

For the Record...

July 2003

Welcome to the third issue of "For the Record..."

The purpose of this publication from the Office of Marketing and Communications is to keep the campus community informed of the latest actions, deliberations and discussions of the YSU Board of Trustees. "For the Record..." will be distributed after the regular quarterly meetings of the board. Comments and suggestions may be sent to Ron Cole, manager of news and information services, at 330-941-3285 or racole.01@ysu.edu.

YSU trustees approved a \$131.76 million fiscal year 2004 university budget during a busy June board meeting that also included actions on a new contract for professional and administrative employees and new names for the graduate school and the campus police station. Board members also discussed the design of the new student recreation and wellness center and the future of the university bookstore, and they named Dr. Chander M. Kohli to replace Joseph Nohra as board chairman.

Here's a summary of the board's actions and discussions at the June 25 full board meeting, as well as committee meetings on June 8, 12 and 25.

Board of Trustees, June 25

Joseph Nohra, chair

Chander M. Kohli, vice chair

The board met in Tod Hall:

- YSU President David C. Sweet reported to the board that, as he completes his third year as YSU's chief executive, he is pleased with progress the university has made on the top 10 priorities outlined in the Centennial Strategic Plan. Enrollment is up 8 percent since 2000; minority enrollment is up 23 percent; the 408-bed student apartment complex in Smoky Hollow is nearing completion; fund-raising moves ahead for a \$12 million student recreation center; YSU's image and marketing campaign has successfully expanded into the Cleveland market; external funding for faculty research has continued to increase dramatically; and the university has negotiated four labor agreements. "There is a calmer labor/management environment on campus at this time," he said.

All of that has occurred in a time of severe cutbacks in state funding, Sweet said. YSU's state share of instruction funding has dropped nearly 10 percent since fiscal year 2001, shifting the cost of a college education to the wallets of students. "I think it's unwise public policy," Sweet said. "I think it's short-sighted. I think it's a travesty." Nevertheless, YSU has been able to maintain quality, avoid employee layoffs and remain the most affordable, efficient and cost-effective public university in Ohio, he said.

- Provost Tony Atwater reported that the Ohio Board of Regents has approved two new degrees for YSU: bachelor's of science in applied science in forensic science, and associate's in business technology. The forensic science program already has a waiting list, he said. Atwater also announced that David Stout, the John M. Cooney Professor of Accounting at Villanova University, has been named the John S. and Doris M. Andrews Chair in Accounting at YSU.
- Cynthia Anderson, vice president for student affairs, announced that summer enrollment is up by 325 students or 7 percent. She also reported that the number of students filing applications online has increased significantly from 92 to 910 in the past year.

The board also:

- Set tuition for fall semester at \$2,724 for full-time Ohio students, a \$12 reduction from the rate trustees set in December. The change was made due to a tuition cap put in place under the new fiscal year 2004 and 2005 state budget. The state budget also allows trustees - on a second, separate vote - to increase tuition up to an additional 3.9 percent, as long as the extra revenue is earmarked for scholarships for low-income students or for technology. Sweet said a preliminary technology master plan to update and enhance YSU's computing systems will cost at least \$6 million to \$10 million to implement. Sweet said that while he is not asking trustees to approve the additional 3.9 percent tuition hike now, he will seek the added tuition at the trustees' December meeting.
- Approved a \$131.76 million fiscal year 2004 university budget, up 3.7 percent from \$127.11 in fiscal year 2003. Terry Ondreyka, vice president for finance, said nearly 60 percent of YSU's revenue now comes from student fees, up from only 47 percent just five years ago. "The burden of financing a college education continues to be shifted from the state to the student," he said.
The budget is based on fall headcount enrollment at 12,474 students, which is an average of the previous two fall semester enrollments. Due to state funding cuts and in order to present a balanced budget, the spending plans also calls for the elimination of 27 vacant positions, operating reductions totaling \$1.7 million and other miscellaneous budget cuts, including a salary freeze for top executive staff. The budget also includes reductions in supplies, maintenance and repairs, equipment, library acquisitions, strategic initiatives and marketing funds.
- Ratified a new three-year contract with the 117-member Association of Professional and Administrative Staff. The agreement calls for a 3 percent annual pay raise and an enrollment incentive that provides APAS members with a 1 percent increase to their base pay if full-time equivalent enrollment reaches 10,680. That's a 5 percent increase over the 10,171 FTE enrollment in fall semester 2002.
- Voted for a resolution increasing tuition and fees for the master of public health by 9.5 percent. The program is a consortium between YSU, Kent State University and the University of Akron.
- Approved an interfund loan of \$225,000 from Kilcawley Center's Equipment Replacement Fund to Housing Services' Operating Contingency Fund. The loan will help accelerate the payoff of debt service for university housing.
- Approved a resolution ratifying faculty and staff appointments.
- Voted for a resolution to confer emeritus status on 15 faculty and staff members: Joan F. DiGiulio, Ronald L. Gould, A. James Granito, Inez G. Heal, Ikram Khawaja, Glenda G. Kunar, James P. LaLumia, Jagdish C. Mehra, Lowell J. Satre, Paul C. Peterson, Carol Ann Cook, Edward DiGregorio, Philip Hirsch, Floyd E. Jackson and Barbara C. Orton.

