

Northeast Ohio  
Universities  
Collaboration &  
Innovation Study  
Commission

*Cleveland State University*  
*Kent State University*  
*Northeastern Ohio Universities*  
*College of Medicine*  
*The University of Akron*  
*Youngstown State University*

**Minutes from December 5, 2007 session of the**  
**Northeast Ohio Universities Collaboration & Innovation Study Commission**  
**Held at the Offices of the GAR Foundation, Akron, Ohio**

**Attendees:** Chairman, Ted Boyd, Dorothy Baunach, Bruce Beeghly, Robert Briggs, Philip Kaufmann, Dr. Lester Lefton, Dr. Lois Nora, Richard Pogue, Dr. Luis Proenza, Dr. Michael Schwartz (via teleconference), Dr. David Sweet, Jane Timken, Jim Trakas

**Guests:** Kimberly Chapple (OBOR), Kathleen Ruff (NEOUCOM), Dr. Beth Stroble (the University of Akron), Dr. John Case (the University of Akron), Richard Lewis (NEOUCOM), M.J. Saunders (Cleveland State University), Pat Myers (Kent State University), Robert Frank (Kent State University), Maria Schimer (NEOUCOM), Kirstin Toth (GAR Foundation), Charlene Reid (Kent State University)

**Unable to attend:** Dr. William Demas, James Hambrick, John Pogue, Ronald Weinberg, Bradley Whitehead

**Staff:** Ann Womer Benjamin, Halley Marsh, Allen Proctor, Dr. Stephen Portch

***Opening Comments of Chairman Ted Boyd***

- Mr. Boyd welcomed everyone.
- Mr. Boyd noted that since last meeting administrative assistance from Monica Turoczy and the project writer have both been lost.
- Dr. Portch, Mr. Proctor, and Ms. Womer Benjamin are now completing this work.
- Mr. Boyd apologized for asking for feedback on drafted report in such a short time period.
- Mr. Pogue requested that the meeting minutes approval be deferred to allow for more time to review them, and the Commission members agreed.

***Review of Workplan:***

- Dr. Portch said that quick turnaround is needed to create a final draft of the report by December 14, 2007.

- Mr. Boyd indicated that he was hoping to finish the report at the December 13 meeting, allowing for better press coverage and heightened impact of the Commission report.
- Mr. Pogue stated that the December 19 meeting, if needed, is from 12-2, not 8-10 as written on the agenda.
- Dr. Portch said the edits and comments received were very helpful and the substantive issues would be discussed in today's meeting, while the proofreading and grammatical comments would not be addressed with the entire group.
- Mr. Proenza suggested they concentrate on the not-ratified recommendations and changes.

***Ratification of Recommendations:***

- Recommendation #1: Moved to ratification by Dr. Proenza. Seconded by Mr. Pogue. Mr. Boyd called for discussion. Ratification to recommendation 1 was passed unanimously.
- Recommendation #2: Moved to ratification by Dr. Proenza. Seconded by Ms. Baunach. Ratification to recommendation 2 was passed unanimously.
- Recommendation #3: Moved to ratification by Dr. Proenza. Seconded by Mr. Trakas.
  - Dr. Proenza suggested modifications to item B.
  - Mr. Beeghly suggested the report clearly state the principle that lower cost opportunities to education are available. Mr. Trakas reiterated this point.
  - Dr. Portch suggested a revision that the Commission accepted.
  - Ratification to recommendation 3 was passed unanimously.
- Recommendation #4: Moved to ratification by Dr. Proenza. Seconded by Ms. Baunach. Mr. Boyd called for discussion.
  - Mr. Pogue proposed incorporating a president's council under an annually rotating chairmanship to clearly delineate the responsibility to implement the recommendation.
  - Mr. Trakas proposed that the goal be clarified as consolidated back-office functions in the future, as opposed to shared services.
  - Dr. Proenza indicated that he had submitted some comments that the recommendation lacked boldness and the overarching goal that he believed was needed.
  - Dr. Portch proposed rearranging the recommendation to better incorporate 2-year schools and reduce the cumbersomeness of the recommendation.
  - Ratification to recommendation 4 was passed unanimously.
- Recommendation #5: Moved to ratification by Mr. Pogue. Seconded by Ms. Timken. Mr. Boyd called for discussion.
  - Mr. Pogue suggested the term "formalize" is used in this recommendation since there were some existing cross-registration programs that were already in process.
  - Ms. Timken requested that the word "effective" be included.

