

DEANS COUNCIL MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2008

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

President's Conference Room

Members Present: Abraham, Bowers, Edwards, Furnish, Ginnetti, Kasvinsky, Kobulnicky, Khawaja, Lally (guest), Singler, Yemma

1. Announcements

- (Kobulnicky) The search for the next Dean of Fine and Performing Arts is progressing, and four candidates have been identified to be brought to campus the week of March 17 and March 26. [Two candidates subsequently withdrew from the pool.] The pool of candidates has diverse backgrounds in the arts.
- (Bowers) YSU just received notice from the Board of Regents that they are issuing the annual statistical profiles (formerly known as the Performance Report) at the end of the week on the state website. Dr. Bowers is in the process of reviewing the data. The data indicate that YSU's retention rate is down slightly, but the Praxis scores are up—the 2nd highest of the state universities. Pass rates on nursing licensure were lower than last year. So far, the other data look similar to last year. Dr. Bowers will let the deans know if she runs across anything important regarding their college.
- (Edwards) On Monday (3-10-08) and Tuesday, 12 to 13 provost applicants will be interviewed in Pittsburgh. The next round of interviews should take place on campus around the first week of April.
- (Abraham) The College of STEM is preparing YSU's response to ABET's accreditation visit report. The report is due on April 3.
- (Edwards) On March 19, artist Fred Wilson is the Skeggs Lecture series' guest speaker, and the event is free and open to the public. Later the same day, as part of the Tony Leonardi Legacy Concert, guest artist Slide Hampton will perform at the downtown Youngstown Club in a nightclub atmosphere rather than a concert setting.

2. Classroom Behaviors (Lally)

Anne Lally, the campus mental health counselor, passed out the attached Referral Guide for Faculty and Staff and her business card. The Career and Counseling Center is the only YSU counseling center on the campus and is the place where students should be referred. (The unit in the Beeghly College of Education is a counseling clinic set up for practicum graduate counseling students not yet licensed. The BCOE unit does not have continuity of treatment, because a

graduate student is with a particular client for a semester only.) Ms. Lally has received an increasing amount of phone calls regarding how to respond to odd, aggressive, or possibly violent behaviors in the classroom. She stated that no one should have to feel afraid in the classroom. On September 24, she offered a workshop for faculty and staff to address these needs, and concrete examples of situations were offered. She noted that actions taken are never punitive. Lally asks that she be called for advice (x-3515); she picks up voice mail after each hour-long counseling session. Reaching students needing help as quickly as possible is important. In an emergency, call extension 3515 and ask the secretary to contact Anne Lally immediately. Lally physically can come to help whenever possible. If a situation turns violent, contact the police. Ann Lally is interested in speaking to any college-wide group of faculty and staff; a PowerPoint is presented, and the next ½ hour is spent taking questions and answers.

3. Acceptance of Credit from Non-regionally Accredited Institutions (Bowers)

Inquiries have been made with Dr. Bowers regarding the acceptance of credit from non-regionally accredited institutions. There is an impression that YSU has a rule stating that credits will not be accepted from non-regionally accredited institutions. Page 16 of the *Undergraduate Bulletin* states that we accept coursework from regionally accredited institutions; it doesn't say the reverse. The last page of the attached State Articulation and Transfer Policy states (refer to 1.b.) that a receiving institution may consider credit on a course-by-course basis from non-accredited institutions. Bowers said that colleges and departments do not have the same policies, so all students are not treated the same way. Therefore, this issue needs to be articulated through a University policy. It was agreed that Deans Council will send the issue to the Academic Standards Committee, which could clarify the issue and formulate the policy. Joe Edwards, chair of the Academic Standards Committee, said Deans Council's input and guidance on the best course of action would be helpful in moving the issue more quickly through the Committee. Perhaps there should be a consensus across the colleges that chairs and then deans evaluate non-accredited and non-regionally accredited institutions' transfer credit. Dr. Singler thought it would be helpful to also include procedural guidelines.

4. NEOC Proposed Timetable

Dr. Khawaja asked the deans to give some thought and submit the best YSU candidate to be the contact person for each of the categories listed in the NEOC Proposed Implementation Timetable (attached). Dr. Abraham noted that Recommendation 8(c) lists CSU as the Lead Institution in piloting "a single regional combined academic program and department in computer science," and urged that it be known that CSU should not do anything without YSU being included in the discussion. The Provost asked the deans to send any other noteworthy observations to ikhawaja@ysu.edu and dlwithrow@ysu.edu when submitting their contact person names.

5. Faculty Development

In response to a discussion of the commitment to address faculty development, as stated in the Academic Strategic Plan report, Dr. Khawaja said that at this point it makes sense to look at what is being attempted at the college level and what the Provost's Office could do additionally to support those faculty development efforts. Each college submitted a list of its faculty

development initiatives (see the attachment). This inventory allows us to look at the other colleges and see what we might need to do and how to best optimize the resources we have. The BCOE desires to devote 1 afternoon/week for faculty development, from 3:30 to 5:00 p.m. Is this something we could apply on a larger scale to all of the colleges? Perhaps identifying one or two common themes ideally will allow autonomy for what the colleges have defined as faculty development. Some uniformity could be maintained, yet allow for differences. Being proactive will bode well for the upcoming accreditations.

The mentoring of the development of junior faculty was discussed. It was agreed that new faculty orientation should take place throughout the year, perhaps for a couple of years. There is information that brand new faculty should know, and there are other things they should be aware of on a continuing basis. Perhaps mentoring should come from other faculty and chairs. The Provost's Office will get a list of the names of 1st and 2nd year faculty. Perhaps these faculty could be sent a couple of topics of interest through the chairs or directly, and we will move from there and develop something as a schematic--covering some topics in April and some in the future. Dr. Khawaja said he hopes that some guidance is happening already at the department level and to some extent at the college level.

Dr. Bowers stated we need to do more related to assessment with the new faculty and the current faculty. Dr. Khawaja invites input on how this can be best accomplished.

6. FT/PT Ratios (Singler)

An ad hoc committee was formed to address the improvement of the full-time to part-time faculty ratio (currently a 55/45 percent ratio) with regard to Academic Strategic Priority Goal 2.5. Dr. Singer passed out an Executive Summary of the ad hoc committee's findings, and the committee's recommendations are found in the attachment. The deans discussed some of the findings that recommended "...a variety of actions should be implemented to meet the spirit and intent of the goal." The full report, completed yesterday, will be sent to the deans right away. Deans Council will discuss the report at future meetings.

7. Old/New Business

Dean Edwards said the Academic Standards Committee is proposing new language for p. 44 of the *Undergraduate Bulletin* found under the heading of Graduation Requirements of the Baccalaureate Degree--Majors (reference the attached). Dean Edwards asked the deans to send their concerns or objections to him as soon as possible, because the committee will be taking this matter to the Academic Senate next month.

8. Adjourn

Minutes submitted by Debbie Withrow