



Minutes
Advisory Board Meeting
The Ohio State University at Newark

Thursday, September 16, 2021 – 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.
Reese 255

1. Call to Order

Board Chair Talya Greathouse called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. in the Executive Conference Room of the John Gilbert Reese Center.

2. Approval of Minutes of May 20, 2021, Board Meeting

The minutes of the May 20, 2021, board meeting were approved as distributed.

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

4. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

5. Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) Board Report

Rob Montagnese, Chair of the COTC Board, reported that COTC and Ohio State Newark have joined the 2021 cohort of Achieving the Dream Network, a coalition of more than 300 colleges in 45 states dedicated to improving student success, improve equitable outcomes for students, and bolster student retention and completion. Rob also reported that the Pataskala campus re-opening was celebrated with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on August 27. The \$4.2 million renovation provided upgrades that will have a direct impact on students seeking careers in healthcare and information technology, and will provide a pipeline of skilled workers for nearby healthcare facilities and industrial parks. The COTC 50th Anniversary celebration kicked off on July 1 for a yearlong celebration including events at each of the extended campuses. They collaborated with Velvet Ice Cream to create the “Berry Rumble” ice cream, a fruity blend of strawberry, blueberry & blackberry. The ice cream has already been shared with staff, faculty and students and will be available at upcoming community events as well. Unfortunately, due to COVID the decision was made to postpone COTC’s September 17 Gala celebration to next spring. Lastly, plans are underway for an outdoor “drive-in” movie on campus featuring “Willie Wonka and the Chocolate Factory” on October 9.

6. Understanding a Student’s First Year

Jamie White, Director of the Office of Retention and Student Success Initiatives, and Marilyn Ervin, Director of the Student Advising Office, presented updates on student

retention, the PACE Setter Project, and the Exploration class (EXP 1100.01). The purpose of the presentation was to speak about what students experience in their first year and to answer questions about why students may leave the university after their first year, specifically at the Newark campus. First, Marilyn spoke about EXP 1100.01, which is a common course required of all new incoming students at the university, including transfer students. The class teaches students how to schedule time with an academic advisor and how to plan their college experience from degree planning to campus change (to Columbus) and graduation. It teaches students how to succeed and navigate higher education in general and specifically at Ohio State. The most important assignment of the course is the “major planning project” where students learn how to set goals for completing their course of study for their chosen major. EXP 1100.01 also entails a peer mentor program which was implemented within the past few years to allow students to learn from the experiences of other students. The course was moved online last year and continues to be offered virtually, which has allowed for lesson content to be expanded to include social justice topics and a focus on diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Next, Jamie talked about efforts to retain students and what is known about the reasons students do not return to Ohio State Newark. Jamie said that outreach to students includes text messaging, postcard mailers and emails to students between each semester. Tailored communications are sent every month. The Retention Office also works in partnership with Admissions and Advising to look for account holds or other administrative barriers. Jamie shared survey responses from students between Spring 2021 and Autumn 2021 semesters. As of May, 977 students did not re-enroll, which is 41% of the census enrollment from Spring semester. Jamie worked with Marilyn on the timing of the outreach communications to coordinate with availability of advisors so students could meet with an advisor right away and in between orientation sessions.

Census data for Autumn is not in yet, but the most recent analysis shows that 65% of the 977 students re-enrolled for fall semester somewhere at Ohio State, if not at the Newark campus. Approximately 350 students did not return to Ohio State. Retention is measured by students returning to any Ohio State campus. Part of the outreach plan included a “Planning to Return” survey to give students the opportunity to communicate their reasons for not returning. Over the summer, 131 students responded to the survey. Of those responses, 60% were planning to enroll but had not done so yet, 33% indicated they were not returning or were not sure, and 7% planned to return in Spring of 2022. Of the students not planning to enroll in Autumn 2021, 51% were planning to transfer to another college, 24% indicated they might transfer, and 25% were planning to take time off college. Of the students planning to or considering transferring, Columbus State was the most common transfer destination. When asked what motivated students to transfer, 19% planned to attend a college closer to home, 19% planned to attend a college that was less expensive, and 19% indicated online courses were too difficult. When asked what motivated students to take time off, 86% indicated a financial reason, 52% wanted time to figure out their college and career plans, and 48% did not want to take online classes again. Of note, when asked what they liked most about Ohio State Newark, the majority of students responded that it was the

campus environment - beautiful campus, small class sizes, and support from staff and faculty.

