

DEANS COUNCIL MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JULY 15, 2009

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

President's Conference Room

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

1. Announcements

(Khawaja) Deans Council officially welcomed newcomer Dean Bryan DePoy to YSU.

(Licata) Dr. Licata announced that the 2-week Summer Honors Institute has gone very well from her perspective, and the state people were impressed that YSU agreed to hold this institute without funding. Dr. Khawaja was also impressed with the faculty who volunteered their services for the 2nd week, when there was no longer funding.

(Ginnetti) Dr. Ginnetti is receiving program reviews from NCATE, and so far we are doing very well.

(Abraham) Dr. Abraham will go to Switzerland in July to attend an interdisciplinary conference on "Engineering Solutions for Sustainability: Materials and Resources."

2. Space Utilization Committee (C. Singler and J. Morrison)

Jim Morrison, co-chair with Dr. Singler of the Space Utilization Committee, presented the Committee's interim report. The committee was charged under Goal 1.5 of the Academic Strategic Plan to look at learning and study spaces. The last study of these spaces was done by an outside consultant in 2003. The current inventory, when compared to the 2003 report, shows an overall net loss of 32 general-purpose classrooms and 793 seats. There is currently a demand for general-purpose classroom space, because there are not enough classrooms to hold all of the classes that YSU needs to schedule. Additionally, the current space is inadequate for clinical laboratories, special-purpose rooms, and research laboratories, as programs grow and YSU refocuses as an urban research university. The committee recommends strongly and unanimously that Williamson Hall remain an academic building because that would alleviate academic space needs. A discussion followed about changes over time in the scheduling of class times and changes in the student population. Dr. Khawaja said that we need to reinforce the committee's conclusion with data. The Provost stated that other divisions have interest in space on campus and that any available space will not automatically come to the Academic Division. If the deans have additional thoughts on this matter, share them with Dr. Singler.

3. Chairs' Handbook

The Chairpersons' Handbook is woefully out of date. Dr. Herbert had begun the revision of the handbook. One of the pending issues of the revision was the lack of clarity about how the chairpersons' compensation model should be fashioned. To not delay the matter further, Dr. Khawaja introduced a chairs' compensation model that he will present to the Chairs' Development Committee in the near future.

On another matter, Dr. Khawaja said he received information on OBOR's SSI funding cuts to universities. YSU and Central State are the only 2 state universities in Ohio that received cuts this year. Dr. Khawaja said the next important thing YSU needs to do is empower the Student Success Task Force to come up with a plan to address 3 to 4 most pressing problems, and move in an urgent way to implement actions. OBOR's projections are that all Ohio state universities will lose funding in 2011, and that YSU will have a 10% decrease. Our financial challenge is severe. YSU will have to increase tuition. Council discussed several important actions that should be taken to ensure student success.

4. Annual Report (B. Bowers)

Dr. Bowers reminded the deans that the department annual reports were due to the deans by June 30, 2009, and that she also should be sent an e-mail copy. The deans should complete their college's annual report by July 31. Student, faculty, and staff engagement activities should be summarized in the college's report, along with scholarly activities. Remember that a new annual planning process will be instituted this year, and this will be discussed at a future meeting. Planning should be based on departments' previous goals and on what will be required to evolve into an urban research university. The process is intended to connect reporting, planning, and the budget.

5. Budget (Ward)

Marilyn Ward almost has taken care of the FY10 reductions to department budgets. Fringes cannot be used for reductions in FY10, but they can be used in FY11.

Reminder: All changes to ETS contracts must be approved by the Provost. Marilyn distributed a summary of ETS hours by name and department and asked each dean to make changes/corrections and send them to her for the Provost. Contracts will be issued incorrectly unless the data are verified and corrected.

6. Summer (Ward)

Marilyn Ward is verifying the summer contracts and will have data by Friday that will show how we've performed on summer reductions. She also ran another budget report showing a lot of red for FY 09 and cleaned up FY09 budget issues where appropriate. Other issues will be clearer after Friday's payroll is posted, and appropriate transfers may be initiated.

7. Old/New Business

Dr. Khawaja received an email regarding the swine flu issue that asked that if YSU had a severe attack of the flu and had to close, what would that do to our academic activity and should we have a contingency plan? Although the issue can't be decided today—perhaps online instruction and other initiatives could be put in place—YSU may not have a plan in place until early into next year. Dr. Khawaja will contact Cyndy Anderson to learn about planning that has taken place at YSU.

Dr. Khawaja said he has been asked what YSU's future might be with respect to computer labs—are we anticipating possible changes in technology that are on the horizon? A number of universities are re-looking at computer labs--replacing them cyclically (standard practice) or looking at other ways labs might be replaced. How labs are set up to allow access to printing also may be researched. YSU will appoint a group to explore these issues. After some discussion, Dr. Khawaja appointed Paul Kobulnicky and Martin Abraham from the Academic Division to represent us on this group.

The Senate committees have been assigned for 2009-10, with only a few minor changes from last year. The 2 new Deans, DePoy and Mosca, are now academic senators.

8. Adjourn

Minutes submitted by Debbie Withrow