

The Ohio Council of Chief Academic Officers of Two-Year Colleges  
Meeting Minutes  
May 10, 2007

Present: Kay Adkins (Columbus State), Jim Baber (Jefferson), Sharon Brown (Edison), Dennis Budkowski (Marion), Therese Bushner (North Central), Lawrence Cox (Stark State), Martha Crawmer (Clark State), Dorey Diab (Rhodes State), Tom Huguley (Sinclair), Judy Maxson (Hocking), Ryan McCall (Southern State), Mark Nutter (Washington State), Richard Prystowky (Central Ohio), Karen Wells (Lorain County).

Guests: Attorney General's Staff: Amy Golian, Scott Campbell, Debra Gorrell Wehrle; Ohio Association of Community Colleges: Stephanie Franz; Ohio Learning Network: Kate Carey and George Steele.

**Information Sharing:**

Dorey Diab facilitated the meeting in place of Robin Menschenfreund who was unable to attend. Dorey welcomed everyone and turned the program over to Amy Golian of the Attorney General's staff.

Amy stated that the proposed discussion of MySpace will be postponed to fall 2007. Instead, the discussion focused on campus safety in light of the Virginia Tech tragedy. She suggested the following:

- Have a communication plan and strategy. This will vary by campus depending on location and size.
- Develop a plan in coordination with local law enforcement.
- In the event of an emergency, the college should provide students and employees with information about what is going on. This can help eliminate rumors. The college has the burden of providing communication that is accurate.
- There is no clear cut easy answer to balancing the rights of students with the safety of all.

This discussion prompted several questions from the CAOs.

Question: What can a college do if a student is perceived as a real danger to the other students on campus?

Response: The AGs representatives suggested that issues of this type can be tied to the campus code of student conduct, particularly if the language in that code allows for a referral to a counselor.

Several CAOs requested that the AGs office provide us with some language that can be added to our codes of conduct about to handle this situation.

Question: Is there any movement to change the law and allow faculty and staff to carry guns on campus for self protection?

Response: The AGs staff indicated that while there has been some discussion of this idea there is no serious movement to change current laws.

Question: Should there be a difference in how we treat a PSEO student if we perceive he/she may be a problem.

Response: PSEO students should be treated as other students, but the college can and should contact the high school guidance counselor with the concern. The guidance counselor probably has the right to contact the student's parent.

Question: Is any campus doing training with students for evacuating the campus?

Response (Karen Wells): Lorain County Community College has a very detailed emergency manual and also has a phone in every classroom. (The AGs staff thinks the phone is a good idea.) Lorain is also considering use of an outside warning system coupled with an internal intercom system.

Question: If a campus has historically been a safe environment, how much do we need to do to plan for a potential incident? What is our liability if we don't do enough?

Response: The campus must be doing something to promote safety. Not having any plan of action could put the college in a difficult situation. We should be proactive in this area.

Stephanie Franz of the Ohio Association of Community Colleges presented an update.

- The state budget passed the house a couple of weeks ago
- Stephanie provided copies of Chancellor Fingerhut's speech from May 4 and his testimony to the Senate Finance and Financial Institutions Committee.
- Higher education seems to be the number one priority for the Governor, House, and Senate. The Governor's goal is an increase of 230,000 students in higher education over the next ten years and affordability is an important issue. The governor's Campus Compact is not part of the current legislation. The Senate's version includes an increase of 2% in state funding the first year with a 3% increase in tuition. The second year includes no increase in tuition but a 10% increase in state funding. Distribution of state funding is still in question. Community Colleges would prefer an enrollment component in how the funding is distributed. Complicating these issues is the fact that the OACC endorsed the concept of the governor's Campus Compact, and 11 campuses announced that they would be freeze tuition. The OACC has discussed that situation with representatives of the Senate and the House. It appears that there will be a compromise for the schools that announced early on this issue.

- Other budget changes may include need-based components for the student choice grants (for private schools) and increased funding to OCAN to work with the private sector to leverage some private dollars to help students enter college, as well as a \$100 million scholarship program for the STEM disciplines.
- The Chancellor wants all adult workforce programs including ABLE to be moved under higher education.
- The administration is looking for a long-term solution to the PSEO funding disincentive for high schools.
- Legislation has been submitted by Representative Webster to allow technical colleges to offer AA and AS degrees.
- With a democratic governor and a republican legislature, the conference committee process is becoming more significant, and the OACC is adjusting their processes in accordance with these changes. Bills are more likely to be significantly changed once they have entered the conference committee than in the past.

Kate Carey and George Steele of the Ohio Learning Network provided an update.

- Kate provided an overview of the Open Learning Partnership (see attached handout).
- The partnership of Columbus State, Lakeland, and Owens and the OLN has resulted in Regents Associate Degree that is articulated to the OU Bachelor of Applied Technical Studies (see handout).
- George Steele reported on issues related to student services for web-based courses. Four Ohio institutions have completed a CENTSS audit for online student services (see attached handout). The audit process has sparked interest in colleges implementing customer relationship management systems (software that helps students access and manage their online relationships with the college services)
- There are 12 institutions participating in the online tutoring initiative with Smarthinking Math and Writing Online Tutoring.

### **Business Meeting**

- Minutes of the March meeting were approved with the addition of Richard Prystowsky to those attending.
- The Treasurer's Report was approved. The balance as of March 31, 2007 was \$1,911.85
- Dennis Budkowski moved to collect dues of \$150-\$225 from each institution in July or August of 2007. The exact amount will be determined by the CAO Council officers. Karen Wells seconded the motion which passed unanimously
- Kay Adkins offered to check into Columbus State hosting the CAO account and serving as fiscal agent for the group.
- A slate of officers for 2007-2008 was presented: Chair Mark Nutter, Vice Chair Dorey Diab, Secretary Lawrence Cox. Therese Bushner moved to accept the slate, Dennis Budkowski seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

- Dorey Diab reported on Chair Academy. Forty-five are now registered. Plans seem to be going well for the first week scheduled at Rhodes State in late July and early August.
- The group discussed two position papers
  - The College Tech Prep paper was completed and submitted. The final decisions regarding the future of Tech Prep reflected our group's input.
  - The position paper on the CT<sup>2</sup> paper was discussed and revised (see attached copy).
- Committee Reports – The group working on the future of PSEO has made and forwarded recommendations.
- Placement Summit – No new recommendations have been made at this time.
- A Foreign Language Advisory Council has been established to make recommendations on the future of foreign language education in Ohio P-16. Mark Nutter is the CAO group's representative on this Council.
- Some possible topics for future meetings were discussed. The first meeting will include updates on the major initiatives currently underway at the state.
- The group also discussed the best use of time with the AGs representatives. In general, there was consensus that AGs should provide more specific information instead of speaking in generalities. Karen Wells suggested that they present specific case law pertaining to expelling students on the basis of written or oral comments or other behavior that may be threatening. (This could include work that has already been done through the Simon Wiesenthal Center or the Southern Poverty Law Center on hate language.) All seemed to agree that we should clarify our expectations of them: we prefer to hear about case law and best practices pertaining to the situations presented. We want to hear continuing follow-ups based on case law generated through the Virginia Tech incident. The AGs representatives are not needed for every meeting agenda. Mark and Dorey agreed to pass this message along to the AGs representatives over the summer.
- Central Ohio Technical College will host the CAO Retreat in November.
- Mark Nutter plans to contact the AQIP Liaisons at two-year colleges to see if there is interest in starting an Ohio AQIP consortium.
- Future meeting dates will be posted on the CAO website.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.