

The [Ohio Part-Time Faculty Association](#) held two meetings in February, on Sunday, Feb. 24, and Wednesday, Feb. 27. If you couldn't make it to either meeting and would like to know what happened, here is an update:

Notes from Sunday, Feb 24

Regarding the Agenda for this year:

- Proposed to move to higher priority efforts to help publicize the effects of the Affordable Care Act for adjunct course-loads around the state; make efforts to create critical mass of filings for Unemployment Insurance—and support for the appeals process; get the word out about Student Loan Forgiveness for state employees
- For Campaign for Higher Ed Meeting in Columbus, May 18-20:
 - Reaching out to more union groups to support OPTFA: SEUI, CWA, AFLCIO, AAUP
 - Maria is pushing to establish a panel on Contingent Faculty Issues for this event
 - put together a press conference at this time; meet and greet w/ legislators?
- Higher Priority: put more pressure on religiously-affiliated colleges and universities to support adjunct organizing efforts, and/or unionization efforts—as these institutions are not covered by state laws that preclude recognition of such efforts on behalf of adjuncts
- Unemployment Webinar is set for March 20; Maria to set up registration link. Matt may meet soon w/ Dept of Jobs and Family services regarding unemployment compensation.
- Lower Priority: legal committee that mobilizing around the state's clause that prohibits collective bargaining by part-time teachers in higher ed, as this will be a long term effort

New Committees:

- Kitt will help with Communications Committee:
 - OPTFA “scarlet letter” buttons designed by David, Maria, Paula et al; are already in the works
 - bookmark w/ state-wide data regarding status of adjuncts
 - possible YouTube video packaged and ready to disseminate: basic info on OPTFA's mission, plus pertinent stats on the impact of adjuncts on Higher Ed
- Evan will co-chair work on By-laws needed for 501c3 status
 - first task: tackling Mission Statement

Unfinished Business:

- Will OPTFA become a chapter organization of NFM?
- Will NFM be able to serve as our fiscal sponsor? Waiting to back from NFM's board and legal counsel regarding this.
- Membership Structure within OPTFA hasn't yet been established, which will be outlined in our By-laws

- We'll go ahead with the plan to tour Ohio campuses: opportunity for OPTFA to increase state-wide impact and publicize organization, we would plan to offer institution specific information relevant to adjuncts: David will head this effort. Could AAUP sponsor?
- OPTFA leadership, members should make contact with AAUP and other unions on campuses at which we teach to explain our mission, etc.

Items that Reached Consensus:

- We'll table proposal to establish a dues structure for now
- We'll hold elections for officers at April 30 meeting
- We're planning to have someone from STRS come in to provide information

Notes on other Conferences in the mix where OPTFA will be represented:

- USWA/Duquesne mtg. – David will be attending, April 5-7 in Pittsburgh
- American Association of University Women, Ohio - Paula + April will be attending, April 5-7
- College Media Advisors Conference- looking for folks in NYC to report, March 9-12
- Assoc. for Regional University Campuses of Ohio- Maria's putting together a panel on history between part-timers and unions, April 13 in Lancaster

Notes from Wednesday, Feb 27

Updates to Above:

- New OPTFA Facebook page launched:
https://www.facebook.com/paula.maggio.12?ref=tn_tnmn#!/pages/Ohio-Part-Time-Faculty-Association/502251686487207
- Add to the website a collection of curriculum ideas that educate students about adjunct issues
- Come up with some sort of platform to teach OPTFA members how to address common points of hesitation in organizing recruitment
- Response letter needed in reference to recent *Akron Beacon Journal* article that support staff is the last group on UA campus to unionize—to highlight state law that does not require colleges/universities to recognize adjunct bargaining units.