

Minutes  
28 March 2022  
4:00 PM  
University Faculty Senate  
Shawnee State University

**1. Call to Order**

UFS President Tony Ward called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. This meeting was held via Collaborate.

**2. Roll Taking**

Secretary Sarah Ivers recorded the attendance (as follows):

Adam Miller, Eugene Burns, Thomas Piontek, Georgeann Kamer, Thomas Bunting, Keijing Liu, Ryan Walker, Ruby Gray, Sarah Clausing, Barbara Warnock, Janet Feight, Jon Bedick, Phil Blau, Mikel Stone, and officers (Tony Ward, Erik Larson, James Reneau, Drew Feight, and Sarah Ivers).

Bastien LeCouffe was absent.

**3. Approval of Minutes**

Motion to approve minutes seconded by Georgann Kamer. Approved unanimously.

**4. Approval of Agenda**

Motion to accept the agenda was seconded by Tom Piontek. Approved unanimously.

**5. Announcements and Remarks from the Senate President Tony Ward**

- Elections for UFS will be run and voted on before our next meeting. A second call for nominations was sent out prior to the March meeting. Several positions were up for renewal. Voting will take place during the 11<sup>th</sup> week of the semester.
- Elections will also include a vote regarding Item 11.32 – Changes to Constitution and Bylaws.

**6. Treasurer's Report: Jim Reneau**

No expenses for the year. Motion to second by Thomas Bunting. Passed unanimously.

**7. Administration Reports:**

**Jeff Bauer, President;**

- Pandemic Update: We have dropped our indoor masking requirement as of last week in response to the CDC's recommendation. Scioto County since that time has dropped to the lower risk category. We still have some moderate transmission levels. We will continue to do testing here on campus (random) and if anybody feels at risk, they are encouraged to keep wearing a mask until they feel otherwise.
- Fall Semester Enrollment: Our incoming Freshman class numbers look pretty good right now. At least in terms of admitted students, we are up over 200 students this time and place last year (last year wasn't a very good year though), we are lower than we were the previous year. Housing applications are up about 3 times above where they were last year. First orientation is on April 23<sup>rd</sup>.

- Congratulations to Faculty in the Gaming Program for being ranked number 9.
- Commencement: The Chancellor of Ohio Department of High Education, Randy Gardner, will serve as commencement speaker. Commencement is April 30<sup>th</sup> with plans to have the ceremony outside. A backup plan is scheduled.
- A new Intel Semiconductor Project/Manufacturing plans has started in New Albany. That brings a projected 10,000 jobs to the state. The first phase investment by Intel is 20B dollars, part of that investment will be for Higher Ed to collaborate with Intel for Workforce Development to produce graduates ready to work here. This will impact us because the investment is intended to be spread around the state. Many of these jobs will require two-year degrees.
- State of the State Address: Number three on the Governor’s goals for focus this coming year is Appalachian Ohio and investments in towns and communities within it. There should be some opportunities for partnership with the Portsmouth Community through these efforts.
- Gateway Project: We are waiting on the final drawings on that project. The renovated Hub will open early this summer and we will likely be receiving a quarter million dollars from the state to demolish three buildings on Chillicothe Street to develop some attractive greenspace near campus. The goal of these projects is to connect with the community.

**Sunil Ahuja, Provost**

- Assessment: An assessment report will be released later this month or next month. Marc Scott is leading this work, but it takes a large number of people to complete it. Completion of assessment reports is up from 2019, all five assessment reports have been filed. Marc also submitted the annual institutional update for HLC today.
  - We have 1 Doctorate, 5 Master, 39 Bachelor programs with 25/26 concentrations, 21 Associate, and 10 certificate programs on campus.
  - Getting this information was a small part of the strategic plan.
  - *Was unable to share the information over his screen. Marc Scott provided this table:*

Academic Year	% of Academic Program Assessment Reports Submitted	% of Co-Curricular Program Assessment Reports Submitted	Total % of Assessment Reports Submitted
AY 2019-20	53% (27 reports)	N/A	53%
AY 2020-21	67% (34 reports)	100% (5 reports)	70%