- Voted to accept gifts totaling \$1.12 million for the period of Jan. 1 to March 31, 2003.
- Approved a resolution to name the Clayman Family Professorship in Judaic and Holocaust Studies. Paul McFadden, YSU development director, said earlier that William and Hilda Clayman of Niles have made a generous gift to YSU to establish the endowment in honor of their son, David. The gift will support the professorship, programs and activities of the Judaic and Holocaust Studies Program, which was initiated at YSU in the late 1960s when Dr. Saul Friedman was appointed to the faculty of the history department. A dedication ceremony for the Claymans, who own Niles Iron and Scrap, is planned for Aug. 13 on campus.
- Agreed to name the building at 266 W. Wood St., the former American Red Cross building which currently houses the YSU Campus Police, after the Clingan and Waddell families. In the early 1950s, the families gave money to YSU to purchase the YMCA Youth Center at 236 N. Champion St. The building was named after the families. YSU sold the building in 1994 and the name was removed. "It's very affectionately remembered by our alumni," McFadden said before the meeting. "We want to bring the name back to campus."
- Passed a resolution to change the name of Meeting Room 2036 in Kilcawley Center to the William B. and Kathryn Challis Pollock Meeting Room. The Pollock Foundation has donated \$125,000 to YSU's \$12 million fund-raising campaign for a new campus recreation and wellness center.
- Approved a resolution to name the first floor lobby area of Kilcawley Center for James Staaf, a 1957 YSU graduate, and his wife, Arleen. The Staaf's estate includes a bequest of \$419,529 to YSU and will be used to help construct the new recreation center.
- Agreed to name the reading lounge on the second floor of Kilcawley Center after Frank and Norma Watson and Jim and Ellen Tressel, who gave \$250,000 to the recreation center fund-raising campaign. Watson, a 1949 YSU graduate, is a former YSU trustee. Ellen Tressel is a 1975 YSU graduate, and Jim Tressel was YSU's head football coach from 1986 to 2000, winning four division I-AA national championships.
- Voted on a resolution to give an honorary degree to Frank C. Watson, who will receive the YSU Distinguished Citizen of the Year Award in July.
- Changed the name of the School of Graduate Studies to the School of Graduate Studies and Research. "I think it's a tremendous move," Trustee Bill Knecht said. "It's positive and it's what we're all about."
- Approved a new associate of applied science degree in computer networking. The program will be the only two-year AAS in computer networking in the state.
- Passed a resolution congratulating YSU mathematics students and the Department of Mathematics and Statistics on their performance in the 2003 International Mathematical Modeling Competition. A team consisting of students Sarah Grove, Chris Jones and Joel Lepak was designated "Outstanding," the highest honor in the contest and the first time a YSU team has reached such internationally-recognized heights. In all, seven YSU teams participated in the international contest. YSU placed sixth overall, beating out prominent institutions like California Institute of Technology and Harvard University. "Youngstown State is blessed to have some of the finest students in the world," said Nathan Ritchey, mathematics chairman.
- Approved a resolution of appreciation for YSU employees and students who have been called to active military duty in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.
- Passed a resolution to endorse the nomination and recommendation process for student appointments to the YSU Board of Trustees. The endorsement is required by Ohio law.
- Approved a resolution of appreciation for Ed DiGregorio, retired YSU women's basketball coach.

