

The Ohio State University at Newark – Board Meeting Minutes

Date: March 20, 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, Todd Ware, Ginny Grady (Newark Representative to the Alumni Advisory Council), Rob Montagnese (COTC Board Chair), Talya Greathouse, Alexa Robinson O'Neill

Absent: Tara Houdeshell, Lee Heckman, Medha Deoras-Sutliff

1. Call to Order

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

- Celebrated Ohio State's recent national championship and shared reflections on resilience and springtime renewal.
- Introduced the board's annual March Madness bracket competition with upgraded prizes.

2. Approval of Minutes

Action: The minutes from the January 16, 2025, meeting were approved as presented.

3. Approval of Agenda

Action: The agenda for the March 20, 2025, meeting was approved without changes.

4. Public Comments

No public comments were made.

5. COTC Board Report

Presenter: Rob Montagnese

- Shared updates on Dr. Barry's successful town hall series across the region.
- Reported on the March 7 Healthcare Expo co-sponsored with COTC:
 - Approximately 500 student registrants from across Ohio.
 - Evening session drew ~75 adult learners considering career changes.
- Career Express held March 11–12 brought 1,200 local high school juniors to campus.
- Emphasized COTC's success in recruiting healthcare workers, especially in radiology and respiratory therapy.
- Highlighted the strong partnership with OSU Newark and the value of collaborative talent pipelines.

6. Unit Reports

Finance: David Brillhart

- Financial report through December 31, 2024 shows a strong position:
 - Instructional subsidy received at 50% for the fiscal year.
 - Funding formula anticipated to remain flat for 2 more years before improving.
- Revenue performing well:
 - Headcount up ~6% from last year, positively impacting student fees.
 - Tuition relief changes for military and veteran students not significantly impacting the budget.
 - Investment income trending upward.
- Expenditures at 46%, consistent with expectations.
- \$1M in funding awarded for the BSET (Bachelor of Science in Engineering Technology) program:
 - Funding secured through JobsOhio following inquiries from central administration.
 - \$300K will offset current operating expenses; \$700K allocated for new equipment.
 - Significant equipment orders underway, including a \$540K piece now fully covered by these funds.
- A board tour of BSET labs is being considered, likely in fall pending construction and installation timelines.

Enrollment – Wes Grunden

- Admitted student numbers significantly up due to both first-choice applicants and Columbus-optioned students.
- Yield of first-choice students has also increased.
- Orientation now begins earlier than in prior years, supporting a more streamlined onboarding process.
- Yield efforts include:
 - Personalized outreach, targeted mailings, and high school visits.
 - Events such as Buckeye Bound (April 18), Buckeye Preview Day, and evening receptions.
 - Swag boxes and appearances from Ohio State mascots to boost excitement.
- Strategic enrollment partnerships are guiding outreach with a new "likelihood to enroll" dashboard.
- Postcard series and customized admit packets distributed to over 2,000 students.

7. Student Representative Report

Presenter: Ashton Hisle (BSET Program Student)

- Shared feedback from the BSET program:
 - Students appreciate ongoing improvements and responsiveness to feedback.
 - Value in hands-on experiences and industry relevance of the curriculum.

- Areas for continued improvement:
 - Enhancing student confidence in instructional expertise and lab preparedness.
 - Clarifying curriculum processes, particularly around new robotics courses.
 - Improving the degree audit interface, especially around math course equivalencies.
- Expressed optimism about the program's direction and student engagement in its development.

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

Presenter: Matt Smith

- Personnel updates:
 - Katie Blocksidge transitioning to the Columbus Health Sciences Library after 14 years on the Newark campus.
 - Ryan Schmiesing departing OSU for a leadership role at the University of Minnesota.
- January 24: Hosted tenure-initiating unit (TIU) chairs from Columbus to strengthen connections.
- Upcoming graduation celebration on April 21; board members encouraged to attend.
- **Strategic Plan Update:**
 - More than 700 responses collected from campus and community stakeholders.
 - Mission: *"The Newark campus furthers the Ohio State University's land grant mission by providing access to higher education, preparing citizen leaders, conducting research, and engaging with its communities."*
 - Vision: *"To be a leader in regional higher education where students are empowered to achieve their academic and professional goals with the combined support of the faculty, staff and community."*
 - **Four focus areas with 16 key initiatives:**
 - **Academic Excellence:**
 - Expand program offerings, support career readiness, increase research opportunities, and refine hiring strategy.
 - **Student Experience:**
 - Enhance housing, advising, student life, and cultural offerings to align with Columbus-campus quality.
 - **Resource Stewardship:**
 - Monitor financial sustainability, optimize facilities, grow development efforts, and expand marketing outreach.
 - **Partnerships & Community Engagement:**
 - Deepen connections with COTC, local organizations, alumni, regional campuses, and industry.
 - Emphasis placed on follow-through, accountability, and regular reporting.
 - Strategic plan will be finalized and shared campus-wide in the fall with a formal launch.

9. **Old Business**

Chair: Jeff Cox

- Olivia Biggs approved as a new Advisory Board member.
- Lee Heckman appointed as Secretary to the Board.

10. **Next Meeting**

Date: May 15, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.

11. **Adjournment**

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

Board Membership Update

- *Note:* Following the March meeting, Medha Deoras-Sutliff submitted her resignation. While this was not addressed during the meeting, the board acknowledges and appreciates Medha's service and contributions.

Respectfully submitted by

Nichole Lenglé

Executive Assistant to the Dean and Director

The Ohio State University at Newark