



Minutes
Advisory Board Meeting
The Ohio State University at Newark

Thursday, September 17, 2020 – 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Zoom Meeting

1. Call to Order

Board Chair Matt Miller called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was conducted by way of Zoom videoconferencing. Matt asked the new board members, Lacey Heath and Jeff Cox, to introduce themselves to the board.

Lacey is a third-year early childhood education major at Ohio State Newark and has been very active on campus throughout her career. She is a student employee and has been involved in several organizations. Lacey served as a resident advisor in the dorms and a peer mentor. She has also worked at the student food pantry, was in a learning community, participated in BuckeyeThon, and is involved in student government. She is currently working in the Education Curriculum Center. Lacey is a first-generation student and hopes to teach at Ohio State Newark in the future. She thanked the board for the opportunity to serve as student representative.

Jeff Cox is a 1983 graduate and met his wife at Ohio State, and their son is a 2014 graduate. They are a family of Buckeyes and he looks forward to working with the advisory board and being a part of the university. Jeff stated that the regional campuses have a positive impact on communities, and Ohio State Newark has been a vital part of Licking County. He recently retired from Edward Jones as a financial advisor. Jeff thanked the board for inviting him to serve.

2. Approval of Minutes of June 18, 2020 Board Meeting

The minutes of the June 18, 2020 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. COTC Board Report

Rob Montagnese, Chair of the Board for Central Ohio Technical College, provided a report on current programs and events at COTC. He reported that COTC provost, Eric Heiser, has been appointed to the Commission on Economic and Workforce Development of the American Association of Community Colleges. Rob congratulated Suzanne Bressoud for being presented with the Julius S. and Joette Greenstein Award. This award is given annually to a staff member, administrator or faculty member of COTC and/or Ohio State Newark whose efforts, attitude, deeds and behavior made a major contribution toward the

perpetuation of a genuine spirit of mutual respect and cooperation between the two institutions. Rob reported that COTC has recently formed a partnership with Park National Bank and Habitat for Humanity-MidOhio. These organizations are collaborating to offer Licking and Franklin County residents free education for in-demand careers. Through the new Build Your Dream: Build Your Career Initiative, Habitat MidOhio homeowners and partner family members may choose to enroll at COTC in a certificate or degree program at no cost or at a reduced cost. Rob also reported that the Pataskala campus renovation is expected to be completed by mid-June, 2021. There was a question about COVID testing and contact tracing at COTC. Only students living the dorms are required to be tested and they are following the same protocols as OSU. If a student tests positive, the local health department follows up with contact tracing. Overall, the number of cases has been relatively low on the campus and in the community.

6. Board Committee Reports

Matt Miller stated that Marcia Downes had chaired the Academic Affairs and Student Life Committee during her term on the advisory board. Marcia has served her final term, which leaves the position open. Matt asked board members to consider volunteering to fill that vacancy. The purpose of the committee is to help the campus deliver the best possible living and learning environments for students. It seeks to understand and support student life experiences, both on and off campus and supports the campuses efforts to maximize student learning. The committee then reports back to the board at meetings. The committee does not have a formal meeting schedule and usually conducts business by email or as needed. It is not a big commitment of time, but meetings could take place more often if a board member wanted to volunteer and be more involved. Holly Mason stated that they connect to provide updates and information on what is going on with the student population, or to ask for feedback while trying to develop programs. Matt asked board members to contact him or Dr. MacDonald to volunteer for the appointment.

- ***Academic Affairs and Student Life Committee Report.*** Holly Mason reported that Recreation Sports is providing intramural programs that are socially distanced and based on CDC guidelines for mitigation of risk. Use of the recreation area and machines are much lower than pre-COVID, but still steady. Events under consideration come from the CDC and Ohio State Columbus approved activity list, including ping pong as an open gym activity. Holly also reported that the Multicultural Affairs student leadership retreat is themed “Five Core Disciplines of Leadership,” where students will learn self-improvement leadership in a virtual environment. Vorley Taylor, the program manager for Multicultural Affairs, has been working with the Newark community and Licking County NAACP for partnership/program development. They are also working on the feasibility of the Diversity Through Artistry program with Legend Elementary School. Disability Services is continuing to see additional requests for COVID-related accommodations. Student Life is working with student groups on weekly activities such as virtual trivia night, movie night, self-care kits and programs with all regional campuses called 9-OH-5. Habitat for Humanity has canceled all trips through December 2021. Voting for the Homecoming King and Queen will take place over the next week, and the regional campuses will host a virtual crowning event on October 18th. The

counseling center is onboarding a new full-time therapist and is also working on short videos for students, faculty, and staff on mindfulness, stress management and other related topics. Career Development is encouraging student to participate in a virtual career and internship fair hosted by the Columbus campus. Derek Thatcher is presenting to the new student EXP courses on topics including resume building, externships, and choosing a major. The Campus Corner Food Pantry has created a virtual shopping experience, and there has been an increase in usage of the service. Some of the student groups have asked to do food drives to help support the pantry.