Lastly, Dean/Director Bill MacDonald talked about the PACE Setter Project, which is an acronym for Pedagogy, Advising, and Curriculum Excellence. Bill acknowledged Jamie, Marilyn and Stephanie Brown for their work on the PACE Steering Committee. PACE is a national project led by the John Gardner Institute. The project involves analyzing 10 years of student data in courses with high failure rates to determine the common barriers that cause students to have trouble in those courses. Currently the data is being transferred from Columbus, and surveys and analysis will follow. Bill will update the board in future meetings to report on the progress on the PACE Setter Project.

Discussion followed regarding differences in tuition costs, how it is calculated and the demographics of students who encounter difficulty with payment, account holds and grades. Jamie said she will research these questions and follow up with more information at a future board meeting.

7. **Ohio State Newark students at Stone Laboratory, including DEI issues**

Thomas Hall, MD, Immediate Past President of The Friends of Stone Laboratory and Former Advisory Board Member at Ohio State Newark and **Beth Wallace**, MPA, Curriculum Coordinator for Stone Lab, gave a presentation on Ohio State's marine biology laboratory located on Gibraltar Island in Lake Erie. Tom started the discussion by giving a brief history and his connection with the lab and with the Newark Campus. The partnership between Stone Lab and the Newark campus has been growing, and both Tom and Beth have worked to continue cultivating the relationship. Tom was a graduate student there 49 years ago and has remained engaged ever since. Stone Lab was founded in 1895 and is the oldest fresh water biological field station in the United States with a mission to combine research, education and outreach to solve environmental problems. It is one of the two national historic landmarks owned by Ohio State (the other being the Ohio Stadium). The lab offers a field experience and very high-quality interactions with faculty and researchers to students. Tom is very active with the Friends of Stone Lab (FOSL), which is Stone Lab's support group that donates time and money to assist with planning and resources. Tom invited board members to join FOSL using this [link](https://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/giving/fosl): <https://ohioseagrant.osu.edu/giving/fosl>

With the help of Bill MacDonald, a pipeline has been established between Ohio State Newark and COTC students with Stone Lab. The hope is to grow the relationship so that Newark faculty could teach a few classes and students could earn some of their biology credits at the island. Bill has also joined the FOSL Board and has become an important part of the organization. Tom thanked Bill for his service to the board. Tom pointed out that Newark is Ohio State's most diverse campus and Stone Lab is not at all diverse. The partnership between the two is to continue working on making Stone Lab more accessible to students with disabilities and underrepresented populations. Beth Wallace continued the presentation to talk about efforts to improve diversity and remove barriers. The pandemic brought about a slowdown of visitors to the island, so faculty and staff used that downtime to take a deep dive into training on diversity, equity and inclusion that might not otherwise be

possible. This gave an opportunity to overcome some of the barriers to reaching those students who might not ever have the chance to hear about Stone Lab. Training was a necessary first step to closing the diversity gap, because simply bringing students to the island would not be a good approach. Some of the steps being taken to make Stone Lab a more inclusive environment are bias training, monthly (J)EDI coffee/tea chats (the acronym stands for Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion), “Unlearning Racism in the Geosciences” (URGE), and Office of Institutional Equity – ADA’s office. Part of the training was to take an audit of existing programming to see how it could be more inclusive and to work with relationships that already exist. The relationship with Newark campus and Stone Lab was already started and presented a good opportunity for growth. Some of the Newark specific events already in place are overnight trips to Stone Lab, SAGE Learning Community experience, and the NSF Grant – Dr. J. Andrew Roberts, entitled “The Ohio State Newark, Ohio Means Science Program: Resisting attrition of economically disadvantaged students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.”

