

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

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September 24, 2015 -- 8:30 a.m.

The John Gilbert Reese Center, Executive Conference Room (Room 255)

**1. Call to Order**

Board Chair, Christopher Meyer, called the meeting to order at 8:30 a.m. in the Executive Conference Room of The John Gilbert Reese Center.

**2. Approval of June 18, 2015, Board Meeting Minutes**

The minutes of the June 18, 2015, Board meeting were approved as distributed.

**3. Approval of the Agenda**

The meeting agenda was approved as distributed.

**4. Public Comments**

Christopher Meyer, Board Chair, invited public comments. No public comments were presented.

**5. Introduction of Guests**

Christopher Meyer, Board Chair, welcomed Krysten Chadwick, new student representative to the Board; Jennifer Cowley, Vice Provost, Office of Academic Affairs, The Ohio State University; and Amy Burgess, Office of Capital Planning, The Ohio State University.

**6. Board Committee Reports**

- *Academic Affairs and Student Life Committee.* Holly Mason, Director of Student Life, provided an overview of the highlights of student activities and programs during Welcome Week, the first week of the fall 2015 semester. Approximately 1,300 students participated in Welcome Week events which included the Titan Fair that provided opportunities for students to become engaged in campus activities as well as community service opportunities in Newark and the region. The Titan Fair provided information related to student organizations, campus offices, and local businesses. She also noted that the Newark campus (both Ohio State Newark and COTC) is reviewing a proposal to establish a multi-faith meditation and prayer room and that focus groups are currently being conducted with students. The Office of Student Life is also focusing on developing resources and support services for students related

to food insecurity, homelessness, and the needs and concerns of students who have “aged out” of foster care.

- **Enrollment Committee.** Diane Kanney, Director of Enrollment, reported that enrollment for the fall 2015 semester has increased, even though our applications were down by 5 percent. She noted that the enrollment increase is due to our ability to retain students and reported that our enrollment for fall 2015 is 2,476 students which is a 3.3 percent increase over last year. She also noted that this is the highest increase this fall for any of the regional campuses of Ohio State. She also reported on several new initiatives of the Office of Admissions, including:
  - The Admissions Office has established a peer-to-peer calling program for prospective students who have applied to Ohio State Newark that encourages students to enroll and attend. This helps with the yield of accepted students.
  - The Admissions Office has undergone a reorganization which allows staff in the Office to have more contact with prospective students. The Admissions Office staff are now doubling the number of students that they are calling for spring 2016 enrollment.
  - There has also been an improvement in how scholarship dollars are distributed this year. Instead of allocating \$4,000 scholarships to students, we provided more \$2,000 scholarships and thus were able to impact more students.
  - The Admissions Office has also set up High School Counselor Advisory Boards in each of the top five counties from which we enroll the majority of our students (Licking, Franklin, Knox, Fairfield and Delaware). It was noted that Licking is the top county for our student enrollment, although Franklin County is in close competition for the number of students we enroll. It was noted that we also enrolled 63 students from other Ohio counties, including Medina, Muskingum, Perry and Warren.

## 7. COTC Board Report

John Hinderer, Chair of the Board of the Central Ohio Technical College, reported that the July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015, Independence Day celebration on the Newark campus was a huge success, with approximately 10,000 people in attendance and with the event live-streamed to Mr. and Mrs. Reese in Florida so that they could join in the festivities. He also reported that COTC’s enrollment for fall 2015 is 3,531 students which is 95 percent of the enrollment target for this semester. He also reported that COTC held its annual Italian Immersion Program this summer, with 15 students from Italy and 3 chaperones who visited the COTC campus and toured parts of Ohio as part of the Immersion Program. Last year, COTC sent 15 of its students to Italy as part of this highly successful program.

