

# YSU Trustees approve doctoral program for next Fall

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Editor-in-Chief

Beginning fall quarter 1992, YSU will begin offering classes for its first doctoral program in educational leadership. After seven years in the planning stages, the Ohio Board of Regents unanimously approved the new doctoral degree program on Friday March 13.

"The concept was started in 1985, when we seriously began discussion on the desirability of having this degree," said Dr. David Ruggles, Dean, Education.

The first step was to notify community groups that YSU was planning to have a doctoral program and to gain the people's support, said Ruggles.

"From there, we started to obtain staff members and allocate resources," said Ruggles.

The person hired approximately 1½ years ago to chair the department of educational administration is Dr. Robert Beebe.

"We searched nationally, and we were lucky to find someone

of the caliber of Dr. Beebe. He was hired to set the appropriate program," said Ruggles.

The actual drafting of the program began one year ago August.

"We started to draft material of what the program would consist of. Since then, there have been about 30 revisions," said Beebe.

The revision process has involved approximately 100 people who reviewed and revised the material, and two consultants were also called upon to review and revise the document.

Then, a committee made up of 15 deans of graduate schools throughout Ohio reviewed the material before it went to the Board of Regents.

The Board of Regents unanimously approved the program with no conditions, said Ruggles.

The objective of this program, said Ruggles, is "not to create clones of college professors, but leadership echelon in the school community."

Said Beebe, "The graduate of this program will receive an Ed.D, which is a practitioners

degree. With it, people can go into the school systems and assume leadership roles, such as administrators, superintendents and principals."

Beebe stated that the program is competency-based, that there are "a half dozen competencies we feel administrators should possess, and we built the curriculum around these six things."

Dr. Neil Humphrey, YSU President, said the initiation of this program will advance YSU.

"I'm delighted [about the program]. This is a significant step forward for YSU," he said.

For the most part, the program is largely in place, but one more faculty member will be added before fall quarter.

According to Beebe, several hundred brochures will be mailed out later this week to begin recruiting students for the program. He said over 300 area people have already expressed interest in the program.

Because the number of applicants is expected to be extremely high, the qualifications needed to be accepted into the program will likewise be high.

"Applicants must hold a

master's degree, have at least a 3.5 GPA, must be in the 50th percentile on the GRE; they have to have two years of administrative experience, three years of teaching experience, and must hold a professional certificate," said Beebe.

Only 20 people will be accepted into the program the first year.

"We're very excited about the people we'll be receiving. They should be a high-quality group," Beebe stated.

He said he expects that a full-

time student should be able to complete the degree in three to four years, as the Ed.D. is an additional 111 quarter hours more than the master's degree.

When asked what this program may mean to the future of YSU, Beebe stated that first, the program is "like any other — it has a job to do. But also, it puts YSU in rare company of institutions who offer both associate and doctorate degrees. It broadens the University's service to the area."