

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 November 14, 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, Dr. William Demas, Dr. Lester Lefton, Dr. Lois Nora, John Pogue, Richard Pogue, Dr. Luis Proenza, Dr. David Sweet, Jane Timken, Jim Trakas

Guests: Ann Womer Benjamin (NOCHE), Kimberly Chapple (OBOR), Tom Maraffa (Youngstown State University), Chand Midha (the University of Akron), Kathleen Ruff (NEOUCOM), Dr. Beth Stroble (the University of Akron), Dr. John Case (the University of Akron), Richard Lewis (NEOUCOM), Dr. Laura Davis (Kent State University), Roger Carroll (Office of the Attorney General), Pat Myers (Kent State University), Dr. Char Reed (Kent State University), Dr. Peter Kasvinsky (Youngstown State University), Dr. Mary Jane Saunders (Cleveland State University), Kirstin Toth (GAR Foundation), Janet Okoben (Cleveland Plain Dealer).

Unable to attend: James Hambrick, Bradley Whitehead, Philip Kaufmann, Ronald Weinberg, Rob Briggs

Staff: Monica Turoczy, Amy Sabath, Allen Proctor, Stephen Portch, Lynne Woodman

Opening Comments of Chairman Ted Boyd

- Mr. Boyd welcomed everyone. Mr. Boyd noted the December 5th meeting will include ratifying the recommendations. There will not be any additional Workgroup meetings at this time.

Administrative Recommendations

- Dr. Proenza moved to adopt the Academic recommendations listed in the consent agenda, Dr. Demas seconded the motion.
- Dr. Portch noted the Commission should offer to pilot any recommendation that has statewide implications.

Consent Agenda of Recommendations:

- *TRI - Central hosting and shared data center*

- *TR 2- Common application for admissions*
 - *TR 3 - Ongoing structure for administrative collaboration*
 - *TR 4 - Common procurement function with common e-procurement software*
 - *TR 5 - Eliminate multiple prime contracting requirements*
 - *TR 6 - Eliminate restrictions in ORC that limit operational flexibility*
 - *Construction bidding (purchasing)*
 - *No recommendations*
 - *Ohio Arts Council*
 - *Leasing Property process*
 - *Accounting for construction and capital purchases*
 - *Open meetings and public records*
 - *Mandatory direct deposit*
 - *Legal – small claims limits*
 - *TR 7 - Sequenced phased migration to common IT platform specifications and common fundamental applications*
 - *TR 8 - Pre-approval, pre-determined performance criteria, annual joint school/AG review and automatic renewal of appointments of satisfactorily performing outside counsel*
 - *TR 9 - Move to print management approach to consolidate printing, copying, and faxing hardware.*
 - *TR 10 - Collaborative healthcare benefits purchasing – Mercer Report*
- Mr. Proctor noted the value of coverage only ranged 15% and there were not sufficient pricing efficiencies. It was noted that all nine institutions are using Medical Mutual. The Recommendations have been divided into three groups: elimination of indemnity, common procurement, and common design of dental, long-term disability, and life insurance benefits.
 - Mr. Proctor noted almost all of the tactical recommendations will reduce diversity across the schools.
 - Mr. Pogue stated he didn't think we should make these recommendations. He added that schools can research this and do it on their own.
 - Mr. Trakas noted we could ask the legislature for creative relief on some of these recommendations. He added that these need language that is easier to work with. Dr. Proenza added that these be re-worded to eliminate barriers.
- *TR 11 - Tactical steps toward transparency/simplification of tuition and fees*
- Mr. Boyd asked if there were any comments regarding the letter sent to the Attorney General on behalf of the Commission. Dr. Proenza noted there was a misinterpretation on the draft recommendations but it was explained and everything is fine now.
 - Dr. Lefton noted a movement to common medical will cost the institutions money; nobody will bargain down, just up.

- Dr. Portch suggested the Commission look at what this recommendation does for the region collectively. Mr. Pogue added that if there is so much uncertainty about these recommendations then do not move them forward. Dr. Portch added that rather than not recommend them, he suggested continued study and exploration of these items. Mr. Boyd agreed with the suggestions to proceed with examination of the issues and not eliminate the recommendation.
- Mr. Pogue dissented from the approval of this recommendation.

