

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**December 1, 2023, 10:30 a.m.
Kricker Innovation Hub, Room 302
221 Chillicothe Street, Portsmouth, Ohio**

Agenda

1.0 Call to order

2.0 Roll call

3.0 Information Items

3.1 Academic and Student Affairs Executive Report

Dr. Sunil Ahuja, Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, will report on recent activities in Academic and Student Affairs.

3.2 College Realignment

Dr. Ahuja will report on development of the College of Health and Human Services and the College of Business and Engineering.

3.3 OPM Analysis and Recommendations

Dr. Ahuja and Dr. Jennifer Pauley, Associate Provost, will report on the SSU Online Program Manager (OPM) Agreement.

3.4 New Grants Organization Framework

Ms. Elizabeth Blevins, Chief of Staff, will report on the new grants organization framework.

3.5 College Rankings

Ms. Blevins will report college rankings.

3.6 Commencement

Dr. Ahuja will report on the upcoming Fall commencement.

**Academic and Student Affairs Report
Board of Trustees Meeting
December 1, 2023**

I am pleased to present the following Academic and Student Affairs Report to the Academic and Student Affairs Committee of the Board of Trustees and to the Board.

Provost Report

- I will highlight several items as part of my report. We are proposing to establish the College of Health and Human Services and the College of Business and Engineering, and I will discuss that further under Item 3.2.
- Associate Provost Jennifer Pauley and I will discuss SSU's OPM status and future options under Item 3.3.
- I want to recognize Professors Larry Miller, Nancy Bentley, Sarah Boehle, and Isabel Graziani who will be retiring from the university at the end of the semester.
- The highlights of recent activities in Academic and Students Affairs are noted below.

College of Arts and Sciences

- The College has **launched a podcast called 'Connecting Classrooms'** that seeks to strengthen connections between our campus and regional high school teachers and students. The initial episode features Dr. Andrew Feight highlighting local history related to the Underground Railroad. The podcast can be found on major podcast services such as Apple, Google, and Spotify and on the web at <https://www.shawnee.edu/connecting>. On the website, listeners can find additional resources and lesson plans suitable for high school classrooms. The second episode has been recorded and features Dr. Tim Hamilton discussing the scientific discoveries made during the first year of the James Webb Space Telescope. Four additional episodes are planned during the remainder of the academic year.
- The College is set to launch an Arts & Sciences-centered multi-platform social media marketing campaign the week of November 13th. Members of the SSU Marketing and Communications Team (**Jeremy Reed and MBA graduate assistant Shaelyn Vassar**), the CAS Recruitment Committee (**Drs. Andy Napper, Christy Zempter, Michael Barnhart, and John Whitaker**), and the Dean have collaborated on this project with an external marketing firm, Study College. To provide an updated landing page for prospective students targeted by the campaign, the project has also involved a redesign of the College of Arts and Sciences landing page. **The Dean extends praise and thanks to all those involved on the SSU side of the project for their time, thought, talents, and efforts.** The College has also revived the [Shawnee State University College of Arts & Sciences Facebook](#) page to highlight current students, faculty, alumni achievements and campus events. We invite you to follow the page to see updates from the College.

Department of Fine, Digital, and Performing Arts

- Graphic Design **Professor Matt Cram** is among a group of designers that recently launched [Footer](#), which curates some of the best-designed website footers from around the world. Their venture was recently [profiled](#) in Fast Company.
- The work of **Bastien Lecouffe Deharme, Associate Professor in Studio Arts/Illustration**, is featured in *Beautiful Bizarre* Issue 42 (September 2023). This quarterly magazine of contemporary art showcases the work of the best emerging and mid-career artists from around the world. Reproductions of seven pieces are featured as full-page images in the Look Book section of the [publication](#).
- The **SSU Musical Theater** program recently presented *Trafford Tanzi* as their first production of the 2023-2024 academic year.
- The **SSU Game Conference** was held on campus November 3-4. Student and faculty work was presented at the annual academic conference that brings high school students, college students, faculty, and leaders in the gaming industry together to learn and exchange ideas. This also serves as an opportunity for our BFA Game Simulation Development Arts majors to network with prospective employers as they prepare to enter the industry.

