

Faculty Assembly Meeting Minutes  
Tuesday, March 18, 2025  
4:30 – 6:00  
Conard 120H

**Present:** Kip Curtis, Agus Munoz-Garcia, Steve Abedon, Heather Tanner, Dennis Shaffer, Amy Brunell, Glenn Hartz, Cynthia Callahan, Jason Opal, Elizabeth Kolkovich, Joe Fahey, John Thrasher, Terri Winnick, Kate Shannon, Ozeas Costa, Gabe Karns, Carol Landry, Dawn Kitchen, Del Lindsey, Donna Farland-Smith, Mary Cavendar, Faith Wyzgoski.

**I. Approval of January 21, 2025 Faculty Assembly Minutes**

Agus made a motion to approve the 05 December 5, 2024 meeting minutes. Heather seconded the motion. The minutes were approved with 12 votes in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention.

**II. Committee Reports**

- a. *Resource Stewardship*—Terri Winnick. Organizing a meeting on Domestic Violence—how to recognize an abuser. Another discussion—Charles Henry Turner—insect behavioral ecologist—likely to be in the Fall. This has been the 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> best year in terms of production for the maple project--collected gallons of sap over 16 days. Had ~130 folks come out.

The committee is trying to find ways to simplify the A+ form and make it more accessible

--We need to figure out what we want the form to accomplish. Currently, it is time consuming and clunky—seems that there should be a better way to convey that information. This information is used for summaries.

--This information used to be a summary of all of the faculty accomplishments at faculty dinners.

--May need to redo the charge if it is an administrative component.

--At minimum we need to get someone to pull this information together.

--Maybe the Resource Stewardship committee along with Amy should look at how it needs to be revamped.

- b. *Student Support & Enrichment*—Chair, Agus Munoz-Garcia. Decided on all the student awards except for the Mansfield Campus Academic Excellence award, which they will decide on this Friday.

--It was recommended that, moving forward, more faculty should sit in on meetings to decide on the distribution of merit to students.

- c. *Teaching & Learning*—Chair, Mirel Caibar. Currently discussing brown bag talks. AI tools, new SEI instrument, and Ohio Senate Bill 1. A session on Ohio Senate Bill 1 was already organized and moderated. Committee had a detailed discussion

on the new SEI tool. Has already been piloted for the Autumn semester. Committee raised several concerns—biasing in the instrument—student grades. Discussed some strategies to avoid biasing but some of these can backfire. Should SEIs be used in decision-making for salary and tenure decisions. Some people expressed that in-person reviews provide better information for informing these decisions.

--While several OSUM faculty members volunteered to be pilot data contributors, they were never asked to do so.

- d. *Professional Development Committee*—Steve Abedon—3 submissions for small grants were all approved. Held Faculty Research Frenzy and brown bag. Recorded the Research Frenzy (held earlier in the day). Notify Steve if you want access.

### III. Faculty Senate Reports

*Arts & Sciences Senate Report: Senator Heather Tanner*—Senate meets tomorrow. Encouraged faculty to fill out survey and provide questions you want answered, particularly for folks whose research is a part of SB1. Discussed changes to any GE themes, changes in valuations, or post-tenure review. No other Ohio Bill has received this much opposition.

*Donna*—faculty council—came up with a draft of a resolution to redefine statements on higher education. Resolution for faculty council to restore the DEI themes. Metric was changed to better reflect the work that we do for annual reviews.

--Questions about the workload policy arose. Jason is working on ways to accommodate the discrepancies to align the regional campuses in terms of workload.

### IV. *Dean's Report, Dean Jason Opal*

Ryan Schmiesing is leaving the university in two weeks. In interim, Jason is reporting directly to the Provost. Eric Anderman may be in some interim role. Jason at Council of Deans will talk about the workload and how it really works and other issues.

Regional Deans met with James Orr about enrollments. This has been going well.

Has been meeting with many people regarding elimination of DEI and office of civil rights compliance. These meetings have been informative in addressing the needs of the campus and the effects of Senate Bill 1.

Applications & Admissions—applications are up across Ohio State. First and second choice. Up twice as much for us. All of the growth is not from around here. 13 high schools (more often in the NE Ohio area) that have sent more applications than Mansfield Senior.

A question arose about whether there have been surveys to ask about why those preferences? Yes—but not enough information to give theories on it. One possibility is that most of these areas in NE Ohio are suburbs and, in those areas, majority of adults have a BA compared to adults in the Mansfield area (~15%). Some faculty have been seeing more and more people in the NE Ohio area ask about taking classes at OSUM.

Jason mentioned that the feedback from high school counselors has been overwhelmingly positive. It may take some time for this to influence students locally.

NE Ohio is certainly a target area. However, other forms of support are probably not going to come from other areas. Orienting things more locally will help funding from local agencies.

It was mentioned that we have things that the county needs. There is an advantage if students from elsewhere will establish relationships here.

*V. Associate Dean for Faculty Enrichment Report, Amy Brunell*

Student Research Forum is scheduled for April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:30 in Riedl prior to the Academic Awards ceremony. If there are students who could present, please encourage them to present.

There are 3 awards on which they are waiting. Notifications have to be sent out soon. Otherwise, all other students have been notified.

Amy has been meeting with faculty about how she can best support faculty in her new role.

*Other*

Some faculty wondered what the outcomes were of the online meetings regarding GE tweaking. Kip is meeting with T&L committee regarding what is next to come.

Meeting adjourned at 5:59pm.