

The Ohio State University at Newark – Board Meeting Minutes

Date: Thursday, May 21, 2026

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Location: Reese Center Executive Conference Room 255

Board Members Present: Jeff Cox (Chair), Talya Greathouse, Lee Heckman, Tara Houdeshell, Marc Lyons, Matt Miller, Brad Shumaker, Chelsea Shipley (Student Representative), Ginny Grady (Newark Representative to the Alumni Advisory Council)

Noted Absences: Olivia Biggs, Alexa Robinson-O'Neill

Faculty/Staff Present: Matt Smith (Dean/Director), Brian Boehmer, David Brillhart, Cory Brown, John Davenport, Ashton Lahman, Kim Manno, Jackie Parrill, Jack Richardson, Andy Roberts, Jessica Sturgill, Liz Weiser, Jamie White

Others present: Andrew Guanciale, COTC representative to the board

1. Call to Order

Chair Jeff Cox called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the March 19, 2026 meeting were approved as presented.

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved without changes.

4. Public Comments

- Dean Smith introduced Ashton Lahman, Director of Marketing and Public Relations, to the board.

5. COTC Board Report

- Andrew Guanciale reported that New trustees Jeff Scott and Justin Hinder joined the COTC Board of Trustees.
- Enrollment exceeded both budget and aspirational targets and is approximately 4% ahead of last year.
- Three COTC students were named to the All-Ohio Academic Team.
- Andrew provided a brief update on the recent Canvas cybersecurity incident.
- COTC celebrated its first graduates from the Respiratory Therapy program and the RN-to-BSN program.
- Board members congratulated President John Berry on being named to Columbus Business First's Power 125 list.

6. Faculty Assembly Update:

- Cory Brown reported that his term as Faculty Assembly Chair has concluded and introduced Dr. Liz Weiser, who will serve as Faculty Assembly Chair for the 2026-2027 academic year.
- Dr. Weiser shared her interest in reviewing faculty committee structures to better align them with campus needs.
- Dean Smith thanked Cory Brown for his service as Faculty Assembly Chair and noted that he will serve in a new faculty leadership role supporting the Education, Teaching, and Learning program.
- Dean Smith also recognized Dr. Jack Richardson for his service as Chair of the Academic Affairs Committee.

7. Finance Report:

- David Brillhart provided March 31, 2026 Financial Reports for FY2025-2026. Details are included in the documents sent to board members prior to the meeting.
- Enrollment exceeded projections, with headcount increasing 12.3% and FTE increasing 17% compared to the prior year.
- Student fee revenue exceeded budget projections due to strong enrollment growth.
- The campus continues to receive investment income on reserve funds and remains on track with expenses for the fiscal year.
- A conservative budget was developed for FY27, reflecting enrollment uncertainties while maintaining a projected surplus.
- New positions were added in advising, orientation and first-year experience, and student retention to support enrollment growth and student success.
- David noted that both Ohio State Newark and COTC have recovered from the effects of COVID, remain financially strong, and continue to benefit from community philanthropy and the institutions' long-standing cost-share agreement.
- Dean Smith emphasized that investments in advising, retention, and first-year experience are intended to support student persistence and degree completion.

8. Student Life Report

- John Davenport reported that Counseling Services completed 1,480 individual appointments during the academic year, serving 228 unique students. Depression and anxiety remained the most common concerns.
- The Zen Den wellness space recorded 463 student visits since tracking began in November.
- Disability Services conducted 367 meetings and supported 244 students with accommodations.
- Recreational Sports averaged 232 daily users Monday through Thursday and served 96 participants through intramural programs.
- The Campus Corner Food Pantry experienced significant growth in usage and expanded support for students with dietary restrictions.
- Student Activities averaged approximately 148 participants per program and continued to provide a variety of engagement opportunities throughout the year.
- Registered Student Organizations participated in leadership development programming to strengthen student involvement and organizational effectiveness.

