

DEANS COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday, February 21, 2007

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 p.m.

Provost Conference Room

Attending: Bowers, Beebe, Edwards, Herbert, Kasvinsky, Khawaja, Kobulnicky, Licata, Ward, Yemma

1. Announcements

- Dr. Licata will participate in a North Central visit in two weeks at a university that is participating in the Higher Learning Commission Academy for Assessment of Student Learning.

2. Non-resident Graduate Surcharge (Neal McNally)

Neal McNally presented an analysis (see the attachment) of reducing graduate tuition rates to make our graduate degrees more attractive. The proposed tuition surcharge would be a flat \$100 total (approximately \$8 per credit hour). The loss in revenue could be made up by an increase in student enrollment and the state subsidies YSU receives for out-of-state graduate students. At debate is the question of whether we want to do this as a long term investment; would lowering tuition make a difference? The risk is a loss of revenue. It was felt that the reduced rate would make YSU graduate programs much more attractive. Adding reductions for foreign students to expand the pool of students to draw on would be explored for the following year. We would need assistance in marketing this tuition reduction.

3. College/Course Fees (Neal McNally)

Discussion followed about page 3 of Neal's handout, which listed alternative student fee scales used at five State universities—by college, program, and course, and a technology fee by college. College-generated revenues, as compared to standard course fees, give greater latitude to support the colleges. Would we continue with the course fees, in addition to a College fee? Would a College flat fee be helpful for students' tuition planning purposes? Any action would have to be approved by the Board of Trustees in June, and take effect in 2007-08.

4. Graduate Faculty Membership and Graduate Teaching Assignments (Kasvinsky)

Currently 67 faculty members (including part-time faculty members) assigned to teach graduate courses have not maintained their graduate faculty membership. Dr. Kasvinsky distributed to the deans a list of current members and those faculty not in status and will send a list showing current memberships by college to all of the deans each semester. The School of Graduate Studies and Research maintains the data base and is in the process of making the data base available on the graduate school home page. He asks that the deans check the list when assigning courses before forwarding schedules to the registrar. Although part-time faculty can be appointed as "Designated Members of the Graduate Faculty" for the purpose of teaching specific courses related to their area of expertise, graduate courses, in general, should be taught by regular faculty to ensure that our students have the best educational experiences we can provide. Use of too many part-time faculty or faculty without appropriate credentials can be an accreditation issue in some accredited programs. A short discussion followed about the rules of maintaining graduate faculty membership.

5. Research Professorships (Kasvinsky)

Dr. Kasvinsky distributed the list of Research Professorship awards for 2007-08, showing the award demographics of the application pool and their distribution across the colleges (see the attachment). Two tenured faculty received awards. Tenure needs were taken into account for those untenured faculty who were awarded Research Professorships.

6. Campus Climate survey (Bowers)

Bege Bowers passed out a draft copy of a campus climate survey that will be distributed to the campus community. The survey will also be presented to Cabinet for input. The ultimate goal of the survey is to acquire information that the Higher Learning Commission accreditation committees can use and to begin to address identified challenges. The committee hopes to send the survey out to the campus community within the next couple of weeks.

7. Adjourn

Minutes recorded by Debbie Withrow