



Minutes
Advisory Board Meeting
The Ohio State University at Newark

Thursday, January 18, 2024 – 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Reese 255

1. Call to Order

Board Vice Chair Jeff Cox 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 October 19, 2023 Board Meeting

The minutes of the October 19, 2023, board meeting were approved as distributed.

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

4. Public Comments

Alexa Robinson-O'Neill asked to state a Board congratulations for the record regarding Diane Kanney's promotion to Director, Regional Campus Recruitment and Initiatives, to recognize her service to Ohio State Newark and the elevation to her new position. She asked Dean/Director Bill MacDonald if he had anything to add. Bill said that when a new director for enrollment is identified, that person will report to Diane. This is a positive change for Diane and for all the regional campuses. It is especially positive to the Newark campus to have Diane as an advocate at that level.

Jeff Cox commented that board member Katheryn Lloyd received the very prestigious *Dan L. Heinlen Award*. This award is Presented to alumni who have realized outstanding achievements in advancing the university by advocating for its interests with one or more of its important audiences. During her time as a Newark advisory board member, Kathy has demonstrated this by advocating for higher education affordability for students, especially at regional campuses but also OSU as a whole. Kathy said she wanted to thank everyone, and the Newark campus has been so supportive of her from the time she was a student up to, and including, this award.

5. Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) Board Report

Rob Montagnese, Chair of the COTC Board, reported that COTC will start some new programs in the spring and autumn semesters, some of which are specific to healthcare. They are respiratory therapy, RN to BSN, Semiconductor Manufacturing and Engineering Technology, Supply Chain Management, DMS Pediatric Echo, and CDL training. The Unmanned Aircraft Systems program will be starting back up in August. Rob also reported that there have been changes to the Ohio Revised Code which will change how some of COTC's trustees are appointed. Where six of the nine board members positions were previously appointed by a school board caucus, those are now appointed by a Trustee Selection Committee. The committee will consist of members who are local business, civic, or nonprofit leaders. Lastly, Rob reported that COTC's headcount is up 12% in comparison to this time last year (3,234).

6. Unit Reports

There were no unit reports.

7. Update from Academic Affairs

Ryan Schmiesing, Senior Vice Provost for External Engagement, commented on the new role for Diane Kanney. Ryan said that leadership is very excited about that role and the direction student recruitment is going at Ohio State, and the regional campuses. When James Orr was appointed Vice Provost for Strategic Enrollment Management, one of his priorities by the then-provost Melissa Gilliam was to identify new strategies and structures for the regional campuses. Her feeling was that there were missed opportunities to mitigate the decrease in enrollment numbers. It was recognized that there were things being done in Newark that could be applied at other campuses. Recruitment strategies were improved, especially with second-choice students (students who applied to a regional campus as their second choice if they were not accepted at the Columbus campus). There have also been positive trends among first-choice students. Ryan said that if more first-choice students could be yielded and the and second-choice students applicants are increased, enrollment should stabilize across the regional campuses. Ryan recognized that there is a drop in overall high school graduates but feels that OSU can be more competitive in the market. Ryan added that Diane will continue to be actively engaged on the Newark campus and will be accessible across the regional campuses. Although her office is in Columbus, Diane is now part of the larger strategic enrollment team. When she gets acclimated in her new position, Diane would want to be a guest at one of the Newark Advisory Board Meetings to give a broader perspective on enrollment.

Ryan said that the Office of Academic Affairs (OAA) is trying to set up systems across the regional campuses. Ohio State is a single-university, multi-campus system as opposed to being a multi-institution system, which makes it unique. OAA is looking at ways to build efficiencies across the regional campuses in partnership with Columbus offices. Some of those efficiencies are in the Office of Advancement and Public Safety. Much work has been done to build better efficiencies in Human Resources. Much more work is needed but it is on a steadier path than it was for the previous 6-8 months. The question is how to build a system across all campuses to better deliver services. There have been changes in the Business and Finance system at Marion, Mansfield and Lima that do not affect the Newark campus. It is agreed that changing Newark's system would undo the efficiencies that are in place with COTC.

