

For the Record...



June 2005

For the Record..., published by the Office of Marketing and Communications, is distributed after the regular quarterly meetings of the YSU Board of Trustees as a way to keep the campus community informed of the board's latest actions, deliberations and discussions. Comments and suggestions may be sent to Ron Cole, manager of news and information services, at 330-941-3285 or racole.01@ysu.edu.

The YSU Board of Trustees agreed to scale back tuition and approved the fiscal year 2006 budget during a busy series of meetings in June. Trustees also discussed the first phase of the East Campus Gateway improvement project, the first steps in the construction of a new building for the Williamson College of Business Administration, a new plan to increase student scholarships and the end of a successful first year of the Youngstown Early College. Board members also passed a resolution in memory of board chair Larry E. Esterly, who died unexpectedly in May. Trustees elected H.S. Wang as the board's new chair, and two new trustees took the oath of office – Dr. Dianne Bitonte Miladore and Dr. Sudershan K. Garg.

Here's a summary of the board's actions and discussions at the June 24 full board meeting, as well as committee meetings on June 2 at YSU Metro College in Boardman and June 9 on campus.

Board of Trustees, June 24

H.S. Wang, vice chair

The board met in Tod Hall:

- Franklin S. Bennett Jr., board secretary, swore in new trustees Dr. Dianne Bitonte Miladore and Dr. Sudershan K. Garg.
- President David C. Sweet presented his Annual Report, focusing on enrollment, planning, sound management and other accomplishments.

Sweet said YSU has experienced 13 consecutive semesters of enrollment growth. He also pointed out that YSU has a 70 percent fall-to-fall retention rate, higher than the Ohio average of 66 percent. When students participate in tutoring, mentoring and other programs in the Center for Student Progress, the retention rate is over 80 percent. He noted that YSU had a "hallmark" commencement in May with the largest graduating class in a decade. He also said that from 2000-2004, YSU led Ohio in percentage of enrollment growth. In addition, YSU's minority enrollment has increased 40 percent since fall 2000

The president also reported on several planning efforts, including the Centennial Strategic Plan, the Technology Master Plan and the Campus Master Plan. He also mentioned a new three-year scholarship plan, a new strategic plan for intercollegiate athletics and the Centennial Capital Campaign.

Sweet also focused on YSU's "sound management" practices in the face of declining financial support from the state. "Since I arrived five years ago, the state has reduced the budget by \$7.7 million..." he said. Sweet said if state funding per full-time-equivalent student funding had stayed constant since 2001, it would have translated into an additional \$12.6

million for YSU. “That’s \$12.6 million in lost opportunity to provide tuition relief for students,” he said. He also said that YSU scored high marks on the annual Ohio Board of Regents performance report and that the university has healthy Senate Bill 6 ratios. “That’s a tribute to management practices in place,” he said.

Sweet noted a series of student, faculty and staff accomplishments, including the Dana Wind Ensemble’s performance at Carnegie Hall, a grant to the Beeghly College of Education that addresses the shortage of special education teachers and the opening of the new Higher Education Center in Lisbon. Sweet said he was pleased that Robert K. Herbert is joining YSU in July as the university’s new provost and vice president for academic affairs. He expressed gratitude to Bege Bowers for filling in as interim provost.

“All in all, it’s been a busy and productive year,” he said.

Bowers reported on several developments during her staff report for academic affairs, including Youngstown Early College, a partnership between YSU and Youngstown City. YEC’s average daily attendance was 94 percent, which is higher than other Youngstown city high schools. Forty-three of the YEC students took college-level classes, enrolled in 75 semester hours in math, English, computer science, and health and physical education. YEC will have four new teachers next year, joining the five already there.

The interim provost also noted that a new bachelor of general studies degree was approved in April by the Ohio Board of Regents, the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine is planning to offer a doctor of pharmacy degree and there is a new engineering agreement with Jefferson Community College.

The board:

- Approved a resolution to confer a doctor of humane letters degree on Thomas R. Hollern, area president of National City Bank, Northeast Region. Hollern, who will receive the degree at summer commencement in August, is past chair, president and CEO of Ohio Bancorp and past president and CEO of Dollar Saving and Trust Co.
- Voted on a resolution recognizing the accreditation of the bachelor of social work program by the Commission on Accreditation of the Council on Social Work Education. The accreditation is for eight years.
- Approved a resolution congratulating the Dana School of Music’s Symphonic Wind Ensemble performance at Carnegie Hall and for receiving the best Collegiate Classical Symphonic Band Recording award from *Downbeat Magazine*.
- Voted to grant tenure and faculty rank at the level of full professor to Robert K. Herbert, who becomes YSU provost and vice president for academic affairs on July 25. He will join the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.
- Voted on a resolution to accept 2,420 gifts from university donors totaling \$386,003 for the third quarter of fiscal year 2005.
- Approved a resolution naming the entrance plaza to the new Andrews Recreation and Wellness Center as the Alumni Society Plaza. Members of the YSU Alumni Society Board provided a gift of \$100,000 to the recreation center campaign on behalf of their more than 65,000 members. “It will be a wonderful, lasting testimony to our alumni,” said Paul McFadden, YSU chief development officer.
- Agreed to name the weight room in the recreation center as the Hynes Finnegan Foundations Weight Room. The foundation provided a gift of \$250,000 to the campaign. “It was key to the early momentum of the campaign,” McFadden said.
- Voted on a resolution to name the climbing wall in the recreation center as Flad Mountain. The Beecher foundation provided a gift of \$1 million to the campaign. Eleanor Beecher Flad is the daughter of Ward and Florence Beecher.
- Approved the university’s base operating budget for fiscal year 2006. John Habat, vice president for administration, gave a report on the budget. In committee meetings, Habat reported that the total operating budget for fiscal year 2006 is \$147.87 million, up 3.1 percent from fiscal year 2005. The budget is based on a 6 percent tuition increase, which would put

