

## **The Ohio State University at Newark – Advisory Board Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** October 16, 2025

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

**Location:** Reese Center Executive Conference Room 255

**Board Members Present:** Jeff Cox (Chair), Olivia Biggs, Lee Heckman, Tara Houdeshell, Matt Miller, Alexa Robinson O’Neill, Brad Shumaker, Chelsea Shipley (Student Representative), Ginny Grady (Newark Representative to the Alumni Advisory Council), Rob Montagnese (COTC Board Chair)

**Absent:** Marc Lyons

**Faculty/Staff Present:** Brian Boehmer, Melissa Buelow, David Brillhart, Cory Brown, John Davenport, Sanath Kumar, Kim Manno, Jackie Parrill, Jamie White

**Guest:** Eric Anderman, Vice Provost for Regional Campuses

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### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Jeff Cox called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. He welcomed new board members Chelsea Shipley, Olivia Biggs, and Brad Shumaker.

- Chelsea Shipley, a fourth-year social work student, plans to enter the accelerated MSW program after graduation. She is president of Active Minds, works in the Office of Student Life, manages the campus food pantry, and has served as a peer mentor and Buckeye Guide.
- Olivia Biggs, a health communication professional, works with maternal and child health home visiting programs. She previously led PR for the Licking County Health Department and serves on local boards, including the OSU Alumni Association for Licking County. She is an Ohio State Newark graduate.
- Brad Shoemaker is founder of a local commercial real estate business . He is a Marine Corps veteran and active in Lions and Rotary. He is vice president of the Licking County Board of Realtors and an Ohio State Newark graduate.

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

The minutes from the May 15, 2025, meeting were approved as presented.

### **3. Approval of Agenda**

The agenda for the October 16, 2025, meeting was approved without changes.

### **4. Public Comments**

No formal public comments were made.

### **5. COTC Board Report: Rob Montagnese**

- Autumn 2025 enrollment was 3,141 students, a slight decline from last year; spring enrollment so far is at 1,714 students (42% of the goal) with registration underway.
- Faculty union negotiations continue; no new agreement has been reached, but operations remain stable under the previous contract and new legal provisions. Two of three union labor charges were dismissed in the college’s favor; fact-finding is still pending. There have been

no interruptions to teaching or programs due to the labor dispute; faculty-administration relations remain generally positive.

- The Legacy and Leadership Dinner honored several individuals and organizations, including Dr. Jackie Parrill for 25 years of service to the entire campus. Also recognized were the Newark Campus Development Fund, Sandra Walker, Andrea Tozzi, and the Young Project.
- Rob Montagnese will no longer be the chair of the COTC Board. Andrew Guanciale is the newly appointed chair and will attend Ohio State Newark Advisory Board meetings to give the COTC report starting in January.

## **6. Faculty Assembly Update: Cory Brown**

- The university has adopted an AI fluency policy, with the goal that every student graduating from Ohio State will be AI fluent.
  - Faculty are encouraged to incorporate AI tools and opportunities into their courses, not necessarily by teaching AI directly, but by integrating AI resources to support student learning.
  - Training sessions on AI fluency are being offered, especially through the Drake Center, and are accessible via Zoom for faculty at all campuses.
  - The university has initiated these trainings, and faculty are receiving support both locally and from other campuses.
- New accessibility requirements for PDFs used in courses will take effect in April 2026; all PDFs must be accessible, and resources are available to help faculty meet these standards.
- Faculty are adjusting to these new policies and requirements, with ongoing discussions about best practices and implementation.

## **7. Unit Reports**

- **Finance Report: David Brillhart**
  - The fiscal year ending June 30, 2025, was very positive for Ohio State Newark, with strong overall financial health.
  - The campus received 100% of its expected instructional subsidy, providing a stable and predictable revenue stream.
  - Student fees exceeded budget by 5.1%, driven by enrollment numbers that were 5.7% higher than projected.
  - Investment income was 138.4% of the projected budget, reflecting favorable interest rates and improved returns.
  - Most campus expenditures were under or near budget; instructional costs were slightly over due to the need for more sections to support increased enrollment.
  - General overhead spending was a bit higher than budgeted, mainly because the central service charge is tied to total revenue, which increased.
  - The campus maintained a \$6 million unrestricted reserve fund, serving as a conservative financial buffer.
  - About \$2 million was set aside for designated capital projects, including facility upgrades and equipment replacements.
  - Significant unrestricted funds are earmarked for future building expansion, such as new residence halls, equipment, or parking lots, to accommodate anticipated growth.

