



Minutes
Advisory Board Meeting
The Ohio State University at Newark

Thursday, March 18, 2021 – 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.

2. Approval of Minutes of November 19, 2020 Board Meeting

The minutes of the November 19, 2020 board meeting were approved as distributed.

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

4. Public Comments

Matt Miller expressed appreciation to the Newark campus for providing Licking Memorial Hospital space on the property to administer covid vaccines to the community.

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 the Pataskala campus renovation is 75% finished and Rob was able to have a tour recently. It is coming along nicely and move-in will take place over the summer as planned. COTC is making plans for its 50th anniversary celebration in September and hopes to be able to have it in person. Events leading up to the celebration will begin in July. COTC is partnering with Velvet Ice Cream to create a special ice cream flavor which will be shared at some of the events throughout the year. Rob also reported that Dr. Berry and college leadership are doing several extended-campus town halls throughout all the campuses. They recently visited Coshocton and will soon visit Pataskala and Knox to interact with community members and answer questions, specifically about workforce needs. Lastly, Rob reported that COTC has been approved by the Ohio Department of Higher Education for its first Bachelor's degree, the Bachelor of Applied Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography. Further approvals are required, and if approved, COTC will be the first two-year college in the state and in the country to offer this program. This will be an accelerated three-year Applied Bachelor's degree which will be equal to a Bachelor's degree. The college has submitted a change application to the Higher Learning Commission to transition the current Associate of Applied Science degree

in DMS Technology to an Applied Bachelor of Science degree. The Associate degree will no longer be offered, and the last cohort in that program will be finishing next semester. The new program will benefit general hospitals and especially children's hospitals. He stated that some of the larger children's hospitals have asked COTC to try to offer an Applied Bachelor's degree in Medical Sonography for their employees. Rob congratulated Dr. Melinda Brillhart and Dr. Sandy Walker for moving the proposal forward.

Rob opened the discussion for questions, and Tara asked if the renovations at Pataskala will lead to any new programs being offered. There are conversations about having some of the science major or nursing course work offered there as well as general subjects, but the main goal of the expansion is to accommodate the growing demand in Pataskala. Many College Credit Plus students will also be served out of that location.

6. Board Committee Reports

- ***Finance Committee Update.*** Chris Meyer noted that the summary in the quarterly report indicates enrollment has been affected by the pandemic in many ways, but the entire campus, both faculty and staff, have put forward an incredible effort to minimize the impact. The campus has been cautious with recent revenue growth and, combined with budget cuts, the campus has been allowed to stay positive through this period. Chris invited David Brillhart to give the full report.

David referred to the *Quarterly Financial Report through December 31, 2020/Fiscal Year July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021* which was provided to board members prior to the meeting. David pointed out that the instructional subsidy from the state was at 49.2% of the projected budget. There was concern over the past six months about anticipated state budget cuts, and preparations were made for projected scenarios of up to 20%. There was a statewide cut of 4.6%, but that was restored to Ohio Higher Education so the impact on Newark campus was very slight and much better than expected. Student fees were at 51.6% of projected budget due to enrollment results in summer and autumn. Student enrollment was down 4.4%, but it fared much better than the worst-case scenarios that were forecast at the beginning of the pandemic. David credited Diane Kanney and the enrollment team for the hard work that went into keeping enrollment solid during this difficult year. Although enrollment dipped slightly, tuition revenue is consistent to the prior year due to the tuition increases for the year.

David stated that investment income, which is invested with the Treasurer's Office in Columbus, has not been immune to what is happening in the market with current short-term rates. Rates have been reduced, but fortunately Newark campus does not have high dependence on the investment income there. The interest rate for July through December is 0.25% which is much lower than the budgeted projection for this fiscal year.

Expenditures have a more positive story, because reductions in expenses are the result of two different factors. First, OSU had university-wide cuts and there were shared-operations cuts at Newark that were decided upon in concurrence with COTC. So there have been some cuts but not significant. The second factor is that there have been

savings in the budget that were related to the pandemic such as travel, professional development, and supplies. The end result is lower expenses, and it can be expected that this year will end positive. David reiterated that the financial picture is much more than just finances. It is astounding that the campus has been able to hold the course financially this past six months. All the credit goes to the incredible job by faculty and staff and their efforts in figuring out how to do work differently during this time period. The outlook is good at this point in the fiscal year, and the focus now is preparing for the next year's budget. Things look good from a state perspective right now, but there is no way to know what will happen with enrollment. Diane Kanney needs more time for enrollment projections than what the budget process allows, but she will do absolutely everything she can do with what she has to work with.

