



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

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Thursday, May 18, 2023 – 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Reese 255

**1. Call to Order**

Board Chair Alexa Robinson-O'Neill 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 March 16, 2023 Board Meeting**

The minutes of the March 16, 2023, 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 on April 12, Licking Heights hosted a workforce and education forum. Representatives shared information about the educational opportunities at COTC, which was very well received. The senior leadership for COTC had a president's cabinet retreat at Licking Memorial, and Rob presented on current needs within the healthcare industry. It was a good discussion. Graduations and pinning took place throughout the month of May. Also, Sandy Walker, COTC's dean of technical studies, is retiring after almost 20 years of service. Sandy will be missed, especially for her contributions to the nursing program. She has been appointed to staff emeritus, which was approved at the April board meeting. Lastly, the COTC board will have their board retreat in June where goals for the coming year will be discussed.

**6. Dean/Director's report**

- ***Seeking an advisory board member to serve on Ella Baker sculpture selection committee.*** Dean/Director Bill MacDonald asked for a member of the advisory board to volunteer to serve on the Ella Baker Sculpture Selection Committee. The history of this endeavor is that faculty and staff were inspired by the campus statuary that Lou and Gibb Reese have helped to create and wanted to add to it. The plan is to commission an artist to do a sculpture of Ella Baker, a well-known figure in the Civil Rights Movement.

Several people at the university have experience with art and with the Civil Rights Movement, but the committee would like to include a board member to represent the community. Please let Bill know if you are interested. Work will begin in August. The volunteer's involvement will begin around October.

- ***Correction to state subsidy (State Share of Instruction, or SSI) distribution.*** Bill delivered the news to board members that a major calculation error has resulted in overpayment of SSI to the Newark campus and must be corrected. The university has been distributing too much of the subsidy allocation that it receives from the state every year to each of the regional campuses. This has been happening since around 2013, but fortunately the repayment plan will not go that far back. Even so, the amount is almost \$3M per year for the Newark campus. As the campus is already looking at budget adjustments due to the enrollment decline, some difficult decisions will need to be made over the summer. The reduction will affect Newark campus this year, so it will not get as much subsidy as the university projected.

David Brillhart presented an explanation of the formula and the projections vs. actual for the next few years. The university will not make a total correction this year or next year. The formula was based on enrollment in years past. Now it is calculated on degree completions. If a Newark student completes with a bachelor's degree in Columbus, Newark receives a share of the completion formula based on the number of credit hours that the student completed here. Another contributing factor is the number of associate degrees earned at Newark, and the advising office has done a great job of directing students to the associate degree even if they plan to go on to earn a bachelor's degree. The finance committee of the Newark Advisory Board will meet in the next few months. Although the budget is not quite where it needs to be, it is still good and going in the right direction considering the SSI error and enrollment decline. There will continue to be adjustments in the coming years. Bill added that the deans of the regional campuses have advocated for a longer payback period. As of now, the university's proposed schedule will stand. Fortunately, cash reserves will help to mitigate the problem and keep the operating budget whole.

- ***Update on Newark leadership.*** Communications were sent out earlier in the month that Dean/Director Bill MacDonald will not seek reappointment at the end of his term in June 2024. There will be a search for a new dean, and the Office of Academic Affairs will want to seek input from the advisory board. Bill's best guess is that this summer either Ryan Schmiesing or the provost will want to meet. Bill said he is not retiring, he will be going back to teaching. He has been dean/director at this campus for 20 years and thinks it will be good to have a change. He plans to return to faculty but still has an interest in academic leadership. He said he will miss working with the advisory board and the community and will also miss working with his leadership team. He hopes that

the energy and focus will carry forward. Bill is excited for the campus' future. Although there will be board meetings and events over the coming year, Alexa wanted to take the opportunity to thank Bill for his leadership.

This being the last board meeting of the academic year, Bill proceeded with the passing of the gavel. He presented Alexa with a commemorative engraved gavel as a "thank you" for serving as board chair this year. Bill also pointed out that this would be Emily Redfern's last board meeting. The student representative to the board is a one-year term. Emily said that she will be at Newark for Autumn 2023 and then going to Columbus in the second semester. She thanked the board for allowing her to participate as student representative. Alexa thanked Emily for being a wonderful contributor to the conversations.

- 7. *New Business.*** Alexa reported on the meeting of the Dining Services Sub-Committee, which met at the Warner Center Table of Contents on May 12. Emily is a nutrition major and served on the committee, and Alexa is also a nutritionist. Other committee members are Bill MacDonald, Jackie Parrill, Dana Munteanu and Stephanie Rowland. The committee met with Lori Garrabrant, the dining services manager, and Aaron Malcolm, the assistant chef and food production specialist at Ohio State Newark. Alexa said that the meeting was very productive. The committee had come up with some ideas that they thought were wonderful, and it turned out that Lori and Aaron had already thought about and started planning many of them. Lori and Aaron have been putting in a great deal of time and rethinking the dining options on campus. They have been working behind the scenes to come up with new innovative ideas, and they are very open to working with the committee to brainstorm even more. They have already covered many areas of concern and continue to work behind the scenes. The dining experience will be streamlined and the options will be expanded. Alexa expressed thanks to the committee members who were present at the board meeting. One of the desired outcomes is to have more people from the community choosing to dine at Newark campus. Bill said that Alexa and Emily had some great ideas on promoting the Table of Contents to faculty and staff but the committee did not talk about the community. There is foot/bicycle traffic due to people using the bike paths so there is no reason not to bring them in to refresh. Alexa thanked the committee for their help.

Alexa mentioned a conversation she had with Diane Kanney regarding the perception of the regional campuses. Part of it is the notion that students go to the regional campuses only because they cannot get into Columbus, and this is not true. Many of our students come to Newark as their first choice, not as a contingency plan. She noted that campuses should be referred to by name whenever possible rather than referring to Columbus as "main campus" and the regional campuses as though they are an afterthought. It is best to refer to the campuses as Columbus, Newark, Lima, Mansfield, Marion and Wooster. It seemed appropriate to mention it at this time because people will be out and about over the summer

and talking to people in the community. The language we use can affect the perception, and it is easy to forget and fall into old patterns.

David Brillhart wanted to publicly thank Lee Heckman for helping to come up with a solution for public use of the baseball field at Rotary Park. Several people from the community voiced their disappointment that the baseball diamond is unused while ballparks in the community are hard to come by. Lee brokered a relationship with the YMCA such that the Y would lease the baseball diamond and manage its use. Lee complimented OSU, COTC, Licking County Foundation and the Y for making it a fairly easy process. Lee thanked Matt Miller for putting him in touch with the right people.

**8. The Next Board meeting is October 19 from 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.**

**2023-2024 upcoming meetings:**

- October 19, 2023
- January 18, 2024
- March 21, 2024
- May 16, 2024
- October 17, 2024

**9. 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*