



Board of Regents

Ted Strickland, Governor
Eric D. Fingerhut, Chancellor

University System of Ohio

DIRECTIVE 2008-008

May 29, 2008

Re: GOVERNANCE OF THE OHIO ACADEMIC RESOURCES NETWORK (OARnet)

The Ohio Academic Resources Network was established as a consortium pursuant to section 3333.04(V) of the Revised Code, in 1987. Although a separate consortium from the Ohio Supercomputer Center (OSC), OARnet has been co-located with and co-managed by OSC. The governance of OSC and OARnet was established by resolution of the Board of Regents. With the exception of one resolution which made a slight change to the OSC Board in 1988, no subsequent guidance has been issued by the Board of Regents. Since that time, the practices of the OSC Board and its governance have deviated significantly from those two resolutions. In 2007, the OSC Board sought assistance from the Chancellor on this matter.

At the time OARnet was formed, all powers and duties rested with the Ohio Board of Regents. Effective May 15, 2007, House Bill 2 of the 127th General Assembly transferred all powers and duties held by the Ohio Board of Regents to the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents. House Bill 2 also provides that the Chancellor is the successor to, assumes all obligations of, and constitutes the continuation of the Ohio Board of Regents. In addition to transferring existing powers from the Board of Regents to the Chancellor, Section 4 of Sub. H.B. 2 of the 127th General Assembly, as subsequently amended by Am. Sub. H.B. 119 of the 127th General Assembly, mandated that the Chancellor report to the General Assembly and the Governor recommendations to accomplish the following: (A) make college more affordable and accessible for all Ohioans; (B) encourage Ohio graduates to remain in Ohio after earning their degrees; and (C) maximize higher education as a driver of the state's economy.

On March 31, 2008, pursuant to this charge from the General Assembly, the Chancellor delivered to the General Assembly and the Governor his recommendations, known as the Strategic Plan for Higher Education.

On July 27, 2007, Governor Strickland issued Executive Order 2007 – 24S establishing the Ohio Broadband Council and Broadband Ohio Network to coordinate state expenditures on networking and promote better availability of broadband to Ohioans. Higher education, through OARnet and its network, OSCnet, is a critical component of the Broadband Ohio program. The Strategic Plan for Higher Education recognizes the dual need to have OARnet support the state's broadband initiative and improve network services for higher education.

Based on a consideration of the original resolutions creating OSC and OARnet and the importance of networking to the success of the Strategic Plan and the Broadband Ohio program, and to establish an appropriate governance body for the Ohio Academic Resources Network, I hereby direct that Ohio Board of Regents Resolution 1988-34 and Resolution 1989-18 and any other resolutions of the Board of Regents regarding the governance of the Ohio Academic Resources Network be, and hereby are, superseded by the following:

OARnet will continue to be structured as a consortium in accordance with Section 3333.04 (V) of the Revised Code and shall have a fiscal agent appointed by the Chancellor. The Ohio State University shall continue as the fiscal agent of OARnet.

OARnet shall have a governance committee. The committee will include five members: the Chancellor of the Ohio Board of Regents or his designee, who shall serve as chair, a representative from the Ohio Department of Development, a representative of the Governor's Office, the Chief Information Officer for the State of Ohio's Office of Information Technology and a representative from the Ohio Department of Education.

This committee shall have as its duties the setting of broad policy guidelines for OARnet and the periodic review of its program and operation, with special attention to ensuring that the management and operation of the network supports the State of Ohio's goals for higher education, P-12 education, economic development, and the goals of its state agencies. The director of the OARnet program shall be chosen by, report to and serve at the pleasure of the governance committee. The director's responsibilities will include the design and operation of the OARnet program. The governance committee shall meet at least semiannually for this purpose.

OSTEER, the OSC Network Steering Committee, shall be dissolved as of the effective date of this Directive. The Chancellor shall appoint an advisory committee on information technology that will advise the Chancellor on the development and direction of the integrated technology infrastructure needed to support the Board of Regents education and technology programs. The members of this advisory committee may include Chief Information Officers or equivalent senior administrative officials responsible for information technology from Ohio's public and private not for profit universities and community colleges as well as representatives from private industry.

OARnet's operations and staff are an integral part of the past success of the Ohio Supercomputer Center as well as critical to the success of the Board of Regents' shared library services operation (OhioLINK) and distance learning network (Ohio Learning Network). OARnet will continue its support of these collaborative initiatives and maintain the network services required for their success. It shall function as a complementary part of an integrated technology infrastructure with these organizations, sharing services, staff, and technical capabilities where needed to support the success of the University System of Ohio's integrated technology infrastructure or to support administrative efficiencies.

The above proposed action was posted on the Regent's web site for the purpose of providing a period of public comment before final approval by the Chancellor. In response to the public comments received, the proposed action will take effect with the following addition: the OARnet governance committee will increase from five members to seven members. The two additional members shall be appointed by the Chancellor. Of the two additional members, one member shall be a representative from one of Ohio's public four year universities and one member shall be a representative from one of Ohio's public community or technical colleges.

This directive will take effect on May 29, 2008.



Eric D. Fingerhut
Chancellor, Ohio Board of Regents

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