

Faculty Assembly Minutes
Wednesday, September 17, 2025 (12:40pm)

Present: Joe Fahey, Dawn Kitchen, Phil Mazzocco, Kate Shannon, Heather Tanner, John Thrasher, Amy Brunell, Glenn Hartz, Cynthia Callahan, Adrienne Hopson, Mirel Caibar, Terri Winnick, Dennis Shaffer, Mollie Cavender, Kip Curtis, Gabe Karns, Tara Hines, Del Lindsey, Carol Landry, Agus Munoz-Garcia, Steve Abedon, Steven Joyce, Suma Robinson, Terri Bucci, Amber Rader, Debe Adams, Nikki Robishaw

Excused: Faith Wyzgoski

Guests: Cindy Wood, Veronna Drane

1. Cindy Wood, Director of Development and Community Relations, Report

Dawn Kitchen, Associate Dean, and Cindy Wood shared exciting news from University President Ted Carter's 9/17/25 University address: Starting Autumn 2026, if you start at a regional campus of OSU, you will get free tuition and fees for four years if you start on a regional campus and your collective family incomes is 100K or less. After one year (30 credits), students can campus change to Columbus and still remain eligible for this funding support. Additionally, the Buckeye Opportunity Grant will now be marketed to all incoming students on our campus.

Various faculty members inquired about the source of the funding of these initiatives, and they are all being completely funding by the central campus. However, central campus will not be funding costs caused by a potential increase in our enrollment.

Faculty Comment: We should begin strategically discussing and planning for an influx of new students taking advantage of these funding initiatives.

Cindy Wood then presented various announcements and updates related to development and community relations initiatives:

- (1) There will be no university-wide comprehensive campaign right now (like the recently concluded nine-year Time and Change campaign), thus putting the onus on the campus to orchestrate our own initiatives. This Fall will be 60th anniversary of Ovalwood opening and will be approximately the 70th anniversary of our campus founding. We are planning to launch a giving campaign with a goal of 1.1-1.2 million dollars for this year, and themed around the impact of OSUM on alumni. Giving priorities will include updating Ovalwood 1st floor, improving bio/science lab spaces, focus on the student resource areas on second floor, renovation of the Board room in Eisenhower, and refreshing the Student Union space.
- (2) The Team Up calendar is an internal resource to post campus events or see events that are already posted. Events still need to be sent to Mike Buckland for posting online.
- (3) A new initiative for the coming years will be the development of 'industry hubs'. The purpose of the hubs will be to work to increase engagement and connections between corporations, our campus, and students and alumni –with focus on

industry sectors who employ students from all majors who wish to engage. There will be a Manufacturing/Business hub, and a Health/STEM hub, each with their own Advisory Boards composed of various industry stakeholders and campus personnel. Each Advisory Board will meet twice a year (fall and spring). Meetings will consist of two portions: The first will involve discussion with the Dean and faculty/staff members. The second will focus on opportunities for professionals and students to interact. Breakout sessions may be used to cover different majors within the industry focus. For example, we have psychology alum in HR positions in the business and manufacturing hub, and we have English graduates working in bio research/tech writing– so we seek to creatively engage further connections by way of hubs rather than be program specific.

2. Discussion on the re-structuring of the committees

The Executive Council met over the summer to discuss a new proposal to restructure our standing committees. Currently we have four standing committees. The new proposal would result in only two standing committees: A Professional Development Committee and a Curriculum Committee. Charges from abolished committees would be reassigned to one of four 'Teams' comprised of faculty, staff, and administrators: an Academic Planning, Student Success, Student Conduct Team, and a Campus Life Team.

Faculty Comment: This will be unlikely to reduce the faculty service load. The faculty no longer needed to the two cut Standing Committees, will likely be fully reallocated to the Teams.

Response: Many charges and duties currently handled by faculty will shift to staff and/or the Dean team.

Faculty Question: Will there be standing faculty members on the Teams?

Response: Some of the teams will indeed have small numbers of faculty assigned as standing members.

Faculty Question: At the end of the restructuring document, eliminated charges are listed. When will these changes take place?

Response: These changes will be unlikely to take place this semester, so continue on with the current committee structures.

Faculty Question: Would individuals who are not members of a standing committee receive any guidance regarding how they might be asked to serve in the coming year?

Response: It is possible that some faculty members may be assigned to a Team, but there should indeed be some faculty who are floating for the year. The hope would be to be mindful of people's capacity to serve, and to allow flexibility in making asks and assignments.

Faculty Comment: In terms of the program coordinators, there would seem to be a great deal of ambiguity in the new plan. Will coordinators still receive course releases, submit schedules, etc. This should be further clarified in the document.

Response: There are still some decisions regarding roles, policy, and responsibilities that need to be resolved in the final Pattern of Administration document. Relatedly, Assistant Dean Brunell advocated strongly for maintain course releases for Coordinators.

Faculty Comment: We are focusing on details without fully understanding the macro-level structure of the restructuring plan.

Faculty Comment: It may be sensible to designate faculty who do not have formal service responsibilities (standing committee, coordinator, etc.) to a stand-by status, and they will be asked to assist Teams as needed.

Faculty Comment: Should we create a rough draft with Faculty assignments to various roles and committees to have something concrete to discuss?

A motion was made by Carol Landry (second: Steve Abedon) to use the current standing committee structure for the remainder 2025-2026 academic year. The motion passed with 15 approvals, 0 disapprovals, and 1 abstention.

The meeting adjourned at 1:43pm.

Minutes taken and prepared by Phil Mazzocco, Faculty Secretary.

Addenda:

1. Following the meeting, Assistant Dean Amy Brunell submitted a report to be included with the meeting minutes as follows:

Student Conduct Team – There are three sections of the Student Conduct Team, led by the Associate Dean for Faculty Enrichment in her role as Chief Conduct Officer. The first investigates violations of the Code of Student Conduct. When faculty think a student has violated academic policies, these allegations should be submitted to COAM <https://oaa.osu.edu/resources/policies-and-procedures/academic-integrity/faculty-obligations>. All other allegations (e.g., fighting, theft) should be reported here https://cm.maxient.com/reportingform.php?OhioStateUniv&layout_id=7 (This form can be found under Forms on the Faculty/Staff page).

The second consists of the Consultation and Assessment Team (CAT), which assesses situations involving students who pose a potential risk of harm to others/themselves or property in the university community or of substantial disruption of university activities. When a student causes the Faculty/Staff concern, they should report it to CAT <https://mansfield.osu.edu/buckeyes-care/consultation-assessment-team> This website describes the kinds of situations that need to be reported.

The third consists of the Ombudsperson for Students. More information is provided on our website <https://mansfield.osu.edu/current-students/complaints-and-concerns>

This information is also organized in the Faculty Resources Canvas page.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Amy

2. Assistant Dean Cynthia Callahan also submitted a report to be included with the meeting minutes as follows:

If you have students who are struggling with food insecurity or a financial crisis, you can direct them to the food pantry, currently managed by Kodey Kreglow and the Student Emergency Fund. Information about both is available [here](#). The application for the Emergency Grant collects information that allows us to connect students to resources that they might be eligible for based on their individual circumstances.