Introducing the first issue of "Faculty Council News"

In the interest of providing a regular means through which to communicate to the University at large—and particularly the faculty senators who constitute Faculty Council—I will be distributing on a quarterly basis this academic year “Faculty Council News.” Intended primarily for the Faculty Council, the brief update will, nonetheless, be distributed to all University senators and alternates via email from the University Senate Office (senate@osu.edu) and be posted on the University Senate website (senate.osu.edu), making it more publicly available.

Four issues for the 2012-2013 academic year are planned for publication in December, January, March, and May.
Status Report on Sustainability

“Striving to make sustainability a consideration in everything we do”

By R. Scott Potter with introduction by Kay Halasek

The President’s and Provost’s Council on Sustainability (PPCS) established the ad hoc Committee on the Coordination and Implementation of Sustainability Policies in 2011 to provide analysis and recommendations to the PPCS on the implementation of near-term sustainability initiatives.

After receiving the report below and reviewing the work underway in PPCS and the Office of Energy and Environment, faculty leaders have drawn to a close the work of the ad hoc committee on sustainability implementation. We are pleased to announce the appointment by President Gee of Professor Rodgers from OSU-Newark to PPCS, broadening faculty voice in the activities of that body beyond the chair of Faculty Council, who also sits as a member of the Council.

Faculty leaders wish to recognize and thank Professor Emeritus Richard Gunther for his productive and passionate leadership of the ad hoc committee. The current status of sustainability efforts and oversight at the University are due in significant measure to his expertise and contributions. We are grateful for Dick’s tireless advocacy for sustainability efforts; they have encouraged new levels of awareness and oversight of energy sustainability.

-Kay Halasek

The PPCS created the ad hoc committee to address specific issues in a timely and efficient manner. Although the ad hoc committee has fulfilled its charge, the activities and initiatives noted below will provide a continuation of those charges.

- Most importantly, the office of Energy Services and Sustainability jointly reports to FOD and OEE. This joint reporting improves communication efficiencies and enables much more rapid identification of energy problems and opportunities.

- The PPCS and the OEE will support the lead/direction provided by faculty leadership on issues related to the development of sustainability related curriculum.

- The University Energy Committee (with the addition of EHS representation) will specifically incorporate environmental health and safety considerations into the existing energy-related building design standards discussions and reviews.

The ad hoc committee presented four resolutions and recommendations to the PPCS. The following report updates the University community on actions and processes underway relevant to the issues identified by the ad hoc committee. The report is a brief on actions taken or planned to address the issues identified in the resolutions.

The Office of Energy and Environment is looking forward to working with faculty leadership on the many issues under the umbrella of sustainability, energy, and environment. The PPCS is just one example of how the university is striving to make sustainability a consideration in everything we do.

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Actions taken or planned to address the issues identified in the resolutions

Resolution 1:

Establish a new ad hoc committee charged with responsibility for generating new curricular proposals for courses and academic programs dealing with a broad range of sustainability-related issues

- Almost immediately after beginning as Ohio State’s Vice President for Energy and Environment, Dr. Ron Sega presented the idea that Ohio State should strive to have every student graduate with a basic knowledge of sustainability. To that end, Ron - in his role as Chair of the PPCS - brought the idea to the PPCS. The PPCS endorsed the idea, but had that sense that the PPCS was not the appropriate entity to establish an academic committee. The PPCS determined that the best venue to initiate the discussion was within the University Senate Faculty Council. The Chair of the Faculty Council – in her role as a PPCS member, agreed to carry this issue to the Faculty Council. The PPCS through the Office for Energy and Environment and with the leadership of Paul Laurent is working with faculty leaders to move forward on this endeavor.

- The University Center for the Advancement of Teaching is also addressing sustainability in the curriculum. In Autumn Quarter 2011, the Ohio State Teaching Enhancement Programs Community on Sustainability began to offer faculty the opportunity to incorporate sustainability issues into existing classes with support for course content development, student activities, and appropriate pedagogies.

Resolution 2:

Development of a self-sustaining fund to support the implementation of energy efficiency measures on campus.

- In Autumn 2011, the Senate Fiscal Committee referred the issue to the Central Distribution Subcommittee (CDS). The CDS researched, reviewed, and discussed the issue over several meetings. The CDS presented final recommendations to the Senate Fiscal Committee in February 2012.

