Ohio Board of Regents Meeting Minutes
Ohio Department of Higher Education
Main Conference Room, 7th Floor
Columbus, Ohio
February 10, 2016

I.   Welcome and Call to Order

Chair Vinod K. Gupta called the February 10, 2016, Ohio Board of Regents (BOR) Meeting to order and thanked the Regents for braving the weather and coming to the meeting. He also thanked the Ohio Department of Higher Education (ODHE) staff for attending the meeting as well. He said that it was great news about Governor Kasich last night and he is sure the Governor's team is glad they are moving on to a warmer state.

II.   Roll Call

Chair Gupta asked that the roll call be read by Secretary Virginia M. Lindseth. Secretary Lindseth stated, "the record reflects that notice of this meeting was given in accordance with provisions of the Ohio Board of Regents' Ohio Administrative Code §3333-1-14, which rule itself was adopted in accordance with Section 121.22(F) of the Ohio Revised Code and of the State Administrative Procedure Act." Secretary Lindseth called the roll. Those present were:

Vinod K. Gupta
Thomas M. Humphries
Kurt A. Kaufman *(attended via video conference from The Ohio State University, Lima Campus)*
Elizabeth P. Kessler
Virginia M. Lindseth

Secretary Lindseth declared there was a quorum present.

III.   Approval of Minutes

Chair Gupta asked if there were any additions or corrections to the draft January 14, 2016, BOR minutes. There being none, Regent Kessler made a motion to approve the January 14, 2016, minutes as drafted and the motion was seconded by Vice Chair Humphries. All voting members of the board voted in favor of the motion approving the minutes as submitted from January 14, 2016.

IV.   Chancellor's Report
A. General Update

Chancellor Carey began his update by saying that he attended the annual Ohio Educational Technology Conference (OETC) and it was very impressive. He said that he hoped that the BOR had an opportunity to attend this year. He said that the conference has great exhibitions by many partners including the Ohio Department of Education, public institutions, industry and others.

Chancellor Carey asked that Jeff Robinson, Director of Communications of the ODHE introduce the new staff member that has joined the Communications team. Mr. Robinson introduced Steve Proctor who will serve as the Deputy Director of Communications. He said that this will allow the ODHE to expand their communications efforts and with his presence in this office either he or Mr. Proctor will always be available when they are travelling with the Chancellor. Mr. Proctor said a few words and said that he most recently worked as Vice President of Communications at The Ohio State University with a concentration in Alumni Relations. He said he also has some background in state government, as well. He said he looks forward to contributing to the mission of the ODHE.

B. Ohio's Newest Supercomputer

Chancellor Carey continued with his report and said that he wanted to bring forward Lynn Trinko, Assistant Deputy Chancellor of Educational Technology of ODHE and David Hudak, Ph.D., Interim Executive Director of the Ohio Supercomputer Center (OSC) to discuss Ohio's Newest Supercomputer. Assistant Deputy Chancellor Trinko said that the team has been working very hard on a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a new supercomputer. She asked Dr. Hudak to provide an overview of this project. Dr. Hudak said that he is pleased to announce that a contract has been signed to install a new supercomputer in the State of Ohio Computer Center that will be operated by OSC for the benefit of the higher education community across the State of Ohio. He said OSC currently serves twenty-five universities across the State of Ohio and they are working hard to expand that number.

Dr. Hudak began to explain the attributes of the new supercomputer and said that it will replace their current flagship the Oakley supercomputer and it will be five times more powerful. He said this is the largest system that they have ever deployed and they look forward to the challenge. He said the timeline is the following: Anticipated delivery is in the May timeframe; Early adopters coming online in the beginning of July; and Goal of full production at the beginning of the Academic Year.

Charles See, Assistant Deputy Chancellor for External Board Relations of ODHE asked for examples of some of the types of activities that occur on the supercomputer. Dr. Hudak replied that it is truly amazing what individuals do with the resources of the supercomputer. He said some of the following things are performed with the supercomputer: Targeted cancer therapies based on genetic sequences; Working with the auto and aero industry as it relates to predicting the aerodynamic capabilities of new vehicles; and Working with the auto racing industry (NASCAR) to assist with determining the safety standards that apply to this industry.

Assistant Deputy Chancellor Trinko asked how they are connecting OSC with industry/business. Dr. Hudak replied that there are a number of different industry areas that have a natural interest in supercomputing. He said that OSC provides start-up resources as well as expertise for companies that are interested in supercomputing. He said OSC has a program, AweSim, whose goal is to provide cycles, software, and expertise to industry partners interested in modeling and simulation that will move them to a competitive advantage.