Department of Mathematics

- **Professor Emeritus Jinlu Li** recently presented his research at the International Conference on Variational Analysis and Optimization with Application at Aligarh Muslim University in Aligarh, India. Dr. Li presented research on “Directional Differentiability of the Metric Projection Operation in Uniformly Convex and Uniformly Smooth Banach Spaces.”
- The **MS Mathematics** continues to be listed in the Premium Schools “Top 14 Best Online Master’s in Mathematics Programs.” <https://www.premiumschools.org/best-online-masters-mathematics/#shawnee-state-university>. Our listing moved from position 12 to position 10 on the list this year. The methods used to generate this list focus on factors important to Shawnee State’s mission including graduate instruction that is rigorous yet flexible accommodating work and family commitments, allows both part-time and full-time enrollment, has scholarly faculty, and offers both assistantships and payment plans to program students.

Department of Natural Sciences

- On November 9th, the Department of Natural Sciences remembered their colleague **Dr. Jon Bedick** through dedication of a tree on the SSU campus. The *Liriodendrom tulipifera* (tulip tree) is located in the green space between the Clark Memorial Library and the Vern Riffe Center for the Arts. A plaque with the following inscription was placed by the tree. “This tulip tree – *Liriodendrom tulipifera* – is dedicated in memory of Dr. Jon Bedick for his 18 years of service as Professor of Biology in the Department of Natural Sciences.”

- **Dr. Tim Hamilton**, Professor of Physics and Director of the Clark Planetarium, provided expert insight on a complex galaxy cluster and the search for dark matter in an [article](#) featured in *Scientific American*.
- **Dr. Erik Larson** was honored by the Shawnee State Upward Bound Math Science students as the Upward Bound Math Science Instructor of the Year.
- **Dr. Erik Larson and Dr. Kurt Shoemaker** recently attended the Geological Society of America Annual Meeting in Pittsburgh, PA. Dr. Larson and his collaborators presented the following reports at the meeting:
 - Kelly, A., Romero, P., McLaughlin, K., Thomas, M., Larson, E.B. & Testa, M.P., 2023, Testing the accuracy of Polycam 3D scanning software on LiDAR and optical photogrammetry devices in field research. Geological Society of America *Abstracts with Programs*, vol. 55, no. 6.
 - McLaughlin, K., Romero, P., Kelly, A., Larson, E.B. & Testa, M.P., 2023, Distribution of detrital sediment captured in McKay Bay knoll reef, Upper Peninsula, Michigan. Geological Society of America *Abstracts with Programs*, vol. 55, no. 6.
 - Mero, E., Connor, L., McLaughlin, K., Larson, E.B. & Testa, M.P., 2023, Biostratigraphic analysis of Tabulate and Rugosa coral found in a McKay Bay member knoll reef Upper Peninsula, Michigan. Geological Society of America *Abstracts with Programs*, vol. 55, no. 6.
- **Dr. Larson** also recently submitted the following article that is under review for publication:
 - Assour, H, Renne, I., Larson, E.B., Diggins, T.P., Carson, W.P. *in review*, Steep slopes and cliff edges are browsing refugia for woody species within the Eastern Deciduous Forest Biome. Biological Conservation.
- The following alum and students have been accepted into professional schools:
 - **Slater Bakenhaster** (BS Chemistry '23) - Ohio University, Masters of Chemistry Program.
 - **Evelynn Phillips** (BS Biology, Biomedical Sciences) – Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine.
 - **Paetyn Collins** (BS Biology, Biomedical Sciences) – Marietta College Physician Assistant Program.
 - **Adam Cordle** (BS Biology, Biomedical Sciences) – Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine.
 - **Randy Patrick** (BS Biology, Biomedical Sciences) – Ohio University Heritage College of Osteopathic Medicine.