Associate Dean Stephanie Brown reported that Academic Affairs worked very hard over the summer to figure out how to approach scheduling and course offerings for the fall, and the results were successful. Enrollment was surprisingly robust, and the enrollment drop off was much smaller than expected. The intention was to offer a mixture of courses online, hybrid, and in-person to maximize student learning potential and flexibility. The result was approximately 30% of the classes meeting in person and the other 70% largely or entirely online, which seems to have worked out well for students. The classes that were targeted for in-person delivery were learning communities and remedial classes, where in-person contact was especially beneficial for students. Certain labs, including chemistry and anatomy, are using a blended approach where half the class has an online lecture while the other half has in-person lab and then they switch every other session. Reports that Stephanie has been getting from Advising, the Center for Student Success and from the Director of Retention and Student Success indicate that it is working out well for students. Students continue to have issues with technology or access, and the Academic Affairs Office is working hard to connect those students with resources to make it possible to overcome those obstacles.

Matt Miller asked if there is an estimate of how long classes will continue online moving through the winter months and into spring. Stephanie stated that the biggest obstacle in offering in-person classes is the amount of space required to comply with guidance and directives for social distancing. The rooms just are not big enough. Students begin enrolling for Spring semester during the month of October, so the January schedule will probably not look any different than it does now in terms of in-person versus online delivery. Jeff Cox asked how faculty are doing with having the tools they need to be able to teach their courses virtually and what type of communication is happening with professors. Stephanie stated that a survey was taken to assess faculty needs and make sure they have the technology that would be required for them. There have also been many opportunities for training with various kinds of delivery methods. Students have been very compliant with maintaining distance and wearing masks and are extremely grateful for the opportunity to have in-person classes, which is a very positive reflection of the student population. More instructors are asking to teach in person in the spring than did in the fall.

- ***Finance Committee Update.*** Chris Meyer was unable to attend the meeting, so Matt Meyer invited David Brillhart to report. David extended thanks to Chris Meyer and Sharad Thakkar for meeting with Dr. MacDonald and him for an extensive review of the financial reports for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, which

was provided to board members prior to the meeting. The overall report is positive, and David credited faculty and staff, specifically facilities staff, for the incredible work being done to keep the campus operational. David stated that state subsidy was projected at \$7.8 million, and there was actually an increase for the year. He explained that the university has encouraged conservative budgeting, and Newark campus has been able to exceed goals every year due to enrollment growth and campus efficiencies. The state took back some of the money in budget cuts, but Newark campus still ended 4% above budget.

Similarly with student fees, the innovative and creative work that was done quickly in March enabled students to finish out the term, allowing overall revenue to increase by 1.4%. Out-of-state tuition fees were up for the year, which is not normally a line item with very much activity. The Newark campus did not feel the full immediate effects of COVID like some other campuses did. However, the expenditure restraints have been uniform across all campuses, which led to savings for Newark. This campus underspent by over \$3 million, which will help in the future. The other significant thing that happened is that expenditures dropped off significantly in March due to travel and food expense restrictions and the university-wide hiring freeze. These factors will allow the excess to help with fiscal year 2021 and provide additional reserves. In summary, the Newark campus was not materially affected in fiscal year 2020, and surplus for the year was more than last year. \$4.2 million will roll over for future needs into a future buildings and deferred maintenance account, which could be used, for example, for new residence halls or renovations. It could also serve as a buffer for any challenges that come up in fiscal year 2021. The reserve funds, or “rainy day” fund for current operations has been kept at \$6 million, and David does not see a need to draw from that.

For fiscal year 2021, the university did a number of contingency planning exercises to address concerns about enrollment and the state of the state. There is still uncertainty, but so far state subsidy has only been cut by 4.3%. This is good news, because preparations and planning had been made for up to a 20% cut. It is expected that enrollment will go down but not significantly.

David also reported that the Newark campus is not getting CARES Act line item funding directly, but students are benefitting from emergency funding that is made available through Columbus. There may also be some technology items funded to Newark through the CARES Act. One item that Newark is receiving direct funding through the CARES Act is assistance for the cost of PPE, signage, and other extra expenditures due to COVID.

David summarized by pointing out that the financial situation looks much better than it could have, and this is due to the hard work by faculty and staff to quickly transition to new methods of delivery. It has been a campus-wide effort to provide continuity in such a challenging time. Enrollment, class scheduling, and facilities all had to make major adjustments to adapt to social distancing and keep Ohio State Newark moving forward.