- Ratification to recommendation 5 was passed unanimously.
- Recommendation #6: Moved to ratification by Dr. Proenza. Seconded by Mr. Pogue. Mr. Boyd called for discussion. Ratification to recommendation 6 was passed unanimously.
- Recommendation #7: Moved to ratification by Dr. Proenza. Seconded by Mr. Briggs. Mr. Boyd called for discussion. Ratification to recommendation 7 was passed unanimously.
- Recommendation #8: Moved to ratification by Dr. Proenza. Seconded by Mr. Briggs. Mr. Boyd called for discussion.
  - Mr. Pogue urged that the language needed to incorporate more accountability and responsibility directly related to individual universities.
  - Mr. Proctor indicated this information could be found in Appendix C.
  - Conversation continued to determine whether this information should remain in Appendix C or if it should be woven throughout the entire report. Dr. Portch stated that Appendix C would continue to be edited and confirmed with each university, with an explanation in the report of Appendix C.
  - Based on comments from Mr. Trakas questioning who would sit on the panel, Dr. Portch agreed to work with Mr. Trakas to draft revised language.
  - Ratification to recommendation 8 was passed unanimously.
- Recommendation #9: Moved to ratification by Dr. Proenza. Seconded by Mr. Trakas. Mr. Boyd called for discussion.
  - Mr. Pogue asked whether the region's major hospitals were included in the recommendation.
  - Dr. Portch stated that the hospitals were not currently included, but were invited.
  - Mr. Briggs asserted that all interested organizations should be allowed to join.
  - Ratification to recommendation 9 was passed unanimously.
- Recommendation #10: Moved to ratification by Dr. Proenza. Seconded by Ms. Baunach. Mr. Boyd called for discussion. Ratification to recommendation 10 was passed unanimously.
- Recommendation #11: Moved to ratification by Dr. Proenza. Seconded by Dr. Nora. Mr. Boyd called for discussion.
  - Mr. Pogue and Dr. Nora discussed the leadership role that NEOUCOM will take to implement this recommendation. Mr. Briggs concluded that NEOUCOM should lead the implementation of the recommendation, though recognize that it will require collaborating with other organizations.
  - Dr. Portch suggested a revision that accommodated these comments.
  - Ratification to recommendation 11 was passed unanimously.
- Recommendation #12: Moved to ratification by Dr. Proenza. Seconded by Ms. Baunach. Mr. Boyd called for discussion.
  - Dr. Lefton suggested clarification on the recommendation's language, and Dr. Portch suggested a revision.

- Ratification to recommendation 12 was passed unanimously.
- Recommendation #13: Moved to ratification by Dr. Proenza. Seconded by Mr. Kaufmann. Mr. Boyd called for discussion.
  - Mr. Trakas asked why payroll was not specifically mentioned in the recommendation.
  - Dr. Portch and Dr. Case explained that shared payroll services are substantially more difficult than other shared services, which is why it is not explicitly included in the recommendation. Payroll services may eventually be shared, but, most likely, not before other shared service programs have been implemented.
  - Ratification to recommendation 13 was passed unanimously.
- Recommendation #14: Moved to ratification by Dr. Proenza. Seconded by Mr. Kaufmann. Mr. Boyd called for discussion. Ratification to recommendation 14 was passed unanimously.
- Recommendation #15: Moved to ratification by Dr. Proenza. Seconded by Mr. Kaufmann. Mr. Boyd called for discussion.
  - Mr. Pogue suggested revised language, and Mr. Trakas volunteered to draft revised text that would ask the legislature to establish a study commission to evaluate cost structures.
  - Dr. Portch suggested the revision should give leadership flexibility.
- Recommendation #16: Moved to ratification by Dr. Proenza. Seconded by Ms. Baunach. Mr. Boyd called for discussion. Ratification to recommendation 16 was passed unanimously.
- Recommendation #17: Tabled pending further discussion with the Attorney General's office.
- Recommendation #18: Moved to ratification by Dr. Proenza. Seconded by Dr. Nora. Mr. Boyd called for discussion. Ratification to recommendation 18 was passed unanimously.

Adjourn