David opened the discussion for questions, and Matt asked what would happen with surplus money if there is any. David stated that in the past few years there has been surplus revenue and it has been placed in a future initiatives capital account. Those funds are saved up over time, and that is how the residence hall was built. It is a strategic fund that can be used to advance the institution. Future plans may include the next set of residence halls or a parking garage, projects that would be difficult to fund through the state or fund raising. Jeff asked if Newark received any federal support money and if that is applied to the state subsidy revenue line. David stated that the funds went directly to The Ohio State University and have been very helpful to the university as a whole, but very little went to the regional campuses. Some funds were made available to help with pandemic related expenses and technology improvements. They are accounted as reduction of expenses and not part of the financial statement. Dean MacDonald added that students have been able to access the CARES act funding that the university received for all students across all campuses.

7. Dean's/Director's Report

- ***President Johnson's visit and State of the University Address.*** Dean/Director Bill MacDonald reported that President Johnson's visit has been canceled for March and she will visit the campus in the fall. Dr. Johnson appears to be interested in participating in one of Newark's events, so Bill has been working with her office to come up with ideas. Dr. Johnson gave her first State of the University address in February and talked about the regional campuses. She mentioned the Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology (BSET) as an example of an innovative program that is relevant to the state's workforce. The video segment from Dr. Johnson's address can be viewed [here](#). The video can be viewed in its entirety [here](#).

Links:

Regional campus segment:

<<https://youtu.be/bFGv2uv8Wt0>>

State of the University full video:

<<https://news.osu.edu/president-johnson-delivers-first-state-of-the-university-address/>>

- **Refreshed strategic plan.** Bill shared how the Newark campus strategic plan is being refreshed to embrace the important pieces of information about the regional campuses that Dr. Johnson expressed during her address. She talked about four different types of excellence which are academic excellence; research and creative expression; entrepreneurship in partnership; and excellence in service to the State of Ohio, the nation, and the world. The notion of connecting new degree programs and pathways to fulfill the state's workforce needs is something that is on her mind with respect to the regional campuses. There have been conversations about degree programs that Jobs Ohio is focusing on, but it is still unknown what those are or whether they are new programs or programs that already exist. Building stronger pathways to a degree, not just for the regional campuses but for the whole university, is a critical piece of Dr. Johnson's vision.

Dr. Johnson is also calling for the university to become a national leader of recruiting, retaining, and graduating students from underrepresented groups. Bill thinks the Newark campus will play a strong role in helping her fulfill that vision because the student population is so diverse. Additionally, Dr. Johnson is calling on the university to increase the diversity of its faculty, and the Newark campus Academic Affairs Committee will be working to align the faculty hiring with Dr. Johnson's plan. Plans are also underway to support Dr. Johnson's 10-year vision of students leaving the university with no debt. The Newark Strategic Plan is not identical to that goal but consistent, with a 5-year strategy to reduce the number of students leaving with \$20,000 or more in debt. A university work group is also working on increasing the number of courses and programs that the university offers online. The [Newark Strategic Plan](https://newark.osu.edu/strategic-plan/) can be found at <https://newark.osu.edu/strategic-plan/>

- **External review of the regional campuses.** The first ever external review of the regional campuses is underway. The Newark teams will submit their reports, which will be compiled and submitted to the Office of Academic Affairs. A review panel will visit the campus in the fall and submit a final report on all the regional campuses, which will be made available to board members.
- **Old State Farm building.** The property at 1440 Granville Road, frequently referred to as the "old State Farm building," has been listed for sale. The Newark campus was looking at it as potential space for additional classrooms this fall to allow enough square footage to offer more in-person classes while complying with social distancing guidelines. Recently the university announced that starting in fall semester 2021, classes of 50 or less will not require 6-foot social distancing. Since most classes at Newark fall within that range, the classroom space will not be needed. Currently the building is being considered for a different purpose, which is to provide temporary office space during the renovation of Founders Hall. Newark City Schools has expressed an interest in purchasing the building. Bill and COTC president John Berry will meet with

representatives from Newark City Schools and CTEC to see if they might partner in some ways to use the space there, for example, for daycare.

- ***Update on anti-racism.*** As a follow up to the letter Bill wrote to the Newark Advocate, he has been meeting with members of the community to put out a call to the community inviting people to respond to an online survey to gather ideas on how to fight racism. There will be community networking events to connect people to the Community Alliance for Racial Justice and NAACP. The two organizations are leading the community efforts and Newark campus is committed to supporting them. Talya Greathouse commented that she appreciates the efforts. She is on the board of the Community Alliance for Racial Justice. It has been a challenge to work in concert with the other organizations and not duplicate efforts. It is important to be cooperative, and Talya expressed gratitude to the university for participating. She said the broader the message and the more participation, the better the outcome will be.

