



Lauren Fechtel
Secretary of the General Assembly
3150 Ohio Union
1739 N. High Street
614.736.2390
fechtel.l@osu.edu

49th General Assembly
Spring 2017, Session 15
January 11, 2017

- I. Opening**
 - a. Call to Order
 - b. Attendance

- II. Open Forum for Public**
 - a. No one.

- III. Updates**
 - a. *Danielle Di Scala*: Welcome back. Be on the lookout from things from Derek and Liz this semester so you guys can plan your constituency events and continue to write resolutions. We are trying to get the Judicial Panel Chief Justice Conner Greenwood to come in next week to answer questions about the approval of the election bylaws. If there is anything that needs to be changed you can bring it up next week.

- IV. Executive Report**
 - a. *Gerard Basalla*: Cabinet is back to running swiftly. We have a new class of 30 new members due to a push during the campaign of people who said they should be able to join USG when they want. The new members are now shadowing committees. We have had meetings for textbook affordability. The State of the University Address is next week and me, Danielle, and Annie will be speaking. We will be talking about USG and will be calling out the university, both positively and negatively, and it will be great to have that opportunity. I will be giving you a policy calendar in the coming weeks so that we make sure that our policy points will be met.

- V. Old Business**
 - a. No old business.

- VI. New Business**
 - a. Strategic Planning Ryan J. Schmiesing, Ph.D. Associate Provost
 - i. *Schmiesing*: Thank you all for giving me a little time this evening. How many of you are aware before Danielle told you that the university is going through a strategic planning process? The provost and president have been speaking about it with Gerard and



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others. I want to tell you where we are and where we want to be. I'm sure the president will address this next week in his speech and the provost will address it. We started the strategic planning in July in order to update the plan that was released in 2011 because it is time to update it. We want to see where we rank compared to other universities and our peers. Rankings are important to us, and we think they are important to you. Does anyone know where we are ranked as a public university? Sixteen, right? Where do you think we have been the last 15 years? Sixteen would be right. The goal in 1998 was to move in the top ten of public universities and that has always been a goal. The challenge is no one else is sitting around doing nothing; they have the same goal. We have decided to see what Ohio State needs to focus on and let the rankings take care of themselves. There are 11 areas that we think are important. Starting in mid-fall, we wanted to see what the community should be doing as a university. We go through our reaccrediting review in March and some of you are already engaged in that to update our vision. We haven't adopted it yet because it might change slightly due to this. Any university with the size and scope of our university will have similar goals over time. What do we aspire to do in research, outreach, etc. We've had 510 people engaged since November face-to-face and 1,000 have answered online questions that contributed to the themes. This is the face-to-face of students. The responses we've had are not huge, but when looking at the typical response, this is typical compared to responses of other surveys. What I want to do tonight is for you to spend time with your peers to hear what you think the university should focus on. We'll go through part of this and then I want you to spend time outside of this. Please do it with someone else. Pick a box and have a conversation about what you think the university should pursue or do. What I say is stay at a 30,000-foot level. People will comment on faculty and teaching. You can stay at that level or go down to specific strategies, like, for example, all faculty should be trained in efficient teaching. We're starting to see those things. I want to hear some feedback from it. The research stewardship category is about affordability. If as a body, you want to respond,



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you can do that. Some groups do resolutions; we are open to that as well.

- ii. *Schmiesing*: Are there things you are interested in sharing?
- iii. *Abusway*: The university should be constantly updating buildings and tools needed for research.
- iv. *Bodey*: We said Ohio State has an opportunity and if the school is looking to stay a flagship school, it would be worth it to expand into other categories.
- v. *Reed*: The university should increase research facilities on campus and increase funding for environmental research.
- vi. *Buss*: We were talking about gen eds and streamlining the process so when students have two majors in different colleges or switch to a major in a different college, they can graduate on time and won't have to retake gen eds because the ones they took only count for one college.
- vii. *Ford*: From an engineering perspective, I am advocating more money for Buckeye Bullet, as its funding now is mostly by private organizations. It is one of the fastest electronic cars in the country.
- viii. *Kachnowski*: Offering merit scholarships would bring in students who would be more likely to be drawn to research, which would increase the alumni network and improve the ranking so that Ohio State can become more familiar across the country.
- ix. *Belfiglio*: The promotion of tenure docs with professors with good teaching backgrounds. We are not rewarding teachers for teaching in the same way as research. Teaching should be factored into tenure decisions as importantly as research.
- x. *Merchant*: I would recommend adding flexibility with course coordinators because it is a bit ridged now.
- xi. *Abusway*: I also wrote keeping the classes small because a professor told me that the class sizes are constantly increasing.
- xii. *Clark*: Having access to more financial aid, especially for students currently enrolled would help.
- xiii. *Liu*: It would be good to have opportunities for international students because leadership opportunities are more likely to go to domestic students. Having more opportunities for international students would draw more of them in and increase the rankings.



