Faculty Involvement in the Sophomore Transformational Experience Program

By Leslie Alexander
Chair-Elect of Faculty Council

Beginning in the Autumn of 2013, a pilot program will commence that is designed to enhance the quality of undergraduate education. Building upon the success of the First Year Experience, which has been a signature program at Ohio State since 2001, the Offices of Academic Affairs and Student Life have partnered to create the Second-year Transformational Experience Program (STEP). Predicated on the idea that students perform better academically when they have extensive interaction with faculty, STEP is designed to facilitate faculty/student interaction and simultaneously introduce students to educational opportunities that will circumvent the dreaded “sophomore slump,” support their personal development, and guide them into meaningful career paths. STEP is also a residential program; research shows that students thrive academically and socially when they live on campus, so students in the STEP pilot program will be required to live in the residence halls.

(continued)
Sophomore Transformational Experience Program (continued)

Following these early activities, the STEP Faculty Committee was created in October 2012 and has been quite active for the past several months. The committee is composed of the following faculty members:

- Leslie Alexander, African American and African Studies, Co-chair
- Lilia Fernandez, History, Co-chair
- Ola Ahlqvist, Geography and Director of the Service-Learning Initiative
- Mark Bender, East Asian Languages and Literatures
- Bob Gustafson, FAES and Engineering Education Innovation Center
- Karen Hutzel, Art Education
- Rick Livingston, Associate Director of the Humanities Institute
- Dodie McDow, History
- David Stetson, Evolution, Ecology, and Organismal Biology
- Maurice Stevens, Comparative Studies
- Matt Stoltzfus, Chemistry
- David Tomasko, Engineering
- Linn Van Woerkom, Physics and Director of Honors and Scholars

There are also two ex-officio members from the Office of Student Life: Lance Kennedy Phillips, Executive Director, Center for the Study of Student Life, and Kellie Uhrig, Director of Marketing Communications for Student Life.

The committee co-chairs, Lilia Fernandez and I, were appointed in early October of 2012 and met with President Gordon Gee, Provost Joseph Alutto, Vice-President Javaune Adams-Gaston, and Arts and Sciences Executive Dean Joseph Steinmetz to discuss goals and expectations. These meetings led to the production of a charge for the STEP faculty committee:

1. Develop a plan for the academic component of the STEP program, including its academic goals and faculty mentors’ roles and responsibilities.

2. Collaborate with the Office of Academic Affairs, the Office of Student Life, and other relevant offices in the university to create programming and activities that cultivate and enhance faculty interactions with students outside the classroom.

3. Create and propose a system of reward and recognition that properly acknowledges and values the contributions of faculty participating in the program.

4. Recruit faculty mentors for the program, beginning with the first 50 mentors for the pilot program that will commence in the 2013-2014 academic year.

Once the faculty committee received the charge, they agreed it was important to establish what the purpose and goals of STEP ought to be, especially from a faculty perspective. Committee members felt strongly that they must identify the purpose and goals of faculty involvement before discussing the form and function of faculty participation in STEP. After extensive reflection, the faculty committee unanimously agreed on the following language:
Purpose

To manifest and support an environment at OSU in which faculty, students, and staff work together to shape meaningful academic, intellectual relationships that enliven the core academic mission of the university.

Goals

- To encourage and facilitate increased intellectual interaction between faculty, students, and staff.
- To improve access to resources on campus and in the community to support students’ goals.
- To model the benefits of a general education.
- To provide opportunities to reflect upon personal growth and development.

Since that time, the faculty committee has been meeting twice a week to grapple with a series of critical issues such as:

- What are the academic goals of this program and how do we want to implement them? What programming and activities need to be put in place to achieve the goals?

- What will faculty participation look like beyond the academic goals? How will faculty interact and make themselves available, where will they meet with students, and how often should they gather?

- What reward and recognition should faculty members receive for serving as mentors in this program? How can we ensure that they will receive the recognition they deserve? How will service in this program factor into P&T?

- And lastly, how will we know that the program has been successful and how do we measure it?

The faculty committee has developed a model for the academic plan and faculty involvement, which Lilia and I will present later this month to STEP’s Executive Sponsoring Group, which is the executive committee that the Board of Trustees formed to oversee the implementation of STEP. Following approval of the plan, we will present the details to Faculty Council during its February 21st meeting so please stay tuned for more information!

As co-chair of this committee, I would like to close by taking a moment to use this public forum as an opportunity to express my deep and heartfelt thanks to the members of the STEP Faculty committee for their hard work. I have never seen a faculty committee work as diligently, while still bringing energy, enthusiasm, and humor to their task. I have been honored to be part of this team.

