



## *Academic Senate*



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### ACADEMIC SENATE MINUTES

September 7, 2011

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**Call to Order:** Senate Chairperson **Chet Cooper** called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

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**Nominations for Senate Chairperson:** The floor was opened for nominations. Chet Cooper was nominated. With no other nominations from the floor, nominations were closed.

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**Nominations for Charter & Bylaws Committee:** Four vacancies exist on this committee. Nominations were received from the floor for David Law, Chris Bellas, JoAnne Tombo, and Keith Lepak. Nominations were then closed.

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**Ohio Faculty Council representative:** Ken Learman self-nominated. Nancy Wolfgang offered to serve as alternate.

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**Selection of Secretary and Parliamentarian:** Bob Hogue was appointed as Secretary, and David Porter was appointed as Parliamentarian.

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**Minutes of the Previous Meeting:** Minutes of the May 5, 2010, meeting were approved as posted. To view the minutes, go to <<http://www.ysu.edu/acad-senate/1011/minmay11.pdf>>.

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**Senate Executive Committee (SEC) / Report from the Chair:** **Chet Cooper, Chair of the Senate,** reported:

The Senate Executive Committee will meet shortly. The Ohio Faculty Council will meet this Friday. The OFC met with Chancellor Petro to discuss the “charter university” proposals.

At the table next to the sign-in sheet were two lists for you. One shows vacancies in the Academic Senate, and the other shows vacancies for Senate Committees. Anyone interested in the Senate vacancies should contact Annette Burden. Those interested in filling any of these vacancies should contact Chet Cooper.

One of the items planned for last summer was to call together an ad hoc committee to address the huge paper usage for course and program proposals. The demands of this past summer made that impossible. However Carol Lamb and Chet Cooper will now co-chair the committee. If you are interested in helping out with this committee, please contact Dr. Cooper.

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**Report from Sharon Stringer: (YSU Academy Team Update):** See [Attachment 1](#) and [Attachment 2](#). Some upcoming events are listed on pages 2 and 3:

September 22: Roundtable Session, 3:15 to 4:30 in WCBA 3422.

September 29 and 30: Higher Learning Commission Evidence Inventory Visit.

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**Unfinished Business:** None.

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**New business:** **Matt O'Mansky** introduced the following resolution and moved that the Academic Senate adopt the resolution:

**RESOLUTION  
TO REVISE THE MISSION OF YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY  
IN LIGHT OF A NEW SET OF COMPARABLE INSTITUTIONS**

Presented to the Academic Senate  
September 7, 2011

**WHEREAS:** Youngstown State University was recently named an Urban Research University, and

**WHEREAS:** Youngstown State University's mission statement recently was revised to reflect this designation, and

**WHEREAS:** In contract negotiations with YSU-OEA, the negotiators representing Youngstown State University's Board of Trustees and administration presented a list of institutions that they asserted are comparable to Youngstown State University, and

**WHEREAS:** This list is comprised of ten universities, all of which are private, and

**WHEREAS:** Seven of the ten universities are religious universities, and

**WHEREAS:** These ten universities are institutions that the Board of Trustees and administration of Youngstown State University deem to be reasonable comparables to Youngstown State University,

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Academic Senate of Youngstown State University determines that the mission statement of the University must be revised in order to be more consistent with the missions of the private institutions now determined to be comparable to our University.

(An attachment to the resolution as distributed at the meeting is contained in [Attachment 3](#).)

Motion was seconded.

**Shearle Furnish:** This resolution is brand new today, and I do not have my notes with me right now from last summer. What happened is what happens when good faith negotiations are changed into negotiations that take place in public. My recollection is that these universities also use the same health care consultant as YSU. Their role in the process beyond that was very limited. It is a fact that the two sides have not agreed on a set of comparables, although both sides have presented ideas on comparables.

**Nancy Wolfgang:** Change the mission to what end? To change the mission to make a better environment for students or what? **Dr. O'Mansky:** Honestly I don't want to revise our mission statement, but I wanted to make a statement and make sure this list of universities was known.