The SAGE Learning Community trip scheduled for October made sense because the students are taking the environmental sciences course, so it was a good match. Students will spend a Saturday on the island and have the opportunity to take a marine biology tour and learn about Lake Erie science. Beth asked everyone in the room to please be thinking about ways to incorporate Stone Lab when planning programs. If there are faculty interested in visiting, or other ways to offer the experience to students, Beth, Tom, Bill, Nichole, Binaya and soon Jamie are all points of contact who have had experienced Stone Lab and can help turn ideas into action. Tom added that one of the barriers for students from Newark to take summer courses at Stone Lab is that they are already paying for housing at Newark and would also have to pay for summer housing at Stone Lab. With Kim Manno’s help, Tom and his wife have established a scholarship to defray those housing costs. If anyone would like to join that effort, Kim is the point of contact to put that into action.

8. Board Committee Reports

- ***Enrollment Committee Report.*** Director of Enrollment Diane Kanney said that the enrollment report is usually published before the November board meeting, but it is late this year. She will have an extensive report for the next meeting in January. Diane did share a story relevant to the conversation about student retention. A student who had enrolled late had a \$400 fee left on her account and did not know how she would be able to pay it. She also needed a book for one of her classes. The student told Diane that she was trying to work her way through college on her own and was paying for it herself. Diane called someone in Financial Aid and was able to deliver the happy news that the student was eligible for a significant grant that would allow her to stay in school. Diane emphasized that when students enroll late, there is often something going on with their account. Jamie had the idea to form a committee to meet with late-enrolling students to see if there is any help for them. Diane, working together with Jamie and the committee, are working with one student at a time and if just one student’s education can be saved, it is worth it.

- ***Student Life Committee Update.*** Director of Student Life Holly Mason began by explaining the message on her shirt. She stated that Student Life is currently engaged in the respect campaign, and Saturday is the “National Day of Respect.” Students who pledge to be respectful of others receive a T-shirt with the simple message: “RESPECT” printed on the front. Holly reported that Student Life has several new initiatives going on with the help of leadership providing necessary resources. The MCA Commons (Multi-Cultural Affairs) just opened in the Warner Center, which provides a safe space for students to gather and learn and for Student Life to have a space to connect and concentrate efforts on some of the DEI initiatives. One of the programs is a weekly chat where students can come into the space and get coffee or tea and just talk. Student Life is working on accessibility and making sure students are aware of the resources available to them. There have been many events and activities for student involvement so students can return to engaging face-to-face. There was a student resources fair earlier in the week, and students are being encouraged to seek leadership roles again now that more things are happening in-person. Homecoming voting just finished earlier in the week, and something new for this year is “homecoming royalty” instead of “kings and queens.” This eliminates the gender aspect in order to be more inclusive. Also, Holly’s team is working with Career Development on their college fair.

The food pantry has been moved to a much more visible and larger space. This has allowed for an expansion of the resources offered, including products that are specific to BIPOC students as well as household and personal items such as blankets and socks. Students can sign up for meal kits to help them learn what to do with the ingredients if they are not used to cooking. Jamie has also put together a birthday kit for students who are celebrating their birthday that month. The students do not have to sign up for the birthday kits, this is just something extra that Jamie is doing. Also happening in Student Life is the addition of another counselor who will serve as the lead mental health therapist. New types of therapy are also being introduced such as art therapy. Student Life is seeing increased usage of mental health resources as a result of the long-term impacts of the pandemic. To help accommodate, the counseling office is offering drop-in hours for students. Lastly, recreational sports is working on competitions with other Ohio State regional campuses and is planning the first golf outing, which will be in Mount Vernon. A question was raised about donating to the food pantry. Items can be donated directly at the Warner Center on the second floor. To donate money, please go to the Licking County Food Pantry Network, and they will supply groceries to the Newark campus pantry. The link to donate is: <https://foodpantrynetwork.net/ways-to-give/donate-funds/>

9. Dean’s/Director’s Report

- ***Introduction of new board members.*** Dean/Director Bill MacDonald introduced Katherine Stuart, Student Representative to the Board, and Medha Deoras-Sutliff and Lee Heckman, new board members. Bios for Medha and Lee had already been distributed during the appointment process, but Bill asked Katherine to tell a little bit about herself. Katherine is a third-year Psychology major at the Newark campus. She is

in the honors program and plans to graduate in 2022. She is looking forward to sharing a student perspective to the advisory board. Bill also asked Niles Johnson to give a brief introduction in his role as Faculty Assembly Chair. Niles will have a Faculty Assembly report at a future meeting.