- Voted for a resolution of appreciation for the YSU women's golf team, which won the inaugural Horizon League Women's Golf Championship. The team is coached by Roseann Schwartz.
- Authorized the purchase of two small parcels of property on Carlton Street in Smoky Hollow.
- Elected Kohli as the board's new chairman. Charles B. Cushwa III was elected vice chairman.

Finance and Facilities Committee, June 25

Larry E. Esterly, chair

F.W. Knecht, vice chair

- Bob Bolla, dean of the College of Arts & Sciences, and Richard Bretz, special assistant to the provost, outlined for the board a preliminary proposal for an Early College High School program on campus. Early College High School is part of a national effort led by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to provide a transition between high school and college for traditionally underserved students. The goal of the program is to develop small high schools where low-income, minority, first-generation students can earn both a high school diploma and up to two years of college credit toward a bachelor's degree. A partnership between YSU and the Youngstown City Schools has received nearly \$50,000 in grants to develop an implementation proposal. If the plan is approved, the partnership would be eligible for a grant of up to \$100,000 to develop a more detailed plan. The current plan calls for an Early College High School for students in grades nine, 10, 11 and 12 on the YSU campus starting in fall 2004. Bolla said several questions remained unanswered, including funding.

"I think this potentially represents some of the out-of-the-box thinking that is necessary to address some of the issues facing the inner city," Sweet told board members. "But, there are still a lot of questions that need to be answered. Until those questions are answered, we will not be moving forward."

Finance and Facilities Committee, June 12

- The committee reviewed a report showing that student accounts receivables – unpaid bills -- amount to \$5.25 million dating to 1995. Ondreyka, vice president for financial affairs, told trustees that, after dozens of attempts to get bills paid, the university will write off \$1.56 million of the unpaid bills. Anderson, vice president for student affairs, said her office is developing a process to improve collecting student fees. She said YSU must be sensitive to how such a process could affect enrollment, but she also said "we have to let our students know that we are going to get tough."
- Committee members approved a resolution giving preliminary approval for the university to acquire additional property in the Smoky Hollow area adjacent to campus.
- Don Cagigas, president of Youngstown/Mahoning Valley United Way, and Rich Delisio, director of materials management, updated trustees on the future of the university bookstore in Kilcawley Center. A committee co-chaired by Cagigas is studying the future location, management and services of the bookstore, which currently is operated by the university. Committee members have identified at least 10 alternate sites for a possible new bookstore, and the committee will soon send out requests for proposals to manage the store. The requests will go to the current bookstore, Campus Book & Supply on Lincoln Avenue, and three private companies – Barnes & Noble, Follett and Borders. "We're asking them to give us a pretty good idea of what they'll invest in us," Delisio said. The proposals should be returned to the committee by mid-August, and the committee hopes to make recommendations to Sweet on the future of the bookstore by mid- to late-September, Cagigas said. Delisio

emphasized that current employees of the bookstore will not lose their jobs if a switch is made to a private operator.