The new university president, Ted Carter, just started January 1 and is making rounds to various places. OAA will visit with the president's office about what his intentions are with regional campuses and more details will come regarding future visits. There is an interim provost due to Melissa Gilliam leaving to be president at Boston University. The vision going forward is the same that Melissa Gilliam and the deans set before she left. A search is underway for a new provost and is expected to move rapidly. With Bill transitioning back to faculty after multiple very successful terms as Dean/Director at the Newark campus, the search is underway for the next dean. This is true at all four regional campuses, which is intentional. The search firm will work with the search committees to review applicants over the next few months, after which campus visits will start to be scheduled. Ryan told board members that they will be hearing from the talent acquisition group to participate in those campus visits. It is yet unknown how many will be brought to campus. The recruitment firm will also seek input from other community members. Ryan stressed that the relationship with COTC is a priority to ensure the person who is appointed has an appreciation for the partnership and collaborative style at Newark. It will be made clear to candidates/finalists that it is an expectation for the dynamics of the relationship to continue. There is continued enthusiasm about enrollment, both on the Columbus campus and the regionals. There is also excitement about being able to hire more faculty and staff. Recruiting, hiring, and retaining faculty and staff continues to be a struggle but is getting better.

Ryan invited questions, and Kathy asked who sets the vision and the tone for decisions that are made at the regional campuses and will they change with the new leadership in Columbus. Ryan said that it is the job of the provost to make those decisions and the path set forward by Melissa Gilliam is expected to continue. Dr. Gilliam was very clear about her philosophy that Ohio State is a single university and there are opportunities to improve the use of resources and assets. For example, the student recruitment philosophy and undergraduate education philosophy on how to best integrate across campuses is expected to continue. President Carter has been briefed on the direction for the regional campuses and has not made any indication that it would change. The priorities that Bill and eventually the new dean identify within the scope of that vision will be considered across campuses with consideration for integrating assets and resources where possible. At the same time, consideration will be given to the uniqueness of each campus where autonomous decisions make the most sense. Kathy asked if there is regional campus representation on the search committee for the new provost. Bill is serving on that committee, and there will also be an opportunity for regional deans and Ryan to meet with the search firm to talk about priorities and opportunities to continue to do better. The president will make the final decision on the provost appointment. Jeff asked if there has been a significant pool of applicants for the dean position. Ryan said that the response was robust at all of the regional campuses but he does not have exact numbers or any information on the quality of the candidates. Ryan will learn more about the candidates when the search firm makes its recommendations.

Ryan said that there is a major project starting in the spring called *Course Scheduling Optimization*. This informs how courses are scheduled, what is offered, when it is offered, and whether classes are on-campus or virtual. The purpose is to build congruency across the four regional campuses. The desired outcome is to make sure students are able to make decisions that keep them moving through the process. We do not want barriers caused by situations where a student needs a specific course and the campus cannot offer it because the

numbers are too low. Using optimization, these courses are combined between campuses in a virtual hybrid, and the course can be offered to keep students moving through their program.

