Senate Alternate – Jamison Kantor

A motion to approve the 2024-25 Executive Committee slate by acclamation was made by Heather Tanner and seconded by Amy Brunell. The motion was approved unanimously.

3. Approval of 3/20/24 Faculty Assembly meeting minutes

A motion to approve the 3/30/2024 Faculty Assembly meeting minutes was made by Heather Tanner and seconded by Agus Munoz-Garcia. The minutes were approved with 23 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions.

4. End of Semester Committee Reports (See Appendix for all committee reports)


Time was allotted for questions from the Faculty Assembly regarding each of the standing committees. There were no questions for Professional Development or Student Support or Resource Stewardship.

A faculty member asked Teaching and Learning about any planning for future hiring. The committee is currently in the process of discussing the criteria that would be used to make future recommendations.

5. Senate Reports

Faculty Senator Donna Farland-Smith provided a Senate report. In recent meetings the Senate has focused on topics relating to Diversity, Equity and Inclusion hiring, as well as mental Health among Faculty and Staff.

In the Faculty Council the following topics have been discussed:

- Discussion about pay gap ( [Presentation FCBC 2024.pptx](#))
- Presentation on the revision of SEI's (Student Evaluation of Instruction) to SLE's (Student Learning Experiences) [SEI revision update.pdf \(osu.edu\)](#)
- Discussion about Strategic Hiring Initiative for Faculty Talent (SHIFT) ([Faculty Hiring | Office of Faculty Affairs \(osu.edu\)](#))

Regarding SEIs, a sub-committee of 18 individuals is working on revisions to the student evaluation of instruction process, and a revised approach will be piloted in the near future. A faculty member asked about the danger that evaluations might become "consumerized" in future iterations. Other faculty feedback included the following:

- What criteria will be used to determine if these efforts have been fruitful?
- How will the new vs. the old model be weighed in tenure and promotion cases?
- Should online instructors be compared to other online instructors for benchmarks and descriptive data comparisons?

Heather Tanner, Arts and Sciences Senator, reported that the Senate did not meet or engage in activities during Spring Semester 2024.

6. Dean's Report

The Dean's Report was provided by Associate Dean Dawn Kitchen.

- 179th opportunities (from EC report)
- There have been several meetings with officials for the 179th Air National Guard. The Guard would like to conduct various trainings on our campus related to cyber-security. The Guard appears interested in forming connections with our campus, and Ohio State in general, which may include joint programs that might produce enrollment. Columbus, and President Carter in particular, appears to be committed to help making this relationship work. There has also been discussion of a 2+2 format joint associate's degree program on which OSU Mansfield might collaborate with North Central State College.
- After leaving OSU Mansfield, Dean Eric Anderman will be a 50% appointment at OAA to onboard the next slate of Deans.
- Our campus received a \$100,000 equipment grant from Honda to help purchase equipment for the Engineering Technology program. Many thanks to Cindy Wood for her efforts in making this happen.
- In our efforts to ensure the safety of our students, we will be putting in new lighting on the path between campus and Buckeye Village. This was made possible by a generous grant of over \$100,000 from the Office of Academic Affairs.
- Enrollment projections for 2024-25 appear promising.
- Day of Giving met all of its goals and achieved full matching funding.
- Graduation Celebration is coming up. Delaney Beuchner and Cynthia Callahan planning kudos.

There was also a brief discussion of OSU Online, and the implications it might have for our campus. It is unclear whether the program will end up taking away enrollment dollars from the regional campuses. Various faculty suggested that OSU Mansfield might leverage the program to offer professional development programs and certificate training in the local area. There was a related discussion of the equity issues presented by the model by which our campus is compensated for holding online classes in which non-campus students are enrolled.

7. Discussion of Contacts regarding DEI issues reported about Faculty

Office of Equity and Inclusion (OEI) referrals are on the rise. Students can provide reports to either home campus officials or direction to the OEI. If you receive notification of a complaint, know that the OEI generally wants to support the faculty in dealing with the situation.

8. Dean Search Report

There is as yet no word on who the new Dean will be. Ryan Schmiesing, Vice Provost for Outreach and Engagement, has requested feedback from Faculty on methods for onboarding the new Dean, and particularly how to acquaint them with Faculty needs and capabilities. Also, Eric Anderman will be helpful in onboarding all of the Regional Deans in his capacity at OAA.

A faculty member suggested that the new Dean have small meetings with faculty in specific areas, or with non-area faculty in small groups, as part of their onboarding process.

9. Additional Business

The McCleod award was not awarded this year because it was not sufficiently funded and it is difficult to award based on the award's criteria. A suggestion was made that the standing of the award should be discussed at a future meeting. A faculty member suggested that for an award to be removed, it should go through various review levels. Another issue is that there is no one monitoring the various award funds, and perhaps there should be.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25pm

Minutes taken and prepared by Phil Mazzocco, Faculty Secretary.

