



Ohio Revised Code

Section 3352.16 Wright state university center for civics, culture, and workforce development.

Effective: September 30, 2025

Legislation: House Bill 96

(A)(1) The Wright state university center for civics, culture, and workforce development is established as an independent academic division within Wright state university, physically located on the Dayton campus of Wright state university. The center shall conduct teaching and research in the historical ideas, traditions, and texts that have shaped the American constitutional order and society and the United States armed forces.

(2) The center shall establish bylaws requiring the center to do all of the following:

(a) Educate students by means of free, open, and rigorous intellectual inquiry to seek the truth;

(b) Affirm its duty to equip students with the skills, habits, and dispositions of mind they need to reach their own informed conclusions on matters of social and political importance;

(c) Affirm the value of intellectual diversity in higher education and aspire to enhance the intellectual diversity of the university;

(d) Affirm a commitment to create a community dedicated to an ethic of civil and free inquiry, which respects the intellectual freedom of each member, supports individual capacities for growth, and welcomes the differences of opinion that shall naturally exist in a public university community.

The requirements prescribed under divisions (A)(2)(a) to (d) of this section shall take priority over any other bylaws adopted by the center.

(3) The board of trustees of the university may name the center in accordance with the philanthropic naming policies and practices of the university.

(B)(1) The center shall be an independent academic division, physically located on the Dayton



campus of Wright state university, with the authority to house faculty who hold their appointments within the center. Faculty appointed to the center shall not be required, but may, hold joint appointments within any other division of the university. No faculty outside of the center shall have the authority to block faculty hires into the center. No university policy shall govern the development and approval of curriculum within the center.

(2) The university shall provide adequate and appropriate space for the center as jointly determined by the director and either the president or provost of the university. The university shall not charge or assess overhead or indirect fees, costs, expenses, or charges to the center.

(C)(1) The center shall offer instruction in all of the following:

(a) The books and major debates which form the intellectual foundation of free societies, especially that of the United States;

(b) The principles, ideals, and institutions of the American constitutional order, including the United States armed forces;

(c) The foundations of responsible leadership and informed citizenship;

(d) The origins, purpose, and role of Wright-Patterson air force base and surrounding defense-related industries in supporting the United States;

(e) The workforce needs of Wright-Patterson air force base and industries that support the base.

(2) The center also shall focus on all of the following:

(a) Offering university-wide programming related to the values of free speech and civil discourse;

(b) Expanding the intellectual diversity of the university's academic community;

(c) Increasing the awareness of Wright-Patterson air force base and supporting workforce needs to sustain and attract missions at the base.



(D)(1) The board of trustees of the university shall appoint, with the advice and consent of the senate, a seven-member center academic council. An initial member shall not begin service until confirmed by the senate. Four members shall form a quorum.

(2) The academic council shall be comprised of scholars with relevant expertise and experience. Not more than three members of the council may be employees of the university. Best efforts shall be made to have not fewer than three members of the advisory board be from Ohio.

(3) Three members of the academic council shall serve initial terms of two years and four members shall serve initial terms of four years, which the members shall determine at their first meeting, and select replacements for vacant seats.

(E)(1) The academic council established under division (D) of this section shall conduct a nationwide search for candidates for the director of the center and shall strictly adhere to all relevant state and federal laws. The academic council shall submit to the president of the university a list of finalists from which the president shall select and appoint a director, subject to approval by the board of trustees. Future directors shall be chosen in the same manner.

(2) The director shall consult with the provost; however, the director shall report directly to the president of the university.

(3) The director shall have the sole and exclusive authority to manage the recruitment and hiring process and to extend offers for employment for all faculty and staff of the center, and to terminate employment of all staff, subject to the approval of the board of trustees of the university. The director shall oversee, develop, and approve the center's curriculum, including approval of the center's courses that meet the university's general education requirements. The center shall be granted the authority to offer courses independently and develop certificate, minor, and major programs as well as graduate programs, and offer degrees.

(4) Notwithstanding section 3333.164 of the Revised Code, the center shall develop a set of standards and procedures to maximize the granting of academic credit for military training, experience, and coursework.



(5) Notwithstanding section 3333.31 of the Revised Code, Wright state university shall not charge more than its in-state instructional and general fees to any current or honorably discharged member of the United States armed forces, or the spouse or dependents of such a member, who enrolls in a program offered by the center, regardless of whether that member, spouse, or dependent is a resident of this state under rules adopted under section 3333.31 of the Revised Code.

(F) The director of the center shall submit an annual report to the board of trustees of the university and the general assembly in accordance with section 101.68 of the Revised Code. The report shall provide a full account of the center's achievements, opportunities, challenges, and obstacles in the development of this academic division.