

To Whom It May Concern:

9/20/2017

On March 22, 2011, a report from "Inside Higher Education," entitled "A Heavier Load in Ohio," exposed a proposal included in Gov. Kasich's budget that mandated that professors at Ohio's public institutions teach one additional course every two years. This action was fueled by the notion that tenured faculty have a comfortable life; that they typically have light teaching loads leading to the need to hire part-time faculty, or adjuncts. This in turn increases teaching costs. It also implied that students are denied education from the best professors and are taught by adjuncts. The proposal met with resistance. To my knowledge no real effort was made to define the problem with a scientific study.

I am endorsing HB 66 for the following reasons:

- The citizens of Ohio, especially those paying for a state funded education have a right to the best college education that the state can offer. Establishing a committee to evaluate each state university's efforts to secure participation in the undergraduate mission by the university's tenured faculty members is a reasonable step toward fulfilling the objective of the committee. The study has the potential to reveal strengths and weaknesses of current tenure processes at public universities within the state. Adapting best practices will strengthen these processes.
- The committee has the right makeup of personnel including those who will be most affected by potential outcomes: tenured faculty. It also keeps the Chancellor and Board of Regents fully engaged in the process.
- The committee establishes a collaborative effort rather than a top-down mandate.
- The committee has start and end dates to keep it from expanding into a perpetual fixture.

I pray that HB 66 finds favor within the Ohio State Legislature.

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Background

After 21 years as an industrial research scientist and manager with a PhD in polymer science and engineering from the University of Massachusetts in 1977, I spent another 20 years teaching and administrating in the academy. I taught polymer science at Pennsylvania College of Technology (part of the Penn State system) as a tenured Associate Professor and department chair. Then I served as Dean of Engineering, Nursing, Science and Business, and Professor at Cedarville University in southwestern Ohio. I am currently retired.