Bill opened the discussion for questions. Kathryn Lloyd asked for more details about the external review and who the reviewing entity is. Bill explained that the Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) generated the initiative out of the desire to help the university find direction for the regional campuses. It is the first of its kind. The review panel is made up of representatives from other institutions. The university is using the same guide they use for reviewing academic units, which does not take into account the much broader scope of a regional campus. OAA understands this and is being very flexible to consider support units, facilities, space, academic programming, research, and faculty and staff salaries. A report will be provided at the end of the review, which should be by the end of June.

Jeff Cox commented that he toured the Alford Center construction project and was impressed. He wanted to thank everyone who worked to make that possible. Jeff also asked if the project is still on schedule. Bill said that there were a few minor setbacks with receiving materials due to the pandemic, but the project has not been substantially delayed. Brian Boehmer added that the project is nine days behind schedule, which is not bad for new construction. As of this date the project is 90% complete and contractors are starting to demobilize and remove their construction trailers. Move in is still planned for this summer.

8. New Business

- ***Discussion on internships at Ohio State Newark.*** Derek Thatcher gave a presentation on internships and career development at Newark campus as a follow-up to the last board meeting. Derek is the program manager for Career Services and is responsible for assisting students with job search strategies and resources and in choosing a major or exploring career pathways. He discussed employer needs as viewed through the lens of the office of career development as well as career fairs during the pandemic. For students who do not know what they want to pursue as a major, he will help them narrow down their career focus. For those who do not know how to make a résumé or

how to look for internships, he will teach them those skills. Derek also works with employers to determine business needs and to facilitate networking with students through career fairs. Since covid restrictions eliminated the opportunity to have in-person career fairs, these activities have been moved to a virtual platform. There was a virtual career fair for all the OSU regional campuses and an upcoming event will be a combined OSU/COTC event. The virtual events have been relatively well-attended, taking into consideration the amount of screen time and fatigue that students are enduring.

Derek provided a summary of direct service delivery provided to Ohio State students over the past five academic years, with the majority of students seeking assistance exploring majors and determining what career pathways are associated with different programs of study. Derek encourages employers to create a position description and evaluation process for interning students and to plan six months ahead. Derek's call to action is for anyone interested in hiring interns to post positions on [OSU Handshake](https://handshake.osu.edu/), which is the job board for students throughout the university. (<https://handshake.osu.edu/>) This will connect employers with students at all OSU campuses, not just the Newark regional campus. This is especially beneficial to draw students from Columbus campus to Newark businesses, and since most Newark students eventually transfer to Columbus, they will be drawn back to the Newark community. Derek's ask to board members is to post positions for students and to help make other business owners aware of this resource. For COTC students, business owners can post positions at [College Central Network \(CCN\)](https://www.collegecentral.com/), which is the electronic job board typically used by two-year and technical colleges. (<https://www.collegecentral.com/>).

- ***Appointment of "Secretary to the Board."*** Matt Miller announced that Alexa Robinson-O'Neill has agreed to serve as secretary to the board, which means that she will follow Talya as chair. During Alexa's conversation with the executive committee about this role, she had asked questions about the mission and vision of the board and what it can do to make a difference on campus. That discussion became the topic for the next agenda item about planning a board retreat.
- ***Planning for board retreat.*** Bill announced that a retreat will be planned over the summer, hopefully in person, to dedicate time addressing the topics that are of most interest to board members. Jackie Parrill will help to plan a retreat that is fun and invigorating and productive. Bill asked board members to think about possible topics, which will be solidified at the May meeting. The options are:
 - ✓ ***Self study*** – the report should be available by then, and the board could examine its findings. The panel review will not be available until fall, so it might be better to wait but it is something to consider.
 - ✓ ***Degree pathways and programming*** – have an opportunity to explore and share what the board thinks the community's needs are.
 - ✓ ***Framework 2.0*** –examine and provide feedback on the physical plan for the campus.

- ✓ ***Public private partnership project*** – discuss a partnership with the Lima and Marion campuses for residence halls.
- ✓ ***Property at 1440 Granville Road*** – brainstorm about synergies with P-12 schools in the area and the board’s perspective on how that could be used.
- ✓ ***Other things needed around campus*** – particularly what requests may need to be made to the city of Newark regarding sidewalks, city streets and the business areas around campus.

Update: the board retreat will be **Friday, June 11, 2021 from 12:30 – 5pm at Alexa’s house in Granville.** (arrive between 12:30-1pm, session to begin at 1pm, more details to follow)

9. Next Board meeting: May 20, 2021 | 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

10. 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