

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 June 5, 2007 session of the
Academic Workgroup of the
Northeast Ohio Universities Collaboration & Innovation Study Commission
Held at the offices at the University of Akron- Martin Center, Akron, Ohio

Attendees: Committee Chair, Jane Timken; Commission Chair, Ted Boyd; Dorothy Baunach, Dr. Lois Nora, Dr. Luis Proenza, Dr. Garry Walters.

Guests: Kimberly Chapple, Dr. Chand Midha, Char Reed,

Unable to attend: Bruce Beeghly, Dr. David Sweet, Ronald Weinberg, Richard Pogue

Staff: Dr. Stephen Portch (via teleconference), Monica Turoczy (via teleconference), Amy Sabath

Opening Comments of Committee Chair Jane Timken:

- Ms. Timken noted the focus of the mission of this group and the short amount of time to complete the task at hand. It's important that each member of the committee make every effort to attend workgroup meetings. First on the agenda was the review of workgroup charge/mission and the need to identify the areas of strength for each institution.
- Dr. Walters commented that the need is for high quality options for students for undergraduate and graduate professional education. In looking at the generic data that we have available for each institution, it doesn't capture enough detail. We need quality program information from the universities, and they each have that information.
- In describing the areas of strength, Dr. Portch suggested there be a limit around the number of programs and length of information for each university to provide. There should be a percentage basis of no more than 10% of overall programs.
- The discussion then centered on academic collaboration and where it may be most appropriate. It was determined that the universities should define the objectives, and the group would go from there.

- It was finally decided, by the group, that each university should identify 5 – 10 programs of distinction and include their data and reasoning behind them. If the universities want to add additional programs, it will be the decision of the Chairman whether to include them.
- Dr. Portch recommended that each university provide a one page outline per program including graduation data, faculty size, other demographics etc. They should also add one or two programs they would like to build to distinction. This may be expanding an existing program or a new program.
- This request to the universities should be distributed immediately and would be due prior to the next meeting. Each member will then receive copies of the responses in advance to discuss at the next meeting.
- The Academic Workgroup would like to have one more meeting before inviting the provosts in to discuss ideas. Provosts should begin working now to come up with ideas to present.
- Dr. Portch brought up the fact that Community and Technical Colleges will need to be included and the workgroup should have conversations with them in the fall. There are more Associate degrees being offered than four-year degrees.
- Dr. Nora pointed out that we need to identify outcome measures. We need to identify programs that merit further conversation. We also need to identify where there are two-year degrees versus four-year degrees. We need to know what programs the Community and Technical Colleges need and determine what we can learn from them.
- Dr. Proenza mentioned reviewing the report, “Tough Choices, Tough Times,” to analyze the relationships and specific focused recommendations.
- Mr. Boyd recommended that Dr. Adrienne O’Neill be invited in to discuss her P-16 experience and blueprint with the group. Dr. O’Neill will be able to offer ideas on what is required to replicate the Stark P-16 success.
- The discussion then turned to funding formulas and how state money is distributed. Ms. Timken suggested we look at how other states receive their funding. Dr. Walters suggested we not think of the formula as the objective, but rather think about the educational objectives and the formula as the means to the objectives.

Bold Ideas:

- Dr. Nora mentioned her vision for NEOUCOM extending public health sciences education. The academic health vision for the region might include improving the life sciences graduate program, looking further at the area of dentistry and nursing education and having common academics across the board and extensive life sciences research. A simple structure won’t take health sciences to the next level, instead it will take money.

- Dr. Proenza noted that the state spent more money on higher education areas that are not as influential and productive as other areas are, such as Polymer Sciences at the University of Akron. The state will have to commit funding for salaries in order to attract talent.
- Mr. Boyd discussed a P-16 regional collaboration with three objectives: (1) increase college-going rate, (2) eliminate need for remediation at the four-year level, (3) change the structure of educational progression to shorten the time needed to achieve two-year or four-year degrees.
- Ms. Timken emphasized the need for both higher expectations of students and greater alignment of P-12 math and science requirements with higher education so students are better prepared for the transition from high school to college. She acknowledged that the state has approved a new core curriculum but expressed concern that the new requirements will not be phased in for several years. This means that students will continue to come to college underprepared in science and math.
- Dr. Portch suggested a common application form and system for all schools.
- Dr. Proenza provided a handout regarding comparative strengths of the University of Akron graduate degree completions and research expenditures. He also provided a copy “In the Public Interest; A White Paper on the Funding and Functions of Higher Education in Ohio.”
- Ms. Timken recommended that “big ideas” by committee members, who have not already submitted suggestions, be requested in writing to Ms. Timken via email.

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