Appendix – End of Semester Committee Reports

Professional Development Committee End of Semester Report

The PDC formally met just once this semester (see below) but was very active throughout the spring semester.

- 1) In January, PDC shepherded nominations of our faculty for the Susan Hartmann Mentoring and Leadership award and the ACS-Diversity Enhancement award, making a total of five nominations during the 2023-24 academic year for University- and ASC-wide faculty awards
- 2) The annual Faculty Research Frenzy, organized and hosted this year by Steve Abedon, was held March 20th. Elizabeth Kolkovich, Del Lindsey, Steve Abedon, and Gabe Karns gave presentations.
- 3) On March 26th, PDC met to discuss and consider recommendations regarding requests for 3 Small Grants and 1 Seed Grant. These recommendations were compiled by the Chair and passed along to College Administration for further action. Also, on a rolling basis throughout the spring semester, PDC considered 4 requests for various travel grants and forwarded its recommendations to College Administration for further action.
- 4) Also, during its March 26th meeting, PDC discussed how to best facilitate the nomination of our regular faculty for University- and ACS-wide faculty awards. We concluded that the process should begin in the spring prior to the next awards cycle, with solicitations for recommendations from the Dean and Associate Dean, and from regular faculty. To this end, Ozeas Costa sent out an email to all regular faculty on March 27th.
- 5) A Regular Faculty Promotion workshop, organized and hosted this year by Sergei Chmutov, was held on March 28th.
- 6) The annual Research Lecture, given by Kate Shannon on April 16th, was organized and hosted this year by Glenn Hartz.

Submitted by Del Lindsey on behalf of the PDC

End of Semester Report Resource Stewardship Committee

Present: Mollie Cavender, Gabe Karns, Suzanna Hammond, Steven Joyce, Terri Winnick, Faith Wyzgoski

The Resource Stewardship committee met four times in the autumn semester. In accordance with the committee's mission statement, the committee pursued the following initiatives:

1. Gabe Karns presented an overview of Ecolab activities during the Spring semester which included the following:
 - the announcement of two local students who are the recipients of the Ecolab summer Fellowship;
 - Carol Landry is submitting an Ecolab Research proposal to study pollinator/plant interactions on campus this summer with 8 independent study students;
 - a report on the progress on the Maple pavilion, evaporator, and 6 picnic tables;
 - the announcement of the approval of a new "Maple GE (Sustainability Theme);
 - the announcement that the maple syrup facility and activities will be the feature article in the Ohio State Alumni Magazine in the autumn 2024;
 - the addition of a \$2000 Teaching arboretum;
 - the report that a statewide Ohio Woodland, Water, and Wildlife conference will be held in 2024 at the Molyet Community events building – *WWW Live*;
 - the announcement of several campus restoration projects on tap for 2024;
 - an overview of the progress made on the Ecolab website development (with Kidron Stamper);
 - the announcement that "Scarlet Studio,"-- an in house graphic design group--will help integrate/embed
 - the "Maple Toolbox" with Ecolab website;
 - the placement of the Ecolab info kiosk near the Ovalwood parking lot to mark the various trails and footpaths on campus;
 - the announcement that the Molyet footpath is on tap to be repaved sometime this summer, at latest summer '25;
 - an initiative to replace 15 signs funded by outreach and extension funds and USDA ACER grant monies;
 - the discussion of an idea to involve OSU-M communication or art students in designing signs for various Ecolab sites on campus. the signs. Possibly sponsoring a contest;
 - link to very detailed visual presentation of Ecolab activities : Ecolab Update April 2024 RSC Mtg (1).pdf

2. Suzanna Hammond reported on the work on the Ovalwood faculty publications display cases: She updated the faculty book display and the faculty publication case, both of which are located on the first floor of Ovalwood Hall. The goal was to introduce students to their professors as not only teachers, but as researchers and mentors. To do this, we decided to display fewer works at a time and to rotate the works that are on display on a semester basis to keep things fresh and current. When it comes to choosing the works to highlight each semester, we give consideration to the diversity of the departments represented and preference to works published within the last 10 years ago.

Along with the works, she included a headshot of the faculty member and a short bio listing their name, contact info, research interests, and the classes they teach on campus to allow students to put a face to the name and make the display more meaningful to students. She also included a QR code which students can use to access the faculty's website or their listing in the campus directory if they do not

have a current website, in the case of the books. For the articles, the QR codes take students directly to the article where they can read it in its entirety at their convenience.

Additionally, she used the large format printer to print a branded, scarlet backdrop for both the cases to make them more eye-catching and remind students that these are OSU faculty. Finally, she opted to use "book dummies" in place of actual copies of faculty books to prevent the actual books from curling due to humidity. The actual books, with permission from their owners, will be available for check-out in the library. Likewise, the publications can be found on the library's website as a LibGude and in printed form on Closed Reserve at the Library.