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- xiv. *Glass*: There should be more focus on students who change campuses and the regional campus experience. Senator Bodey and I have a list for that.
- xv. *Bodey*: Dining on campus; students are required to have dining plans. When they transfer they aren't eligible for scholarships. Mental health resources on campus need improvement and the quality of gen eds and the general transfer process should be looked at.
- xvi. *Glass*: Also, the school should standardize the transfer process for Ohio State students and focus on making the change from campuses smooth. Students in other colleges have different transition experiences.
- xvii. *Reed*: With CFAES [College of Food, Agricultural, and Environmental Sciences], one of the main tenants of agriculture is fixing the divide between Environment and Natural Resources and Food Ag. Also, expanding the undergrad research office. They are accessible, but their funding seems limited some times.
- xviii. *Shaffer*: Weather is detrimental, so improving transport would help students.
- xix. *Lovejoy*: A lot of scholarships are based just on ACT scores and they aren't representative of success and with students who take many classes. There are students who are qualified and should get scholarships based on their performance in college.
- xx. *Chang*: Making the Honors program more known once people are on campus is important; students can join the program after coming here. There are opportunities offered to me in the program that students could use if they knew they could join the program.
- xxi. *Liu*: I was looking at jobs at MSU, and they have jobs that require one to have another language. Ohio State lacks the position; no one is willing to speak in another language to students. While in the description in the other schools, one has to spend a certain amount of time speaking with students.
- xxii. *Chime*: Senator Liu, are you advocating hiring counselors that speak all the languages of students?
- xxiii. *Liu*: Not all students, but the major ones. Just Chinese is not sufficient, but it is something.



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- xxiv. *Merchant*: Increasing engagement between Columbus community and classrooms.
- xxv. *Bidna*: The university values recruiting students and minority students, but you have to want those students to come. The university should look at a general culture change to be more inviting to minorities.
- xxvi. *Chang*: Making an effort to recruit more diverse faculty.
- xxvii. *Buss*: An answer we get when we bring that up is they don't get diverse applicants. A way to fix that is to make Ohio State a leader in having a student population that is more diverse so that we are turning out persons of color to represent this in 20 years.
- xxviii. *Schmiesing*: I may be speaking for myself, but I think saying not enough people out there is an excuse. Did you know that Ohio State lead P.H.D. graduates in the 1960s? We have the ability because we've done it.
- xxix. *Chime*: It is different to recruit diverse faculty, but it is important to maintain them. Once you get here, the culture changes. The only way to fix this is to make the rest of campus inviting. I feel like there is a division between minority groups. Minorities stick together because it is comfort zone, but it is hard to branch out if you feel that campus doesn't accept you. It would be good for FYE experiences that promote diversity and inclusion and macroaggressions because there are things that people do that they don't even realize is offensive.
- xxx. *Clark*: Expanding the recruitment network might lead to diversity. I grew up most of my life in Oklahoma. Not one OSU recruitment representative visited this area. When I moved to Ohio, every school got hit up by recruitment officers. Expanding recruitment across the nation would help.
- xxxi. *Reed*: As the state's flagship university, we need to recruit in Ohio because the point is to support the state.
- xxxii. *Bodey*: There are a lot of very talented students turned away because they come from poor rural high schools. There are two of us from my school and we went to a failing public school and we couldn't help that. I think that Ohio State has taken a turn for the worse in terms of recruiting.



