The meeting was called to order by D. Warren (Stark) at 10:05. In attendance were, M. Harding (Tuscarawas), F. Fouad (East Liverpool), V. Ladingham (Geauga), B. Keefer (Ashtabula), S. Wamsley (Salem), P. Tomich (Trumbull), Nate Ritchey (VP System Integration) and Larry Froehlich.

Agenda approved unanimously (Fouad/Keefer).
Minutes from July 11 RCFAC meeting unanimously approved (Keefer/Fouad).

Chair Warren Report
Posting RCFAC meeting minutes: Farid mentioned that he shares the RCFAC meetings’ minutes via a Blackboard page create for the East Liverpool Campus. A discussion on creating a RCFAC link to post meetings’ minutes took place. Nate will talk to his staff and get back to the council.
Nate proposed to address specific issues from the RC chairs’ updates.
Kent/Regional Budgets:
Kent budget is down by $ 12 M, of these $ 8 M is due to lower Kent enrollment, between 1000-1200 student less this year. Among this is 700 less international students. The early separation is expected to account for ~ $ 5 M. The board of trustees are meeting on W and the budget will be balanced, but not through academic cuts, like faculty development/travel.
The RC budgets were based on flat enrollment, however, some RC have lower enrollments, RCs are down by ~ 377 students. Overall, the RC are down by $ 2M, some RC are up / flat / down, adjustments are needed.
Nate: We have to focus on results, get new ideas, create new programs in order to flip the enrollment into the positive side.
Nate: We (Nate and the provost) had a meeting with the Tri-C aiming to develop new opportunities for 4-year programs at Kent, and hopefully at the RC.
REACH is a research institution promoting research faculty/student/ staff research. Our goal I to dedicate $200,000 to support the program.
Wamsley asked: is it a faculty research support?
Nate: 90% faculty research support, but also should support staff research for best practices.
Wamsley Q2: How will the Kent budget be balanced?
Nate Not from faculty/academic activity.
Ladingham asked: is the Rising scholar program for all the regional campuses?
Nate: Yes
Ladingham asked: who is in charge?
Nate: Wendy Pfrenger at Salem is leading and will tour in RCs to share her experience and we hope to have a champion who leads the program at Each RC.
Warren asked: more details on how the Tri-C / Kent programs will work.
Nate: Tri-C students can take their first 2Y at their then continue their 4 year program at Kent. Kent faculty also may have the opportunity to teach there.
That can work well for programs like Insurance Studies/ IT/ Justice Studies and others.

Campuses’ Reports

Warren (Stark)
As of this week, our campus enrollment is 5,065, including 750 CCP students and 34 foreign exchange students from 3 universities in China. 65% of our students are enrolled full time, and our retention is at 67%. We added a 20th Bachelor’s degree (Environmental Studies). Our Fine Arts building expansion and renovation project is running behind and will be ready for fall of 2018. We have improved security measures on our campus significantly, with the implementation of a new mass notification system, the installation of the 1st of 3 phases of security cameras, and a cooperation with Jackson Township police department to increase police presence on our campus. Finally, we have expanded the efforts of our food pantry, that supplies food, and now will supply gently worn professional clothes, for our students in need.

Keef, Ashtabula Campus Report, 9/8/17
Faculty met on 8/21/17 as part of opening campus meetings and workshops (and eclipse) Talking about reviving airframe maintenance degree
Guest speaker Lamar Hylton shared ideas on student engagement . . . created a committee on engagement that meets this month
Approved AAS CIS proposal
We are hiring a full-time mental health counselor
Welcomed several new NTTs and 1 shared TT in Bus. Mgt
Delayed renovations to C-wing until summer 2019
Food service up and running . . . seems well received
Welcome back days lasted all week. . . focus on fun (DJ, cornhole, VB, bocce ball) . . . catered by food service. . . it was a marginal success due to lack of shade and seating outside

Fouad (East Liverpool)
The FC had their first meeting on August 22, as part of the fall convocation for EL/Salem
The faculty discussed the AAS proposal and listened to Larry’s explanation. The faculty decided to postpone decision/voting to next FC meeting to listen to Lynette who was involved on the old EL/proposal.

