



Ohio University Emeriti Association

April 17, 2025 Luncheon

President Marty Tuck opened the meeting by sharing a photo of the bronze plaque welcoming visitors to Emeriti Park, now installed and replacing the non-functional kiosk. He then reminded attendees this is the final luncheon for the academic year and the next luncheon will be held in September tentatively on September 18th. President Gonzales has been invited to attend to welcome new Emeriti and speak; though her office has not yet confirmed. Other lunches will follow the same pattern observed this year: monthly from September to April, except for November and January. Each will be held on the third Thursday of the month except in December when it will be held on the second Thursday, to allow musical performances by OU students before they leave campus for winter break.

David Thomas hosted the election of Emeriti Association officers for the coming year. All current officers have agreed to serve an additional one-year term, but anyone who wished to nominate themselves or other person in the association was invited to do so. Two members did volunteer to serve on the Emeriti Association board. The list of officers and board members for 2025-26 as nominated and approved by the attendees are:

Martin "Marty" Tuck, President
Robert "Bob" Colvin, Vice President
Drew McDaniel, Secretary
Richard Post, Website Editor
Leslie Flemming, Treasurer
David Thomas, Nomination Chair
Scott Malcom, Membership Chair
Mike Williford, Ohio Council of Higher Education Retirees (OCHER) Representative
Anne Braxton, Board Member
Mark Weinberg, Board Member
Betsy Partyka, Board Member

The main speaker at the luncheon was Rob Ross, Ohio University Dean of Libraries. Dr. Ross is a state of Ohio native who has spent 22 years working in or for libraries. His stated philosophy about the libraries was to promote a blend of engagement and innovation, seeking a "purpose-driven" organization. He stated as his immediate aim the alignment of incentives in the libraries with its vision, investment in staff, leveraging Ohio University's strengths, and building collaborative partnerships.


He reported on a survey conducted with peer university libraries comparing Ohio University libraries with those libraries on different dimensions. Generally, he found that across each dimension investment in our library was rated low. Dr. Ross laid out his main future goals for the library: To address pressing capital needs, such as repairing of facilities; weed the library collection so as to make more study space available; enhance custodial services; and in the longer-term renovation of Alden Library.

After questions, the luncheon was concluded at 12:55pm. Marty again reminded the attendees the April luncheon is the final luncheon for the academic year. The first luncheon for the 2025-26 year is tentatively scheduled for September 18th at the OU Inn at 11:30am. Marty will confirm President


Gonzales' availability for the 18th or if the date needs to be switched to the 2nd Thursday in September to accommodate the president's schedule. Once the date is finalized, Marty will send a message to Emeriti Association members over the Emeriti Association e-mail Listserve.

----- (Reported by Drew McDaniel) -----






Introductions



- Akron, OH native.
- BA, Ashland University (Creative Writing / Philosophy)
- MFA, University of New Orleans (Creative Writing)
- MLIS, Kent State University (Library Management)
- 22 years working in or for Libraries
- 5 years teaching as Adjunct

UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES



Dean of Libraries Rob Ross

Philosophy

- Align incentives with vision.
- Invest in staff & staff development.
- Leverage OU advantages.
- Enthusiastically collaborate.

Peer Libraries

BASED ON ENROLLMENT, EXPENDITURES & COLLECTION SIZE

Appalachian State University (M1)
Georgia State University (R1)
Kansas State University (R1)
Kent State University (R1)
Miami University of Ohio (R2)
Mississippi State University (R1)
Oregon State University (R1)

Stony Brook University (R1)
UNC Charlotte (R2)
UNC Greensboro (R2)
University of California-Santa Cruz (R1)
Utah State University (R1)
West Virginia University (R1)
Western Michigan University (R2)

Rankings summary

Student investment 12 of 15	Staff investment 13 of 15
Collections investment 9 of 15	Facilities investment 13 of 15

Future plans

Staff & Services

Staff—

1. Increase staffing in support of Teaching, Learning, Research.
2. Hire Grad Students w/specialized skills (e.g. Data Visualization) to support faculty.

Services—

1. Quantify Libraries' impact on student success to measure ROI by service.
2. Partner w/Academic Units on splashier events.
3. Partner w/English Dept. on Common Read.

SAVE THE DATE: OCT. 22, 2025
Colson Whitehead is coming to Athens!

Future plans

Facilities

Short term—

1. Address pressing capital needs (e.g. replace broken furniture).
2. Weed collection to create additional study space.
3. Increase custodial services.

Long term—

1. Complete Master Plan (FY 26/27) to assess user needs.
2. Renovate Alden Library!!!

Future plans

Collections & Tools

Collections—

1. Launch affordable textbook initiative to lower student costs.
2. Adopt buy-on-demand model for physical items.
3. Invest in digital & streaming content that supports curricula.
4. Purchase Web of Science to support research enterprise.

Tools—

1. Implement new Library Management System (July '25).
2. Launch Data Management Hub.