full-time, undergraduate tuition for Ohio residents at \$6,333 a year. He noted that the board approved a 9 percent tuition increase in January, but that will need to be scaled back to 6 percent, which appears to be the tuition cap that will be included in the state budget. Habat reported that the budget also includes a 3 percent decrease in state funding. Tuition, fees and charges now makes up about 65 percent of total general fund revenues, while state funding accounts for about 32 percent. Four years ago, the split was 49 percent for tuition and 47 percent for state funds. Habat also noted that the budget includes 3 percent negotiated salary increases for YSU employees who are members of the Fraternal Order of Police and the Association of Professional and Administrative Staff. Pay increases for the faculty and classified union employees are being negotiated. In committee meetings, Trustee Donald Cagigas asked what risks are included in the budget, besides the undetermined salaries for faculty and classified staff. Habat said enrollment is always a risk.

- Voted for a resolution for a 6 percent tuition increase for students in the Master of Public Health program.
- Agreed to set tuition at \$5,500 a year for students entering the St. Elizabeth Health Center School for Nurse Anesthetists in summer term 2005.
- Approved the purchase of a small parcel of property on Court Street in Smoky Hollow and to accept another small parcel of property on Court Street as a gift. Also approved the purchase of small parcels of property on Custer and Scott streets, which are west of Fifth Avenue across from Stambaugh Stadium.
- Rescinded a resolution the board passed in January that increased student tuition an additional 3 percent effective fall term 2005. In January, the board approved two resolutions – one to increase tuition 6 percent, and a separate resolution to increase tuition an additional 3 percent. Since then, however, the Ohio General Assembly has established a 6-percent tuition cap for public universities. So, trustees voted to rescind the 3-percent additional increase. Under the revised tuition plan, full-time, undergraduate Ohio residents will pay \$6,333 per academic year (fall and spring semesters), an increase over the current yearly rate of \$5,884. Residents of the university's regional service area in Western Pennsylvania will pay \$8,804.88 per year instead of the current \$8,355.84, and out-of-state students will pay \$11,540.88, up from \$11,091.81.
- Agreed to set tuition at \$412 per credit hour effective fall term 2005 for the Northeast Ohio Universities Master of Fine Arts Degree in Creating Writing.
- Ratified faculty and staff appointments.
- Voted to confer emeritus status on 21 recently-retired faculty members and nine administrators. Hugh Chatman, executive director of human resources, said in committee meetings that emeritus status can be conferred on faculty and professional/administrative staff who retire from YSU with at least 10 years of meritorious service and upon the recommendation of the president.
- Approved a resolution of appreciation for the women's outdoor track and field team, which won the 2005 Horizon League Women's Outdoor Track and Field Championship.
- Approved a resolution of appreciation for Karen S. Green, who retired June 1 after nearly 34 years as an administrative assistant at YSU. She served as administrative assistant for Presidents Leslie H. Cochran and David C. Sweet. "Karen made the president's office and the board of trustees look good," Trustee Wang said.
- Voted on a resolution in memoriam for board chair Larry E. Esterly, who died unexpectedly May 7. The resolution designates Room 2069 in Kilcawley Center as the Larry E. Esterly Room and directs that a scholarship be established in Esterly's name to assist political science and pre-law undergraduate students. "His titles don't adequately describe his service," said Bennett, board secretary. "He was a teacher and a scholar and in the truest sense of the word, a colleague. He was a lifelong example of dignity and excellence."
- Elected Trustee Wang as the new board chair and Trustee John L. Pogue as vice chair.