The Nursing Director and a NTT search in ongoing.
The campus had a Fall students’ welcome day.

M. Harding (Tuscarawas)

September 8, 2017
The Tuscarawas Campus Faculty Council (FC) met on September 6, 2017. Issues discussed were as follows:
1. AAS in CRJUS. There was no motion from the Tuscarawas Campus FC to support the AAS in CRJUS degree. Larry Froelich will be asked to attend the next FC meeting to discuss the proposal.
2. Faculty Hiring. There are several positions, both TT and NTT pending approval. Concern was expressed over the replacement of faculty who will be leaving at the end of the academic year, particularly TT faculty.
3. BS in MAGC. Faculty approved a motion to move forward an initial inquiry proposal to certify a new program as a B.S. in Modeling, Animation and Game Creation.
4. Mentoring. The Mentoring Program is expanding, with NTT file preparation as the first new offering.

Trumbull (P. Tomich)

Faculty Council (FC) met on August 23, 2017. Issues discussed were as follows:

1. The AAS in CRJUS. The Trumbull Campus FC discussed the proposed Initial Inquiry, but did not support the Inquiry as revised because it did not include the Police Academy. With over 100 Police Academy cadets, having a pathway for these individuals to become credit-earning students would increase Trumbull’s enrollment and revenue. Also, with a 95% graduation rate, having Police Academy cadets enrolled as Trumbull Campus students would increase the campus’ overall retention rates. For these reasons, the FC could not support the Inquiry as revised.

2. Hiring TT Faculty. Faculty positions are profoundly needed in the areas of psychology, business, economics, and criminology; Faculty are also needed in biology and EVHS. New hires in all of these areas would help increase enrollment and retention at Trumbull.

3. Recruiting international students. With as much as 30% of Trumbull faculty foreign born, the campus has been discussing the possibility of recruiting international students to attend the Trumbull Campus. Obstacles include housing, transportation, and other issues. A second idea in this area focuses on developing online programs for students in other countries. The recruitment of international students would help increase Trumbull Campus enrollment and revenue.

4. Enhancing student research. The FC discussed ways to get students more involved in research, as studies have shown that engaging students in research increases student GPAs and retention rates (e.g., Locks & Gregerman, 2008).

5. High-impact experiences. The FC discussed ways to increase high-impact experiences for students, such as internships in the community (paid/unpaid), in an effort to increase retention rates.
Salem (S. Wamsley)

The Campus is at the completion stage of its virtual reality room, has 5 new full-time hires, is expanding its on-campus food service, had a successful DKS orientation/welcome day, has taken numerous steps to enhance the safety and security of the campus, and is developing a comprehensive strategic plan with retention at its core. The FC also approved the move forward in the AAS in Justice Studies as well as curriculum changes including a minor in its Insurance Program.

New Business

Nomination for a RC representative on the A&S curriculum committee. Wamsley excused herself from as she is one of the nominees. Fouad pointed out that we should consider allowing the maximum number of RC faculty to serve, by rotating services and not adding more service loads onto those who are already engaged in many services. And a voting results were Ding 3 votes and Vec 2 votes.

Warren raised these questions for the RCFAC for the AY 2017/2018

1. What does RCFAC want to do this year?
2. How can we make our campuses successful?
3. How can RCFAC assist in furthering the goals and objectives of the VP (Nate Richey) on behalf of the regional campus system, and conversely, how can he help further the goals and objectives of our campuses?
4. How can we share best practices, i.e. in recruiting, student services, academic planning, faculty professional development?

Nate emphasized that all of these questions should be framed around the issues of enrollment and retention.

Meeting Adjourned at 12:00