



State Representative

Ron Young

Sponsor Testimony Substitute HB 66

February 21, 2018

Madam Chair Lehner, Vice Chairman Huffman, Ranking Member Sykes, Members of the Senate Education Committee, thank you for taking the time to hear sponsor testimony on Substitute HB 66, a bill that will update and codify the tenure system in the State of Ohio.

Substitute HB 66 was drafted in cooperation with Chairman Duffy, the Speaker's office, Ohio Department of Higher Education, the Inter-University Council of Ohio, the Ohio Faculty Council, and Students and professors from various universities and colleges across the state. It was amended with amendments from both republican and democrat members of the committee.

Many believe a tenure review is necessary to strengthen the "undergraduate mission" of Ohio's higher education community. For the purposes of the bill, the "undergraduate mission" is that each undergraduate student should be exposed to purposeful interaction with the best talent available in each student's chosen field of study. In the bill, the best talent is assumed to be the university's tenured staff. Without such exposure, students may graduate never having been given the opportunity to fully understand issues such as:

1. The various career options and/or the earnings potential their diploma may, or may not, offer.
2. The latest research in their chosen field.
3. Possible next steps in education development given the students unique interest and aptitude.

If such exposure is not occurring then our students are probably not getting the best return possible on their investment. The bill recognizes that each university has its own set of needs and goals. Therefore, although the premise of the bill is that the undergraduate mission should be a priority; this priority may be fulfilled differently by different schools.

House Bill 66 creates a study committee with some very clear directives. Its mandate is “to study and evaluate each state university’s contribution to the undergraduate mission, including, but not limited to, its efforts to ensure tenured faculty members participate in the undergraduate mission through face-to-face interaction with undergraduate students.”

The Committee of 15 members’ make-up is as follows:

- Chancellor of Higher Education or designee
- President of the Inter-University Council of Ohio or
- One Faculty member from a state university appointed by the Speaker of the House
- One Faculty member from a state university appointed by the President of the Senate
- One Chief Academic officer (or equivalent) from a state university appointed by the Speaker of the House
- One Chief Academic officer (or equivalent) from a state university appointed by the President of the Senate
- One Student from a state university, appointed by the Speaker of the House. (non-voting member)
- One Student from a state university, appointed by the President of the Senate. (non-voting member)
- Three Members of the House (at least one minority member)
 - One member, appointed by Speaker to be co-chair
- Three Members of the Senate (at least one minority member)
 - One member, appointed by the Senate President to be co-chair
- The Chairperson of the Ohio Faculty Council, or designee

Appointments to the committee must be made within 30 days.

The committee must convene within 45 days

Written report with findings and recommendations must be submitted to the General Assembly within 6 months the following information:

- a) Detailed summary of each universities undergraduate mission and how they are fulfilling it
- b) Recommendations for further participation in contributing to the undergraduate mission.
- c) Recommendation of at least one entity that could review the universities and could grade them with respect to their contribution to the mission. “exceeds expectations,” “meets expectations,” or “needs improvements.”

- d) Recommendations for how each university can incorporate the contribution to the undergraduate mission into their existing annual review process or post-tenure review process for tenured professors.
- e) Review of the faculty composition at each institution based on employment status, including full-time tenure track faculty, full time non-tenure track faculty, and part-time faculty.

The Committee will cease to exist once its work is accomplished unless determined otherwise by the General Assembly.

This proposal will not affect any collective bargaining agreement or employment contract entered into prior to the effective date of this legislation. I have been in communication with the Chancellor's office and while they are watching this bill, they have no opposition.

Thank you Madam Chair for the opportunity to provide Sponsor Testimony on this bill, I would be happy to answer any questions you might have at this time.