**Annette Burden:** I am also a part of the negotiations. I respectfully disagree with Dr. Furnish.

**Question from the Chair:** In light of the discussion, do you still wish to proceed with the resolution?

**Dr. O'Mansky:** I am torn about this, but I guess this is more of a statement. **Dr. Cooper:** Do you wish to proceed? **Phil Munro** moved to table and, Mark Vopat seconded. **Motion to table the motion on the resolution passed.**

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**Adjournment:** The Academic Senate adjourned at 4:46 p.m.

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[Sign-in Sheet](#)

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For further information, e-mail [Bob Hogue](#).

## YSU Academy Update on Senate September 7, 2011

### HLC Academy:

YSU is completing its fourth and final year in the HLC's Academy for the Assessment of Student Learning<sup>1</sup>. YSU continues to make progress on two university-wide projects: 1) Institute assessment of general education at all levels and 2) Engage all campus constituencies in analyzing teaching and learning at YSU. Two progress reports were prepared and sent to the HLC Assessment Academy mentors (in January and July 2011). The HLC mentors have provided positive feedback about YSU's progress. Key aspects of the projects are described below.

### General Education:

Two initiatives are underway to improve assessment of general-education outcomes. The first is to create a Repository Of Assessment Documents (ROAD) to help assess students' attainment of learning outcomes listed in the University's General Education program. Under a proposal passed by the Academic Senate in February 2011, students are required to upload two examples of their writing prior to graduation, and the samples will be used in assessment of general education learning outcomes. Departments will also be able to use the ROAD documents for their own program assessment. In spring 2011, the first set of documents was uploaded to the repository by students in the second freshman composition course (ENGL 1551) and a committee of faculty representing all six colleges developed a writing and critical thinking rubric to evaluate the documents. Reviewers have scored a randomly selected sample of 200 essays. This data will become part of an ongoing program to evaluate the quality of student writing and critical thinking at YSU.

The second initiative called for a revision of the organizational structure of courses within the general education model. The Academic Senate voted to accept the revision at its April 2011 meeting. The committee is now preparing for the transition from the current model to the new one.

### Assessment Reporting:

*Academic Units:* The data are promising and indicate that participation rates and the quality of reports are improving. For *academic* units, participation rates in 2010-11 were 93% (up from 77% in 2009-10), with 83% of good quality (up from 64% in 2009-10).

*Non-Academic Units:* For *non-academic* units in 2010-11, participation rates were 80% (up from 77% in 2009-10), with 65% of good quality (65% were also of good quality in 2009-10).

*Assessment Report Strengths:* The improvements in quality for academic units and non-academic units reflect more focused and realistic approaches to assessment, increased connection between data collection/analysis and learning outcomes, inclusion of more data in reports, more shared responsibility for assessment processes, and increased discussion of findings with constituents.

*Assessment Report Challenges:* Targeted areas for improvement in future reporting include expanding *active* student involvement in assessment and documenting whether prior action steps have worked to improve programs. A number of units are also refining or sharpening their learning outcomes for future reporting.

We thank the 17 volunteer reviewers<sup>2</sup> who assisted the University-wide Assessment Council to achieve timely feedback on assessment reports to the university in 2010-11. Because the Council was able to finish reviews by April 2011, the deans for each college as well as chairs of the college-wide committees obtained copies of all reports/plans and feedback for each program in their own college. The college-wide committees also met during spring 2011 to review the

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<sup>1</sup> Participation in the HLC Academy was chosen as an alternative to a focus visit following the 2008 HLC accreditation visit.

<sup>2</sup> Please contact Sharon Stringer, Director of Assessment at 1347 or [sastringer@ysu.edu](mailto:sastringer@ysu.edu) if you are interested in becoming a volunteer reviewer on the University-wide Assessment Council.

feedback provided to each program and to share with the Office of Assessment what was helpful and what was not helpful.

Appreciation Luncheon:

YSU's Academy Team hosted an Appreciation Luncheon with over 70 participants on April 20, 2011, to publically recognize individuals and groups who have made valuable contributions to YSU's ongoing work and improvement on the assessment of student learning/student experiences. Seven programs and/or departments who consistently submitted exemplary assessment plans/reports for several years were acknowledged (Academic Advisors, Accounting and Finance, Communication Studies, Dental Hygiene, Mathematics, Professional Writing and Editing, and the Bachelor Degree program in Teacher Education). In addition, members and volunteers of the Assessment Council, the General Education Committee and the Council on Teaching and Learning were thanked for their ongoing significant work to improve assessment processes on campus. During the luncheon, recipients of prior 2009 mini-grant awards from the Office of Assessment shared summaries of their innovative work on assessment and student learning (available upon request).

Mini-Grant Projects:

The University-wide Assessment Council reviewed new mini-grant proposals in spring 2011. As a result, the Office of Assessment is awarding a total of \$6,145 to 6 Departments (list departments?) during FY12 for mini-grant projects. The mini-grant proposals support projects that are related to the enhancement of teaching and learning. Mini-grant recipients will have opportunities to present their projects to faculty, staff, and students during fall 2012.

Voluntary System of Accountability :

During spring and early summer of 2011, the Office of Assessment and Institutional Research and Policy Analyses successfully hosted a series of workshops and discussion groups on the 2010 NSSE results for faculty, staff, and students. The purpose of the sessions was to share and discuss results with the YSU campus at both an overview level on the NSSE and to examine specific benchmarks. The sessions were well attended, with a total of 59 participants.

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

**YSU's Academy Team is hosting a** fifth Roundtable Session on September 21, 2011 from 3:15 to 4:30 pm in WCBA 3422/23. The session will focus on discussion of data on students' writing skills. Faculty, staff, and students are invited. Please send an RSVP by e-mail to [ysuassessment@ysu.edu](mailto:ysuassessment@ysu.edu) by September 16. Faculty, staff, and students are welcome.

**Higher Learning Commission Evidence Inventory Visit** Susan Hatfield (HLC mentor and Visiting Scholar) will visit YSU on **September 29 and September 30, 2011** to provide feedback on YSU's progress in the HLC academy. Faculty, staff, and students are invited to a presentation by Dr. Hatfield on September 30 in the Ohio Room from 10:30-11:30am. Question and answer session to follow. To attend, please send an RSVP by e-mail to [ysuassessment@ysu.edu](mailto:ysuassessment@ysu.edu).

It is important that all departments on campus be ready for this important visit! In preparation for the Evidence Inventory Visit please:

1. Check the assessment website to see if there are any changes or corrections to the learning outcomes for any of your degree programs at: <http://www.ysu.edu/assessment/outcomes.html>. If there are corrections, please send to [ysuassessment@ysu.edu](mailto:ysuassessment@ysu.edu) as soon as possible.
2. College-wide assessment committees are encouraged to meet prior to September 29<sup>th</sup> to prepare for the Evidence Inventory. Sharon Stringer and Hillary Fuhrman from the Office of Assessment are available to attend these meetings to provide additional information about the HLC mentor's visit.
3. Representatives from each of the college-wide committees are invited to meet with Susan Hatfield on Friday September 30<sup>th</sup> from 1:30-2:30 pm in the Ohio Room.
4. For General Education, identify the upper-division classes that will be used from your own department to sample students' writing in the Repository. Please send this information to Tod Porter at [tporter@ysu.edu](mailto:tporter@ysu.edu).

## **Using Data to Discuss Student Writing at YSU**

Faculty, staff, & students are invited to attend the 5<sup>th</sup> Round Table Session hosted by YSU's Assessment Academy Team on Wednesday, September 21<sup>st</sup> from 3:15 to 4:30 pm in Williamson Hall, Room 3422. Light refreshments will be served.