Leslie Alexander serves as Associate Professor of African and African American Studies and Chair-Elect of Faculty Council.

Faculty Council Agenda
21 February and 21 March 2013

The February 21st, 2013 Faculty Council meeting will include a report on the Sophomore Transitional Experience Program by Professors Leslie Alexander (African and African American Studies and Chair-elect of Faculty Council) and Lilia Fernandez (History), co-chairs of the STEP Faculty Committee. Action items have yet to be confirmed.

The March 21st, 2013 Faculty Council meeting will include presentations by Dean Bem Melnyk, Vice President Larry Lewellen, and Dr. Steve Gabbe on the tobacco-free campus discussions and related matters. Dr. Melnyk and Vice President Lewellen will speak to Health & Wellness matters and Dr. Gabbe to Health Care. David Teed and Sarah Blouch of CampusParc will also present an update on campus parking matters.
In June 2012, the OSU administration entered into an agreement to privatize parking at OSU by agreeing to a 50-year lease of parking operations to a private operator in return for an up-front payment of $483M. In discussions that led up to this transaction, the administration made a number of specific assurances to the OSU community (e.g., what would happen to OSU employees responsible for parking, what would happen to parking services, what would happen to parking rates, what would happen to the $483M including how it would grow and how it would be used). The resolution, therefore, requests a suitably detailed annual Transparency and Accountability Report to ensure that the University Senate (now and for the next 50 years) knows how the transaction has worked out relative to the assurances mentioned above.

Parking Privatization Transparency and Accountability Report
A Resolution Proposed to and Passed by the University Senate (2/7/13)

WHEREAS the University has recently privatized parking at OSU by granting a 50-year lease to a private operator; and

WHEREAS the University has received in consideration an up-front payment of $483M; and

WHEREAS the University has assured the OSU community that all current Transportation and Parking employees would be offered positions with the new parking operator or elsewhere in the University; and

WHEREAS the University has assured the OSU community that parking privatization would not negatively impact the quality of parking operations and services; and

WHEREAS the University has assured the OSU community that its financial analysis of parking privatization shows that the $483M received from the private operator would be available for investment in the academic core; and

WHEREAS the University has assured the OSU community that its plans for these funds is to invest them in the Long-Term Investment Pool (LTIP) where they would earn annual returns expected to average 9% over the next 50 years; and

WHEREAS the University has assured the OSU community that the annual draws from the LTIP would be used in approximately the following proportions based on an assumption that OSU would receive $400M: draws from $75M (about 19% of the total) to “increase student scholarship support”, draws from $200M (about 50% of the total) to “recruit 8-10% additional tenure-track faculty”, draws from $50M (about 12% of the total) to “support initiatives in critical areas, such as the Arts and Humanities, where external funding is limited”, and draws from $75M (about 19% of the total) to “improve campus transportation systems and create a more pedestrian-friendly campus”; and

WHEREAS money is fungible, making it possible for a superficial report on the financial aspects of this transaction to mask a situation where, for example, funds needed to pay continuing expenses currently associated with Transportation and Parking are moved from other accounts rather than being paid with draws from the LTIP funds attributable to parking privatization; and

WHEREAS the University administration must be held accountable for the decision to privatize parking, for the validity of its confidential internal financial model of the transaction, and for carrying through with the assurances it has made to the OSU community:

Continued on next page
Parking Resolution, con’t.

1. An accounting of OSU financial details related to parking privatization, including:
   - The disposition and status of the up-front payment principal;
   - Returns earned on the up-front payment;
   - Distributions from the up-front payment and the purposes for which they were used;
   - Recent expenditure histories for comparable purposes from all sources;
   - Sources of funds for, and expenses related to, services for which FY2012 parking revenues are currently paying (e.g., Campus Area Bus Service, parking facilities debt service, etc.); and
   - Other expenses related to the parking privatization agreement (e.g., for third-party consultants, compliance monitoring, legal services, etc., whether those expenses are paid through a residual OSU Transportation and Parking office or through other units/services/offices).

2. A report of the results of the annual OSU parking customer satisfaction survey conducted as part of compliance monitoring, including:
   - Customer satisfaction trends recognized by the University;
   - Quality or service concerns reported by the University to the private parking operator; and
   - Any actions taken or not taken by the private operator to address previously reported concerns.

3. An accounting of the total parking revenues collected by OSU and/or the private operator, with a breakdown of revenues by parking permit types and other methods used to generate revenues from parking, as well as any public financial or legal disclosures made by the private operator or concessionaire pertaining to its role in the agreement.

4. A report of all mediation, arbitration, or litigation involving the University and any other party with respect to campus parking.

