

Ohio Faculty Council
**Resolution in Support of the Development of the Concept
of a Statewide Passenger Rail Service to Connect Ohio's Universities and Colleges**

Whereas, Ohio has nearly 6000 miles of railroad track;

Whereas, rail lines pass in proximity to nearly every Ohio campus;

Whereas, the faculties of Ohio campuses are encouraged to develop creative inter-campus collaboration on mutual projects and curricula;

Whereas, student participation in off-campus learning experiences (especially those at a distance) are complicated by the costs and difficulties of personal transportation;

Whereas, student transportation costs would be reduced significantly if economical passenger rail services were available statewide;

Whereas, economical passenger rail services used by students would effectively reduce automobile emissions from students' vehicles, thereby reducing the "carbon footprint" attributable to Ohio's universities;

Whereas, the OHERN Institute (www.ohern.org) is dedicated to increasing collaboration among faculty and on-site learning by students from Ohio's colleges and universities through the development of a system of convenient and economical passenger rail services;

Whereas, the proposed Ohio Higher Education Rail Network (OHERN) would provide convenient and economical passenger rail services statewide; and

Whereas, the OHERN model proposes a funding model by which such a system, when fully operational, could generate surplus revenue;

Therefore, be it resolved, that the Ohio Faculty Council recommends consideration and development of the concept of economical passenger rail services to connect the universities in a statewide system and, specifically, the study of the proposed Ohio Higher Education Rail Network (OHERN), as developed by the OHERN Institute.