



**Minutes**  
**Advisory Board Meeting**  
**The Ohio State University at Newark**

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Thursday, June 18, 2020 – 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  
Zoom Meeting

**1. Call to Order**

Board Chair Todd Ware called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.. The meeting was conducted by way of Zoom videoconferencing.

**2. Approval of Minutes of May 21, 2020 Board Meeting**

The minutes of the May 21, 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. COTC had its virtual board retreat in early June for strategic planning and to review academic programs and enrollment. COTC is pleased to have exceeded its goal for summer semester enrollment. On June 10, COTC and Ohio State Newark co-hosted “Conversations with Allies and Advocates,” a virtual meeting for students, faculty and staff hosted by Student Life, Multicultural Affairs, Academic Affairs, and Outreach & Engagement. It was an open dialog to address the recent tragic examples of injustices and abuse of power. Dr. MacDonald and Dr. Berry both participated in the discussion. Dr. MacDonald and Dr. Berry recently presented to the Newark Campus Development Fund (NCDF) to provide an update to its board members. Over \$1M in scholarships is awarded every year to Newark campus students with the help of NCDF and the generosity of the local community. The first confirmed case COVID-19 was reported, and it was fortunate that the student had minimal exposure with only one employee of the college. The student is quarantined and doing well, and the plan for contact tracing was successfully put into action. Dr. Berry sends weekly updates on campus developments related to COVID-19. Rob also noted that the campus was awarded over \$840,000 through the CARES act to help students bridge the financial gap during the pandemic. These funds were used to help 528 students meet unexpected challenges that might have jeopardized the continuity of their education.

## 6. Board Committee Reports

- ***Enrollment Committee Report.*** Tara Houdeshell stated that Diane Kanney and the Enrollment Team invited her and some of her staff, along with others who frequently work with OSU enrollment, to a Zoom focus group meeting to brainstorm how best to conduct a virtual campus visit. Tara thanked Diane for hosting that session and deferred to Diane for the Enrollment Committee report. Diane reported that the Enrollment Team is well prepared for fall enrollment season. They are following the lead of Columbus rather than waiting for specific guidance. Virtual Buckeye Visit dates will be confirmed soon for fall through December, in alignment with what Columbus is doing. Diane reported that, as Tara had mentioned, the team is trying to determine the best ways to reach students virtually through group visits and Buckeye Visit Days. In between Buckeye Visit Days, there will be special events that allow students to join brief, highly focused Zoom meetings that cover one topic at a time such as Learning Communities, financial aid and scholarships, honors, LeFevre Fellowes, and housing. Attendance for virtual orientation has been high, with 96-98% student participation, which is very good and where it should be during this time of the year. Diane is tracking this to compare with previous years. The team is making outbound calls to students every day, resulting in personal contact with approximately 300 students per week to check in and answer questions. Diane shared a video that was done in collaboration with Columbus campus and the other regional campuses which promotes “*Many Campuses. One Ohio State.*” She also shared a welcome video that was created by the Newark admissions team with the help of Marketing and Public Relations. The videos will be used on social media and websites. During the virtual orientations, students have 30 minutes one-on-one time with advisors to help them. Freshman students are also required to take a six-hour Carmen course to prepare for orientation.
- ***Finance Committee Update.*** Prior to the meeting, board members received the financial report for the period ending June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. David Brillhart stated that for Newark, this fiscal year was not impacted by the pandemic as much as the Columbus campus. Enrollment was above target and tuition was above 100%. Revenues are up and expenses are down, and the year will finish within budget. Disaster pay for this year was able to be covered and expenses were reduced in several areas. David referenced the last board meeting report and stated that FY21 will not deviate very much from what was planned at that time. It is expected that higher education will be cut by the state, but those decisions have not been made yet so it is still unknown how much this will impact the Ohio State Newark budget. David complimented Diane and the enrollment team for their efforts to keep enrollment up for autumn.

