



Minutes
Advisory Board Meeting
The Ohio State University at Newark

Thursday, November 21, 2019 – 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

The John Gilbert Reese Center - Executive Board Room (Room 255)

1. Call to Order

Board Chair, Todd Ware, 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 September 19, 2019 Board Meeting

The minutes of the September 19, 2019 Board Meeting were approved as distributed.

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed except for a modification due to absence. The Academic Affairs and Student Life Committee report was stricken from the agenda.

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 has finalized its strategic framework plan, “Honoring our Past. Focusing on our Future.” The five-year plan consists of four priorities: student success, institutional growth, collaborative culture, and operational effectiveness. The COTC board unanimously voted to approve the plan during the November meeting. Also, members of the COTC board attended the Ohio Association of Community Colleges’ (OACC) Annual Trustees Conference in October, which was held at Columbus State’s Center for Workforce Development Center. Governor DeWine presented at the conference. Childcare was a major topic of conversation. President Berry hosted a group of Ohio State Newark students in November for a casual conversation on the topic of first-generation students. Lastly, the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society held an induction ceremony earlier in the week for the Alpha Theta Zeta chapter. Phi Theta Kappa is the world’s largest and most prestigious honor society for two-year colleges.

6. Update on Committee Assignments

Todd Ware announced the assignments to the Newark Advisory Board committees. Marcia Downes is assigned to the Student Life Committee, Tara Houdeshell to Enrollment Committee, and Sharad Thakkar to Finance Committee. He thanked all board members for their responses to the call for nominations and thanked the assignees for their willingness to serve. Todd also distributed a document to all board members which outlines the duties and expectations for committees of the Newark Advisory Board.

7. Board Committee Reports

- **Enrollment Committee Report.** Diane Kanney, Director of Enrollment, distributed the Ohio State Newark Autumn 2019 Enrollment Report to board members and provided an overview of the major highlights. The report is included as an attachment herein. Diane reported that Ohio State Newark had 2,943 students enrolled for Autumn 2019, which is the highest in the history of the campus and up 2.1% over last year. The Newark campus has had record-breaking enrollment for six consecutive years. Overall, students at Newark represent 74 of Ohio's 88 counties, 35% are first-generation college students, 1,547 are new first-year students, and campus diversity is 31%. Discussion followed regarding the reasons for students choosing Newark campus including demographics, proximity to Columbus, cost, and the overall Ohio State experience students enjoy at the Newark campus. Some students opt for Newark as their first choice, some are automatically enrolled if they do not make it into Columbus, and some students who are auto-enrolled at other Ohio State regional campuses decide to switch to Newark.

There has been an 83% increase in enrollment at Newark since 1996. The total number of visitors to campus was 1,500 which includes attendance at Buckeye Visit Days, weekly information sessions and personal visits. There has been a 73% increase in visitors during the past 6 years. Buckeye Visit Days attendance was 950 for 2018-2019, which is a 7% increase over last year and 108% since 2012-13. The goal for Buckeye Visit Day attendance next year is 1,000. Visits to campus are a strong predictor of enrollment. Diane encouraged board members to attend events such as Buckeye Visit Days, student receptions and summer camps. In the past, board member Kathy Lloyd has hosted receptions at her business. Marcia Downes suggested partnering with (an)other board member(s) to have a reception at The Works. Discussion followed regarding transportation between the Newark and Columbus campuses for students taking classes at both locations and for faculty and staff who commute. Dean MacDonald added that Smart Columbus is working on a study with Ohio State to learn how much demand there would be for a connection between Newark and Columbus and how to cover the cost. Newark students have also expressed interest in local transportation around Newark, and a Lyft agreement is under consideration.

8. Dean's/Director's Report

- **Alford Center Update.** Dean Bill MacDonald updated board members on the two phases of the project. Splitting the project into two phases, a foundation phase and a construction phase, helped to get ahead of rising construction costs by providing a guaranteed maximum price (GMP) for each. The added benefit is that the construction company cannot escalate the price beyond the GMP if costs go up, but if the bids come in lower Ohio State will receive the savings. Currently the project is on budget and going well.
- **Engineering Technology Program.** The Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology (BSET) program has been approved by the State of Ohio. Several of the board members present attended a town-hall style discussion with leadership from the College of Engineering on November 20th. This provided faculty, staff, members of the manufacturing community and board members the opportunity to better understand the program and ask questions. Among the team of visitors was Katheryn Kelly, Executive Director of the Ohio Manufacturing Institute, who will coordinate the program for all the regional campuses. David Williams, Dean for the College of Engineering, Associate Dean David Tomasko and faculty member Aimee Ulstad also attended, as did Norman Jones, Dean for the Mansfield campus. Members of the manufacturing community responded positively and said that the program meets their needs and is what they want. The other regional campuses will launch the program ahead of Newark because right now Newark does not have the space ready. The program will only be offered at Ohio State's regional campuses, not at the Columbus campus.