Department of Social Sciences

- On October 16th, SSU **BA Sociology major Jodie Kouns'** work with the Ohio River Way was featured on WSAZ. Portsmouth Mayor and **Professor of Sociology Sean Dunne** shared the importance of the Ohio River to our community. We are always proud to see our students putting their passion into action!
<https://www.wsaz.com/2023/10/16/ohio-river-way-applies-national-water-trails-system-designation/?fbclid=IwAR2upoSIQJZy0EBDrwatWbZE0lwqmB0AuGernQ2wXyKZYB3XhjWjpzJzVOA>

- On October 17th, **Dr. Andrew Feight** and students from SSU were invited to the regular meeting of the Scioto County Bar Association. As the invited speaker, Dr. Feight delivered a talk entitled, “James Ashley Slept Here: Portsmouth, Ohio’s Connection to the Thirteenth Amendment.” It was here in Portsmouth where a young Ashley studied the law and began his legal career and one can argue began to formulate his understanding of the U.S. Constitution. The meeting was held at Patties & Pints, the location of the Huston’s Corner where Ashley once resided.

Center for Public History

- **The Center for Public History and Dr. Andrew Feight** hosted the Appalachian Studies in the Digital Age Symposium on campus September 21-23 with the theme of Documenting Portsmouth Ohio. The session attendance was 273 participants. The symposium celebrated the city's rich and diverse past and its historic landmarks through a variety of sessions, including opening and closing keynote lectures, podcasting and writing workshops, an Emancipation Day Celebration, panel discussions, a bilingual podcast launch, a documentary screening, and a walking tour of Underground Railroad sites in downtown Portsmouth. The walking tour portion of the event brought a larger than expected crowd of ~50 people to the Center and the sites on the tour.
- On **November 16 at 5:40 p.m.**, as part of the [Ross County Historical Society Fall lecture](#) series, Dr. Feight will present “New Light on the Underground Railroad in the Appalachian Foothills of Ohio,” a presentation by Dr. Andrew Feight, will discuss the latest research discoveries of the Appalachian Freedom Initiative (AFI), an ARC POWER grant project that is marking 27 historical sites in the Tristate Region of Ohio, Kentucky, and West Virginia. The AFI project has fully launched and the work of Dr. Feight, Dr. Cicero Fain (Marshall University), and 9 regional outreach specialists hired for the project is underway. The Center has started profiling these individuals on their [Facebook page](#).
- On **Tuesday December 12, 2023** at the Statehouse Atrium in Columbus, Dr. Feight will be one of eight honorees at the 12th annual Appalachian Heritage Luncheon co-sponsored by Heritage Ohio and Ohio Hill Country Heritage Area. The luncheon recognizes the heritage contributions of the people, businesses, and organizations that are making a cultural impact on the region which benefit the entire state of Ohio. The Center’s [Scioto Historical Project](#) has won Heritage Ohio’s 2023 Appalachia Heritage Success Story Award. Dr. Feight will be introduced by either Senator Terry Johnson or Representative Justin Pizzoli and allowed 3-minutes to share the passion that drives the project and its investment in the heritage of Appalachia. The program will be broadcast live by OGTV, The Ohio Channel. Tickets to the event can be purchased [here](#).

College of Professional Studies

Department of Allied Health Sciences

- AHS faculty and students hosted 180 high school students for Health Sciences day November 17, 2023.

- The Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) awarded \$849,909.90 in Choose Ohio First (COF) scholarship funding. Scholarships are available to new students in SSU STEM programs. Thanks to Ms. Sheena Shifko, COF Coordinator, for her work with this program.
- The Master of Public Health graduate program proposal has been approved by the Graduate Council. Dr. Alice Stephens and Ms. Mariah Woodward are leading the efforts for this program development.

C. H. Lute School of Business

- The IACBE accreditation process is nearing completion, with a required Response letter sent November 3, 2023, following the site visit and receipt of the Report of Finding letter. The Board of Commissioners meets in December to act on accreditation for five SSU business programs.
- JR Lumsden, management major from Toledo, Ohio, has been selected for the Ohio Export internship, a selective program that combines an export-focused course with a 12-week paid summer internship at a small to medium-size Ohio company.
- Twenty students are currently enrolled in the MBA program. Approval to accept international students has been received from the Student and Exchange Visitor Program, Department of Homeland Security.