**Other Administrative Updates:**

- Dean Pauley (per Provost Ahuja’s request) provided several updates on the progress related to J1. The J1 team meets every Monday. The following items on the list have been completed:
  - *All items involving advising worksheets, except for some work with creating requirement trees is complete.*
  - *Verification that students were connected with the correct major has been done. There are still some issues with a few programs in Adolescent Young Adult Licensure.*
  - *J1 permissions are being explored to determine if there is a way that faculty can assist students that are not their own advisees.*
  - *Information was shared on dropping/adding and withdrawing from courses.*

- *Special Populations (athletes, honors, CCP students) are now indicated in the system and should have appropriate registration windows available to them.*
- *Pre-requisite issues are still a work in progress. Two other items are planned for intense focus prior to May 3<sup>rd</sup>.*

## **8. Announcements from the Senate Floor**

None

## **9. Committee and Director Reports**

### **Erik Larson (OFC Update) – Report Included:**

OFC Report to UFS on 3/28/2022

OFC had a meeting on March 11, 2022.

I'd like to share the highlights of our past meeting:

We were joined by the following guests at our meeting:

- Randy Gardner, ODHE Chancellor

HB 327 continues to move forward – it is becoming more and more clear that this bill will pass in some form. A resolution was signed by both Ohio Faculty Council and Ohio Faculty Senate speaking out against this bill and future divisive concept legislation – it will be submitted as testimony at the next hearing. Later in our action items today we will be taking a vote on our own resolution supporting: the OFC and OFS resolution, a letter from IUC condemning HB 327, and legislation on divisive concepts more broadly. I hope that you will support that resolution.

We also discussed SB 135 “Regards state institutions of higher education and free speech”, which was introduced almost a year ago. This bill would result in some major shake-ups in Higher Education in the state. The bill has passed the Senate and is now in the House. It will undergo some revisions here before reconciliation with the Senate. There are too many things to discuss here related to this bill, but among some of the larger impacts are: updates to free speech on campuses, providing authority to the Chancellor to close low-enrolled programs, prohibiting priority recruiting efforts out of state, requiring the Chancellor to approve all BS Nursing programs from community colleges, and requiring significantly more reporting. This is a massive bill and worth taking time to look into on your own. It is expected some version of this bill will ultimately pass.

HB 353 the “Testing Your Faith Act” was also discussed, this bill is currently in a house committee. It would allow students to miss up to 3 days an academic year for “reasons of faith or conscience or participate in organized activities conducted under the auspices of a religious denomination, church, or other religious organization.” It would require faculty provide alternative accommodations to make up for missed class / exams. The request would need to be made 14 days before the start of the semester. This bill is still new, so we'll see how it progresses.

Finally, we met with the Chancellor for 45 minutes. He shared the following information with us:

- He wants to expand Ohio's retention of HS students to attend college in Ohio and expand out of state students.
- There will be an announcement soon for \$43M in new state funding for STEM in the Choose Ohio First initiative – a scholarship program for students in in-demand careers.
- The Purple Star Program was announced early in March for colleges and universities. This will help distinguish veteran / military friendly campuses. A list of approved campuses will be announced in May. I hope that SSU has applied for this distinction.
- He is watching and paying close attention to HB 327 and SB 135. He and his office are actively working on revisions to SB 135 – a revised version should be forthcoming soon.
- He expressed great concerns about students being college ready in light of COVID – “learning loss”. There will be an announcement in the coming weeks outlining new ODE and ODHE initiatives to help address this issue.
- Finally, he expressed a desire and need to expand mental health funding to campuses and ensure the gains realized from COVID funding are preserved and expanded.

This concludes my report to UFS on OFC's recent meetings.

## **10. Unfinished Business**

None

## **11. New Business**

- All course and program proposals 11.1 through 11.30 were proposed to be bundled and moved by Tony Ward. Phil Blau motioned to bundle. Approved unanimously. Thomas Bunting motioned to approve the bundled items; this was seconded by Jon Bedick. The approval of the bundle items passed unanimously.
- Item 11.31 – Opposing Critical Race Theory Document. Motion to approve was seconded by Janet Feight and approved unanimously.
- Item 11.32 – Constitution and Bylaws changes (prior to faculty vote). Motion to approve was given by Tom Piontek, seconded by Sarah Clausing. Approved unanimously.

## **12. Adjournment**

Second to Adjourn from Jon Bedick. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned.