

Minutes
29 November 2021
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, Bastien LeCouffe, Eugene Burns, Thomas Piontek, Georgeann Kamer, Thomas Bunting, Sheena Shifko, Keijing Liu, Ryan Walker, Ruby Gray, Sarah Clausing, Barbara Warnock Janet Feight, Jon Bedick, Phil Blau, Mikel Stone, and all officers (Tony Ward, Erik Larson, Drew Feight, James Reneau, and Sarah Ivers).

3. Approval of Minutes

Corrections were submitted and made to the meeting minutes. Motion to approve minutes with corrections was made by Thomas Piontek. The motion was seconded by Jon Bedick. Approved unanimously.

4. Approval of Agenda

A typo was corrected for course number ETCO2201 to 2210 on item (under New Business). Motion to pass the amended agenda was moved by Georgeann Kamer and seconded by Thomas Piontek. Approved unanimously.

5. Announcements and Remarks from the Senate President Tony Ward

This is the last meeting of fall semester. We are returning to normal functions as far as classes go, anything offered online needs to be approved by the distance learning committee. There have been a few issues with courses in CAS, but these are being dealt with on a case by case basis in conjunction with the Union and CAS Dean.

6. Treasurer's Report: Jim Reneau

No expenses for the year. Motion to accept the report was given by Adam Miller, seconded by Georgeann Kamer. Passed unanimously.

7. Administration Reports:

Jeff Bauer, President;

- Status: We're getting near the end of the fall semester now and the end of the calendar year. I can report to you that the institution is slowly moving toward normality, classes will be getting closer and closer to being offered the way they have been prior to the pandemic. Might be possible to see some relaxing of restrictions in the spring semester, however this depends on local and regional levels of covid cases. Expect to see an uptick in cases with the new Omicron variant, but at present we continue to be in single digits in new cases up to last week. There

were a larger number of students checking in because they had symptoms they were concerned about post-Thanksgiving break. We've had good news here on campus regarding the number of positive cases likely related to adherence to indoor masking and vaccinations. Currently over 70% of our faculty and staff are vaccinated, approximately 60% of our residential students are.

- Recruitment: Of students for Fall 2022 continues. We are getting near the end of the early recruitment timeline. Our applications and admissions are up over last year, but still lagging a little bit behind the previous year. We're currently waiting on final enrollment numbers for spring 2022 as students continue to register for classes. It appears that our spring numbers will mirror our fall numbers, being down possibly as much as 10% over the previous spring. Success Center Advisors are working overtime contacting students to bring back as many as possible. I know that admission staff are helping to place and recruit additional new students that can begin in the spring. I also know that faculty are doing their part in ensuring the best result possible.
- Enrollment: I think we'll likely have another enrollment number for spring that does not meet our strategic goals. We are following national trends, which show higher education attendance is down 8% overall since 2019. This is much higher for higher for community colleges and open enrollment institutions like ours. Large and elite public and private institutions are not seeing the same type of declines but instead are flourishing. Our continued investment in marketing and admissions is absolutely essential as we try to move the needle back to a positive direction. I fully expect that enrollment will begin to move back to an upward trajectory next fall. However, as the last 20 months have taught us, nothing is certain and we have to be able to change direction quickly if necessary.
- Strategic Plan: We're coming up to our first 6-month review. I will be asking all of the working committees and constituencies on campus to help us review and evaluate progress of the plan, and as necessary, identify new emerging opportunities - especially those in academic programming.
- Updates:
 - We are in the process of hiring a new vice president of Finance and Administration. I want to thank the search committee including some faculty members who served in that capacity, they have completed a lot of hard work quickly in order to expedite the search process. I'm hopeful that we'll be able to finish that process before the end of the calendar year.
 - We held kickoff meeting recently for our Gateway project. If this is successful, the goal is to work with community to develop an arts and innovation district to the west and north of campus.
 - We're developing a campaign to seek funding for a science building.
 - Dr. James Chapman will speak at commencement on December 11th.
 - The Innovation Hub on Chillicothe Street is still undergoing a multimillion-dollar renovation. It should be finished in by late Spring 2022. That renovation was entirely funded through an EDA Grant, as well as, local capital dollars.
 - A senior leadership group participated in an assessment for intercultural development that measures intercultural competence and helps individuals and groups understand some cultural differences and commonalities. We just recently reviewed our group performance few weeks ago. The 30 or so participants will receive a tailored development plan designed to build individual as well as organizational cultural competence. If we find this program to be successful it can be scaled up. This is part of strategic plan part seven.

- Last week we welcomed Noel Payne as assistant director in the Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. She is a Human Resources Professional and will be responsible for implementing hiring guidelines, and planning and organizing diversity initiatives, to help us be more a diverse and inclusive environment. Noel holds an MBA from Georgia Southwestern and a bachelor's degree from Ohio University.
- Tony Ward asked about restrictions for the coming semester. Jeff responded:
 - Right now, we are we're going to probably employ the same strategy that we have for Thanksgiving Break. We're going to ask students to test or be tested here when they come back to campus. Work on encouraging vaccinations. I expect that indoor masking will still be in place. I've asked the health committee to establish thresholds that we might consider. We will always allow people to voluntarily mask, even if restrictions change.