Assistant Deputy Chancellor Trinko posed another question and asked if he could make comments about his team's efficiency as it is very unique. Dr. Hudak responded that they are a lean operation. He said they have the consortium to rely upon and a great deal of their business functions are being handled centrally. In addition, he said they are divided into an HPC Systems Team and Two Software Teams.

Chancellor Carey said that the simulation component of the supercomputer enhances learning for various sectors of industry. He spoke about simulated operations for the medical profession and being able to train in a virtual environment for healthcare aide industry. He said this technology did not exist before and is very instrumental in the learning environment today.

Chair Gupta asked how much different the new supercomputer will be from what currently exists. Dr. Hudak responded that the Glenn supercomputer is seven years old and the Oakley supercomputer is four years old. He said that the new supercomputer will be comprised of twenty 'racks' and by comparison one 'rack' of the new supercomputer has more computational power than all of the Glenn supercomputer; and two 'racks' has more computational power than all of the Oakley supercomputer . He said this is the advantage that they get over time as transistor densities continue to increase and as they can get more computational power in a fixed amount of space.

Chancellor Carey asked what the new supercomputer would mean for higher education. Dr. Hudak responded that the supercomputer is used by students that are primarily pursuing their Master's or Ph.D. degrees. He said the students design physical experiments on various projects in their field of study. He said that OSC gives the student access to the supercomputer, software, and training; assists them with running their experiment; the student receives their results; and visualizes the results. He said the majority of cycles are used by individuals that are working on deep physical problems. He also said that there are a lot of individuals that utilize the supercomputer to learn about the craft of supercomputing. He said the ability for them to be able to support traditional classes in addition to graduate work is a huge advantage for the state. He said this is not something that you see in a lot of other states.

Dr. Stephanie Davidson, Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs of ODHE asked if the institutions had use of the supercomputer at no cost. Dr. Hudak replied that public and private institutions have subsidized access to the supercomputer.

Vice Chair Humphries asked if there were any institutions or entities outside of the State of Ohio utilizing the supercomputer. Dr. Hudak responded no, not currently; however there have been discussions about consortiums across multiple universities outside of the state accessing the supercomputer but these discussions have not materialized.

Chair Gupta asked how many other states had a system that was comparable to the State of Ohio's supercomputer. Assistant Deputy Chancellor Trinko responded that the supercomputer was very unique as it is part of the consortium. She said many other states have a supercomputer that is managed by a single university or a single private college. Dr. Hudak added their resources are comparable to large state schools. He said that their hardware portfolio is similar to what you would see at Indiana University, Purdue University, or Northwestern University. He said the supercomputer is not as big as what you would see at the University of Illinois and the University of Texas because these two universities are very heavily funded by the National Science Foundation. He said from a hardware perspective they mirror a lot of university supercomputer centers but from a customer service perspective they serve a much larger base. He said the closest model to the State of Ohio is the Minnesota Supercomputer Institute. He said it is 'housed' at the University of Minnesota and they served twelve institutions around the state.

Secretary Lindseth asked what OARnet was. Assistant Deputy Chancellor Trinko said that OARnet was the Ohio Academic Resources Network; was a division of the OH-TECH Consortium; and delivers technology-based solutions that reduce costs, increase productivity and improve customer service that serves education, health care, public broadcasting and government.

On a similar topic, Chair Gupta asked for an update on the Research Portal. Assistant Deputy Chancellor See replied that the Research Portal will be supported by OH-TECH and the connectivity will be incorporated at part of the overall network. He said that they are in the prototype building phase and then they will release the RFP for the portal. He said they had a meeting last week with the Communications and Information Technology teams to discuss when they may have a functional prototype; the goal is the end of March for a prototype demo. He said that as they recall they have four pilot institutions that are working with ODHE and have provided them with data that will be displayed in the portal as part of the prototype demo. He said Everest Technologies Inc., a third party developer assisting them with the database components as it relates to the information of the four pilot institutions, recently transferred the data information over to OH-TECH. He said this was done so the following can occur: the ODHE team can begin to build the prototype demo; the prototype demo will be released in March; the capabilities and needs of the portal can be determined; and the RFP will be released shortly thereafter. He said once the prototype demo is complete they will do a presentation before the BOR.