7. Dean's/Director's Report

Dean/Director Bill MacDonald commented on the impact of the pandemic on research activities that faculty are relying on to achieve their goals. The dean's discretionary fund that David referenced is a reserve that would typically go to support strategic initiatives. The impact on faculty research has been substantial. There are a number of people who had special assignments that had to be interrupted due to the pandemic, so they had a semester free from teaching but could not do the things they expected to do with regards to research. Some of the funds from the strategic reserve could go to support additional releases for teaching in the near future. The funds could also be used to reimburse people who have been purchasing necessary supplies and services out of their own pockets.

Bill explained that students who live in the residence halls are having weekly mandatory testing for COVID-19, with consequences for non-compliance. Students log in using their phones at stations that are sanitized after each use. A saliva sample is collected and logged through the online registration system. At the end of each testing day, a courier picks up the samples and takes them to Columbus for analysis, and the students receive their results by email. It is a no-contact process that has been running very smoothly. The university has a public dashboard on its "[Safe and Healthy Buckeyes](https://safeandhealthy.osu.edu)" website:

(<https://safeandhealthy.osu.edu/dashboard>) which shows the weekly results. Currently the results are being reported for the university as a whole and are not being broken out by campus. The number of cases across the regional campuses has been so low that officials working with the data believe that breaking it out by campus might inadvertently contribute to identifying someone who has tested positive, which would be a HIPAA violation.

To date, none of the positive cases at Ohio State has been traced to a classroom, which indicates that the protocols of social distancing and wearing masks are working and students are complying. There have been discussions about doing surveillance testing for students living off campus. There are a number of complexities involved with making the testing mandatory for off-campus students, and no decision has been made yet. Discussions are also under way for making voluntary testing available for faculty and staff. The population density on the Newark campus has been very low, peaking at around 250-300 students during the week. In terms of planning for spring, the timelines for spring semester has changed. The semester will start on January 11. The first week of classes will be online to give faculty and staff time to prepare, especially for any in-person sessions. There will not be a spring break but there will be two instructional breaks, and the semester will end earlier (April 21).

The Dean's/Director's report included updates on several other topics. Bill reported that Dr. Tiyi Morris has been awarded the President and Dean/Director's Diversity Award, which is given by the president of COTC and the dean/director of Ohio State Newark. Dr. Morris teaches African American and African Studies courses, Women's Studies and history courses. She has tremendous expertise in the Civil Rights Movement and most recently has been chairing the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, which is a relatively new faculty committee. Dr. Morris was recognized at the September Faculty Assembly meeting.

Bill reported that the artist who has created the Great Contributor Series is adding Harriet Tubman to the collection. Lou and Gib Reese have purchased these sculptures for the campus, and Mrs. Reese has already made the purchase of the Tubman sculpture. It will be ready by the new year. This is a great change from the representation of mostly white males in the series, because of the value the campus here places on diversity, equity and inclusion. Future plans include a sculpture of Ella Baker.

Bill reported that a few months ago the faculty Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee recommended some anti-racism initiatives to form an anti-racism action plan for the campus. The committee met with Bill recently to talk about initiatives that can be acted upon quickly. These will be vetted through Faculty Assembly, Staff Forum, and Student Government. The university has a task force on racial justice which has instructed the campuses and colleges to move forward with initiatives, and not to wait for the university-wide task force. Bill's goal is to weave these initiatives into the campus strategic plan, which is currently being refreshed. The Framework 2.0 process is still underway. The working group and steering committee have met with the consultants and are waiting for them to come back with more details regarding the concept plan. The next step will be to put the plan out for feedback, and board members will be included in that process. Bill reported that the external review for the regional campuses has been delayed until fall of 2021.

The Alford Center construction is slightly behind schedule on the exterior and is tracking slightly ahead of schedule on the interior. Brian Boehmer added that there have been several meetings with the contractor and the delay with exterior construction is not a concern. Brian does not see any impact on the plans to move into the building during summer of 2021. It has been an extremely safe construction site with close to 200 safety inspections and not a single recordable safety incident. Overall, construction is progressing very nicely. Demolition of Parking Lot D has begun to make way for a new access road to the Hopewell loading dock.

Bill added that enrollment data will be released soon, and a full report will be given at the November 19, meeting including retention and graduation rates.

8. Next Board meeting – November 19, 2020– 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

- ***2020-2021 Academic Year Advisory Board Meeting Dates (9:00 a.m.)***
 - September 17, 2020
 - November 19, 2020
 - January 21, 2021
 - March 18, 2021
 - May 20, 2021
 - June 17, 2021

9. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted by

Nichole Lenglé

Executive Assistant to the Dean and Director

The Ohio State University at Newark