

Faculty Assembly Minutes
Tuesday, 9 October 2024
(12:40-1:30 PM) H120

Present: Jamison Kantor, Kate Shannon, Amy Brunell, Mollie Cavender, Joe Fahey, Carol Landry, Cynthia Callahan, Gabe Karns, Phil Mazzocco, Mirel Caibar, Ozeas Costa, Del Lindsey, Elizabeth Kolkovich, Terri Bucci, John Thrasher, Kip Curtis, Michelle Kowalski, Dawn Kitchen, Jason Opal, Terri Winnick, Dennis Shaffer, Amber Rader, Donna Farland-Smith

I. Approval of 24 September 2024 Faculty Assembly meeting minutes

Elizabeth Kolkovich made a motion to approve the 24 September 2024 Faculty Assembly meeting minutes. Del Lindsey seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with 13 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.

II. Committee Reports

Resource Stewardship Committee (Terri Winnick, chair)

The report of the Resource Stewardship Committee can be found here: [RSC.minutes.9.17.24.rev.docx](#)
Gabe Karns and Terri Winnick reminded faculty and staff of the October 22 and 23 **Bring-Your-Own Picnic lunch get together** during common hour (12:40-1:20) at the pavilion behind Conard and Eisenhower. The RSC will provide water and dessert.

Student Support and Enrichment Committee (Dennis Shaffer, chair)

The report of the Student Support and Enrichment Committee can be found here: [SS HYPERLINK "SS&ECommitteeMeetingMinutes.9.27.24.pdf"& HYPERLINK "SS&ECommitteeMeetingMinutes.9.27.24.pdf" ECommitteeMeetingMinutes.9.27.24.pdf](#) There was no discussion of the SS&E report.

III. Summary Update on Ecolab activities and Research (Gabe Karns)

Gabe Karns cited three main areas of activity of Ecolab--education, extension, and research. (See: [Ecolab Webpage Schematic \(1\).pdf](#)). He provided a summary overview of Ecolab initiatives. "The campus is almost 4 years into having a formally designated Ecolab Land Manager, and the landscape is now a decade advanced from the initial campus-inventory conducted by the earliest ENR 4900.02 Capstone groups. We are currently positioned to conduct research, teach undergraduates, and deliver outreach programming from at least 14 different focal locations across campus (highlighted on Ecolab map). Between 25-30 Ecolab-based programs are conducted on average per annum, and those are just the ones I'm directly involved with hosting or have been made aware of through Use form submissions. Additionally, external partners – Pheasants Forever, Ohio Maple Producers Association, First Energy, Monarch Joint Venture, Ohio Division of Forestry, US-Forest Service, to name a few – range from lightly to heavily invested in the success of various Ecolab ventures through funding, in-kind, and

direct personnel investment. Those contributions coupled with external funding grants and OSU (*not* OSU-Mansfield) monies have made this possible with little to no internal investment. The Ecolab portfolio could certainly expand further, but with existing bandwidth maintaining and enhancing current projects are a good strategy as well as amplifying the Ecolab's success through a new interactive feature under the main website's Initiatives tab." The entire Integration of Resource Management Plan Goals and Objectives for the Mansfield campus can be found here: [Integrated Management Hierarchy and Management Plan \(updated 9-24-2024\).docx](#)

IV. Revival of the 2019 Faculty Retreat Work

Kip Curtis cited the unfinished curricular project set forth in the 2019 Faculty retreat document as an ongoing project for the Faculty Assembly. [Faculty Retreat 2019 Curriculum .docx](#) He presented a modified Liebig's Barrel diagram to illustrate the effect that a diminished and diminishing liberal arts curriculum has on the general curriculum of a university. He asserted that the Liebig diagram, analogous to soil nutrition, indicates that the university would not be able to sustain its curricular health if liberal arts courses continue to disappear, a situation he termed "an existential crisis." He suggested that the Faculty Assembly advance eight curricular recommendations aimed at a synergistic broadening of curricular offerings at the next faculty assembly meeting on 22 October. This discussion would include considering the GE themes we would like to offer as well as what cross disciplinary courses we might create.

V. Dean's Report

a. Updates on the campus "facelift"

Dean Opal announced the hire of a Chris Kick as the new campus communication specialist. He reported that efforts to give the campus a "facelift" aims to speak "loudly" that we are The Ohio State University. He reported his intention to rename the nameless area in front of the Campus Recreation Center reflects that goal as well as aims to better integrate the area into the overall campus landscape.

b. Updates on large capital / infrastructure projects

Dean Opal reminded the FA of the 6 November campus inspections of Conrad, Ovalwood and Eisenhower as part of his campus stewardship initiative. He reiterated that faculty and staff are welcome to be a part of those inspections. He also announced that a redundancy / backup system preventing campus-wide electrical outages in the future is on its way to OSU-M via the Newark campus. He stated that this backup system will come to OSU-M at a very low cost to the campus. Finally, he reminded the Faculty Assembly of the 15 October OSU-Mansfield Campus Open house showcasing curricular aspects of OSU-Mansfield including our programs in Education, Theater, Engineering, Biology, and the Ecolab.

c. Seeking Input about Student Evaluations on campus (participation rates, quality / lack thereof of questions, etc.)

Dean Opal announced the creation of a university-wide pilot program to review the efficacy of the Student Evaluation of Instruction (SEI) instrument. The review includes examining participation rates and the quality of the questions composing the SEI form. It also calls for the

formulation of new questions for the current SEI. He extended an invitation to OSU-M faculty to participate. More information about the prospective pilot program is forthcoming.

VI. Associate Dean's Report

Associate Dean Kitchen reported that Follet's Bookstore is no longer the campus bookstore and that students will purchase or lease books online through Barnes and Nobel College or through Carmen books. She announced that the new deadline for ordering books is now **22 October**. Detailed information how to order books can be found here: [How to order textbooks from B](#) [HYPERLINK "How%20to%20order%20textbooks%20from%20B&N.docx"&](#) [HYPERLINK "How%20to%20order%20textbooks%20from%20B&N.docx"N.docx](#) Additional information can be accessed here: [BNC Faculty.docx](#) She noted that books ordered through this system are mailed to students and that shipping is free for amounts over \$59.

VII. The meeting adjourned at 1:30

Respectfully submitted,

S Joyce