Sunil Ahuja, Provost

- Commencement: Just a week from this meeting. I believe we have somewhere between 100 – 200 students walking. I encourage faculty to attend this event. We will ensure all safety precautions since this is going to be inside.
- I want to thank all faculty who have been involved in the J1 software implementation and glitch identifications. A lot of issues to remain obviously. Cannot confirm that all J1 issues will be gone for Spring 2022 semester.

Marc Scott, Accreditation Update and HLC Assessment Academy

- Accreditation: We are on a 10-year accreditation cycle and the mid cycle review check-in will take place March 13 – 14th 2023 (four-year point). We were last reaffirmed in 2018-2019, so this is our four-year feedback check in. Our next big reaffirmed event will take place 2028 – 2029. We are collecting data now, meeting with focus groups, and will be working on a draft of an assurance draft. You will hear more about this assurance draft in the coming months.
- HLC Assessment Academy and GEP Assessment: The Assessment Academy is a four-year project where we get to select a topic to focus on and we can use this focus topic to get specific feedback from individuals approved by the commission that know a lot about assessment. We are able to attend events related to our selected topic, which is GEP Assessment. We need to focus and show progress on: Academic Program Assessment, Cocurricular Assessment, and GEP Assessment, at our feedback check in in 2023. GEP Assessment is our hardest area to address, we have put together a team of people to work on this including: Marc Scott, Mike Barnhart, Thomas Bunting, Erik Larson, Dean Pauley, and Adair Carrol. Some draft language has been shared with GEAC. It should go through for a vote in early Spring Semester.
 - The focus has changed to specifically on each of the five clusters of GEP categories, one at a time, over the next five years (there are 11 categories within the clusters). In the fall, we will put together a revision of the learning outcomes for the categories within one cluster and to put together a plan for assessing those outcomes. In the Spring, we will implement the assessment plan.
 - There will be a report to GEAC about using assessment to make changes to curriculum as necessary. We need to do more with the data than just to collect it. Please reach out to GEAC members for questions. We are beginning with the Natural World Inquiry Cluster and a lot of legwork has already been done. Erik Larson is heading this up.

8. Announcements from the Senate Floor

None

9. Committee and Director Reports

Erik Larson (OFC Update):

° OFC Meeting on November 12th :

- OFC Technology Commercialization Award Winner was presented to Dr. Nimjee for his medical advancements in treating stroke victims. He has developed a drug that can be used 24 hours after the stroke occurs (current medicines are only effective 3 hours post occurrence). The FDA is conducting clinical trials for the medication now. The lab has also developed an antidote that could be used to reverse the effects of the drug should a surgery need to occur within the window of medicinal activity.
- The Lieutenant Governor, Senior Vice Chancellor of ODHE (Mike Duffy), and Assistant VP of Federal Regulations at OSU (Bill Couch) were present. Bill Couch provided a little bit of information to us about the future of federal regulations as related to Higher Ed mostly focusing on the new bill. This legislation passed the house a week or two ago and is now in the Senate. He pulled out major things related to Higher Ed in the bill and these include: Pell Grant maximum increases, repeals taxability of Pell Grants, dreamers are now eligible for Title 4 Support, there will be five hundred million dollars for competitive grants for institutions for retention and completion and major investments in basic and applied research at NSF, NOAA, and so on. There is some wording to remove Pell Eligibility from for-profit institutions, which would be good for us. The Bill hasn't passed the Senate and may be kicked back to the House for more discussion. Updates will be likely early in 2022. He also talked about student loan forgiveness. He expects to see the trend of loan forgiveness continue and maybe some blanket loan forgiveness in the future of Biden's term. He also noted that the House is currently interested in looking at a transcript holds that have outstanding fees. The House wants to know how these impacts students in Ohio and ODE was unable to provide an answer to this.
- Some members of OFC were discussing the possibility of passing a resolution regarding faculty not supporting the withholding of transcripts based on outstanding fees.
- House Bill 327 (Critical Race Theory Bill) – it's still hanging out in committee with no movement on it. OFC is working with the Ohio Faculty Senate (Community Colleges) putting together a resolution that both bodies will sign basically expressing displeasure in the Bill. Some individual institutions and their Faculty Senate are also doing the same.
- Bowling Green is continuing program closure process. Youngstown State closed 20 programs and released 9 faculty, so things are happening in Higher Ed across the state.
- Section 927 the Ohio Revised Code was modified to change the way in which Faculty and Student membership in organizations is handled and paid for.

10. Unfinished Business

None

11. New Business

All course and program proposals A through CC were proposed to be bundled. Jon Bedick motioned to bundle. Thomas Bunting seconded the motion for bundling and it was approved unanimously. Janet Feight motioned to approved the bundled items, this was seconded by Phil Blau. The approval of the bundle items passed unanimously.

12. Adjournment

Second to Adjourn from Thomas Bunting. All were in favor. Meeting was adjourned.