



OHIO
UNIVERSITY

Board of Trustees

Ohio University

Columbus, Ohio

Special Meeting Minutes

August 21, 2009



Ohio University Board of Trustees
Special Meeting
Friday, August 21, 2009
Columbus, Ohio

Chairman C. Robert Kidder called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

Nine Trustees were present: Chairman C. Robert Kidder; Vice Chair M. Marnette Perry; Trustees Larry L. Schey, David Wolfort, Norman E. Dewire, Sandra J. Anderson, Gene T. Harris, Yvette McGee Brown, and David Brightbill.

Student Trustee Chauncey Jackson and Kyle W. Tripett were present as was National Trustee Charles Stuckey. National Trustee Frank P. Krasovec was not present.

Also attending were President Roderick J. McDavis; Secretary Thomas E. Davis; and Chair, National Alumni Board of Directors Dennis A. Minichello.

Chair Kidder opened the meeting by asking President McDavis to offer a brief overview of the framework for the tuition increase resolution, **Fiscal Year 2010 Instructional Fee and General Fee**. He reported that lengthy conversations were held on campus prior to the development of this proposed increase. Trustee Dewire moved to adopt the resolution. Trustee Harris seconded. Discussion followed that included the points below:

Trustee Schey asked for clarification regarding the \$400,000 increase from the proposed student fee in terms of it not covering the entire deficit. President McDavis indicated that attempts are being made to make up for the shortfall.

Trustee Perry and Trustee Harris questioned the language of the resolution. In particular, Trustee Perry raised concerns regarding the inclusion of language related to the Ohio College Opportunity Grant (OCOG) section of the resolution.

Trustee Wolfort asked if this proposed increase would affect students on our regional campuses. President McDavis responded that the increase does not apply to the

regional campuses. Senior Vice President for Finance and Administration William Decatur clarified wording in the resolution regarding a 3.5 percent increase.

Trustee Anderson questioned how this increase will affect parents and students. She also questioned this proposal compared to actions taken on tuition increases at other universities in Ohio. President McDavis reported that three universities have decided not to raise tuition in the State, and five have agreed to raise tuition. Vice Provost for Enrollment Management Craig Cornell reported on the total amount of Ohio's tuition relative to that of surrounding universities. He indicated that our relative standing on cost in relation to other larger public institutions would stay the same.

Trustee Perry asked if the tuition increase was not passed, would Ohio College Opportunity Grants still be fulfilled. A discussion ensued on the difficulties in determining how the grants would be fulfilled. President McDavis indicated that doing so would be very difficult, and the merits of filling the gap of funds lost through the OCOG would have to be reassessed. The President indicated that strategic priorities and investments must be addressed both on a short- and long-term basis. He indicated that his goal is for us to be affordable and accessible in the long term.

Trustee Perry indicated that the Governor gave us a two year pass and asked the President to explain what is different now from the past two years. President McDavis reported that the reason for not increasing tuition and fees over the past two years was predicated on the fact that the State Legislature built into the State budget funding that was equivalent to what our increases would have otherwise been. We have cut our budget growth by \$13.2 million; however an additional \$2.2 million will be cut if this tuition increase is not passed.

Trustee Kidder indicated that this resolution would be a temporary solution to the budget challenge, and that a projected plan for financial stability would be required. He highlighted that it is important to look at cuts to budgets while at the same time expenses continue to rise. President McDavis reaffirmed understanding what is in front of us and the need to slow down our increasing expenses. As we go forward we must look at priorities for funding as well as what we want to continue to do. Once we know what we want to implement in addition to what we want to continue, we will know what we may want to discontinue.

Student Trustee Triplett stressed the importance of being mindful of the increase of student fees for accessibility and affordability for both in- and out-of-state students. Carry forward, program cuts and other cost saving initiatives must be considered first before opting for continued increases in tuition.

Mr. Decatur responded to questions regarding funds in reserves and also discussed the downside of removing money from those reserves. Trustee Dewire asked for an explanation of carry-forward reserves. Mr. Decatur offered an explanation of the current practice of comprehensive carry forward of funds each fiscal year. Discussion focused on the need to address this practice to recapture unspent funds within the carry forward accounts of the various units on campus. Mr. Decatur was asked to bring forward scenarios for handling carry forward funds for future Board consideration.

Chair Kidder invited all Board members and representatives who had not spoken specifically to the proposed resolution to do so. Trustee Brightbill, Trustee McGee Brown, Student Trustee Jackson, Trustee Wolfort, National Trustee Stuckey, and Alumni Representative Minichello all shared their concerns about raising tuition and fees, and their ultimate support for the short-term tuition increase. Trustees raised several questions for the future consideration.

Trustee Kidder called for a vote.

Trustee Kidder, Schey, Wolfort, Dewire, Anderson, Harris, McGee Brown, and Brightbill voted in approval. Trustee Perry opposed.

**FISCAL YEAR 2010
INSTRUCTIONAL FEE AND GENERAL FEE**

RESOLUTION 2009 – 3131

WHEREAS, the Ohio University Board of Trustees authorized Fiscal Year (FY) 2010 tuition and fees for undergraduate students to remain at the FY 2009 rates, consistent with House Bill 1 as introduced by the Governor, and

WHEREAS, the final Amended Substitute House Bill 1 as authorized by the General Assembly reflects a 2.2 million dollar reduction in the State Share of Instruction allocation for the Athens campus compared to the budget approved by the Board of Trustees, and

WHEREAS, the final Amended Substitute House Bill 1 as authorized by the General Assembly allows a 3.5 percent increase to the combined tuition and fees for undergraduate students above the FY 2009 rates to offset the reductions in the State Share of Instruction, and

WHEREAS, Ohio University is committed to its mission of intellectual and personal development of its students through access to excellent academic programs and exemplary student support, and

WHEREAS, the restructuring of the Ohio College Opportunity Grant program in Amended Substitute House Bill 1 will negatively affect Ohio University's neediest students, and

WHEREAS, the Ohio University FY 2010 Current Funds Budget reflects fixed and mandated cost increases as well as the implementation of efficiencies to focus resources on priorities set forth in Vision OHIO, and

WHEREAS, appropriate planning and consultation has been completed within the University, resulting in recommendations for a 3.5 percent instructional and general fee increase effective Winter Quarter 2010 to balance the Athens campus operating budget,

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees adopt a 3.5 percent increase to the Athens Campus instructional and general fees effective Winter Quarter 2010 in compliance with the statutory limitations set forth in the Amended Substitute House Bill 1, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Trustees authorizes the President to balance the distribution of the 3.5 percent increase between the instructional and general fees to best meet University priorities, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees directs the President to allocate a portion of the revenues realized through the tuition increase to support those students most negatively impacted by the restructuring of the Ohio College Opportunity Grant.

Chair Kidder adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

CERTIFICATION OF SECRETARY

Notice of this meeting and its conduct was in accordance with Resolution 1975 – 240 of the Board, which resolution was adopted on November 5, 1975, in accordance with Section 121.22(F) of the Ohio Revised Code and of the State Administration Procedures Act.

C. Robert Kidder
Chairman

Thomas E. Davis
Secretary