

DEANS COUNCIL MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2009

9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

President's Conference Room

Members Present: Abraham, Bowers, DePoy, Francisco (guest), Furnish, Kasvinsky, Khawaja, Kobulnicky, Kasuganti, Lenhoff (guest), J. Mosca, Salvner (guest), Singler, Ward

1. Announcements

(Bowers) Timothy Francisco, Department of English, is YSU's representative to the Ohio Leadership Academy, following in the footsteps of Drs. Ayana, Ahuja, and Horvath.

(Furnish) Three CLASS students have won Gilman scholarships this time—quite an impressive number.

(Abraham) Hojjat Mehri is serving as a representative to the Ohio Steel Industry Advisory Council. One week ago, he gave a presentation outlining some of the challenges of the steel industry, and his message was well received.

(Abraham) Roughly 400 Girard Middle School students are touring the STEM facilities today-- just because they wanted to see what a university looks like.

2. Clinical Track Faculty

In the last round of negotiations, a study group was established to look at the possibility of a clinical designation for certain faculty in the Nursing area. Dr. Mosca, chair of the study group, has recommendations from the study group, after the year-long exercise. Dr. Mosca stated that clinical nursing faculty are a primary component of nursing education, because they are clinical faculty who teach in the clinical realm of the curricula, primarily in hospital settings. These faculty are difficult to recruit and hire, because they are typically fully employed in practice and well-paid. A clinical appointment would require faculty to teach 15 hours per term, with overload pay accruing at 17 hours per semester and 33 hours per year. The expectation for performing scholarship would be adjusted for clinical faculty and different from the expectation for regular full-time tenure track faculty, with primary focus being given to clinical instruction. Clinical faculty must be certified and have significant clinical expertise. The study group has put together a model, and it will be presented at the next Deans Council meeting. Dr. Mosca said that the nursing faculty who would be affected work hard and would feel more connected to their department and to the university if they could have an opportunity to be tenured. Dr. Khawaja said the model is something for Deans Council to look at and consider adopting. While a tenure track may be opened for clinical nursing faculty, this precedent may open possibilities in other areas where we want someone other than part-time faculty. Dr. Khawaja asked the deans to think about similar possibilities for establishing a clinical track within their colleges so that this issue can be looked at in a sustained way.

3. Student News Bureau (A. Lenhoff and T. Francisco)

Professors Lenhoff and Francisco both specialize in journalism, which is housed in the English Department. They have been working on a student news bureau project this past semester and will continue this spring. The project is unnamed, but they are brainstorming on acquiring a concrete name to enable independent branding and generate publicity. This branding will prevent confusion that the students are issuing an official communication from the University. The project developed in response to challenges the media are experiencing with changes in how people get news. The project is also intended to give students a hands-on learning opportunity. The concept allows for experiential learning within an academic framework. Additionally, the project involves media collaboration. Partners are YSU's journalism major, WYSU, and the Vindicator.

In this unique collaborative model, media professionals are brought onto campus and spend 10 hours per week with our students. Students also work in a special area in a Vindicator newsroom. Student articles have bylines that cross-promote the Vindicator with WYSU and vice versa. The students acquire investigative techniques, critical thinking skills, interviewing skills, and writing skills. Every story by the students printed so far by the Vindicator has been page 1 news, and there is a bank of stories waiting to be rolled out. The practical experience a student has when he/she graduates is incredible.

An audio sample of student radio work was played for Council—none of the students in the program had ever experienced radio reporting before. Three students have already acquired part-time jobs at the Vindicator this year. Inquiries about YSU's new journalism program have come from beyond the Youngstown area, and other universities are interested in replicating our work. This program fits well within the mission and goals of YSU. Please see further details outlined in the attached *PowerPoint*, and samples of student stories at <http://www.vindy.com/news/2009/dec/01/taking-chance/> and <http://www.vindy.com/news/2009/dec/02/an-idora-revival/>.

4. University Guidebook Policies (5014.01, 5015.01, 9003.01, 9003.03)

Dr. Khawaja said that as guidebook policies are tagged to be reviewed, the Provost's executive staff look at policies in terms of their relevance to the deans, colleges or departments, and pass them down to the deans when they believe the deans could provide input.

Deans Council discussed 4 policies under review and will e-mail their comments to Bege Bowers, who will develop a composite picture, and pass the comments to the President's Office. Dr. Abraham volunteered to work with Dr. Kasvinsky on the review of the Appointment of Graduate Assistants and Teaching Assistants policy.

5. Old/New Business

Dr. Khawaja said that the Academic Division issues considered at the BOT Finance and Facilities Meeting on 12-8-09 were college fees and the M-2 parking deck demolition that was

spurred by deliberations over the last year by the Alternative Transportation Committee. Because some of the board was not comfortable with the decision to demolish the deck, none of the business of the committee was concluded, and there will be another committee meeting at noon today to conclude the business of that committee.

Paul Kobulnicky brought up the issue of a current scam by a student who registers each term and then withdraws, solely to get a ysu.edu network identity that does not cease when the student withdraws. Kobulnicky was alarmed that we don't remove these people from the YSU network, and he thinks this person may be running a business. Kobulnicky fears people may break into the "system." It was felt that security network technology personnel should look into the matter. Discussion followed, and it was believed that the benefit of leaving students connected to YSU so that they might easily register the next semester or within the year far outweighs the disadvantage of having one person who does really not belong on the YSU network.

Dr. Singler said that the Academic Standards Committee has adopted 2 changes that are proposed to be effective fall semester 2010, and the committee would like to bring this issue to the Academic Senate for adoption in February 2010. The 1st issue is that the last day to drop a class will be the 8th calendar day of classes, and the last day to add a class will be the 9th calendar day. The 2nd issue pertains to multiple majors and degrees. Essentially, a second major would require that at least 50% of the credits for the major be different than those of the first major. Only those credits identified in the defined major would count in the calculation. Gen Ed credits are not part of the major and are not counted. (See the attached language approved by the Academic Senate on 2-3-10, which contains an amendment to the number of hours that must be unique to each major.)

6. Adjourn

Minutes submitted by Debbie Withrow