- Approximately 60% of students are eligible for new university scholarship programs based on family income, which will make college more affordable for many families.
- **Student Life Report: John Davenport**
  - Career Development is doing job fairs, with a Business, Engineering, and IT Fair set for November 5th.
  - The Goodwill clothing voucher program helps students get attire for interviews and internships. This has been made possible by a COTC alum.
  - Recreation Services added evening activities, including popular Monday night Pickleball.
  - The Campus Corner Food Pantry's usage is up, now offering fresh produce weekly through a Garden for All partnership.
  - Counseling services are steady, with most students seen within a week; a counseling intern helps meet demand, and the "Walk for Tomorrow" suicide prevention event is growing.
  - Mental health programming includes "Brain Breaks," "Relaxation Stations," and "Let's Chat" sessions.
  - Student programming increased, with events like Halfway Hype Party, Stuff-a-Critter, voter registration, and an outing at Pigeon Roost Farm.
  - This year's Homecoming was the largest ever, especially for the regional campuses. The court was invited to numerous Columbus events, highlighted by a special dinner at President Carter's home. The Columbus campus continues to make great strides in integrating regional campuses through invitations to university-wide celebrations and exclusive events. Students proudly participated in the parade and pre-game huddle, and the Newark campus hosted a well-attended Homecoming dinner.
  - John is working on forming a student advisory council with Dr. Smith and Dr. Lucille Toth and several interested students. Since formal student government is difficult to organize, this informal council is being used to gather student feedback and share information.
  - Convocation 2025 was a major success. Next year's event is scheduled for August 24, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. Board members are invited and encouraged to attend.

#### 9. **Dean/Director's Report: Matthew J. Smith**

- Matt introduced Eric Anderman, Vice Provost for Regional Campuses, who coordinates efforts among the four regional deans and advocates for their interests with senior leadership. Eric has served in this role for six months, bringing 19 years of experience at Ohio State, including unique perspectives from his time as a regional campus dean and in administrative roles at the Columbus campus.
- Matt reported that Ohio State Newark welcomed the largest first-year class in its history, with 1,789 new students—an 18.2% increase over last year.
- Total campus enrollment reached 2,877, just 70 students short of the all-time record.
- Matt discussed the Regional Campus Commitment recently announced by President Carter. It provides tuition support for families earning under \$100,000, renewable for up to four years and applicable to students who transfer to the Columbus campus. David stated that 60% of Newark students fall into that bracket. A "Frequently Asked Questions" document was provided with the pre-read materials to the board.
- The Licking County Learning Lab initiative was launched to provide first-year students with experiential learning opportunities in the community. The program is being developed in

partnership with Dawes Arboretum, The Works, and The Ohio History Connection/Newark Earthworks.

- The first ever orientation for new board members took place in September. The session included campus tours, leadership introductions, and a comprehensive orientation packet.
- Leadership is planning a celebration of 55 years of partnership with Central Ohio Technical College in 2026, with joint events and presentations.
- Strategic planning is underway, aligning campus goals with the university's broader strategic plan and preparing for a public launch in early 2026.
- Committees have been formed to address campus capacity and prepare for anticipated growth in enrollment and student needs.

**11. New Business:** Jeff Cox

- Board members are being asked to offer advice based upon their own professional experiences to manage unpredictable rapid growth.
- Rapid enrollment growth means the campus needs more staff, classroom space, and expanded student support services.
- Some students were deferred to January or redirected to other campuses due to full classes, highlighting the need for better capacity planning.
- With increased enrollment, complex processes like orientation and scheduling risk becoming barriers for students. Stephanie Brown has streamlined orientation to improve efficiency and better support students from the start.
- Contingency planning will help the campus prepare for multiple scenarios and navigate unknowns such as sudden enrollment increases or decreases.

**12. Old Business**

- Jeff announced that Olivia Biggs has graciously agreed to serve as board secretary for the upcoming year. Following this term, she will advance to vice chair and ultimately assume the role of board chair.

**13. Next Board Meeting:** January 15, 2026, 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

**14. Adjournment:** The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. by Chair Jeff Cox.

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**Respectfully submitted by**

*Nichole Lenglé*

*Executive Assistant to the Dean and Director*

*The Ohio State University at Newark*

**Action items:**

- Review the Q&A on Regional Campus Commitment in your packet and share any additional ideas, recommendations, or queries directly with Dean Smith or contact Nichole.