- Hunter Morrison, director of YSU's Center for Regional and Urban Studies, updated the board on the Centennial Campus Master Plan, which will define campus development for five-year and 10-year periods. The plan should be finished by March 2004.
- John Hyden, facilities director, told the committee that a draft report of a campus space utilization study has been finished by Comprehensive Facility Planners in Columbus. "We didn't find that we have an enormous glut of space on campus," Hyden said, "but we could probably more effectively use the space we do have." A final report is expected in the next several weeks.
- Hyden also outlined plans to improve Spring Street leading into Wick Oval, the new University Courtyard Apartments and Smoky Hollow. "We want to make it a much more pedestrian-friendly area," Hyden said. The small strip of road will be repaved, and the street will get new sidewalks, lighting and fencing. Utilities, now on poles sprouting along the road, will be placed underground. The road leads into the new student apartment complex, which will open in mid August.
- Hyden also presented preliminary drawings of the new \$12 million Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center, which is expected to open in August 2005. The facility, which will include sports courts, racquetball courts, a fitness center, one-eighth mile running track, climbing wall and locker rooms, will be connected to the west end of Kilcawley Center and extend into the parking lot of DeBartolo Hall. Hyden said the facility will feature "lots of glass," allowing sun to enter the building and allowing passersby to see into the building. Hyden emphasized that sketches for the outside of the building are "very, very preliminary." Morrison said it's important that the rec center fit in with the look and architecture of the rest of the campus and community. "In the end, this is a building that has to speak to the past and the future of Youngstown," he said. The center will be constructed with private funds.
- Ondreyka told the committee that the 408-bed University Courtyard Apartments are on schedule to open in mid August. "We've been working very, very hard to keep the project on schedule and on budget," he said. Nearly 90 percent of the beds have been leased.

Internal Affairs Committee, June 12

Chander M. Kohli, chair

John L. Pogue, vice chair

- Tabled a resolution to modify the university's military leave policy. Currently, YSU pays the health insurance premiums for employees and the families of employees called to active military duty for 31 days. After that time, the employee must pay the premium, which amounts to about \$775 a month to continue under the university's health insurance plan, said Hugh Chatman, executive director of human resources. Chatman proposed extending the coverage for the entire period that the employee is on military leave. "I think the least we can do is to take that financial burden off of our employees called up to military duty," Chatman said. During a discussion among trustees, Chatman said employees called to military duty and their families do have health insurance provided by the military. Trustee F.W. Knecht questioned why YSU would provide the coverage if the military already is doing so. Chatman said providing YSU coverage would allow the families to maintain the services of their personal physicians. He also pointed out that Ohio State University provides the benefits to its employees. "Ohio State has a lot more resources to deal with," Trustee Eugenia Atkinson said.

- The committee reviewed a staffing report from the Office of Equal Opportunity that showed YSU had 83 more employees on March 31, 2003, than the same day in 2002, from 1,508 to 1,591. Chatman pointed out that 53 of the additional employees are part-time faculty. Forty-one of the employees are funded by external dollars, up from 30 the previous year, the report shows.

The report also broke down employees by race, showing that the university had four additional African Americans, four additional Asians and one additional Native American employee from March 2002 to March 2003. On the other hand, the number of Caucasians increased by 77. Trustee Chander Kohli said that while Sweet has made great strides in increasing student enrollment, there has been little progress in diversifying campus employees. Sweet noted that there has been significant progress in increasing the number of minority students, but he conceded that attracting minority employees remains a challenge. Provost Tony Atwater noted that competition for minority faculty is “very keen.” John Habat, vice president for administration, pointed out that the number of full-time minority employees at YSU increased from 120 to 139 from 2000 and 2002.

- Tom Maraffa, special assistant to the president, updated the committee on the search for a new director of equal opportunity. A 10-member committee received 40 applicants for the job, interviewed four by telephone and is bringing one candidate to campus. Trustees said they think the university should be considering more than just one candidate. “This is such a sensitive issue and is so important to what we are trying to accomplish as a university, and I personally don’t want to be boxed into one choice,” Atkinson said. Of the four finalists interviewed by telephone, the candidate being brought to campus for an interview is the only non-minority, Maraffa said. But, he said the candidate has always been at the top of the search committee’s list. Trustee John Pogue cautioned against “undercutting” the search committee’s work. “They have been on the scene, and they have been dealing with these people, and I think we need to give them some credibility,” Pogue said. (Since the committee meeting, the university has brought a second candidate to campus for interviews.)