Review of Recent Faculty Council Action

Faculty Rule 3335-5-19

At its December 2012 meeting, the Faculty Council heard, discussed, and passed the following Proposal to amend faculty rule 3335-5-19

“Faculty,” presented by Prof. Jeff Ford, Chair of Senate Rules Committee:

WHEREAS, lecturers and senior lecturers make an important contribution to the teaching mission at this and all other universities; and

WHEREAS, many of these lecturers hold their appointments for multiple years delivering instruction on either a full or part-time basis; and

WHEREAS, since 2002, 785 lecturers and senior lecturers have been reappointed annually for at least three years; and;

WHEREAS, at its meeting on December 6, 2012 the Rules Committee unanimously approved the following proposal;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the University Senate approves the proposed changes to the Rules of the University Faculty, and respectfully requests the concurrence of the Board of Trustees, said proposal to be effective as approved by the Board of Trustees.

3335-5-19 Faculty.

As used in these rules the term "faculty" shall include persons appointed by the board of trustees with regular tenure-track, regular clinical, regular research, auxiliary, and emeritus faculty titles on full- or part-time appointments, with or without salary.

(D) "Auxiliary faculty": persons with adjunct titles, clinical titles, visiting titles, and lecturer titles; also professors, associate professors, assistant professors, and instructors who serve on appointments totaling less than fifty per cent service to the university. Persons with regular faculty titles may not hold auxiliary titles. Persons holding auxiliary titles are not eligible for tenure, may not vote at any level of governance, and may not participate in promotion and tenure matters. Auxiliary faculty appointments may be made for a maximum of three consecutive years and, with the exception of visiting titles, may be renewed.

(1) The titles of adjunct professor, adjunct associate professor, adjunct assistant professor, and adjunct instructor shall be used to confer faculty status on individuals who have credentials comparable to regular faculty of equivalent rank, who provide significant, uncompensated service to the instructional and/or research programs of the university and who need a faculty title to perform that service. Significant service would include teaching the equivalent of one or more courses, advising graduate students or serving on graduate committees, and serving as a co-investigator on a research project. Such individuals may be either nonuniversity employees or university employees compensated on a noninstructional budget. Adjunct appointments are made for the period in which the uncompensated service is provided, not to exceed one year. Renewal of adjunct appointments is contingent upon continued significant contributions. Procedures for the promotion of adjunct faculty members shall be the same as for promotion of regular faculty.

(A) – (C) Unchanged.

(2) – (4) Unchanged.
USAC & Faculty Council to Host Town Hall with CampusParc

USAC and Faculty Council cordially invite you to a town hall meeting with the CampusParc leadership. CampusParc President, Sarah Blouch, and CampusParc General Manager, Richelle Simonson will share an overview of the CampusParc structure, a review of initiatives that have occurred in the past four months, and a look ahead to the next permit year. Contact: Krystyne Savarese at savarese.6@osu.edu.

Join us Friday, February 15 from 11:30-12:30 in Saxbe Auditorium, located in Drinko Hall (55 W. 12th Avenue).

Tobacco-free Campus Discussion Update

In response to a January 26th Faculty Council inquiry regarding progress on the tobacco-free discussion, Larry Lewellen (Vice President of Care Coordination and Health Promotion) provided a short update (dated January 27, 2013 and included below) on the tobacco-free discussions begun during the 2012 Autumn Semester.

“Throughout the university-wide conversation, we received over 500 emails and attended more than 30 meetings. The feedback was extremely helpful, and the majority was not about whether to go tobacco-free, but about the implementation challenges to be considered. A majority of the feedback showed recognition that going tobacco-free is an important and timely strategy for Ohio State. Stakeholders also identified a significant number of implementation issues to be managed.

The next step is to return to the Senior Management Council. We are preparing for that to happen, which we hope will be in the next two weeks.

Javaune Adams-Gaston and Steve Gabbe are the two leaders who are bringing this to the SMC, since OHR is in an interim leadership status; OHR key staff remain directly involved.

Dr. J and Dr. Gabbe plan to seek approval to become a Tobacco-Free University, and to move forward with an implementation plan. The implementation plan is proposed to include an Implementation Committee, which would have representatives from the key experts and constituents of the University and its partners. As part of the leadership discussion, a proposed effective date would also be considered and SMC also will have to consider factors which may affect how and when we implement this.”

Upcoming Meetings

February

14  Steering
21  Council
28  Steering

March

1  Cabinet
7  Senate
21  Council
28  Steering
29  Cabinet

April

4  Council
11  Steering
18  Senate

All audio recordings of the University Senate and Faculty Council meetings are available in mp3 format on the Senate website at http://senate.osu.edu/?page_id=3249.