Academic Recommendations

- *Modification to statute 3345.06 – Entrance Requirements* – Mr. Pogue asked if the report will explain in more detail the point of this recommendation. Dr. Portch noted it would. He added that the state has a law that says a university cannot give an entrance examination to anyone who completed twelfth grade. The language of the law says that you cannot deny entrance by an examination. This recommendation improves this law and allows the opportunity to offer an entrance examination if the university wants to do so.
- Mr. Beeghly added this recommendation works toward mission differentiation which is one of the Chancellor’s goals.
- The motion was made to adopt the recommendation by Dr. Sweet and seconded by Mr. Pogue. The adoption was approved by a unanimous vote.
- *Increasing Graduates* – Ms. Timken noted the goal is to increase undergraduate and graduate degrees and increase student retention. There needs to be an investment in the students to achieve this goal.
- Mr. Pogue suggested this recommendation request specific revisions to the funding formula. Mr. Boyd suggested the recommendation be changed to ask the legislature to provide significant funding incentives to increase the number of degrees awarded. This was agreed by members to be changed.
- Mr. Trakas asked if there were dollar amounts being included with these recommendations to the legislature. Dr. Portch said we will come up with some figures based on information we have collected from the institutions.
- Mr. Trakas asked if there are things that can be done independent of this Commission and the legislature. Dr. Portch noted that yes, there are things the universities can do on their own.
- Dr. Portch noted that Dennis Jones had suggested our goal be focused on retention and graduation. Mr. Pogue asked if we were asking the legislature to fund some of these ideas. He added that the Commission is not asking the legislature for funding for specific student support programs. There should be a legislative budget initiative for some of these recommendations.

- The motion was made to adopt the recommendation by Dr. Sweet and seconded by Ms. Baunach. The adoption was approved by a unanimous vote.
- *Academic Program Review and Expansion* – Dr. Portch noted this recommendation suggests that Provosts, with an outside panel, look at regent data and identify a threshold of degrees.
- Mr. Boyd suggested an introductory paragraph be added to tie this recommendation together.
- Mr. Trakas suggested part of the review should be “the strategic value of the program to the Northeast Ohio economy be a consideration.” All members present agreed to add this.
- The motion was made to adopt the recommendation by Dr. Proenza and seconded by Ms. Baunach. The adoption was approved by a unanimous vote.
- Mr. Pogue asked about the definition of “state’s high needs programs.” Dr. Portch responded that it is demonstrated with STEM, teacher education and nursing.
- *University-based Urban Redevelopment Initiative* – Mr. Boyd noted this relates because it attracts students and creates a more welcoming environment for students.
- There was a suggestion to remove “urban” from the recommendation from the last meeting. Dr. Portch noted “urban” needed to stay in the recommendation, but it needed to be defined. After much discussion, the Commission members agreed to remove the second “urban” from the recommendation. The recommendation should read “the urban redevelopment initiatives” and delete “and.”
- The motion was made to adopt the recommendation by Dr. Sweet and seconded by Mr. Trakas. The adoption was approved by a unanimous vote.
- *North Shore Graduate & Research Alliance Council* – Ms. Timken reviewed the goals of this recommendation.
- Mr. Pogue suggested we not limit these business and industry to these sectors because of emerging technologies.
- Dr. Lefton noted we are asking for \$10,000 in contributions from people who are not at the table. Others such as Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland Clinic and others are not here and may not participate. Dr. Portch noted that if others don’t want to be a member, they don’t have to, but in order to be a member they have to contribute \$10,000.
- Dr. Lefton added that there is a loss of power of the research alliance if all members do not participate. Dr. Portch noted that this should be worth the membership to each of these entities.
- The motion was made to adopt the recommendation by Dr. Proenza and seconded by Ms. Baunach. The adoption was approved by a unanimous vote.

- *Technology Transfer and Commercialization Unit* – Dr. Portch noted this recommendation will be a reconstituted research foundation by virtue of indicating there should be representation by participation of the institutions.
- The motion was made to adopt the recommendation by Mr. Beeghly and seconded by Dr. Proenza. The adoption was approved by a unanimous vote.
- *Medical and Health-Related Education and Research in Northeast Ohio* – Dr. Portch noted these recommendations are essentially principles which should be addressed. There needs to be an expansion of activity both in education and in the research areas.
- Mr. Pogue suggested adding in the last bullet “there should be a review by the Chancellor and legislature.” All members present agreed to add this.
- The motion was made to adopt the recommendation by Dr. Proenza and seconded by Mr. Beeghly. The adoption was approved by a unanimous vote.
- *Mission Distinctiveness* – Mr. Trakas asked if this had been vetted through the trustees of the institutions. Mr. Boyd noted these are the distinctive visions of each of the Presidents.
- The motion was made and seconded to adopt this recommendation. The adoption was approved by a unanimous vote.
- The work of the Commission is now complete. The charge was to make recommendations which have now been adopted.

Adjourn