## 8. Chair of Faculty Assembly Report

Dr. David Yau, Chair of Faculty Assembly, reported that a Faculty Forum was held during the spring semester of 2015 and that the Faculty Assembly is in the process of reviewing the recommendations that were made at the Forum. He noted that once the review process is complete, he will provide a report to the Board.

## 9. Reports/Updates

- ***Regional Campuses Update, Office of Academic Affairs.*** Jennifer Cowley, Vice Provost for Regional Campuses, Office of Academic Affairs, reported that the regional campuses of The Ohio State University held a summit this summer with the Presidents of their co-located technical college campuses and Board chairs. The meeting was held at Ohio State Mansfield and focused on possible shared services as we continue the conversation regarding potential partnerships that promote efficiencies and support continued success for our respective students. Dr. Cowley also noted that the regional campus Deans are now in the process of developing new strategic plans for their campuses as the current strategic plans end this year. She also reported that a number of student success initiatives are being developed and/or implemented across the regional campuses in order to enhance retention and graduation rates. She also noted that President Michael Drake is establishing a new Teaching Institute for faculty at Ohio State and that he sees the regional campuses as ideal settings to experiment with innovative teaching methods given smaller class sizes at the regional campuses. The new Teaching Institute will be launched in the fall of 2016. Vice Chair of the Board, Marcia Downes, noted that there is significant demand in the Newark area for employees with an engineering background, particularly in the area of computer science and electrical engineering. She noted the importance of the engineering program at Ohio State Newark due to workforce and economic development needs of the region.
- ***Buckeye Generation Learning Community.*** Melissa Jungers, Associate Dean, reported that we now have three years of data related to the Buckeye Generation Learning Community at Ohio State Newark. This learning community includes first-generation students who are enrolled together in common courses and are also enrolled in the same course section, while being highly engaged with faculty mentors. She noted that 80 students were selected across the continuum of ACT scores to participate in this learning community over the last three years. These students are expected to attend workshops and various campus events, with the goal of engaging them in campus life and connecting them with faculty, staff and other students on campus. In the learning community program, students have academic coaches and peer mentors who serve as student advisors. Students in the learning community program also receive a \$300 book stipend each semester. Over the last three years, 26 percent of the students in the program have been male students; and

74 percent of the students have been female. In addition, 42 percent of the students over the last three years in the program have been underrepresented minority students. Results of the impact of student participation in the learning community compared to students of similar demographics (first-generation higher education students) show that students who participated in the learning community experience returned each semester and academic year at a higher rate – thus having a higher retention rate. In addition, the learning community students had higher grade point averages (GPAs) than other first-generation students who were not enrolled in the learning community initiative. Dr. Jungers also reported that this past summer the campus hired a Retention Coordinator to work with all of our students with the goal of increasing student retention and persistence through to graduation.

- ***Engineering Learning Community.*** Dr. Jungers reported that at Ohio State Newark, we have also established an Engineering Learning Community for engineering students which is now in its second year. Last year we had 21 engineering majors in the Engineering Learning Community and this year we have 19 new students in the program for a total now of 40 students. These students participate together in the same course sequence related to their major and are enrolled in the same course class section. In addition, students in this learning community participate together in off-campus events with faculty from their major and are engaged in experiential learning opportunities. Dr. Jungers noted that the next steps are to seek external funding that will allow us to expand our learning community programs as we continue to develop initiatives designed to enhance student success, retention and graduation rates, and connect students in meaningful ways with campus life and opportunities in the external community.
- ***Faculty Mentoring Program.*** Dr. Jungers reported that this year we are piloting a Faculty Mentoring Program which pairs faculty members with students in sections of the First Year Freshman course (University Experience 1100) which is designed to enhance faculty engagement with students. She noted that this program was recommended by faculty at their faculty retreat in the spring of 2015 and is being piloted this fall semester.

