

Planner to unite campus with city

*Youngstown is
expected to pay
half of shared
employee's salary.*

BY HENRY GOMEZ
Jambar Assistant Editor
AND ANGELA OLIN
Jambar Reporter

In a first for Youngstown, the city and YSU will share an employee as part of a joint effort to make citywide improvements.

In a deal announced last week by University President Dr. David Sweet, Hunter Morrison — hired in February to help oversee YSU's master plan — also will assist city officials with their own planning process.

"It's the first time that YSU and Youngstown have worked together to coordinate planning activities," said John Habat, special assistant to the president. "One can compliment the other."

In an ordinance passed Feb. 20, City Council approved the deal, agreeing to spend up to \$25,000 toward Morrison's part-time salary. Habat said he expected the city to reimburse the university half of Morrison's \$44,000 annual salary.

Morrison, who has more than 20 years of experience with the Cleveland City Planning Department, will work two days a week, one for YSU and one for the city.

"He will look at the whole facility, such as recreational areas ... all the things that make up a campus," Habat said.

Habat also said Morrison will work closely with John Hyden, director, Facilities. Hyden said Morrison's experience would be beneficial to both the university and Youngstown.

"I think he's going to be very valuable to the master planning process," Hyden said. "He brings a wealth of experience in urban planning. We really need that expertise."

Both the city and university have separate master plans, Hyden said, adding that the agreement with the city allows for YSU to take a more

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active role in city development.

"[Morrison] is the glue that's really going to hold it together," Hyden said. "We are not two forces working in opposition; we're cohesively working together."

The campus master plan states the university will include both academic and

administrative operations in outlining future goals for building and campus expansions.

Habat said Morrison has already been consulting with YSU and the city on several possibilities, including university courtyard housing.

Youngstown is in the midst of a comprehensive

planning process that includes a proposed downtown convocation center and several other building plans.

"We're both embarking on master plans," Hyden said. "As timing would have it, Hunter Morrison was available, and we're gonna take advantage of that."