

OARDC and ATI STAFF FORUM MINUTES
Sponsored by OARDC Staff Council, ATI Staff Council,
and OARDC Director's Office
March 18, 2008
Fisher Auditorium

“The mission of the OARDC Staff Council is to enhance the working environment of the OARDC community by facilitating communication between staff and administration, and by promoting opportunities for staff advancement and recognition.”

Refreshments provided by Director's Office, OARDC SC and ATI SC were offered in the lobby of Fisher Auditorium starting at 8:45 am.

OARDC Staff Council Chair Mike Kauffman introduced Sarah Elvey, ATI Staff Council member. Sarah welcomed all in attendance and reviewed the objectives for the Forum. Sarah thanked the speakers Drs. Slack, Nameth, and Martin.

Mike reviewed the schedule for the Forum. He announced upcoming Campus events: Wooster Campus Health and Wellness Fair, April 9; OARDC Annual Conference, April 17 with the reservation deadline on April 7; and Campus Campaign following this Forum March 18.

Mike introduced Dr. Slack who thanked both Mike and Sarah for their energies they have put into Staff Council. He also introduced from the audience Bill Koshar, Campus level representative on USAC, and Joan Lieb, CFAES Executive Assistant to Dean Moser. Dr. Slack highlighted the Staff Newsletter from OARDC SC that he finds impressive and innovative and a useful vehicle for communication. Dr. Slack emphasized the importance of research done at the OARDC and the accomplishments that have resulted from that research. He focused on Dr. Esther van der Knapp who was published and featured on the cover of *Science* and Dr. Anne Dorrance who was recognized with the Distinguished Research Award at the American Soybean Association. Dr. Slack discussed the Targeted Investments in Excellence and the Third Frontier program and the major international and local impacts. Dr. Slack reported on the OARDC and FAES current budget situation.

Dr. Linda Martin, the Associate Dean and Director of Academic Affairs for CFAES, thanked us for this opportunity and welcomed comments about academic affairs and programs that can better serve staff and/or students and enhance interaction (martin.1371@osu.edu). Dr. Martin outlined the six strategic goals presented by President Gee and emphasized the outcomes of a previous meeting that discussed how staff can be a part of the strategic plan. Dr. Martin then presented on the success of CFAES Academic Program.

Dr. Steve Nameth, Director of ATI, thanked us for the invitation to be a part of the Forum and saw this as a sign of a new “Wooster Campus” agenda. Dr. Nameth presented different programs at ATI and the enrollment trends. Dr. Nameth highlighted new

projects: construction of a new Horticulture building to be open in 2010, acquisition of Hawk's Nest, and initiation of Collegiate FFA chapter, the only one in Ohio.

Dr. Slack addressed questions submitted online prior to the Forum:

1. Mail delivery on campus
2. E-mail address after retirement
3. Employee wellness issues
4. Tuition reciprocity

Please note, the 2007 Staff Forum presentations and question period is available on the OARDC Staff Council website.

Sarah thanked all the speakers for their contributions to the Forum. The audience divided into four "breakout sessions," Facilities, Human Resources, Campus Life, or ATI, where discussions were facilitated by Staff Council members and Administrative Resource persons.

Respectfully submitted,
Laura Chapin, secretary