

Deans Council Minutes
May 17, 2017
Leaders Conference Room

Present: Abraham, Ball, Blair, Cossentino, Howell, Hripko, Licata, Mosca, Myers, Paul, Sanders, Steelant, Swegan, Torres, and Ward

Guest: Hillary Fuhrman

Approval of Minutes

Dean Sanders made a motion to approve the April 19, 2017, minutes. Dean Paul seconded the motion. A vote was taken, and the minutes were approved.

Program Review

Provost Abraham announced that Dr. Corey Andrews resigned from the position of Coordinator of Program Review and Chairperson of the Program Review Committee of the Academic Senate. Dr. Abraham stated the resignation prompted conversations with Dr. Ball, Ms. Fuhrman, and Dr. Cooper, and based on these conversations, he invited Ms. Fuhrman to this Deans Council to open a discussion. Dr. Abraham also noted that concerns have been shared with him regarding the multiple documents required in Academic Affairs, e.g., annual reports, program reviews, and assessment. The Provost asked Council if there is a better way to accomplish the objectives of the University with fewer documents. Discussion ensued. Topics regarding similarities of assessment and program review, how program review relates to the strategic plan, alignment of program review to accreditation, continual improvement, benchmarks, and needed metrics were introduced. It was decided to form a working group to develop a formalized plan or proposal. The following people volunteered or were suggested/volunteered to be part of this working group: Sal Sanders, Amy Cossentino, Marcia Matanin, Joe Mistovich, Matthew Mazourski, Amy Flick, Kevin Ball, and Hillary Fuhrman. Provost Abraham asked Council to share with him the any additional names of individuals who may be well suited to be a member of the working group.

YSU Faculty Credentials Guidelines

Associate Provost Ball stated the YSU Faculty Credentials Guidelines document outlines the normal process for credentialing full-time and part-time faculty, and its purpose is to detail any exceptions. The document distributed to Council contains all information that has been received from the colleges to date. Dr. Ball asked the deans to review this document one last time and to alert him of any updates. Ms. Ward asked Dean Licata to share information regarding the Instructional Practitioners (IP) designation so it is not confusing. Dr. Ball asked that all corrections be made as soon as possible. The document will be reviewed at an Academic Senate meeting early in the fall semester.

Open Forums for Searches

Provost Abraham announced one final candidate, Tyson Beale, will be on campus Monday, May 22, 2017, interviewing for the Associate Provost for Student Success position. He asked Council to attend the Open Forums, and he reminded the deans about their special session at 1:30 p.m. in the Provost's Conference Room.

Provost Abraham reminded the deans that interviews with the finalists for the Associate Provost for Academic Administration position will be held on Thursday, May 18, 2017, beginning at 1:00 p.m.

Provost Abraham noted the position of Executive Director for Maag Library is posted on the YSU website, and he asked Council to encourage qualified individuals to apply for the position. Dean Paul will chair that search.

Dean Blair stated the finalists for the Associate Vice President and Chief Information Officer will be on campus the week of June 12.

Commencement

Provost Abraham asked for Council's thoughts on the commencement ceremonies that took place at the beginning of May. Overall, Council was pleased with the format. It was noted the afternoon ceremony is much louder than the morning ceremony. Provost Abraham brought up a concern that YSU may have too many students to fit in Beeghly Center in the near future, and he asked for advice. Comments included:

- Let the graduate students have their own ceremony, possibly at Stambaugh Auditorium, as was done in the past.
- Have an August commencement.
- Have individual college ceremonies.
- Move the orchestra to the stands.
- Limit the size by distributing tickets.
- Explore use of the Covelli Center (it was noted Covelli may have more floor space but not more seating).
- Marshals should have some type of designation so people can see who they are.
- Events management staff should wear something to designate who they are.

Minority Student Retention

Provost Abraham stated YSU is struggling with minority student retention issues. He shared some of his ideas that may address the current issues and opened the floor for discussion. A robust discussion took place. Members of Council shared their concerns about the success of YSU's minority students and expressed interest in finding avenues to help the students succeed. Provost Abraham said he welcomes additional ideas, and he stated he will keep Council informed of any proposed changes that may develop in trying to remedy this situation.

Roundtable

Associate Vice President Swegan gave an update on the fall semester enrollment. He stated the enrollment for fall semester looks good and may be up 250 from the incoming freshmen and other categories, but there were 170 additional students who graduated in the spring semester who were not originally known to be graduating. Mr. Swegan said he feels comfortable that enrollment is on a sustainable track. Mr. Swegan also noted that Cincinnati, Miami of Ohio, and YSU appear to have stable enrollments, but many Ohio schools have enrollments that are either down, considerably down, or hoping to be flat. He said it is the first time in 20 years that he has seen officers in enrollment management positions this nervous or anxious.

Associate Provost Myers stated the number of acceptances of international students has tripled since last year, and he hopes the number of international graduate students will be higher than last year.

Dr. Myers also announced a goal for summer is for one new study abroad opportunity be created for each college. Ann Gardner will be working with members of Council to present that goal for the upcoming year.

Dr. Cossentino noted there may be up to 100 additional honors students for the fall semester. She stated the Honors College will have its first golf outing Saturday, May 27, 2017, and all 36 teams are full.

Provost Abraham noted the Academic Senate approved the student travel policy, and this policy will go to the Board in June. He asked Council members to familiarize themselves and their faculty with the policy. Students must have permission to travel at least five business days in advance of their trip. There is much administrative oversight that must take place.

Ms. Ward reminded Council that the deadlines for summer school contract information are very important. She reminded the deans of the May 31 deadline for the AY 16-17 workload reports. The workload plans for AY 17-18 were due April 12. Only 43% of those reports have been submitted.

Dean Mosca reported a delegation from YSU traveled to Lorain Community College for a partnership discussion. There are 48 students who graduated in May from these partnership programs.

Dean Howell stated he will be traveling to Finland on May 26, 2017, through June 9, 2017, to teach at the University of Jyväskylä.

Dean Blair announced the new Associate Dean of CLASS is Martha Pallante. Dr. Pallante replaced Dr. Jane Kestner, who retired.

Dean Sanders stated his office is having difficulty with scholarships this summer. If renewal forms have not been completed, the students were not paid. If you have a student with these concerns, please complete the paperwork. Students in the summer now receive scholarships, not financial aid.

Associate Provost Ball announced that chairs should have edited their pages in the academic catalog. There are 101 undergraduate and 55 graduate pages not completed. Dr. Ball asked the deans to please remind the chairs to start the workflow on their catalog pages.

Ms. Torres stated the computer lab on the fourth floor of Maag Library was moved to the main floor in the reference room. There are now 25 stations available, and students are taking advantage of the stations.

Adjournment

With no further business to come before Council, the meeting was adjourned at 3:33 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Jodi Clowes