8. Dean/Director's Report

- ***Strategic plan update.*** A direct link to the report on the implementation of Newark's strategic plan was sent to advisory board members prior to the meeting. Bill commended his team because much has been asked of them, and they are again charged with doing another update on all the initiatives that each is sponsoring. The June release will be the last one for this strategic plan and will be the final assessment of all the initiatives which succeeded, were paused, or were canceled. The metrics are final and there will be another set in the fall. The next dean will then begin that whole process. Jackie Parrill has been very helpful in leading the strategic planning.
- ***Visit by Norman Jones, Vice Provost and Dean of Undergraduate Education.*** Norman visited the Newark campus and dedicated a full day. He met with faculty in the morning and had a representative from the Committee on Academic Misconduct give a workshop. Norman spent part of the afternoon with advising staff. Bill said that kind of integration is phenomenal and is consistent with the notion of leveraging of the university's resources that Ryan talked about.
- ***Visit by Dean David Horn, College of Arts & Sciences.*** Dean Horn also recently visited campus and met with Bill and with faculty in the College of Arts & Sciences. It was great for Newark campus to have two such visits within the span of two weeks by individuals who are so committed to the success of the regional campuses. Ryan commented that there is a combined student population of nearly 5,000 students at the regional campuses. Every year, approximately 1,200 move on to Columbus campus, and every year students graduate from the regional campuses. That is a significant number, and they are not separate, they are part of the greater whole. Many departments have substantial numbers of faculty on regional campuses. The acknowledgement that leadership can be a part of the success that Bill has laid out in the strategic plan is very important.
- ***Alumni Council Representative.*** Bill introduced Ginny Grady, Ohio State Newark's Alumni Council representative. Ginny will attend advisory board meetings whenever her schedule permits. She supports connectivity between the advisory board and the alumni advisory council to encourage positive energy and forward thinking and integration.
- ***Videos released by President Ted Carter.*** Bill displayed a video that was released by the office of the university president, Walter "Ted" Carter, who began his term on January 1, 2024. In the video, President Carter introduced himself to the community and outlined his vision and priorities for the university. His top priority is student success and affordability. He also prioritizes campus safety and support for academic freedom and

shared governance. He said he is looking forward to visiting all the campuses, and the Newark campus appeared in the video. He summarized the video by saying: “A common theme throughout my 40 years in higher education and military service is a shared mission to educate and be educated. Mastering the art of teaching and learning is a lifelong pursuit.” President Carter’s bio is available at: <https://president.osu.edu/meet-president-carter>

9. Old Business

Jeff began by commenting that he reviewed the strategic plan and was struck by the completeness of it. It clearly lays out where the plan started, how it went, and where it is going. He also commended each of the departments for pursuing the goals set before them.

- **Reports.** Bill said that he met with board chair Tara Houdeshell the previous week and talked about how the advisory board handles unit reports. She thought it would be a good idea to ask each of the unit directors to give reports when they have updates rather than asking committee chairs to do that. Going forward, a standing agenda item will be “unit reports,” and the appropriate faculty or staff member will provide any departmental updates.
- **Enrollment committee.** Following the comments about reporting, Bill also explained that the bylaws and rules approved by the university’s board of trustees do not require the regional campus advisory board to have committees. To that end, it is fine if the committees are not active or meet ad hoc. However, bearing in mind the departure of Diane Kanney, there will eventually be a need for someone to play the role of enrollment committee chair, which will be vacant when Kathy’s term expires at the end of June, 2024. The ask is for someone to volunteer to chair the enrollment committee of the advisory board.
- **COTC Board Liaison.** Bill and Tara also talked about the liaison between the two boards. Tara asked how it should work and why it is being done. The reason for having one representative from the COTC board and one from the OSU board attend each other’s meetings is that it is a requirement from the state. It does not need to be every meeting. It would be most practical to attend only the meetings where there is something to report, which might just be those that immediately follow an OSU Advisory Board meeting. The ask is for a volunteer to attend COTC meetings. Jeff Cox volunteered to fulfill that obligation with the exception of the February meeting, which he cannot attend. He asked for a volunteer to stand in just for the February meeting.

10. Adjournment

Before adjourning, Jeff thanked Acacia Rhodes, Student Representative to the Board, for attending and asked if she had anything to add from a student perspective. Acacia did not have anything new to report but wanted to remind board members that environmental sustainability is a major student priority. Jeff encouraged Acacia to bring matters of student concern to the next board meeting. Jeff also thanked Ginny Grady for attending. Ginny said that the March 21 meeting of the Newark Advisory Board is well timed with the next overall

gathering of the Alumni Advisory Council at the end of April. She encouraged board members to think about anything they would like to discuss at the March meeting that Ginny could relay to the April session of the Alumni Advisory Council.

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

11. The Next Board meeting is March 21 from 9:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.

2023-2024 upcoming meetings:

- March 21, 2024
- May 16, 2024
- October 17, 2024
- January 16, 2025

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:00 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Nichole Lenglé

Executive Assistant to the Dean and Director

The Ohio State University at Newark