## **10. Dean's/ Director's Report**

- ***Opening of Academic Year 2015-2016.*** Dean Bill MacDonald reported on the new student Convocation that was held on August 24<sup>th</sup> at the Midland Theatre in downtown Newark. He noted that each year the campus holds a new student Convocation for first year students as a way to integrate new students into the life of the campus and external community. This year the Convocation was held in downtown Newark with a welcome reception that followed at The Works. The theme of this year's Convocation was "Community Service and Civic Engagement" and students heard from panelists who serve as leaders of community organizations in

the Newark and Licking County region. Students were also provided with information on how they might get involved with these organizations. A number of community and civic leaders attended, as well as members of the Newark Board. Dean MacDonald showed a video and photographic images of the event which showed the 350 students who boarded buses at the Newark campus and made their way to the Midland Theatre and a reception at The Works. Dean MacDonald noted that this year's Convocation event was held in downtown Newark in order to begin the conversation with students on the importance of civic engagement and community service and to introduce them to passionate leaders of key community programs in our region.

- ***Enrollment Update.*** Dean MacDonald added to Diane Kanney's earlier presentation today on enrollment by noting the demographic trend of a decrease in the numbers of traditional high school students in Ohio and nationally. He also noted that Ohio State Newark has increased the number of minority students this year, with 24.7 percent of our students being minority students which is the highest number of minority students ever enrolled at Ohio State Newark. Dean MacDonald noted that we now need to work on increasing the diversity of our faculty and that he will be working with faculty, staff and students during the fall semester to develop a diversity plan for the campus. Board member Katheryn Lloyd inquired as to the number of non-traditional students who are now enrolled at Ohio State Newark. Dean MacDonald noted that he would report back to the Board on this information. Board member Lisa Whittaker commented on the increase in the number of transfer students enrolled on campus this year, and she inquired as to the institutions from which they transferred. Dean MacDonald noted that he would report back on this information. Dean MacDonald also noted that at the next Board meeting in November, he and Diane Kanney, Director of Enrollment, will address issues related to student retention and graduation rates at Ohio State Newark.
- ***New Residence Hall Project.*** Dean MacDonald reported that we have completed the architectural study on the new residence hall for Ohio State Newark and that we should have the architectural renderings in approximately 3-4 weeks.
- ***Facilities Operations Building Update.*** Brian Boehmer reported that the new Facilities Operations Building is now 75-80 percent complete and that the target completion date is November of this year (2015) with the goal of moving in before the winter break.
- ***Initiative to Lower Costs for Students.*** Dean MacDonald requested recommendations from the Board for using this year's budget surplus on initiatives that would lower the costs for students. He noted that this is one-time money but given the unexpected surplus, he is requesting suggestions for how we might use the additional funds to pass savings on to our students, or to fund student support services that are critical to student success. Board member Lisa Whittaker noted that it might be helpful if

Board members were given information on the categories of student spending (such as tuition, fees, books, etc.) in order to be better informed of the kinds of costs that students incur so that the Board might identify options for reducing student expenses. Vice Chair of the Board, Marcia Downes, inquired as to how many students are receiving Second Generation Scholarships at both Ohio State Newark and COTC. With regard to the two above information requests, Dean MacDonald noted that he would report back to the Board at the next meeting.

- **Camp Architecture.** Vice Chair of the Board, Marcia Downes, expressed her appreciation to Dean MacDonald for his support of Camp Architecture; a two-week summer camp for high school students that was held on the Newark campus in June of 2015. The architecture camp was designed for high school students from our region entering grades 9-12. The program was taught on the Newark campus by graduate students from the Knowlton School of Architecture at Ohio State. A total of 17 high school students enrolled in the course and worked on various design projects, including the Sullivan Building in downtown Newark. The camp provided an introduction to architecture, landscape architecture, and city and regional planning. It is anticipated that the camp will be offered again in the summer of 2016.

## **11. Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

*Respectfully submitted by  
Sandra A. MacNevin  
Executive Assistant to the Dean and Director  
The Ohio State University at Newark*