

DEANS COUNCIL MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 2008

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

President's Conference Room

Members Present: Abraham, Bowers, Edwards, Furnish, Ginnett, Kasvinsky, Khawaja, Koblunicky, Richey (guest), Singler, Ward, Yemma

1. Announcements

- (Bowers) The HLC self-study has been sent to the accreditation site visit team. Dr. Bege Bowers will provide copies of the report upon request, budget permitting. See the online version at <http://www.ysu.edu/accreditation/>.
- (Edwards) Referring to the events brochure for theater and music, Joe Edwards said that there are upcoming well-known plays to enjoy. Fine and Performing Arts' Francois Fowler, a phenomenal guitarist, is playing a free, full recital in the newly renovated Bliss Recital Hall, at 8 p.m., on January 23.
- (Koblunicky) The search for a dean of Fine and Performing Arts is currently in process and has 18 candidates to date. Applications received before February 12, 2008, are guaranteed full consideration.
- (Edwards) The provost search consultant firm will visit the campus on January 17, 2008. Mr. Edwards urged those present to attend one of the scheduled information-gathering sessions.
- (Abraham) YSU will be notified next month if we have been successful in receiving funding for a \$2M Choose Ohio First grant, in partnership with CSU, for math preparedness. We have also have applied for a \$1M grant, in partnership with KSU, focusing on science education.
- (Kasvinsky) YSU will participate in an Ohio First Scholarship Program application with Central State University. Central State desires to provide a direct track into graduate programs to their students by expanding the existing partnership with YSU. Thus, Central would get scholarship funds at the undergraduate level and YSU at the graduate level. Our match would be a provision of graduate assistant stipends to go with the tuition we receive.

Dr. Khawaja announced that as part of our strategic planning initiative, Cheryl Bosley applied for and has been selected as the Coordinator for Academic Advising. She will provide facilitation and assistance as the spokesperson and central figure identified in the Provost's Office. The current enterprise at the college and department level remains intact. Her role will be to strengthen the work of the academic advisors and faculty advisors. The work is assigned as 6 hours of reassigned time, and is configured like the Coordinator of General Education position held by Julia Gergits.

Dr. Singler stated that we are in the process of appointing Annette Burden as interim director of Distance Learning. The position currently will be structured as 5 hours of reassigned time until the duties have been redefined.

Dr. Khawaja said that there is an active review of the higher education funding formula at the state level. The discussions are looking at one way to address the community college subsidy and a somewhat different way to address 4-year institutions. It is certain that the funding formulas will not be the same as they exist today. Also, the state revenue is down, and it is uncertain what the funding might be for the next biennium. This presents challenges in trying to negotiate contracts for the next 3 years.

2. New Mathematics Placement Procedure (N. Ritchey)

Dr. Nathan Ritchey, chair, Mathematics and Statistics Department, was invited to share with council the status of the new cut-off/placement procedures in mathematics courses. (See the attachments.) As a prelude, at the end of the semester in late December, the department decided to take action to help students that were close to passing Cat. No. 1501. They contacted 76 failing students with grades of at least 60 percentage points. The students were offered assistance in passing the course through tutoring at the Mathematics Assistance Center for 6 sessions (2 hours per session). Out of 76 students, 20 attended the sessions at least once, 30 decided they would take the test, and 6 students passed.

A YSU committee was formed to respond to OBOR's draft of statewide placement guidelines, and the committee met and responded to OBOR in September. In December, the OBOR committee charged with this task approved a statement of statewide placement guidelines. English had been close to the required recommendations, but math was not. A cut-off placement score of less than 65 in algebra will now place students into a developmental course. That means 1,000 additional students will place into developmental math, so we can expect a significant increase in enrollment in developmental mathematics. It was requested that those students not requiring a first-semester sequence of math be placed into 1501 in the spring semester.

There was discussion of how to address students' passing of the placement tests, so as to contribute to students' success. Perhaps we could build mathematics refresher workshops into the admission process. Another approach would be to identify those students who nearly place into the next higher placement level and offer those students some workshops and the chance to retake the placement examination.

Many schools use standardized placement tests. YSU's English Department uses its own test. YSU's Department of Mathematics and Statistics uses the COMPASS examination. In terms of the state, might it be a good idea to accept transfer students' test scores? Dr. Bowers said we will have to follow whatever guidelines the state sets.

Nate gave a short comment on the community college issue by saying we continue to work with Chancellor Fingerhut to determine what role YSU will play in the formation of a community college in the Mahoning Valley.

Bege Bowers announced that the Chancellor informed YSU a few days before our HLC report went to the printer that he will not support YSU's radius change request to offer courses statewide. We will not be able to offer courses and programs beyond our approved 100-mile radius and must seek approval for new program sites even within the 100-mile radius.

3. Report on Strategic/Operational Funds (I. Khawaja & M. Ward)

Dr. Khawaja said Academic Affairs received 2 increases in funding modifications to the FY08 budget as a part of last Fall's increase in revenue--one dealt with student wages, the other with operating funds. Academic Affairs presented requests for divisional and institutional issues and was awarded \$480,000 (with \$250,000 for strategic initiatives) of the \$1.1 million. Some of the money will be used for Academic Strategic Plan initiatives, which will be discussed in future meetings. Some funds will serve to address the amount of money allotted to the 2 new colleges. Some funds will go to the library to address accrediting bodies' findings of a lack of abstracts/periodicals. Because operating funds have been reduced over the last several years, an attempt was made to redress that issue. A 3-pronged approach was used in allotting money to the colleges. Academic departments will receive a flat rate of \$750 directly to their budgets. A flat rate of \$300 per non-departmental program within the colleges and a flat fee for the deans of \$2,500 will be deposited into the deans' budgets to allocate as they see fit. In addition, funding based on enrollment growth, which looked at a 2-year FTE picture, will be distributed to the departments. A range of \$250 to \$1,500 will be allocated with no penalty for negative or zero growth. Please keep in mind this is all one-time funds for FY08. Deans will be sent the student wage funds. Remember that student wages were intended to offset the increase in minimum wage; they are "operating" funds and may be used as such. Marilyn Ward will distribute the funds within the next week or soon after and asked the deans to communicate this information to their areas.

4. Status Report of Strategic Plans

The deans were reminded to continue their work on the academic strategic planning issues chosen for this year. Dr. Charles Singler requested the deans to send him a progress report by mid-February [now needed by 2-12-08 to meet the B.O.T. committee agenda deadline].

5. Old/New Business

The Academic Senate needs a letter from the Provost stating Deans Council's approval of the undergraduate academic program proposals that have been presented to council.

Yemma announced that since the enrollment in ROTC is at 60 students, we have been awarded battalion status. The plan is to bring in 7 instructors at the army's expense. Scholarships will increase from 4 to 8, and the space is adequate but will be refurbished by the Army.

Ms. Ward reminded the deans that the FY09 Lab/Materials Fee Change Request forms are due to the Provost's Office on February 8, 2008. If you have any questions or requests, please call her (x-1714).

Dr. Kobulnicky said that due to the library losing many staff to the ERIP, Maag Library may require a change in service hours.

Marilyn Ward said the conditions of the ERIP require that a position remain vacant for 30 days after the employee retires. If the Provost gives an exception to fill the position ahead of time, the differential in cost must be paid. The division receives half of the net vacancy funds after vacation pay-outs, ERIP savings, etc., so these dollars are not available in full.

6. Adjourn

Minutes submitted by Debbie Withrow