9. Dean's Report:

- The university announced the creation of the John and Alix Ankele Endowed Chair in Human Ethics, the first endowed chair in Newark campus history. Dean Smith noted that the position was made possible through a major gift from John and Alix Ankele, longtime supporters of the campus, and the university's Endowed Chair Matching Program.
- The Scholarship Dinner recognized 387 scholarship recipients who received more than \$1.5 million in scholarship support during the academic year.
- The campus Graduation Celebration recognized 46 associate degree recipients and 31 bachelor's degree recipients. During 2025-26, Ohio State Newark awarded 245 associate degrees and 80 bachelor's degrees.
- Dean Smith announced that Jessica Sturgill has been named Director of Admissions for Ohio State Newark and will begin June 1.
- Overall enrollment is approximately 20% higher than last year. First-choice student enrollment is up 34%, which Dean Smith attributed in part to the Regional Campus Commitment program.
- Board members discussed the impact of affordability initiatives, first-generation student support, and outreach efforts aimed at encouraging college enrollment.

10. Alumni Advisory Council Update

- Ginny Grady provided an update from the Ohio State Alumni Advisory Council meeting held April 9-10, 2026.
- President Ravi Bellamkonda addressed the council and reaffirmed his support for Ohio State's regional campuses, describing them as a vital part of the university's strategy for excellence and workforce development.
- Ginny reported that President Bellamkonda views each regional campus as a unique destination rather than a subset of the Columbus campus and highlighted his support for the Regional Campus Commitment program.
- The council received updates on government affairs, alumni engagement, philanthropy, and university marketing initiatives.
- Dean Smith thanked Ginny Grady for agreeing to serve an additional three-year term as Newark's representative to the Alumni Advisory Council and noted that she has been invited to serve on the council's Executive Committee.

11. Advisory Board Leadership and Membership Updates

- Dean Smith announced several board leadership and membership changes for 2026-2027.
- Jeff Cox completed his term as Board Chair and Lee Heckman will assume the role of Chair for the coming year. Jeff Cox will continue serving on the board and as a member of the Finance Committee.
- Talya Greathouse agreed to serve an additional three-year term on the board.
- Jenny Morehead was introduced as a new board member. Dean Smith noted that she is an Ohio State Newark alumna and community supporter.
- Kara Smith was introduced as the incoming student representative. Kara is a Health Sciences student on the pre-med track.
- Brad Shumaker agreed to serve as Board Secretary. The Executive Leadership Team for 2026-2027 will consist of Lee Heckman (Chair), Olivia Biggs (Vice Chair), and Brad Shumaker (Secretary).

12. Resolutions Honoring Departing Board Members

- Dean Smith presented resolutions recognizing the service of departing board members Matt Miller and Chelsea Shipley.
- Board members thanked Matt Miller for his years of service and contributions to the campus and community.
- Chelsea Shipley was recognized for her service as student representative and for providing the board with valuable student perspectives throughout her term.

13. New Business

- Dean Smith proposed reviewing the board meeting schedule for 2026-2027. He noted that the current schedule includes a five-month gap between May and October followed by more frequent spring meetings.
- Board members will be asked to provide input on a revised meeting cadence prior to finalizing next year's schedule.

14. Next Meeting / Adjournment

- The next meeting of the Ohio State Newark Advisory Board is scheduled for **Thursday, September 10, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.**
- There being no further business, Chair Jeff Cox adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Nichole Lenglé

Executive Assistant to the Dean and Director

The Ohio State University at Newark

New Advisory Board Meeting Dates

2026

September 10, 2026 (Thursday after Labor Day)

November 19, 2026 (Thursday before Thanksgiving)

2027

February 4, 2027 (first Thursday in February)

May 13, 2027 (second Thursday in May)

September 9, 2027 (Thursday after Labor Day)

November 18, 2027 (Thursday before Thanksgiving)

2028

February 3, 2028 (first Thursday in February)

May 11, 2028 (second Thursday in May)

September 7, 2028 (Thursday after Labor Day)

November 16, 2028 (Thursday before Thanksgiving)

Convocation 2026: Monday, August 24 at 9AM in the Adena Gym, ceremony followed by celebration and lunch. Please mark your calendars.