V.   9th Condition Report Topic Discussion
A.   Topic Discussion

Chair Gupta began the discussion on the 9th Condition Report Topic by saying that at the last meeting the BOR wanted more information on the topic of Competency-Based Education (CBE). He asked Assistant Deputy Chancellor See to lead the discussion. Assistant Deputy Chancellor See said that at the last meeting Assistant Deputy Chancellor Trinko and Vice Chancellor Davidson began the CBE discussion and there were some questions that had arisen. He said that the BOR was promised at the next meeting that an outline (that can be found as Attachment #1) would be drafted and the topic would be discussed to further clarify what ODHE hoped to accomplish if this topic were chosen for the next Condition Report.

Assistant Deputy Chancellor Trinko said they are not looking to redefine what CBE is. She said these concepts have been around since the early 1970's and there had been a lot of evolution in education since that time. She said the definition that they have is one that is recognized throughout higher education. She said these definitions focuses on the concepts of having a traditional education that allows fixed time and mastery is variable; and in CBE mastery is fixed while time is variable. She used the subject of mathematics as an example of demonstrating mastery at each level and continuing to move forward. She said that CBE recognizes the versatility and transfer of knowledge that happens within an individual's life and life experiences that cannot necessarily be defined on a transcript. She said this is where an individual with military or a great deal of work experience would benefit from CBE. She said that they are seeing a lot of trends in CBE because it aligns well with workforce development principles and it allows individuals to come from different pathways.

Chair Gupta asked if CBE could be conducted online. Vice Chancellor Davidson replied that online education and CBE are two different things. She said that you can have online education that is competency-based; online education that is not competency-based; and face-to-face education that is competency-based. She said one is a way to deliver education and the other is the basis of education. Assistant Deputy Chancellor Trinko added this is why they felt it was important to include in the outline what CBE was not. She said that online education is not CBE but is a tool that can be used to offer CBE.

Secretary Lindseth said that CBE seemed to be very test-oriented and testing in it of itself is a very huge problem in education. With this, she said it may be difficult to get everyone to agree on what is considered to be competent in a particular area. She also said that she understands that CBE is more effective for concrete subjects and less effective for more abstracts subjects. Vice Chancellor Davidson replied there are schools of thought that there are subjects that lend themselves very easily to CBE and there may be other things that do not.

Chair Gupta asked if institutions need approval from the ODHE before conducting CBE. Vice Chancellor Davidson responded that an institution has to get specific approval from ODHE, the Higher Learning Commission, and regional accreditors to deliver online education. She said the accreditors at ODHE are now starting to be prepared for the approval process for CBE as well.

They continued to generally discuss CBE and Vice Chancellor Davidson said there are some grey areas but they have a basic definition of CBE. Chancellor Carey said it is one pathway that students are able to choose; however, it will not replace traditional institutions. Assistant Deputy Chancellor Trinko added this is an opportunity for those students that have those life and work experiences to potentially get through their pathway faster. Vice Chancellor Davidson said this will also assist those students that may need additional time with a particular course as well; it allows them to move forward at a pace that is appropriate for them.

Regent Kessler asked if they were aware of any constituency groups that were opposed to CBE. Assistant Deputy Chancellor Trinko replied that there are not any constituency groups that are opposed to CBE that she is aware of; however there are challenges for higher education because CBE would change certain processes within the system. Vice Chancellor Davidson added that it forces the faculty to think differently about how they

are delivering their classes as it is part of an entire program. She said the faculty collaborates with business/industry to determine what overall competencies are required of graduates.

Vice Chair Humphries asked about the assessment of a student prior to beginning CBE courses and wanted to know how this related to the assessment a veteran may take prior to beginning classes at an institution to determine interest in a career field. Vice Chancellor Davidson replied that this type of assessment was similar to prior learning assessment and guiding a career choice.

Chair Gupta asked what the structured process would be for creating the Condition Report. Assistant Deputy Chancellor See replied that he believed that they would use similar processes that they have done in the recent past and that is the following: appoint a Condition Report Subcommittee comprised of BOR members that guide the process; meetings of the subcommittee are held to discuss what steps the staff have taken to gather the information that would be utilized to draft the report; and reaching out to other institutions or entities to present before the subcommittee and/or to gather the information that they want. He recommended that this process be used again for this year's report. Vice Chancellor Davidson added that they do know that Sinclair Community College (SCC) has three CBE programs. She said that they would be looking at model programs such as SCC and the Western Governors University to help them understand. Chair Gupta said getting the input of outside groups and partners is very valuable. He said he would like the Condition Report to be a blueprint for CBE not only for the State of Ohio but for others as well.

Secretary Lindseth asked how much CBE there was. Vice Chancellor Davidson replied that there is a lot going on nationally. She said that there seemed to be many different models and she does not believe there is one best way to do it. Assistant Deputy Chancellor Trinko added that CBE is not a 'one size fits all model' and she sees this Condition Report as them doing a lot of the research for the institutions to get a sense of what CBE is; what CBE is not; and give examples of what may be a fit for their institution and institutional needs.

Vice Chair Humphries asked for an explanation of why CBE is not a 'one size fits all model'. Vice Chancellor Davidson responded that right now there are two very different ways that CBE can be done. She said that one is direct assessment and the other is still tied to semesters. She said she does not believe they are going to be able to say which way CBE model is best but the institutions will be able to determine that.

B. Vote
After discussion, a consensus was reached by the BOR that the 9th Condition Report topic would be CBE. Chair Gupta asked for a motion to approve the 9th Condition Report topic. The motion was made by Secretary Lindseth and seconded by Regent Kessler. Secretary Lindseth conducted a roll call vote and all of the voting Regents voted in favor of the motion approving CBE as the 9th Condition Report topic.

C. Next Steps
Chair Gupta said that within the next thirty days he would appoint members of the Condition Report Subcommittee, as well as a Chairperson. He said the Condition Report Subcommittee Chairperson would have sole discretion over the Condition Report outline(s); procedures(s); and schedule(s).

VI. 2016 Board Meeting Schedule
Chair Gupta began this discussion by saying that the standing BOR meeting dates of the second Thursday of every month beginning in the Month of March were emailed to each member. The members began to have discussions about the need for a March BOR meeting scheduled to be held on Thursday, March 10th and it was decided there will not be a meeting in the month March. However, this date will be reserved for a meeting of the Condition Report Subcommittee. The next meeting of the BOR will be held on Thursday, April 14th (with afternoon/evening before activities on Wednesday, April 13th). The location of the April BOR meeting will be determined; however they are interesting in having the meeting at the University of Toledo.

VII.   New Business/Open Discussion

Chair Gupta by asking the members if there were any topics they would like to bring forward for discussion. With that the following topics were brought forward for discussion:

A.   Topic One - College Credit Plus

Secretary Lindseth asked about College Credit Plus (CCP) and wanted an update on the program and the proposed House Bill 445 legislation. Chancellor Carey replied that CCP has been very successful and they have had a successful launch. He said there have been some issues raised by members of the legislature and ODHE has asked them to wait until they have the CCP data available so ODHE can evaluate what the concerns are. He said he thinks ODHE will be proposing some changes to CCP but the basic principles about maintaining student choice and the framework for the agreements will still be in place. Assistant Deputy Chancellor See added that they are in the process of developing the mechanisms so they are able to get year-end CCP program data. He said this data will include: Student demographic data; What courses the students are taking; and How these students are performing in these courses. He said he believes the things that are identified in House Bill 445 will be informed by this data and they will be able to make a determination on whether or not there is any merit.

B.   Topic Two - Case Western Reserve University – National Award

Chair Gupta said that Case Western Reserve University (CWRU) recently received a national award for its success in attracting and retaining foreign students. The Institute of International Education awarded CWRU the prestigious Andrew Heiskell Award for its initiatives in Innovation International Education. CWRU and Florida International University were co-winners in the category of "Internationalizing the Campus". Chair Gupta asked that a congratulatory commendation be sent to CWRU signed by the Chancellor and all BOR members. The Chancellor and BOR members agreed to this and a congratulatory commendation will be drafted by the Communications team and sent on behalf of the Chancellor and BOR members.

C.   Topic Three - University of Akron Leadership

Vice Chair Humphries asked about the University of Akron Faculty Senate vote of 'no confidence' in President Scarborough's leadership. Chancellor Carey said that this is not the first time a President in the State of Ohio has had a no confidence vote. He said this is a free speech issue for the faculty and does not have any practical effect as it relates to ODHE. He said President Scarborough reached out to faculty and talked to them and hopefully as they move forward they will build bridges to have a more harmonious relationship. Chair Gupta added that he believes that this has happened in the past at other Ohio institutions when they had leadership that had just begun their presidencies. He said that the BOR has to support the Presidents completely in their role.

Chair Gupta asked the members if there were any topics they would like to bring forward; there being none the New Business/Open Discussion topic of the agenda was closed.

VIII.   Adjournment

Chair Gupta asked if there were any further items to be brought before the Board. There being none, Vice Chair Humphries made a motion to adjourn the meeting and the motion was seconded by Regent Kessler. All voting members of the board voted in favor of this motion and Chair Gupta declared the meeting adjourned.

_____   _____
Ohio Board of Regents   Date