The purpose of this Round Table session will be to examine multiple measures of student writing at YSU and their potential policy implications.

Faculty and staff have all encountered student writing through our work at the university, whether through coursework or written communication. Most of us, through our interactions, may have formed conclusions about students' strengths and challenges in this area, as well as what might be done to improve student writing. Join us to combine your experience and insight with additional assessment undertaken on campus to foster a meaningful dialogue about the quality of writing on the YSU campus and what, if any, changes should be made to improve quality.

To support discussion, there will be three brief data presentations. The presentations will include:

- The initial score results from the writing samples stored in the Repository of Assessment Documents (ROAD) will be discussed by Tod Porter. Over the past summer approximately 200 student essays were evaluated using a rubric developed by YSU faculty. The essays were written by students enrolled in Writing 2 (ENGL 1551).
- The reviewers of the essays were also asked to comment on the quality of the writing, providing a qualitative measure. Angela Messenger will discuss the reviewer's comments and their implication for ENGL 1551.
- Selected YSU data on the subject of student writing from the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE) will be shared by Hillary Fuhrman and Steve Taraszewski.

**Please send your RSVP by Friday, September 16 to [ysuassessment@ysu.edu](mailto:ysuassessment@ysu.edu)**

Below find the YSU Administration's comparable universities presented in fact-finding.

Institution	Location	Public/Private	Size
Ashland University	Ashland, OH	Private	6491
College of Mount St. Joseph	Cincinnati, OH	Private (Catholic)	2400
Capital University	Columbus, OH	Private (Lutheran)	1545 undergrad
Franciscan University of Steubenville	Steubenville, OH	Private (Catholic)	1948
John Carroll University	Cleveland, OH	Private (Catholic)	3,600
Malone University	Canton, OH	Private (Christian)	2,278
Mount Vernon Nazarene University	Mount Vernon, OH	Private (Christian)	2,609
University of Dayton	Dayton, OH	Private (Catholic)	11,119
University of Findlay	Findlay, OH	Private	4,100
Xavier University	Cincinnati, OH	Private	7,019



**YSU ACADEMIC SENATE ATTENDANCE ROSTER – September 7, 2011****BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION****Departmental (2011-2013)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Pete Reday, Marketing

**Departmental (2010-2012)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Helen Guohong Han, Management

\_\_\_\_\_ Ray Shaffer, Acctg. & Finance

**At Large (6)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Birsen Karpak, Management

\_\_\_\_\_ Ram Kasuganti, Management

Vacant

Vacant

Vacant

Vacant

**EDUCATION****At Large continued**

\_\_\_\_\_ Patrick Spearman, EFRTL

\_\_\_\_\_ Matt Paylo, Counc/Sp Ed

**Departmental (2010-2012)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Jake Protivnak, Couns/Sp Ed

\_\_\_\_\_ Susan DeBlois, EFRTL

\_\_\_\_\_ Lauren Cummins, Teacher Ed.

**At Large (5)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Regina Rees, Teacher Ed.

\_\_\_\_\_ Barbara O'Connor, Teacher Ed.

Vacant

**FINE & PERFORMING ARTS****Departmental (2011-2013)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Nancy Wolfgang, Thtr/Dance

**Departmental (2010-2012)**

\_\_\_\_\_ David Gill, Art

\_\_\_\_\_ Cary Horvath, Communication

\_\_\_\_\_ Alice Wang, Music

**At Large (6)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Adam Earnhardt, Communication

\_\_\_\_\_ Francois Fowler, Music

\_\_\_\_\_ Randall Goldberg, Music

\_\_\_\_\_ John Murphy, Thtr/Dance

\_\_\_\_\_ Brandt Payne, Music

\_\_\_\_\_ Joe D'Uva, Art

**HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES****Departmental (2011-2013)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Susan Clutter, Criminal Justice

