



Minutes
Advisory Board Meeting
The Ohio State University at Newark

Thursday, May 16, 2024 – 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

Reese 255

1. Call to Order

Board Chair Tara Houdeshell was unable to travel to Newark campus and therefore participated virtually. Tara 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 21, 2024 Board Meeting

The minutes of the March 21, 2024, board meeting were approved as distributed.

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as distributed.

4. Public Comments

Jeff Cox was unable to attend the meeting. He provided a written update for public comments, which Tara shared. At the March meeting, Jeff challenged board members, staff, and guests to try to guess the winner of the men's and of the women's NCAA March Madness series. A Rolls by the Pound cinnamon roll would be awarded to anyone who guessed one correctly. If anyone were to guess both, Jeff would bring an entire assortment from Rolls by the Pound to the next meeting. John Davenport guessed both. Since Jeff was unable to attend this May meeting, will bring the treats to the October meeting.

Tara also shared public comments. She thanked the board for the gavel which was delivered to her home prior to the meeting commemorating her service as board chair. Tara reflected on the past year in which she experienced personal losses and as well as some professional and health challenges. She would have preferred that she could have been more involved than she was able and expressed gratitude for the help and support she received. Tara also wanted to publicly address Bill MacDonald and acknowledge him for his impactful leadership which was always characterized by thoughtfulness, sincerity, and kindness. Years ago as a COTC student and in the years since, Tara has been influenced by Bill's quiet nature of leadership. Now, having worked closely over the past few years and especially this last year, Bill's leadership continues to inspire. Tara thanked Bill for quietly impacting her own leadership journey, but more importantly, for all he has done for Ohio State Newark, the Newark campus and the community over the years. It is sincerely appreciated.

5. Central Ohio Technical College (COTC) Board Report

Rob Montagnese, Chair of the COTC Board, reported that three long-term faculty and staff members are retiring: Lisa Smith (Financial Aid Coordinator, 36 years), Sandy Siegriest (Mathematics Professor, 38 years), and Scott Wilson (English and Communications, 44 years). Lisa was awarded Staff Emeritus following her retirement, and Sandy and Scott will be awarded Faculty Emeritus at the May board meeting. On April 24th, the college invited a select group to campus for a preview party, and the COTC Mascot was revealed. TC Catalyst was introduced and is a physical reflection of the college's mission and values. COTC acts as a catalyst, transforming the lives of students, their families, and the communities served. Rob continued that on May 3rd, 300 degrees and certificates were conferred at Spring Commencement, including the first Bachelor of Applied Science in Diagnostic Medical Sonography Technology degrees. This was the inaugural class since the college was approved by the Higher Learning Commission to offer this bachelor's degree. Lastly, The Blue Line Superhero Run, held on May 11th, was sponsored by LMHS, First Federal PNB, and other organizations. The event honored Thomas Cottrell Jr., with proceeds benefiting the Stuff the Backpack fund.

6. Unit Reports

- ***Business and Finance report.*** David Brillhart, senior fiscal officer, discussed the 2024-2025 OSU Budget Book developed in spring and submitted to OSU, which was distributed to board members prior to the meeting. David thanked Todd Ware and Matt Miller for their counsel and support during the recent meeting of the finance committee where the budget was reviewed. David highlighted the challenges and adjustments made over the past year. The budget initially faced a deficit of \$371,000 due to reduced state support, but adjustments were made to bring it back to a flat budget. The state support had decreased by \$952,000 from the previous year, but this was offset by an increase in student fees and tuition, resulting in a gain of \$1.9 million. This increase in revenue allowed for a 3.5% increase in overall revenues, with \$575,000 allocated primarily to compensation. The recalibrated state support has resulted in 26.2% of the overall budget now being derived from state funding. This adjustment aligns more appropriately compared to the 34.1% during the 2022-23 fiscal year.

The fall enrollment figures showed a positive trend, with actual enrollment exceeding projections. The headcount reached 2,422, surpassing the projected 2,126, which contributed to higher tuition revenues. The budget also included a 3% tuition increase for the freshman class, which is locked in for their duration at the institution. This increase is expected to provide a stable revenue stream, aligning with state guidelines.

The budget also addressed compensation, with a 3% increase initially planned, but later adjusted to 3.5% following university salary guidance. This adjustment required an additional \$75,000, which was managed through conservative budgeting. The budget also included provisions for campus maintenance and equipment costs, ensuring the campus remains well-maintained and operational.

The cost share agreement between COTC and OSU was included in the budget book and highlighted as a key component, ensuring transparency and equitable distribution of costs. This agreement has been in place for 22 years and continues to function effectively, with adjustments made based on campus usage. The importance of maintaining reserves for unforeseen circumstances was emphasized.

Lastly, David stated that the enrollment decline has impacted many colleges, including the regional campuses of OSU, which are facing significant budget deficits. However, the Newark campus is in excellent financial shape. This success can be attributed to several factors:

- **Academic Management:** Bill MacDonald has excelled in managing course sections efficiently, maintaining high standards even when other colleges struggle with low enrollment in classes.
- **Conservative Budgeting:** Our campus has avoided high debt by paying off the Alford center and not overstaffing during peak enrollment years. This has provided financial stability during downturns.
- **Community Engagement:** Strong relationships with the local community and effective management have led to significant philanthropic support, which has been crucial for campus development.
- **Cost Share Model with COTC:** This model has provided a competitive advantage, thanks to the collaborative efforts of Dr. McDonald and COTC president John Berry, because those relationships have made the difference for that model.
- **University Rating:** The campus has been rated “green” by the university, indicating the highest level of financial health. This favorable rating facilitates easier approval for new positions and resources.

The leadership and strategic decisions made by Bill and other constituents have significantly contributed to the campus’s success. David concluded his report with a summary of the significant challenges navigated and the achievement of a balanced budget.

- **Update from Alumni Advisory Council.** Ginny Grady, Ohio State Newark’s representative to the Alumni Advisory Council, reported on the spring council meeting held on April 10-11. She expressed her pleasure in meeting everyone and thanked Dr. MacDonald for suggesting her attendance at the board meeting. The Alumni Advisory Council, comprising members from various colleges and departments within the university, including the College of Medicine, Pharmacy, and the Wexner Center, convenes biannually with each session focusing on a central theme. This past spring, the theme was Student Success. During the two-day meeting, the Council emphasized the importance of hard work, intellectual engagement, and fostering a sense of belonging among students. Ginny highlighted several enlightening presentations, including one on Ohio State’s online education strategy led by Dr. Jason Lemon, who has extensive experience from institutions like UC Berkeley and the University of Cincinnati. This initiative is crucial as Ohio had 52,419 outgoing online enrollments in 2022 (students who leave the university), placing Ohio State towards the bottom of the Big 10. Currently, each college within Ohio State operates independently in terms of online

learning, but the future direction is to support the entire campus through shared services. Additionally, Ginny reviewed how financial aid developments have been affecting Ohio State, noting that FAFSA delays hurt students who need it most, impacting regional campuses significantly. She introduced the Buckeye Resource Center (BRC), a new resource opening later this year, designed as a one-stop shop for students to access assistance for sensitive topics like food insecurity and support systems for emotional and physical well-being. The BRC and other resources will be available to both the Columbus campus and regional campuses. Ginny also mentioned a student panel featuring a diverse range of students, including a representative from Ohio State University at Newark, marking the first time a regional campus student participated in such a session. She praised the student's background and contributions. Lastly, Ginny shared insights from a session with President Carter, which coincided with Governor DeWine's State of Ohio address. President Carter emphasized the importance of regional campuses, specifically mentioning OSU Newark positively, highlighting the condition of Newark's facilities, and expressing optimism about future improvements.

7. Dean/Director's Report

Bill introduced Terri Hessler as the new Faculty Assembly Chair, succeeding Feride Tiglay. Terri specializes in special education, focusing on dyslexia research and teaching, and runs a state-funded clinic at the Newark campus. The clinic has been highly successful and well-connected with the community and schools. Neither Terry nor Feride had reports for the meeting but Terri will present in the fall. Bill also noted the retirements of two faculty, Angelica Hrinca-Diaconescu, a senior lecturer, and Nath Rao, the senior-most Tenure-Track faculty member. With Nath's departure, Paul Sanders and Bill are now the senior-most Tenure-Track faculty.

- **Enrollment update.** Bill provided a correction regarding the enrollment figures for the engineering technology program. Initially, it was reported that enrollment had doubled compared to the previous year, but this figure was for all campuses. The actual enrollment is nearly the same as last year, which is still positive since last year's numbers exceeded expectations. Bill also discussed fall enrollment projections, noting that weekly reports indicate a slight increase in new and continuing students. He anticipates a modest rise in enrollment, driven by population growth in Licking and Franklin counties. While long-term projections suggest potential declines in Ohio's student population, Bill believes Central Ohio will remain relatively stable. However, he acknowledged that smaller private schools and regional campuses might face challenges.
- **Hodges Hall update.** Bill reported that Hodges Hall received its partial occupancy certificate earlier in the week. The move-in process would begin Monday and proceed in phases. While some furniture is still being set up, most will be ready by Monday. Minor tasks like ensuring power in all rooms are ongoing. Bill invites everyone to tour the building starting Monday, noting the remarkable transformation that makes it look brand new.
- **Leadership transition.** Bill expects an announcement about the new Dean within the next couple of weeks. The revised start date is August 1st instead of July 1st. Ryan Schmiesing has asked Bill to stay an additional month, and Bill is happy to do so.

- ***Dining services:*** In spring 2023, Bill, Alexa, Emily Redfern, and Jackie met with dining services, leading to several improvements in dining options. However, renovations for the Table of Contents food court are still pending. Bill highlighted the need for assistance with dining services to President Carter during his visit and will include this in his report to Ryan Schmiesing. Despite the delays, Lori and Aaron, the chef and sous chef, have significantly enhanced food options. They share the frustration over the delays in making the Table of Contents more user-friendly, as it currently requires ordering from a kiosk outside. Patrons are not permitted inside the grill area, which is confusing as it appears accessible for browsing but is not set up that way.
- ***Student representative to the board – Ashton Hisle.*** The student representative to the board has been appointed. Ashton Hisle is a junior in the Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology degree program and is a scholar in the OHMS Learning Community (Ohio Means Science).
- ***Rockin’ with the dean – June 15 event.*** Bill announced a celebratory event called “Rocking with the Dean” on June 15th at Union Square Music Hall. The event aims to raise funds for the William McDonald Scholarship and Pelotonia. Bill expressed deep gratitude to the board for their generosity in making the scholarship possible. The Sticks and Stones will perform, and there will be a silent auction and additional performances by friends and family. Bill and Alexa will both perform on stage.

8. Resolutions

Tara announced resolutions to honor outgoing Advisory Board members, starting with Katheryn Lloyd. Tara read an excerpt from the resolution: Katheryn has been a champion for affordable higher education and underprivileged students, particularly in student recruitment and affordability for regional campus students. The Katheryn M. Lloyd Scholarship Fund at Ohio State Newark supports students from family farms or businesses. Katheryn has maintained key relationships, supported the campus, and advocated effectively with the state legislature and local agencies. Her guidance has been invaluable in strategic planning, student life, and safety. Tara expressed deep appreciation for Katheryn’s service. Katheryn was student representative to the Newark board when she was a student. She will be greatly missed on the advisory board.

The second resolution honored Acacia Rhodes, the student representative to the board. Although Acacia was unable to attend the meeting due to her participation in a Study Abroad program in Australia, her contributions over the past year have been invaluable. She has effectively represented the voice of the students, serving as a crucial resource to the board. Acacia also provided the board a written report, which Tara read. Acacia relayed that having been the student representative to the board for the Newark campus has been a very valuable leadership opportunity and experience for her that she has so gratefully been a part of. She also expressed much gratitude for the opportunities provided to her because of the scholarship she received from OSU.

Kim Manno presented Bill MacDonald with a resolution as well, honoring him for his leadership as dean and director over the past 20 years. In summary, the resolution stated that “during his twenty-year tenure as the dean and director, he has loyally overseen all academic, administrative and business processes to ensure a consistent, healthy and ethical culture where all faculty, staff and students can achieve their full potential. He has been an extraordinary, extraordinary advocate of Ohio State, Newark and COTC's unique cost shared partnership. He has demonstrated a strong and unwavering commitment to student success in a multitude of ways.” Bill expressed gratitude for the recognition and hopes to see everyone in the future around campus and in the community.

9. Old Business.

There was no old business to discuss

10. New Business.

A Motion was made and seconded to appoint Marc Lyons to fill the vacancy left by Kathryn. All in favor, the motion was approved.

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

2023-2024 upcoming meetings:

- October 17, 2024
- January 16, 2025

12. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted by

Nichole Lenglé

Executive Assistant to the Dean and Director

The Ohio State University at Newark