**RHE Deans Meeting**

**December 6, 2016 | 10:00 am – 2:50 pm | Baker 226**

Attendees: Willan, Anderson, Pennington, Howard (late), Abraham, Tuck, Davis, Smith

*10:30 – 2:50 Updates and Discussion Items*

*10:35 –11:35 EVPP Benoit*

Abraham shared with the Provost the concerns that have been raised by the Eastern campus regarding the planned change to health insurance plans. The Provost shared with the deans an update on her discussion with Faculty Senate regarding the OHIO rankings in *U.S. News & World Report*. The rankings do not address academic quality; instead, they focus on faculty numbers. The Provost shared with Faculty Senate that the way the institution views academic quality is more focused on faculty achievements and research. Willan noted that there will be an additional budget meeting in January, not yet scheduled, and noted concerns about budget gaps. Provost Benoit shared that she recently met with Representative Jay Edwards, newly elected to the state House; he seemed interested in learning more about the university needs and opportunities, including those at the regional campuses. The Provost and the deans talked about the value and use of employee fee waivers. An update on faculty salaries and the university’s ranking will be available in spring 2017.

The Provost and the deans discussed updates to the proposed conceal carry legislation. The current language would allow institutions to individually determine whether or not to permit conceal carry on campus. Should the legislation pass, the university will engage constituents to determine an institutional approach.

At Faculty Senate, the President discussed the move by some institutions, largely private, to declare themselves as “Sanctuary” institutions and the petition that has been submitted to the Faculty Senate for OHIO to do the same. There are no current plans for the university to declare this status. The leadership will continue to monitor this movement, on national, regional, and state levels.

Davis commended the Provost for her continued focus on creating a positive environment for discussing new enrollment streams and opportunities. He then reinforced that the conversations need to be more creative and to consider options that are more “outside-of-the-box” than “tried-and-true,” traditional ideas. Willan said we will be working to create a plan for the future of Regional Higher Education, but that it will take most of the academic year to complete. The Provost encouraged both short-term and long-term planning.

The Provost asked Smith for an update on the conversations about residential housing on the Lancaster campus. Smith shared that information is still being collected. Pennington shared that a local developer is interested in building some housing opportunities near/around the Ohio Horse Park.

The Provost and deans discussed potential changes to clinical placements for healthcare professions, including the requirement to pay for placement spots.

Narcan Kits

Willan shared that the only Narcan kits on the Athens campus are with OUPD, as reported by Dr. Hall-Jones. Abraham then confirmed that this means the regional campuses will need to rely on local police.

OHIO for Ohio

Willan and the deans reviewed the current OHIO for Ohio information and discussed information that needs to be submitted: academic outreach, community programs, research projects, and planned new initiatives.

RHE Facility Naming Policy

Tuck shared that the theater students have asked about possibly renaming the campus theater after a retired faculty member. Willan shared that the current policy applies to new and existing facilities, which requires a fundraising effort.

Online Cyber Security Training

Tuck asked if all of the campuses are completing the online Cyber Security Training. The deans affirmed that their staff are doing it as well.

RHE Deferred Maintenance Steward

Willan shared that recent conversations have occurred with the finance office that focused on the varying deferred maintenance needs across the regional system. Willan has suggested that we identify a person to be the RHE deferred maintenance steward. In this additional role, the individual would be responsible for identifying and communicating the collective deferred maintenance needs for the regional campus system. The deans agreed with the recommendation and approach.

Eastern HMO

Following extensive information review and meeting discussions, the benefits committee plans to recommend that the HMO option at OUE end. Abraham reported that the general sentiment about termination of the HMO from enrollees is highly unfavorable. Willan, who serves on the benefits committee, has consistently expressed the campus concerns; however, campus representatives have requested a meeting with the benefits committee to review the planned sun-setting of the HMO option. Willan will be recommending to the benefits committee chair that a representative from the campus be afforded the opportunity to meet with the committee.

OCTA

Willan and the deans discussed the feedback that was provided through the Optimal College Town Assessment. Tuck and Pennington shared that there were consistent themes in the information. Davis asked if there was going to be an effort to pull the Athens campus and community together to discuss the results; Willan shared that the committee is hoping to host an event. Willan will also be doing research to determine how comparable the OHIO results are to other, similar institutions. Willan shared that over 2,500 total responses were submitted; each regional campus had more than 100 responses.

Business Continuity Planning

Pennington asked if Table-Top exercises would be held in the spring. Abraham said that the initial plans were for fall. Howard shared that we will get an update from Brenda Phillips and share it with the deans.

Online Faculty Pay

Tuck asked about faculty pay for online classes being taught on-load with more than 25 or 50 students. Howard said that there is inconsistency across the campuses, which is why the associate deans are looking at pay schedules and processes. Willan confirmed that we need a single, system-wide approach to faculty payment processes, that needs to be presented to the RHE Leadership team. Minimum proposal needs: class sizes limitations, payment processes on-load vs. overload, especially for online courses, contact vs. credit hour payments, payment for practicums/internships.

Efficiency and consistency in scheduling needs to be readdressed. The RHE Leadership Scheduling Subcommittee needs to meet to begin developing proposed approaches.

RHE as a College

Davis asked Willan if there is an update on moving forward with an investigation into Regional Higher Education becoming an academic college. A task force will be established and charged with researching the idea and presenting a recommendation.

Other

Anderson shared that a couple BSAM students have attempted to secure internships at a hospital, which has prompted the development of an agreement through Legal Affairs. Legal Affairs will be developing a template that can be used going forward.

*2:30 – 2:50 Warren Galbreath (phone conference), Social Work*

Galbreath asked to speak with the deans about the operation of the Social Work program across the regional campus system. He began with a review of the application processes for field placement. This requires the coordinators to work over the summer to administer the process. The regional campuses have significantly more students who need placement processing than the Athens campus. Galbreath asked if the field liaisons could be compensated for their summer work. Willan asked if the process could occur in the spring, but Galbreath indicated that option is negatively impacted by the timing of the students’ acceptance into the major, a particularly relevant issue for transfer students and students with an associate degree. Tuck asked about the summer load expectations. Willan asked Galbreath to find out more information and to come up with a list of specific duties that are being performed during the summer. Once the information is provided by Galbreath, the deans will review it for a decision. Galbreath also noted issues with instructional information being available in the campus libraries. Willan asked Galbreath to provide a comprehensive list of any outstanding library issues or needs.

*3:00 – Adjourn*

*Upcoming Events:*

December 9 A&S/RHE Leadership Luncheon Meeting

December 10 Fall Commencement

December 16 A&R Meeting

December 20 RHE Deans

January 9 Spring Semester Begins

January 19-20 Board of Trustees Meeting

January 27 Athens & RHE Academic Leadership