- **Key Performance Metrics for Strategic Plan.** Dean MacDonald reminded board members that over the next five years the key performance metrics for Newark's strategic plan are: 1) retention and graduation rates; 2) racial/ethnic disparities in retention and graduation rates; 3) graduating students' debt and satisfaction with overall experience. The update from last month's report is newly received data on the racial/ethnic disparities in retention and graduation rates. Although the rates have improved steadily since 2016, there was a slight decrease in retention and increase in disparities in the 2018 report. Graduation rates increased but a smaller number of underrepresented minorities graduated. There are more students, so the sample size is bigger, but the widening of this gap is an opportunity for improvement. The Strategic Planning Steering Committee met in October and will follow up again in the Spring to check the progress. There was a question about how retention rates are calculated. These data are for retention at Ohio State for students who start at the Newark campus, regardless of whether they remain at Newark or transfer another Ohio State campus. Similarly, graduation rates track those students who start at the Newark campus and complete their degree in four years at Ohio State. The four Ohio State regional campuses have the highest retention and graduation rates for regional campuses in the state.
- **P3 Student Housing Project.** The university is exploring a potential Public/Private Partnership for Student Housing (P3) for additional housing at Newark and new housing at Marion and Lima. Before starting a P3 project for all three campuses, the university will need to conduct a market analysis to determine housing needs. Newark has a 200-student waiting list and Dean MacDonald is confident that the analysis will support the need at this campus. The Office of Planning and Real Estate has selected a company to begin planning the market analysis and it is expected to start in early spring. The university can then make decisions about requesting proposals for a partnership that will involve more housing and address other needs to support on-campus students. For example, Marion does not have dining services on campus, so they would have to address that need in conjunction with housing. Newark has dining services but would need to increase dining capacity to support additional students living on campus.
- **Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence.** The Aspen Institute College Excellence Program has named The Ohio State University at Newark as one of 150 higher education institutions eligible to compete for the prestigious \$1 million Aspen Prize focused on student success. The Aspen Prize highlights institutions with outstanding achievements in four areas: student learning, certificate and degree completion, employment and earnings, and high-levels of access and success for students of color and low-income students. Although Ohio State Newark is not a community college, it is eligible for the award because so many students are earning Associate Degrees. The credit for this goes to Newark's advisors contacting students and promoting the advantages of earning a two-year degree at this campus. The number of Associate Degrees increased from 112 in 2010 to almost 700 in 2011 due to the hard work of the Advising Office. The Aspen Institute looked at that as part of its selection criteria along with the past ten years of graduation and retention data.
- **PACE-Setter Project.** Ohio State's Office of Student Academic Success has invited the Newark Campus to participate in the PACE-Setter project led by the Gardner Institute, which is an organization that studies and supports the effectiveness of institutions of higher education. PACE stands for *Pedagogy, Advising and Curriculum Excellence*, and PACE-Setter is a three-year project designed to improve outcomes associated with teaching, learning, retention, and completion. The program will start during Spring semester.

- ***Restructuring of Public Safety for the Regional Campuses.*** Ohio State Newark’s Public Safety Director, Adam Featherling, is likely to become the Public Safety Supervisor for all the regional campuses. Details of the arrangement are still being finalized, but the proposed plan is for Adam to report through the university’s Office of Public Safety, and Columbus will pay the portion of his salary for the supervisory role. Dean MacDonald also explained to board members that there are now three police officers on campus, one of which is a Campus Resource Officer. Additional help is contracted through local law enforcement, which explains the occasional presence of sheriff’s vehicles are on campus. This is all part of the ongoing plan to increase officer presence on campus and improve the ability to respond. A question was asked about emergency call boxes located on campus, and currently there are none. Dean MacDonald said he would ask about that. Zach Sparks added that student government is planning student survey on the topic of public safety to gather feedback about lighting and other safety-related topics.

9. Other Business

There was no other business that was brought to the attention of the board.

10. Next Board meeting – January 16, 2020 – 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

- ***Board Meeting Dates for 2020 at 9:00 a.m.***
 - January 16, 2020
 - March 19, 2020
 - May 21, 2020
 - June 18, 2020
 - September 17, 2020
 - November 19, 2020

11. Adjournment

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

Respectfully submitted by

Nichole Lenglé

Executive Assistant to the Dean and Director

The Ohio State University at Newark