School of Education

- In November, 29 students in the Middle Childhood and Adolescent to Young Adult (AYA) licensure programs attended the Ohio Middle Level Association's Annual Conference in Sandusky, Ohio.
- Two new grants addressing adolescent literacy instruction and the primary intervention curriculum have been awarded to the School by the Ohio Deans Compact. Thanks to Drs. Beam, Cassidy, and Moohr for obtaining these grants.
- The Literacy LEAPS grant funded program is serving 92 K-4th grade students at Stanton Primary Elementary and Portsmouth West schools. A team of 27 SSU students provide weekly tutoring.

Department of Engineering Technologies

- The highly successful Shawnee Gaming Conference (SGC) welcomed 600 industry leaders, professionals, and students for the two-day conference November 3-4, 2023, where all participated in workshops, game exhibitions, and gaming tournaments.
- On October 20, 2023, the Information Security program and the Kricker Innovation Hub hosted a successful "Capture the Flag" event, an interactive cybersecurity competition used to test and develop computer security skills.
- Associate Professor Adam Miller authored and submitted a SuperRAPIDS grant for \$502k worth of robotics and automation educational equipment.

School of Nursing

- The ADN and BSN programs received the maximum accreditation of 8 years from the Accreditation Council in Nursing Education (ACEN). Assistant Professor Ruby Gray, MSN, RN is now an ACEN Site Reviewer.
- The MSN graduate program with Nursing Education and Nursing Leadership tracks was presented to Chancellor's Council on Graduate Studies (CCGS) November 17, 2023, and pending all approvals, the program will begin in Fall 2024.
- Searches are ongoing for the School of Nursing director and one faculty member.

Department of Rehabilitation Sciences

- A Bachelor of Social Work (BSW) degree is being developed with funding support from an Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) INSPIRE Grant. Pre-Social Work students will be accepted in 2025. The search for the BSW program director is underway.
- The MOT program has submitted plans to the Accreditation Council for Occupational Therapy Education for the conversion of the curriculum to a hybrid delivery model. Graduate Council approved this change.
- The post-professional occupational therapy doctoral (PP-OTD) program will graduate seven students on December 9, 2023.

Center for International Programs and Study Abroad

- MBA I-17 application was recently approved. We have over 20 pending international grad applications for the MBA program.
- On September 21, 2023, Shawnee State hosted the Ohio International Consortium board meeting. Eleven state schools attended in-person.
- SSU's IIITD 2+2 MOU is now complete, pending final approval from IIITD for CET and Gaming programs.
- Faculty-Led study abroad programs for 2023-2024 include the following: December 2023 program to Peru led by Dr. Pablo Salinas and 4-week June 2024 Greece program led by Dr. Thomas Bunting.

Clark Memorial Library

- Planning is underway for the next Books Build Bridges program. The 2024 Books Build Bridges program will feature children's book illustrator Richard Cowdrey. Mr. Cowdrey (<https://www.richardcowdrey.com/>) is known for his illustrations of Fiona – the internet sensation from the Cincinnati Zoo. The program will be held April 17th & 18th at the Vern Riffe Center for the Arts. All participating students will participate in a guided illustration with Mr. Cowdrey, and in addition will receive a free copy of his book, Fiona the Hippo. Organizers are expecting nearly 700 students to participate over two days. Books Build Bridges is sponsored by Fluor BWXT, Portsmouth LLC, Ohio Arts Council, Rotary Club of Portsmouth, Scioto County Public Library, Scioto Foundation, South Central Ohio ESC & Shawnee State University.

- The CML by the numbers: The library has had 25,595 visitors since move in; and an additional 2,838 students have visited the Bear Cave this semester. Librarians have done 35 instruction sessions and completed 74 research consultations. The library is planning to be open extra hours for finals week and will have free coffee.
- Applications are currently being accepted for a new part-time Library Specialist – Access Services. This position, when filled, will allow the library to extend open hours from 7:00 pm until 11:00 pm, Sunday through Thursday. We hope to have the position filled by the end of Fall semester.

Respectfully submitted,

Sunil Ahuja, Ph.D.

Provost and Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs