

## **The Ohio State University at Newark – Board Meeting Minutes**

**Date:** January 16, 2025

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

**Location:** Reese Center Executive Conference Room 255

**Board Members Present:** Jeff Cox (chair), Marc Lyons, Matt Miller, Medha Deoras-Sutliff, Lee Heckman, Todd Ware, Talya Greathouse, Alexa Robinson-O'Neill, Ashton Hisle (Student Representative)

**Absent:** Tara Houdeshell

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### **1. Call to Order**

**Chair:** Jeff Cox called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

### **2. Approval of Minutes**

**Action:** The board approved the minutes from the October 17, 2024 meeting.

### **3. Approval of Agenda**

**Action:** The agenda for the meeting was approved as presented, with a correction to the next meeting date, confirmed as March 20, 2025.

### **4. Public Comments**

No public comments were made.

### **5. COTC Board Report**

**Presenter:** Rob Montagnese

- COTC launched a new strategic plan titled "Catalysts in Action: Transforming Lives and Building Communities." The strategic plan focuses on aligning technical programs with workforce needs, enhancing student support, fostering partnerships for regional development, and ensuring financial sustainability.
- COTC enrollment increased by 19% compared to last year, with a total of 3,438 students. Full-time enrollment is at 95% of the goal.

### **6. Unit Reports**

**Enrollment:** Wes Grunden

- Enrollment is trending ahead compared to last year.
- New initiatives include texting students through Modern Campus Message and promoting four-year degree programs.
- Efforts to yield admitted students include sending personalized admit letters from department leads, maintaining fresh communication about program highlights, and organizing early welcome events.

**Student Life: John Davenport**

- The Student Life office has undergone restructuring to better align with size and needs of the student population.
- The new structure will create a pathway to more longevity in Student Life positions and help attract talent.
- The new *Student Leadership, Engagement, and Activities* position combines the *Coordinator of Multicultural Affairs* and *Coordinator of Student Activities* positions. This will enrich student life through planning and implementing programs and activities and supporting student organizations.
- The Zen Den student relaxation space and the campus meditation room have been completed and expanded.
- The campus food pantry has been expanded to better serve students facing food insecurity, with increased hours of operation and additional resources.

**Academic Affairs: Stephanie Brown**

- Summer orientation has been reorganized to a half-day schedule and will be held in the newly renovated Hodges Hall.
- Students will receive Ohio State branded t-shirts at orientation and are encouraged to bring them to convocation. They will then have their photos taken in a block O formation during the celebration.
- Faculty involvement in orientation will be increased, allowing students to get to know their faculty better.
- Orientation registration dates have been moved up to April 1st to lock in students sooner and reduce “summer melt.”
- The new orientation process aims to be more efficient and engaging, leveraging technology for course registration and providing a more intimate experience with smaller groups.
- Resources for students and faculty have been enhanced, including expanded library hours, additional tutoring services, and new academic support programs.

**Alumni Advisory Council: Ginny Grady**

- The Alumni Advisory Council met in November and had a chance to hear from President Ted Carter.
- The Framework 3.0 is an update on the planning process to enhance infrastructure and the academic environment, involving faculty, staff, and students. It reflects what the campus could be, looking into the future, and is revisited every five to seven years to ensure it remains applicable.
- Development of active learning spaces is underway to support modern teaching methods and increase student engagement.

- Community engagement initiatives are being implemented to foster partnerships with local businesses and organizations, providing students with real-world learning opportunities.
- President Carter emphasized the importance of regional campuses in providing access to higher education and highlighted their unique contributions to the university's mission.
- Efforts to increase alumni involvement in campus activities and events are ongoing, including organizing networking events, mentorship programs, and fundraising campaigns.

**BS in Engineering Technology: Sandra Soto-Caban**

- Accreditation process for the Engineering Technology program.
- Development of new lab spaces and acquisition of necessary equipment.
- The program currently has 73 students, with 46 in the first cohort and 27 in the second.
- The program is seeking accreditation from the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (ABET) and Engineering Technology Accreditation Commission (ETAC) and expects site visits September – December 2025.
- Target date for accreditation is August 31, 2026.
- The program needs industry collaboration, lab equipment, a lab coordinator, and internship opportunities to support its growth and accreditation efforts.

**Scholarship Fund: Kim Manno**

- Update on scholarship funds and thank you letters from recipients.
- The scholarships support high-performing students, with one recipient pursuing a degree in data analytics and another in teaching.

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

**Presenter: Matt Smith**

- The Newark campus is updating its governance documents, including revising the faculty handbook and updating campus bylaws to ensure alignment with university policies and state regulations.
- Strategic planning updates are underway. A recent fact-gathering survey received over 700 responses.
- The strategic plan will focus on student success, campus growth, and community engagement. Efforts include improved transportation options and on-campus housing facilities.
- The HOMES report highlighted the need for more residence halls, with a recommendation to update the 2020 study and explore new construction methods.

- The university will install a statue honoring Ella Baker, a key figure in the Civil Rights Movement.
- The Newark campus will host an event for tenure-initiating unit chairs from Columbus. This event aims to foster collaboration and share best practices for faculty development and support.

**8. New Business**

**Chair:** Jeff Cox

- Jeff Cox mentioned the recommendation of Olivia Biggs as a new advisory board member. He also asked board members to contact him if they have other suggestions for potential members. This will be discussed at the March meeting.

**9. Next Meeting**

**Date:** March 20, 2025

**Time:** 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

**10. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. by Jeff Cox.

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*Respectfully submitted by*

*Nichole Lenglé*

*Executive Assistant to the Dean and Director*

*The Ohio State University at Newark*