External Relations Committee, June 5

Charles B. Cushwa, chair

Larry D. DeJane, vice chair

- McFadden and Sweet reported that YSU has applied for a grant from the Kresge Foundation as part of the fund-raising campaign for the \$12 million recreation center. Sweet said Kresge provides grants to projects in the later stages of fund-raising campaigns. “We think this is made to order for this project,” he said.
- Shannon Tirone, director of alumni relations, reported that the university is using e-mail to garner support from alumni. Sweet has sent two e-mail messages to more than 5,000 alumni, encouraging them to support YSU by asking their state lawmakers to increase funding for public higher education in Ohio. “I believe this works,” Trustee H.S. Wang said about the effort. Tirone said her office plans to use the e-mail system to communicate with alumni about other topics in the future.
- The committee reviewed information about upcoming dates in the Skeggs Lecture Series. Pulitzer Prize-winning author Toni Morrison will appear Sept. 18 at Edward W. Powers Auditorium as part of the series. James Watson, who won the 1962 Nobel Prize for decoding the secrets of the double-helixed DNA, will come to campus Nov. 5. First Lady Laura Bush has been invited to campus as the spring 2004 Skeggs Lecturer.

- Walt Ulbricht, executive director of marketing and communications, updated the committee on the ongoing advertising initiative in the Cleveland market. The effort, Ulbricht said, has resulted in an overall average 30 percent increase in the number of applicants to YSU in the seven-county Cleveland region.

Academic and Student Affairs Committee, June 5

Eugenia Atkinson, chair

H.S. Wang, vice chair

- The committee heard a presentation from Chet Cooper, a professor in YSU's biology department who has teamed with other faculty to create the Proteomics Research Group. The group is made up of YSU faculty, as well as other experts in Ohio, Thailand and Australia, who have a common research interest in the role proteins play in biological and chemical phenomena. Cooper said the development of the research group could have widespread positive economic impact on the university, the Youngstown region and Northeast Ohio. The group is focusing its research on the areas of skeletal muscle disease, infectious disease, immune systems, antibiotic resistance, vaccine development for agriculture and homeland security.
- Peter Kasvinsky, graduate studies dean, provided a report to committee members that shows an 83 percent increase in the amount of external funding grants to YSU. The university has received \$4.66 million in grants in the first three quarters of fiscal year 2002-03, compared to \$2.85 million in the previous fiscal year.
- Atwater and Sweet reported that a dozen faculty members have been promoted to the rank of professor: Ted Bosela, School of Technology; Jeff Coldren, psychology; Michael Crist, Dana School of Music; Ivania del Pozo, foreign languages and literatures; Michael Finney, English; Stephen Gage, Dana School of Music; Beverly Gartland, sociology and anthropology; Alan Jacobs, geological and environmental sciences; Scott Leonard, English; Joe Mistovich, health professions; Joe Mosca, social work; and Tim Wagner, chemistry. The following faculty have been promoted to associate professor: Laura Buch, Dana School of Music; Michael Crescimanno, physics and astronomy; Patricia Hoyson, nursing; Shirley Keller, social work; Walter Mathews, communication and theater; Dennis Morawski, social work; and Jane Shanabarger, communication and theater. In addition, Nancy Wagner of nursing was promoted to assistant professor.
- Atwater and Sweet also announced the following department chair appointments for the 2003-04 academic year: Craig Campbell, geography; Michael Crist, Dana School of Music; Susan Russo (acting chair), art; John Sarkissian (acting chair), foreign languages and literatures; and Tim Wagner (acting chair), chemistry. In addition, Marleen McClelland has been re-appointed chair of physical therapy, and Dan O'Neill has been re-appointed chair of communication and theater.
- Atwater also reported that YSU will add two new academic options in the fall semester: Power Plant Technology and Telecommunications Engineering Technology. He also said that new master's of arts degrees in American Studies and Financial Economics will be sent to the Ohio Board of Regents for approval.
- Anderson introduced Emily Eckman, a junior studying nutrition who is the new YSU Student Government president.