\_\_\_\_\_ Shirley Keller, Social Work

\_\_\_\_\_ Jane Wetzel, Physical Therapy

\_\_\_\_\_ Cindy Shields, Nursing

**Departmental (2010-2012)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Mary Yacovone, Health Professions

\_\_\_\_\_ Dennis Latess, HPES

\_\_\_\_\_ Priscilla Gitimu, Human Ecology

**At Large (5)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Susan Lisko, Nursing

\_\_\_\_\_ Ken Learman, Physical Therapy

(vacant)

\_\_\_\_\_ Weiging Ge, Physical Therapy

\_\_\_\_\_ Christopher Bellas, Criminal Justice

**Liberal Arts & Social Sciences (CLASS)****Departmental (2011-2013)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Alyssa Lenhoff, English

\_\_\_\_\_ Mark Vopat, Phil/Rel

\_\_\_\_\_ Cryshanna Jackson, Political Sci

\_\_\_\_\_ Denise Narcisse, Sociol & Anthr.

**Departmental (2010-2012)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Dennis Petruska, Economics

\_\_\_\_\_ Diana Burkhart, Foreign Language

\_\_\_\_\_ Dawna Cerney, Geography

\_\_\_\_\_ Anne York, History

\_\_\_\_\_ Rocio Rosales, Psychology

**At Large (6)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Molly Jameson Cox, Psychology

\_\_\_\_\_ David Porter, Political Science

\_\_\_\_\_ Tomi Ovaska, Economics

\_\_\_\_\_ Matt O'Mansky, Sociol & Anthr

\_\_\_\_\_ John Sarkissian, Foreign Language

\_\_\_\_\_ Deborah Mower, Phil/Rel.

**Science, Technology, Engineering, & Mathematics (STEM)****Departmental (2011-2013)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Annette M. Burden, Math & Stats

\_\_\_\_\_ Ray Beiersdorfer, Geol & Env. Sci.

\_\_\_\_\_ Abdurrahman Arslanyilmaz, CSIS

\_\_\_\_\_ Chet Cooper, Biology

Vacant, Chemistry

**Departmental (2010-2012)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Yogen M. Panta, MECH & ISEGR

\_\_\_\_\_ John Feldmeier, Phys/Astr

\_\_\_\_\_ Phil Munro, ECEGR

\_\_\_\_\_ Brian Vuksanovich, ENTC

\_\_\_\_\_ Hans Tritic, CEEGR & CHEGR

**At Large (6)**

\_\_\_\_\_ Jamal Tartir, Math & Stats

\_\_\_\_\_ Diana Fagan, Biol

\_\_\_\_\_ Jeanette Garr, CEEGR & CHEGR

\_\_\_\_\_ Jozi Jalic, Math

\_\_\_\_\_ Hazel Marie, MECH & ISEGR

\_\_\_\_\_ David Asch, Biology

**ADMINISTRATORS (15)**

\_\_\_\_\_ James Kohut

\_\_\_\_\_ Bryan DePoy

\_\_\_\_\_ Shearle Furnish

\_\_\_\_\_ Mary Lou DiPillo

\_\_\_\_\_ Peter Kasvinsky

\_\_\_\_\_ Ikram Khawaja

\_\_\_\_\_ James Kapoun

\_\_\_\_\_ Betty Jo Licata

\_\_\_\_\_ Shannon Tirone

\_\_\_\_\_ Joseph Mosca

**STUDENTS**

\_\_\_\_\_ Joshua Prest, CLASS

\_\_\_\_\_ Tara Yeager, Education

\_\_\_\_\_ JoAnne Tombo, FPA

\_\_\_\_\_ Joseph Scott, Grad.

\_\_\_\_\_ Bobby Breese, HHS

\_\_\_\_\_ Amanda Sacco, STEM

\_\_\_\_\_ Chelsea Baker, WCBA

\_\_\_\_\_ Elyse Gessler, SGA Pres.

\_\_\_\_\_ Justin McIntyre, Exec. VP

\_\_\_\_\_ Nicole Pavlichich, Acad. Affairs