

Faculty Assembly Minutes Thursday, 24 September 2024 (4:30 PM)

Present: Steve Abedon, Jamison Kantor, Kate Shannon, Amy Brunell, Faith Wyzgoski, Mollie Cavender, Joe Fahey, Carol Landry, Cynthia Callahan, Gabe Karns, Adrienne Hopson, Phil Mazzocco, Mirel Caibar, Ozeas Costa, Del Lindsey, Elizabeth Kolkovich, Agus Munoz-Garcia, Terri Bucci, John Thrasher, Kip Curtis, Suma Robinson, Michelle Kowalski, Tara Hines, Tessa Bianchi

1. Approval of 27 August 2024 Faculty Assembly meeting minutes

Phil Mazzocco made a motion to approve the 27 August 2024 Faculty Assembly meeting minutes. Amy Brunell seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with 15 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.

2. Committee Reports

The reports of the Professional Development Committee and the Teaching and Learning Committee can be found here. There was no discussion of the reports.

[2024-08-23 meeting minutes \(003, as distributed\).docx](#) (Professional Development Committee)

https://buckeyemailosu-my.sharepoint.com/personal/joyce_3_osu_edu/Documents/Attachments/tlc-minutes-sep24.docx (Teaching and Learning Committee)

3. Announcement—Jamison Kantor

Jamison Kantor reported that OSU-Mansfield voter registration numbers have been the highest of all the regional campuses but that fewer of those students who registered actually voted. He announced that he can share a voting resources page with faculty members that contains basic dates and information about voting in Ohio in this year's general election. This resource page can then be furthered shared with students to provide them information about voting times and procedures.

4. OSU Mansfield Staffing Letter [Draft Staffing Letter 24 September.docx](#)

Reviewing the staffing letter, Kip Curtis reported that he incorporated several revision suggestions from faculty and acknowledged several more editorial suggestions arising from the discussion of the letter. Several faculty members asked if the staffing letter would help or hurt what it set out to accomplish, and whether Dean Opal should have time to study the issue more thoroughly before conveying the FA letter to Vice Provost Schmiesing. Kip Curtis responded by saying that the letter expresses faculty concern about the staffing situation on our campus even if it does not immediately yield positive results. He then

asked FA members if he should strategically reorganize the letter to highlight which staffing areas in particular need attention. Dean Opal responded that while it may not be necessary to indicate those specific staffing areas in need of attention in the letter at this time, it would be helpful to send to him a specific list of staff needs as the campus goes forward. He stated, however, that he would be happy to convey whatever message the OSU-Mansfield faculty assembly approved. The vote to send a revised staffing letter to Dean Opal was 11 in favor, 0 opposed, and 5 abstentions.

5. Workday Letter [Draft Workday Workload Investigation 24 September.docx](#)

After a brief discussion of the Workday letter by several members of the faculty assembly citing issues of “creeping responsibility” and lack of tech support and training, several faculty members pointed out that the University Senate addressed the Workday issue sometime back. Kip Curtis agreed to look at the University Senate’s report on Workday and return to the faculty assembly with a revised letter incorporating the essential takeaways from that report. The Workday letter agenda item was tabled for further discussion at the next faculty assembly meeting.

6. Spring 2025 Curriculum [Spring Schedule 2025 \(1\).pdf](#) [Monday Courses GANNT.pdf](#)

Kip Curtis urged Faculty Assembly members to again consider how best to enhance the academic experience of OSU-Mansfield students by strategically arranging curricular offerings to make more courses available in different time slots. While the schedule of many online courses will soon be synchronized with the Columbus campus online schedules, certainly beneficial for all campuses of the Ohio State University, a significant number of the face-to-face courses offered at OSU-Mansfield either overlap or are taught at the same time, forcing students to choose certain courses at the expense of others. Cynthia Callahan proposed a budget friendly short term partial solution to the issue by suggesting that faculty make themselves available to teach their courses at less popular times in the morning, late afternoons and possibly evenings. Due to time constraints, this agenda item was tabled for future discussion.

7. Dean’s Report / Campus Vision Update

a. Overall vision

Dean Opal reported that he will be working with Columbus campus to integrate more fully into the OSU network. Participating in this share model would help our campus maintain quality services for our students while offsetting the effect of staff shortages.

He reported that he plans to give the open space in front of the Campus Recreation Center (CRC) a “facelift” to enliven it and to better integrate it into the overall campus landscape. He also scheduled building inspections of Ovalwood, Conard, and Eisenhower as part of an overall good stewardship initiative aimed at keeping the campus facilities well maintained. Faculty and staff are welcome to meet the engineers and join the inspection. He added that while he does not look at his tenure as dean as a time of campus expansion, he intends for it to be a time of good stewardship and maintenance stability.

b. OSU's Common Schedule / Open House

Dean Opal briefly announced the campus wide initiative to align and synchronize course times throughout the university. This initiative mostly concerns on-line courses and should be mutually beneficial to both the regional campus and the Columbus campus.

He also announced the campus "Open House" which will take place on 15 October. He plans to showcase the BSET program, the education and social work programs as well as other unique facets of our "mini university in the woods." He noted that he will promote the open house in an I Heart radio interview.

c. New Staff Hires / Searches

Dean Opal announced the hire of a communication specialist, Chris Kick, beginning 7 October 2024 and Alice Ramsey in admissions and enrollment as well as the current search for an accessibility specialist.

d. Overview of HR Options for All Faculty Members

Dean Opal stated that he will be available to help with discussions of sensitive HR issues ranging from hires to retirements. He felt that the campus dean and director should be involved in these sensitive HR actions.

VIII. Tessa Bianchi: CAT

Tessa Bianchi outlined what the OSU-Mansfield CAT (Crisis Assessment Team) offers OSU-M students. She urged faculty to report factual situations that indicate a student is having emotional or psychological difficulties or that he or she exhibits behavior that is disruptive or threatening. Rather than maintain a "silo mentality," she urged faculty and staff to be more open, active, and timely in sharing information that could help students in distress and avoid danger to others. Dean Opal added that the campus has purchased new security lights that will soon be installed.

IX. The meeting adjourned at 5:45

Respectfully submitted,

S Joyce