



INTER-UNIVERSITY COUNCIL OF OHIO
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March 4, 2004

Members of the Ohio State Board of Education
c/o Susan Tave Zelman, Board Secretary
25 South Front Street, 7th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215-4183

Dear Members of the Ohio State Board of Education:

We, the presidents of the Inter-University Council of Ohio, sent the State Board of Education a letter in March 2002 setting out our serious concerns with the efforts to have the faith-based notion of intelligent design included in the state's public school science curriculum (see attached March 15, 2002 letter).

We now applaud the Ohio Board of Education in its advocacy that all students learn "how scientists continue to investigate and critically analyze" all aspects of science. However, we call your attention to the fact that the recently proposed and tentatively approved standards regrettably limit this exercise to evolution and further imply that non-scientific beliefs can be a legitimate part of that analysis. Thus, Benchmark H and Indicator 23 both contain the following language: "The intent of this benchmark (indicator) does not mandate the teaching or testing of intelligent design" (p. 313). Moreover, we ask that you please note that several of the Internet links given in the Lesson Plan on evolution (p. 321) direct students to sources on intelligent design. We strongly suggest that allowing this and other such language to stand is contrary to your stated intent.

We continue to urge the Ohio State Board of Education to maintain a rigorous science curriculum that makes evolution an integral part of our biological science requirements and that understands that scientific endeavors must be limited to observable and definable phenomena subject to thorough scientific testing and experimentation.

Sincerely,

David C. Sweet
President, Youngstown State University
Chair, Inter-University Council

On behalf of IUC presidents: Luis Proenza, University of Akron; Sidney Ribeau, Bowling Green State University; John Garland, Central State University; Nancy Zimpher, University of Cincinnati; Michael Schwartz, Cleveland State University; Carol Cartwright, Kent State University; Lloyd Jacobs, Medical College of Ohio; James Garland, Miami University; Lois Nora, Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine; Karen Holbrook, Ohio State University; Rita Rice Morris, Shawnee State University; Daniel Johnson, University of Toledo; Kim Goldenberg, Wright State University; David Sweet, Youngstown State University.

Enclosure

c: Governor Bob Taft
Chancellor Roderick G. W. Chu