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- xxxiii. *Schmiesing*: A lot of the discussion is tuned towards financial issues and the conversations would swift to access holistically. People don't see themselves here or what they were recruited for doesn't exist and that is a tricky dynamic. There are issues with access to those who can't afford it, those you can't get it, but it is more than just a financial issue. In these discussions we didn't hear about access in terms of affordability. They were talking to us about having a 25 ACT and not being about to get in. This is my opinion.
- xxxiv. *Liu*: I volunteered in China at what's like the Student Alumni Council abroad. No one had heard of Ohio State before they got in and the international fee is 10x higher than other public universities and is 5x higher than other private universities. I've done my research and I still don't know were those fees go.
- xxxv. *Abusway*: We would like more fee transparency. I know I pay \$600 per semester and I don't know where it goes or what it funds.
- xxxvi. *Befiglio*: I sit on Council of Academic Affairs and the review process and one of the things is looking at what students should learn. These academics and other things like cultural things we need to look at gen eds to see it encompass all things for students. The question is where should we put the things students what to learn? That gets put into STEP, and we need to focus on how the academic learning interacts as a unit. What are we teaching in survey about campus resources and where are the gaps in the program? Overall learning should be addressed in a holistic manner.
- xxxvii. *Schmiesing*: Randy Smith is leading that and the gen eds were last updated in 1988, which is before I started undergrad.
- xxxviii. *Colvin*: I'm in Fisher and they are good with job placement, but some people feel it is a free-for-all and there's not much direction. Faculty need to work more with other programs to see what they need. Not focus on publications, but ones with real life experience.
- xxxix. *Reed*: We have a goal to be carbon neutral by 2040 and other schools are making leaps and bounds ahead of us and I don't see us taking those steps.



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- xl. *Chang*: Actually providing resources for the sustainability committees so they have the resources to be transparent to the student body.
- xli. *Buss*: Especially when it comes to diversity and what we all said and maintaining these standards at all campuses. There was a lot to be desired for diversity. ATI and resources aren't spent here like there.
- xlii. *Bodey*: I've been in meetings with the Glenn College who have to make decisions based on size of the class and based on how many students from other colleges enroll instead students from the Glenn College, which is what should be focused on. I'm going to be a better public servant by taking other classes, but we shouldn't get less money for other students not taking Glenn classes.
- xliii. *Schmiesing*: The first 200 people we spoke to were staff, we started with faculty and now with different student groups, and there is consistency with all these groups. We talked about research facilities and funding and the inconsistency in faculty and the ability to engage in meaningful research. The idea of recognizing teaching is always an interesting conversation. It lies with the faculty PNT. We began to have a conversation about that. That goes back to the department, and it is an interesting observation. The last thing is diversity. We do hear a lot about it, do we add a fifth quadrant for diversity? The president feels we should talk about it as a whole across all areas. I was afraid that it wouldn't be discussed, but that hasn't been an issue. Students are more authentic, I can say this as a white male and having other white males talk about it, we are not that well informed on it. Students are more authentic and real. The last comment is on job placement. There is a dynamic on why are students here? Is college successful if students contribute to society or is it if they get jobs? Those are two different discussions. A lot of people say that it should not be taught just for jobs and vice versa. I don't think they are mutually exclusive. Overall, the types of things you've shared are what we've heard. We will be talking about this tomorrow. I don't need a summary unless this is what we want to do.



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VII. Announcements

- a. *Di Scala*: Thank you for your engagement. Continue to talk to each other, whether it be through resolutions or through a Google Drive. There were a lot of great things that were discussed.
- b. *Bidna*: If we have other ideas, is there some way we can contact you?
- c. *Schmiesing*: Let's handle that individually. I'm not sure how we are moving forward, but I'm not 100 percent sure.
- d. *Bodey*: Tomorrow there is a meeting for WAIP. Applications are due January 20th. I encourage participating in the program and I'm happy to talk to you about it.
- e. *Liu*: If you want to make \$9.51 an hour, you should come to commuter services.
- f. *Frank*: What is the process for filling the vacancies?
- g. *Di Scala*: We are making the applications and they will be out for a few weeks to get that in as quickly as possible.
- h. *Clark*: what seats are vacant?
- i. *Di Scala*: There are four seats; south campus, social work, exploration, and west campus.
- j. *Merchant*: Monday is MLK Day of Service and if you want to be a site leader, contact me. There is a training on Sunday. Also, if you are a living area senator, there are info sessions for the housing lottery system. Please contact me if you want to go to one.
- k. *Chime*: Since Senator Cooper just gave up her seat, do we need people to reapply or can we appoint another applicant?
- l. *Di Scala*: We will open an application, and the other applicant is no longer a social work major.
- m. *Chang*: The Lifeline Response app was updated so download the app. Text LLR to 7400 or download it in the app store.
- n. *Buss*: There is now an online portal for CCS website for scheduling.
- o. *Shaffer*: Over break I learned that Dot's favorite thing to do is smash her nose into people's faces and I got a picture of her with a Santa hat.

VIII. Adjournment

- a. Meeting adjourned.