- Subsequent to the ad hoc committee recommendation and the CDS subcommittee process, the university launched a major initiative to advance campus energy efficiency with the October 2012 issuance of a Request for Qualifications (RFQ). The RFQ does not eliminate the need for a revolving fund as considered by the CDS subcommittee, but it does reduce the urgency of establishing such a fund. The RFQ is seeking qualified firms to respond to a Request for Proposals (RFP) to perform investment grade energy audits and to implement appropriate energy efficiency measures in all the major buildings and infrastructure on main campus. This initiative would accelerate the existing upgrade of the entire campus within one project.

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Resolution 3:

Develop a 15-year energy plan for every laboratory building on campus that outlines the electrical and mechanical systems necessary to achieve energy savings.

- The University, through its Energy Services and Sustainability office established a comprehensive and dynamic metering and buildings energy profile assessment program. This program identifies energy conservation measure (ECMs) opportunities and prioritizes the implementation of those ECMs on a building specific basis within the realities of capital and operational budgets and planning processes.

- The Operations Department in FOD has developed a preventative maintenance program with annual capital and operating funding to upgrade and replace electrical and mechanical systems in a prioritized order. The Building Automation Shop within Operations has established a retro-commissioning team to optimize building control systems to improve occupancy comfort and energy efficiency.

- Most significant, is the RFQ noted in response to Resolution 2 above. The campus-wide energy efficiency initiative would result in the issuance of a long-term (e.g., 15 years) contract for appropriate ECMs in every major building on campus. The measures will be the result of detailed building-specific assessments. In essence, the audits, performed as a part of the initiative, will produce long-term energy plans for each building. This initiative is not limited to just building electrical and mechanical systems. It will also include evaluations and improvement of the university’s natural gas, water, and steam utility infrastructures.

Resolution 4:

Establish a Technical Advisory Committee on Safety and Energy to make recommendations on Ohio State’s Building Design Standards with respect to energy efficiency.

- Facilities, Operations, and Development established the University Energy Committee several years ago to address energy issues across the many units of Ohio State. Apama Dial, the Director of Energy Services and Sustainability leads the University Energy Committee. The Energy Committee members include several representatives from FOD, Student Life, Athletics, OEE, branch campuses, students, and Transportation. The committee is responsible for reviewing and providing recommendations for revisions of university Building Design Standards related to energy. The process is collaborative and efficient given the myriad of issues considered across such a diverse inventory of buildings. This group was very involved in the development of the existing “Green Build and Energy Policy” for new construction and renovations on campus. The review and improvement of these standards is a continual process.

- As a result of the recommendation in Resolution 4 from the ad hoc committee, Apama Dial has directed that a representative from the office of Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) be added to the membership of the University Energy Committee. This should ensure that environmental health and other safety concerns related to building design and building equipment selection can be incorporated at the earliest point of discussion of adoption of best practices or other building design standard revisions.

R. Scott Potter has served since 2005 as senior energy advisor in the Office of Energy and Environment.
At its November 2012 meeting the Ohio State University Board of Trustees approved an amendment to Faculty Rule 3335-3-29(B) (5) originally passed by the University Senate in February 2006 (by a vote of 75-20) but was not brought to the Board of Trustees at that time. At the urging of Professors Charlie Wilson and Doug Macbeth, faculty leaders worked during Autumn Semester with the Office of Academic Affairs to forward the item to the Board of Trustees.

Specifically, the Board approved revisions to the rule, which now includes section 3335-3-29 (B) (5), which stipulates that deans “review in consultation with the faculty the college’s pattern of administration (POA). The POA shall be consistent with the principles of faculty governance and the responsibilities of the dean. At the beginning of each five-year term, in consultation with the faculty, the dean shall either reaffirm or revise the existing POA. The existing POA shall be the starting point for the review of the POA and shall remain in effect until the process is complete. Any revisions to the existing POA shall be accomplished first with broad faculty input, obtained in a manner consistent with the college’s established practices and procedures, and, second, with faculty approval, also consistent with the college’s practices and procedures. If faculty approval is not achieved, the dean shall explain the rationale in writing for the departure in order to enhance communication and facilitate understanding.