3. In other RSC business, Mollie Cavender encouraged faculty to provide suggestions for future campus presentations but noted that faculty must organize and fund such presentations themselves at this time. The committee also notes that on balance they are not well attended. She also has been in contact with East Asian Studies for a possible on campus cultural presentation by a Japanese tea ceremony specialist next semester. She will also pursue future initiatives including how to implement new AI technology and facilitate competency with new and useful apps and learning platforms.

Terri Winnick reported that she continues to work with Tiffany Mitchell and Sara Childers in the Office of Diversity and Inclusion to promote DEI events and activities.

She has also proposed looking into allowing DRC inmates to participate in Ecolab projects. She broached the subject Gabe Karns and Walt Bonham who manages the Urban Farm at RICl to ascertain whether we might bring RICl individuals to campus.

Faith Wyzgoski continues to work with Mike Buckland to determine how best to update the A+ form and how to make it accessible and informative as well as user friendly.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Joyce

Student Support and Enrichment Committee End of Semester Report

We met twice in person this semester and conducted other business via email.

We approved 3 Student Travel Grants.

We reviewed materials and selected recipients for the David M. Scott Science Scholarship, the Ohio State Mansfield Faculty-Staff Scholarship, and the Mansfield Campus Academic Excellence Award. There were not sufficient funds to award the James R. McLeod Memorial Scholarship this year.

We organized a Student Research Frenzy on Tuesday, March 26. 6 students presented their research projects at the event.

We proposed a minor change to the language of our charge for actionable item #3. This was forwarded to the Executive Committee for review in February.

Current Language:

Work with relevant staff (e.g., Learning Center, Disabilities, Retention, Advising) to develop and maintain programs to assist academically underprepared/underperforming students including a) promoting faculty referrals of students to support areas; b) encouraging faculty training and participation in trauma-informed teaching, suicide prevention, and other initiatives; c) to support other programs and interventions for underserved students (e.g., near peer mentoring).

Proposed New Language:

Act as a liaison between the committee and relevant staff (e.g., Learning Center, Disabilities, Retention, Advising) and provide them with assistance at their request to develop and maintain programs to support academically underprepared/underperforming students including a) promoting faculty referrals of students to support areas; b) encouraging faculty training and participation in trauma-informed teaching, suicide prevention, and other initiatives; c) supporting other programs and interventions for underserved students (e.g., near peer mentoring).

Teaching and Learning Committee End-of-Semester Report

The Teaching and Learning Committee met Monday April 15, 2024. It was our second meeting of the semester.

Present: Joe Fahey, Andrea Wittmer, Jessica Luttrell, Mirel Caibar, Andrew Mueller, John Thrasher.

Committee members acknowledged the year's past events-Brown Bags (Tara Hines-2 sessions-Autumn 2023) and this semester's session addressing appropriate and sanctioned uses of Artificial Intelligence in the classroom.

We are planning another Brown Bag with Andrea Wittmer for early in the autumn semester (Thursday, August 29) on library-focused information finding.

The remainder of our meeting focused on drafting a statement to guide the new dean as we initiate new hires of tenure-track faculty. Committee members agreed that the following should be given consideration:

- Demands of the General Education Curricula on the Mansfield Campus
- First year course offerings
- Minimum faculty needs in respective disciplines/fields of study
- Number of majors
- Number of minors (i.e., How many faculty are needed to support a minor in a given area?)
- Increase in online-only courses (may negatively affect our enrollment)
- Fulfilling curricular pathways (requires offerings from multiple areas)
- Access to multiple modalities so that students can stay on the Mansfield campus
- Facilities maintenance/upkeep as related to instruction
- Outreach potential (i.e., summer programs)

In a follow-up to the meeting, Andrea reached out to Vice Provost and Dean for Undergraduate Education, Norman Jones for his input. His statements are summarized below.

1. There is no centralized entity that handles faculty / curricular determinations, etc. Partially because:
2. Not all faculty supporting a degree belong to the same department. Particularly in interdisciplinary areas.
3. Funding overall at the Columbus level determines faculty array and amount.
4. Accreditation standards also determine these numbers, in part through faculty qualifications and student-to-faculty ratios.
5. Regionals complicate matters further because classes unavailable here can be completed at other campuses, with online courses, or a combination thereof.

He said when speaking to a new Dean, he would advise that we consider & identify:

1. Which majors are supported significantly by other campuses / course offerings vs. which are complete-able this campus?
2. He suggested we survey students who intend to finish on this campus about their preferred modalities. (Online, in-person, hybrid?)
3. Enrollment trends have a big impact even though much of this comes from Columbus. He cited the closure of both the MSW and the M.Ed. degrees as being directly tied to enrollment losses at the time.

Respectfully submitted,

John Thrasher, Professor, Art