## 7. Dean's/Director's Report

Dean MacDonald introduced John Hunter, the newly appointed Faculty Assembly Chair for Ohio State Newark. Dr. Hunter said he would provide the report of the Faculty Assembly at a future Advisory Board meeting.

- ***President Kristina Johnson.*** Dean Bill MacDonald reported that The Ohio State University Board of Trustees appointed [Kristina M. Johnson, PhD](#), as the 16th president in university history. Dr. Johnson previously served as chancellor of the State University of New York (SUNY) since 2017 and has more than 30 years of experience as an academic, business and policy leader and has founded several science and technology companies. Dr. Johnson's term begins September 1, 2020 and she will visit the Newark campus at some point in the future.
- ***Student Representative to the Board.*** Bill thanked Zach Sparks for his service to the Advisory Board, this being the last meeting for his term. Lacey Heath has been appointed as the Student Representative for the 2020-2021 term. Lacey is an Early Childhood Education major and is very involved on the Newark campus. She has been an RA, a peer mentor, and has volunteered through the Diversity for Artistry project. She has been a BuckeyeThon team captain and has also been the Community Council President. We look forward to meeting Lacey at the September Advisory Board meeting.
- ***COVID-19 and Resumption of Campus Activities.*** Bill stated that he and COTC President John Berry have charged the Campus Council and others with getting ready to resume campus activities. Guidance is being taken from the CDC, the State of Ohio, and from the university, and a solid plan is coming together. The first three stages for resuming research activities have been approved. Some of the research faculty will be able to return to their labs on June 22. Other faculty and staff will return to campus in phases throughout the summer and into fall. It is expected that some courses will be delivered virtually, some in-person, and some in a hybrid format. Bill did a walkthrough with Stephanie Brown and others to evaluate classroom space and the number of sections that could be offered in-person while encouraging social distancing. This work needs to be done quickly because if adjustments to the course calendar are not made by July 1, students will have to re-register and it will affect their financial aid. Dean MacDonald is awaiting word in the coming days regarding residence halls guidelines. One model requires space to be reserved for quarantine, and another model works with room density to reduce the number of people per room. With either model, there will be fewer students living on campus. There will be changes to dining services as well to enable curbside service. There has also been deliberation over building occupancy and PPE requirements for staff and students. Most staff are currently teleworking. As staff return to buildings, they will be given PPE kits with masks, hand sanitizer, a thermometer and education materials. The athletic department has not made any announcements about sports yet, but early discussions indicate that sports will likely resume with reduced crowd capacity.
- ***Alford Center Update.*** Work on the new building continues, and the project is 40% complete. Kim Manno stated that although they are not actively fundraising, pledges have continued to come in. David Brillhart stated that the project continues to be on budget. Bill stated that one of the reasons the financial reviews are passing so readily is because of donor support and the strength of fundraising. Also, in all the budget models projecting cuts, the annual payment for the \$8.5M internal loan is being safeguarded which supports the financial reviews.