The POA will be submitted to the executive vice president and provost for approval. After approval, the POA shall be made available to all members of the faculty, be posted on the college web site, and be distributed to each department and the college office. For purposes of defining minimum content the following shall be included in the POA:

a) Introductory Statement
b) College Mission
c) Types of faculty appointments and their respective governance rights
d) Organization of College Services and Staff
e) Overview of College Administration
f) Description of college faculty governance structure, including at least a College Investigation Committee (Faculty Rule 3335-04 (E)) and a Salary Appeals Committee
g) Policies governing faculty responsibilities and teaching assignments
h) Policies governing allocation of college resources
i) Grievance procedures
j) A statement recognizing in principle the presumption favoring faculty rule on those matters in which faculty have primary responsibility, including: curriculum, subject matter and methods of instruction, research, faculty status (appointment, promotion and tenure of faculty), and those aspects of student life which relate to the educational process.

(Source: AAUP Statement on Government of Colleges and Universities)

Faculty leaders wish to acknowledge the tireless work of numerous faculty members who—from 2002 through 2006—discussed, drafted, and revised the proposed rule and worked with administration to realize the passage of the proposed rule in the University Senate. These include members of Faculty Councils and Faculty Cabinets from 2002-2006 and in particular Professors Graeme Boone, Grady Chism, T.K. Daniel, Susan Fisher, David Horn, Douglas Macbeth, Tony Mughan, Gene Mumy, Stephen Pinsky, Jack Rall, Sally Rudmann, Charlie Wilson, and Chris Zacher.
Updates on Senate and Faculty Council agendas and meetings of the Ohio Faculty Council

The Ohio Faculty Council—an interuniversity body comprised of faculty leaders from Ohio’s 14 four-year universities—meets monthly during the academic year to discuss matters of shared interest. OFC in its meetings this autumn took up a number of issues, including proposed revisions to the state subsidy formula for higher education. Joined at its October meeting by Bruce Johnson, President of the Inter-University Council, OFC heard updates on the status of the deliberations, including a shift to course completion and graduation rates as integral elements of the revised formula, on which the IUC has since reached consensus. In November, Sara Kilpatrick the Executive Director of the Ohio Conference of the AAUP attended.


University Senate—during Autumn Semester included reports from Associate Vice President for Federal Relations Stacy Rastauskas, Undergraduate Student Government President Taylor Stepp, Inter-Professional Council President Megan Conroy, Council of Graduate Students President Allen Cochran, Assistant Vice President for State Relations Colleen O’Brien, Vice President for Human Resources Kathleen McCutcheon, and Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer Geoff Chatas. President E. Gordon Gee, University President, delivered his annual Address to the Faculty at the October Senate meeting. The President’s Address may be accessed online at http://president.osu.edu/speeches/fac_101508.html

Action items included proposals from the Senate Rules Committee to amend Faculty Rules 3335-17-04 (“Apportionment of faculty members”), 3335-5-08 (“Absence from duty”), and 3335-5-48.12 (“Faculty compensation and benefits committee”).

The Council on Academic Affairs also brought forward a series of proposed actions: Realignment of the academic units of the College of Education and Human Ecology; and establishment of several degrees: a tagged degree program in Bachelor of Science in Health Promotion, Nutrition and Exercise Sciences within the College of Education and Human Ecology; a Master in Animal Sciences degree program within the College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences; and a Master of Science degree program within the Integrated Biomedical Science graduate program, College of Medicine.

Faculty Council began its 2012-2013 academic year with the annual University Senate orientation on August 30, a meeting that included remarks by faculty leaders, Josh Gillespie (Senate Recording Secretary), Steve Huefner (Senate Parliamentarian), Randy Smith (Vice Provost for Academic Programs) and a welcome to the body from University President Gee.

Subsequent Faculty Council meetings in October and November included reports on the status of undergraduate education at Ohio State from Dolan Evanovich, Vice President for Strategic Enrollment Planning; Randy Smith, Vice Provost for Academic Programs; and Wayne Carlson, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Studies. Eunice Homsby (Assistant Director of Organization and Human Resource Consulting) and other staff members from Human Resources opened discussion on pursuing a Tobacco-free Campus Proposal. Professor Bruce Weide, College of Engineering, presented a Parking Accountability Resolution—which will be considered again at the upcoming December Faculty Council meeting.

Other Faculty Council presentations included the Ombud Report by Professor Emeritus Jack Rall, Faculty Ombudsman; an Advancement Update from Kate Wofford, Associate Vice President for Advancement and Shashi Matta, Clinical Assistant Professor of Marketing and Logistics; and a Human Resources Benefits Update by Kathleen McCutcheon, Vice President and Chief Human Resources Officer and staff from the Office of Human Resources.