

DEANS COUNCIL MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2009

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

President's Conference Room

Members Present: Bowers, J. Davis (guest), DePoy, Furnish, Ginnetti, Kasvinsky, Khawaja, Kobulnicky, Licata, J. Mosca, Rodabaugh, Singler, Ward

1. Announcements

(Kobulnicky) YSU has been selected to display one of the Holocaust Museum's traveling exhibits in 2010-2011. The Holocaust Museum has very high standards for accepting display sites and we are proud to have been chosen. The exhibit will focus on the topic of eugenics. More information will be forthcoming when dates are finalized.

(Bowers) Dr. Bowers is almost finished updating the links on the new Provost's website. The Deans Council Minutes now are found under *News, Resources*.

2. Update on International Activities (J. Davis)

Jef Davis presented an overall update on international activities and presented a report on his recruitment trip to the Middle East, where he met with 1,253 prospective students in Saudi Arabia alone. Jef attended recruitment fairs, visited schools, and was in flight every other day during his trip. Jef added that Dr. Abraham happened to be in China for a conference, and we were able to arrange for Dr. Abraham to give a presentation at a recruitment fair in Beijing. Dr. Yaqin Wang, Economics, who is on sabbatical in China, graciously represented YSU at the recruiting table. Mr. Frank Joseph, a YSU economics alumnus (B.A., M.A.), assisted with the arrangements. Mr. Joseph works in the U.S. embassy in Beijing and originally was contacted in that capacity by WCBA faculty who led a field study tour there last summer.

Jef announced that the CISP area is working on updating alumni contact information, in part because personal relationships are critical for recruiting in many parts of the world.

Last year the Iraqi government announced a government-funded school program that will allow 500 students to study abroad. Chancellor Fingerhut signed an MOU in July with Iraq, hoping the University System of Ohio will attract as many 300 of the first group of 500. Iraq has a fairly good education system in place and is high in English-speaking ability.

Jef passed out two documents: An Individual Study Abroad 2000-2009 chart, and a 10-page document regarding International Enrollment data. Please see the attachments for details.

Dr. Khawaja said that in 2007 we established a fund to fortify international study-abroad programs and have spent \$150,000 over the last few years. The Provost felt it might time to review the study-abroad

program by looking into future budgeting, resources, what guidance role Deans Council should play in decision making, and funding areas where study-abroad interests might lie. Drs. Mosca, DePoy, and Licata volunteered to work with Jef Davis to review proactively the current picture of international study abroad and report back to Deans Council. Dr. Khawaja asked that they add 1 or 2 members of the International Advisory Council to the review group. The group should plan to have recommendations before March 2010 so that we are prepared for the next budgeting period.

Dr. Bowers asked whether there is a site on the web outlining a step-by-step process to set up a study-abroad course and showing the approval process to follow. Jef reported that the study-abroad subcommittee is currently engaged in documenting these procedures to assist faculty members interested in developing field study courses. Dr. Khawaja said that this matter entails a union contract issue, and *Article 4.12 Faculty Supplement for International Field Classes* should be taken into consideration. If the course does not conform to YSU's regular semester schedule, flex-scheduling forms must also be submitted for approval.

Jef Davis also mentioned that he met a group of faculty in Saudi Arabia who are very interested in YSU's Topology Institute.

Dr. Khawaja congratulated Jef Davis on the successful defense of his doctoral dissertation.

3. University College

As a result of the Task Force on Student Success, a smaller implementation group was formed regarding the University College. Nothing has been decided, and a conceptual paper on the college's possible structure was drafted to use as a starting point to enable us to begin to look at the composition of this entity. Not all aspects of what the college might become or what programs it might house initially or in the future are outlined. Do we need a University College? Dr. Khawaja asked whether we are doing what we need to do for students who don't have a legitimate home college here at YSU today. Is there a need for such an entity to serve as home for that group? What will we be doing differently to ensure their success, and do we need a unit (other than the CSP) that focuses on student success? What can be accomplished in such a unit, and how can we measure that? At this time, nobody has responsibility to say that rooms, times, and teachers are available to serve underprepared and undetermined students. If we have a well-designed program, we can give students what they need and deserve.

Dr. Khawaja said the report will be considered a sounding board; he wished to discuss this matter in short order and have Deans Council weigh in. He said questions remain about Eastern Gateway Community College because of a lack of funding. This situation gives us breathing room and opportunity, as opposed to where YSU would be if the community college were funded aggressively. Success and retention need to remain part of our calculations. Dr. Khawaja said that, generally, he realizes there is the usual tension across colleges and among faculty about this matter, just as there are about any changes we want to bring on campus. So this matter will require careful consideration from Council's point of view.

Much discussion ensued. Dr. Khawaja thought there was healthy discussion.

Dr. Khawaja must report shortly to the smaller group to give his reactions, and then to Cabinet and ultimately to the Board, and there must be a vision that's clear and logical. The State has changed our funding formula, and we have to have successful students—it's a matter of focus. In that sense, the University College is a plus for YSU, not a neutral. Dr. Khawaja believes that delaying or not creating and providing a home for student success will ensure it will never get started. Developing such a unit will not get easier a year and half from now, and the Provost thinks we need to bite the bullet today, even if we create a skeleton of what the unit will become.

4. Old/New Business

Marilyn Ward asked that the deans verify the ETS report as it stands now for spring, because this information will be on the contracts unless she is notified otherwise.

5. Adjourn

Minutes submitted by Debbie Withrow