

Bolla to leave post as arts and sciences' dean

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BOLLA

Members of the College of Arts and Sciences said they would miss their colleague as news spread through the university that the dean of

the college will be moving to another university.

Robert Bolla, Youngstown State University's dean of the college of arts and sciences, announced he would be taking on the job as dean of graduate studies at Bradley University in Peoria, Ill.

Bolla, who could not be reached for comment, said in a

university press release that he is moving because of his interest in working with agriculture research. He also expressed his feelings for YSU.

"The YSU faculty in the College of Arts and Sciences are the most talented, hardest working and most dedicated faculty I have ever worked with," Bolla said.

In a phone interview Mon-

day afternoon, Assistant Dean of Arts and Sciences Jim Mike outlined a few areas that he said will be missed of his colleague when he leaves this coming June.

He complimented him on his laidback attitude, ability to communicate and educational experience. These qualities, he said, would be sought out in the new candidates.

"I am going to miss him as a person because we are not just colleagues, we are friends," Mike said.

Assistant Dean of Arts and Sciences Jane Kestner agreed, complimenting Bolla's ability to "think outside the box." She added that she would like to see another person fill the position

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that will adequately maintain ties between the departments and students in the college.

"We will need someone that will continue to spearhead the development of a strategic plan for the college that incorporates the goals of each of the departments," Kestner said.

Since his hiring in 2002, Bolla has worked on building such programs as the Youngstown Early College program and has also begun working toward the creation of an Institute for Language and Culture in the College of Arts and Sciences. He has also helped with the creation of a Visiting Advisory Council and a Student Advisory Council for his college, which offer advice for the college.

His personnel file also lists numerous academic publications and high marks in his administrative evaluations.

University spokesman Walt Ulbricht said a search committee would soon be formed to locate possible candidates for the position.

"It will be done on a national level," Ulbricht said. "No date has been selected yet, but it should be in the next few weeks."

Both Kestner and Mike said they do not foresee any problems with the upcoming search and hiring process.

"I think that everyone will act professionally in this process and do not see where there would be any problems," Mike said.

No word has come yet about who will be named Interim Dean during the search.