- ***Diversity, equity & inclusion.*** Bill reported that his first three agenda topics will be recurring topics for future board meetings: 1) diversity, equity & inclusion; 2) student retention; and 3) Buckeye Opportunity Grant. There will be guests in the future to give in-depth presentations to board members on these topics. Dr. Tiyi Morris, Chair of the Newark Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Committee, will present to the board at the November meeting.
- ***Student retention.*** Bill restated Diane's observation that the official enrollment report with retention and graduation rates is coming out later than in years past. The preliminary report is not an official census, but Bill was happy to share that the most recent data indicate that Newark's retention rate actually *increased*. With accolades to the students, faculty, and staff and with gratitude to the community for its support, the preliminary data indicate that the retention rate is the highest it has been in ten years. As it stands now, the retention rate is 72.1%, which is remarkable and unexpected due to the many disruptions caused by the pandemic. Bill thanked and congratulated everyone in the room and credited the students for their resilience and for persisting.
- ***Buckeye Opportunity Grant.*** Bill reported that the regional campus deans have made many requests for regional campus students to be eligible for the Buckeye Opportunity Grant from their first semester, because it is not that way now. Students in Columbus are eligible from day one, but the regionals are not. The deans wrote a letter to the provost stating that they felt the program should be identical to how it was rolled out in Columbus, but it was not implemented that way. Over this past year, Diane and all the other regional campus enrollment directors were involved in creating a new strategic enrollment plan for the university at President Johnson's request. One of the initiatives presented to the group making the plan was to make regional campus students eligible for the Buckeye Opportunity Grant when they start out as freshmen. The good news is that the initiative is now part of the official strategic enrollment plan, but the work is not done yet because it needs to be implemented. Bill stated that he will continue to report to the board on implementation, which he hopes will be in the fall of 2022.
- ***Recaps of President Johnson's and Provost Gilliam's visits to campus.*** Both visits were great. Both the president and the provost are incredibly brilliant people and were very enthusiastic. They had great meetings with faculty, staff, and students. When Provost Gilliam met with students, she asked them if they knew what the word "provost" means. She boiled it down to simple terms and said that it is really to implement the president's vision. President Johnson has established the vision for the university, and Provost Gilliam will figure out how to make it happen. Both President Johnson and Provost Gilliam were interested in getting to know the Newark campus

community and listened intently to students, faculty, and staff. All the conversations were lively and productive. The debt-free Bachelor's degree program is a very high priority for President Johnson. The deans are also working on that, as well as the Advancement Office. Provost Gilliam is very interested in faculty hiring at the regional campuses, increasing diversity, and hiring to make up for the loss of faculty experienced by OSU over the past decade. A cultural transformation plan is being worked on, and it is off to a good start because of the recent refresh of the strategic plan and the new initiative to strengthen our commitment to social justice.

10. New Business

- ***Vacancy: Secretary to the board (seeking volunteers).*** Talya announced that her new role as board chair has escalated Alexa's role to Vice Chair, leaving the secretary position vacant. Anyone wishing to volunteer for that role can contact either Talya, Bill, or Nichole to express their interest.
- ***Resolutions in honor of former board members.*** Three resolutions honoring former board members whose terms recently expired were voted on and unanimously approved. Lacey Heath, student representative, and Sharad Thakkar and Chris Meyer will all be honored by official resolutions from the Ohio State Newark Advisory Board.

11. Next Board meeting – November 18, 2021 – 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Nichole Lenglé

Executive Assistant to the Dean and Director

The Ohio State University at Newark