- **Framework 2.0.** Bill reported that the Framework 2.0 project is ongoing. A presentation with updates from the consultants was sent to board members prior to the meeting. He invited board members to give comments after they have a chance to view it. There will be more to report on Framework 2.0 in the fall.
- **Anti-Racism Efforts.** Bill reported that the university's response to racial injustice has taken on great significance. The university and the campus have taken on initiatives for some time to fight racism and racial injustices, but it has not been enough and far more needs to be done. The university recognizes this, so President Drake has appointed a university task force to examine issues related to racism and racial disparities on all Ohio State campuses and adjoining communities. He established a \$1M fund for research on the causes and effects of racism and racial disparities, as well as solutions. The university is having a series of live forums themed "The Role of The Land Grant University in Addressing Racial Injustices." Recorded versions of the webinars are also available. Dr. Berry and Dr. MacDonald are also hosting discussion forums for the Newark campus community, the first of which was "Conversation with Advocates and Allies" and was intended for students but open to all. The approach is to listen with the intent to act.
- **Coffees with the Dean.** Kim Manno had set up "Coffee with the Dean" virtual sessions for friends of the campus, benefactors, and former faculty and staff to stay connected during COVID-19 shutdowns. There have been two meetings so far, with racial injustice being first on the agendas. In those meetings, Bill has been encouraging people to advocate for Newark students and faculty of color, and the response has been very positive. Newark has a very diverse population of students, and the faculty is growing in diversity as well. This diversity plays a very valuable role in contributing to the culture of the community and it is important that the city administration understands and appreciates that. Drs. MacDonald and Berry met with the Mayor of Newark to ask for a Newark campus representative to serve on the search committee for the new Police Chief and to open the search to external as well as internal candidates. Recent updates indicate that these requests are not being considered in the search. Students, particularly students of color, are experiencing fear, anger, and distress. As a community we need to be attentive to that. Bill asked board members for advice on ways to be stronger advocates for racial justice and social justice in our community.

Coffees with the Dean and conversations with students will continue, and board members are invited to engage. The Faculty Assembly has created a new committee on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, and Bill will be meeting with that group soon. Holly Mason added that one of things students are asking for is to see and hear that senior leadership is invested in these topics. They want reassurance that racial injustice is a priority. Board members expressed enthusiastic interest in engaging in whatever ways are appropriate. Holly stated that the university's [Office of Diversity and Inclusion](#) lists many resources on its website, and has dedicated a page for [Focus on Racial Justice](#) with resources specific to this topic. Dr. Drake's webinar series: *The Role of the Land-Grant University in Addressing Racial Tensions* (Parts 1 and 2) can be found on this site, as well as announcements on upcoming events. There is also a [dedicated list of events for the Newark Campus](#). This is a very big priority at the Newark campus, and board members can expect further updates at future board meetings. Bill added that he, as well as faculty and students, have been seeking more diversity in the statuary on the Newark campus, and a committee has been trying for a few years to get funding for a statue of

the civil rights activist, Ella Baker. David Ruderman had submitted a grant proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities but did not receive the funding. Bill is working on other sources and the committee will reconvene in the fall to continue their work. Bill will keep the board updated on this project.

Kathryn Lloyd asked if there is a strategy to engage the university's incoming president to make sure the regional campuses, particularly Newark, have visibility and that President Johnson develops awareness of some of its special features, including its diversity. Bill stated that it is very important for the president to build a connection with the campus' students, faculty, and staff and within the community. The regional deans will be interacting with the Office of Academic Affairs to express the desire to have her visit as soon as possible. Kim Manno added that a ribbon cutting and dedication for the STEM building is being planned for the spring, and Dr. Johnson will be invited to attend.

## 8. Other Business

Kim Manno asked board members to see the [summer 2020 issue of the Ohio State Alumni Magazine](#) for an article about Aaron Westbrook, who started out at Ohio State Newark and will be a junior at Columbus campus in the fall. He is the Founder and CEO of Form5 Prosthetics and has re-engineered his operation to use 3D printing technology for producing PPE.

Todd Ware invited student representative to the board, Zach Sparks, to say a few words before parting. Zach thanked the board for the opportunity to serve, especially during such an interesting time. He will be back on campus in the fall and hopes to work together again in some other capacity sometime in the future.

## 9. Next Board meeting – September 17, 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

## 10. Adjournment

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

### ***Resources:***

List of Newark Campus Multi-Cultural Affairs Events:

<https://newark.osu.edu/students/student-life/multi-cultural-affairs/events-and-registration.html>

Office of Diversity and Inclusion: <https://odi.osu.edu/>

Focus on Racial Justice: <https://odi.osu.edu/focus-on-racial-justice>

*Respectfully submitted by*

*Nichole Lenglé*

*Executive Assistant to the Dean and Director*

*The Ohio State University at Newark*