

Minutes
Board Meeting
The Ohio State University at Newark

November 19, 2015 -- 8:30 a.m.

The John Gilbert Reese Center, Executive Conference Room (Room 255)

1. Call to Order

Board Chair, Christopher Meyer, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. in the Executive Conference Room of The John Gilbert Reese Center.

2. Approval of September 15, 2015, Board Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the September 15, 2015, Board meeting were approved as distributed.

3. Approval of the Agenda

The meeting agenda was approved as distributed.

4. Public Comments

Christopher Meyer, Board Chair, invited public comments. No public comments were presented.

5. Board Committee Reports

- ***Enrollment Committee.*** Diane Kanney, Director of Enrollment, reported that spring 2016 applications by first year undergraduates have increased by 18 percent from this time last year. This increase is attributed to the Office of Admissions' implementation of a more systematic and comprehensive outreach program, including more contact with prospective students both by telephone and mail. With regard to transfer students at Ohio State Newark, it was noted that the top three colleges and universities from which transfer students have enrolled over the last three years include: Columbus State Community College (99 students), COTC (80 students); and Ohio University (41 students). During the spring semester, the Admissions Office will hold a number of alumni events with prospective students and their families. Several of the Ohio State Newark Board members who are alumni of Ohio State have offered to host receptions for prospective students and their families. These receptions will be held at the Board members' places of business – such as the law firm of Ohio State Newark Board member Chris Meyer (Reese, Pyle, Drake and Meyer in downtown Newark) and the law firm of Board member Kathy Lloyd (Carpenter, Lipps and Leland in Columbus). The receptions will take place during the spring semester with students who have indicated an interest in attending Ohio State Newark in the fall of 2016.

- **Finance Committee**

David Brillhart, Senior Fiscal Officer at Ohio State Newark, provided a financial report to the Board and noted that the campus has a budget surplus of \$1.8 million this fiscal year. This is the result of the main campus in Columbus having developed a better than expected state subsidy allocation to the regional campuses (2.2%), meeting our enrollment targets (with a slight increase in enrolled students), as well as conservative spending by departments and units over the last fiscal year.

As a result of this one-time budget surplus, Dean Bill MacDonald led a discussion with Board members on possible actions that might be taken to reduce costs for students next year. Possible one-time initiatives discussed in order to reduce costs to students included:

- Book Scholarships (either for all students or need-based only);
- Tuition Reduction (one-time) for all students in Fall 2016 (an approximate \$350 tuition reduction for all students); and
- Retention Grants (approximately \$400-\$500 for students who complete their first year to assist them with their costs upon returning for the second year of their studies). (Note that this grant would thus be awarded to all 2nd year students).

The general consensus of the Board was that the one-time budget surplus be applied toward retention grants to reduce the costs to 2nd year students as it would meet the campus's retention objectives and increase student persistence rates at a critical time in their studies, with the long term goal of increasing students' graduation rates. National studies show that students are most at-risk of dropping out of college or university between the first and second year of their studies. This initiative would promote student success rates at a critical juncture of their higher education studies.

Dean MacDonald noted that the state legislature has established the objective of a 5% reduction of costs to students over the next biennium, and that this one-time budget surplus should be used to meet that goal. Dean MacDonald noted that \$400,000 may be set aside from the budget surplus to implement the student retention grant program for next year (fall 2016). He noted that other initiatives that will be funded using the one-time budget surplus this year include: \$300,000 to fund deferred maintenance; \$10,000 to fund an English as a Second Language Tutor; the establishment of a student emergency fund; and several other one-time initiatives. The initiatives selected were identified through a broad consultative process that Dean MacDonald undertook with faculty, staff and students during the fall 2015 semester.

6. COTC Board Report

John Hinderer, Chair of the Board of the Central Ohio Technical College, reported on the end of year financial report for COTC (June 30, 2015) that resulted in a surplus of just over \$990,000 and reported that a \$300,000 set aside would be established for FY 2015 as a tuition rebate to students. He noted that this this set aside for student tuition rebates is part of COTC's efforts to comply with HB64 which requires community colleges to develop and implement a plan to provide all in-state undergraduates the opportunity to reduce the cost of earning a degree by five percent.

Mr. Hinderer also reported on a number of outreach initiatives of COTC's Workforce Development Innovation Center that seeks to meet the workforce training needs of the business and industry partners in our region.

He also noted that COTC recently completed the ABET accreditation visit to campus in October for the engineering technology program. It is anticipated that a report will be received from ABET by the end of December, 2015, with the opportunity to respond to their findings. A decision regarding the program's accreditation by ABET is expected in May of 2016.

Mr. Hinderer also reported that the master plan for the Coshocton campus has been completed and identifies long term development strategies. COTC, in collaboration with Roscoe Village, the Ohio Department of Transportation, and the City of Coshocton presented the COTC Coshocton Campus Master Plan last night to the "Friends of the College" and the general public. He noted that this plan demonstrates the long-term commitment of COTC to the community and region, with the goal of further integrating the College into the life of the community.

7. Chair of Faculty Assembly Report

Dr. Donald Yau, Chair of Faculty Assembly, reported that faculty from the regional campuses will meet on December 18th at Ohio State Marion to discuss equity issues related to faculty salaries. He noted that this is an ongoing dialogue with faculty and Dr. Jennifer Cowley, Vice Provost for Regional Campuses, and the Deans and Directors of the Regional Campuses.

8. Dean's/ Director's Report

Dean MacDonald introduced Ohio State Newark's new Director of Marketing and Communication, Cheri Russo who joined the Ohio State Newark team from Ohio University, Lancaster. He welcomed her to the campus and noted that he looks forward to her leadership in the cultivation of stories and getting them out in multiple formats to multiple audiences as we share the positive programs and achievements of Ohio State Newark. He also noted that the University is undertaking a national search for a new Provost for The Ohio State University and that the President is consulting broadly on the position, including seeking input from the Deans of the regional campuses at Ohio State.

Dean MacDonald noted that he is working with campus constituents to develop a new four-year strategic plan for Ohio State Newark, which will be implemented in January of 2017 (January 2017-December 2020). He noted that Board members' input will be requested during the spring 2016 semester as he continues to consult with faculty, staff and students.

He also reported that the new Facilities Building will open in December of 2015, and that an Open House will be held to tour the new building in the early spring.

Dean MacDonald presented his "State of the Campus" report to the Board and noted the following:

- Our mission at Ohio State Newark is to provide affordable access to The Ohio State University.
- He noted that every year, approximately one-third of incoming freshmen at The Ohio State University Columbus campus begin their studies at one of the regional campuses.
- He noted that the average ACT score at the Ohio State Newark campus is now 22; and that the Columbus campus has developed a highly selective admissions ACT score now of 29 for admissions to the main campus.
- He reported that Franklin County currently sends us more students than does Licking County.
- He also reported that student diversity has increased on the Ohio State Newark campus with a student diversity rate of 4 % in 2001. He noted that in 2015, the campus shows an increase by 25% in student diversity.
- Dean MacDonald noted that one of our key goals is to increase the graduation attainment rate among under-represented minority students at the Newark campus.

9. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted by
Sandra A. MacNevin
Executive Assistant to the Dean and Director
The Ohio State University at Newark*