Finance and Facilities Committee, June 9

William J. Bresnahan, chair

Scott R. Schulick, vice chair

- Habat reviewed a document comparing budgeted general fund revenues and expenditures for fiscal year 2005 to actual revenues and expenditures.
- Trustee Bresnahan reported that the board's Audit Subcommittee met with internal auditors, reviewed recommendations of internal and external auditors, reviewed a charter for the Audit Subcommittee and heard a report on the Sarbanes Oxley Act.
- Trustee Schulick reported that the board's Investment Subcommittee met to review the performance of YSU's investments.
- The committee reviewed a report summarizing the revenues and expenditures in the university's Access and Success challenge budgets.
- Donna Esterly, YSU chief technology officer, updated the board on the \$12 million SCT Banner implementation, which is replacing the university's current administrative computing systems. "A lot of work has been done by a lot of people," she said. Esterly reported that the finance module of the project will "go live" on July 5. Sweet said implementing the Banner software has been "an enormous effort." Trustee Wang asked what Luminus is. Esterly said the Luminus technology, which is part of the SCT Banner project, will allow students, faculty and staff to create their own personal Web pages through the YSU website. Trustee Bresnahan asked if Esterly has any reservations as the finance module moves toward "go live" status. "We've had a lot of issues along the way; I do feel we're on track," she said. "I don't see anything as a show-stopper at this point."
- Habat reported that phase one of the East Campus Gateway project is about ready to begin. The project calls for \$1.2 million in improvements to two parking lots along YSU's main entrance on University Plaza. "We can do a lot better in creating a much better first impression of campus," he said.
- He also reported that a space needs assessment is being conducted for a new building for the Williamson College of Business Administration, which is part of the university's Centennial Campus Master Plan. Once the assessment is finished, the university can proceed with cost estimates and financing options, he said. The university also is pursuing property south of campus for the location of the new building. "You will hear much more about this project in September," he said.
- Habat also reported that the university has reached an "impasse" with a potential developer for the Wick Pollock Inn. Habat said YSU wanted to share with the developer some of the risks of the development, but he said there was a "parting of the minds on how much risk is reasonable." Sweet said YSU will now seek more proposals from potential developers. With improvements in downtown Youngstown, particularly the construction of the new Convocation Center, Sweet said he believes developers "will begin looking at this area with a little more positive action."
- Sweet reported that Trustees Schulick and Cagigas had met with officials at the Butler Institute of American Art to discuss the sale of First Christian Church at the corner of University Plaza and Wick Avenue. "That is a work in progress," Trustee Wang said.
- John Hyden, executive director of facilities, reported on several ongoing and new campus improvement projects. Construction of the Andrews Recreation and Wellness Center has been "difficult," he said. The construction schedule was aggressive to start with, and weather has created some delays, but the building should be open by Sept. 1, he added. The renovations and addition to the university bookstore are on schedule and should be finished by the start of the fall semester on Aug. 29.

He also reported that 13 classrooms in DeBartolo Hall and three classrooms in Beeghly Center will be renovated this summer. Sweet noted that three years ago he committed to

spending \$1 million on campus classroom upgrades. This summer's renovations will fulfill that commitment.

Hyden reported on several other summer projects, including upgrading exterior doors and windows, steam line replacement, renovations to the swimming pool in Beeghly Center, masonry renovations and concrete replacement. Trustee Wang noted that all of the projects amount to several millions of dollars, mostly all of which goes to local contractors and workers. "That's good for the economy," he said.

Internal Affairs Committee, June 9

John L. Pogue, chair

Donald Cagigas, vice chair

- The committee entered executive session to discuss collective bargaining.
- Jimmy Myers, director of equal opportunity and diversity, summarized YSU staffing levels by race and gender. "The university is generally holding its own with its commitment to diversity," Myers said, noting significant increases in the hiring of Hispanic males and African American females. Myers also presented information to committee members on staffing levels at YSU compared to other Ohio public universities. The information showed that YSU generally ranks in the middle of the pack. "There are no extreme deficiencies," Myers said. "All of our staffing levels are pretty much standard." For instance, 90.1 percent of YSU's employees are white, ranking fifth highest among the state's 11 major, four-year public universities. Nearly 1.7 percent of YSU employees are Hispanic, the fourth highest in the state. About 6.15 percent of employees are African American, ranking seventh in the state. Sweet said the university will continue to make efforts to increase the number of minority candidates in applicant pools.
- Committee members reviewed the minority business report for the third quarter of fiscal year 2005. The report shows that of the \$15 million in goods and services expenditures by YSU in the first three quarters of the fiscal year, \$1 million or nearly 7 percent went to minority businesses.
- The committee also received the minutes of the March 21 meeting of the University Diversity Council. Myers noted that the council has decided to increase its number of meetings to six a year.
- Ron Strollo, executive director of intercollegiate athletics, reviewed spring sports, noting that the baseball, women's tennis and golf teams placed second in the Horizon League. He also previewed fall sports, noting that YSU's football schedule includes six home games and a game against Pittsburgh at Heinz Field on Sept. 24. He said legislation that would allow fans to bring their own alcohol to tailgating lots at Stambaugh Stadium was passed by the state House but has stalled in the Senate. "We still feel good about its passage some time this fall," he said. Strollo also said that he is involved in talks with Ohio State University to schedule a football game in Columbus as early as 2007. YSU also is talking with the University of Cincinnati for a possible football game. "That would be a great match-up for our university," Strollo said.
- Elaine Jacobs, associate athletic director, reported on YSU's NCAA certification process. She said the certification is similar to the accreditation process for colleges on campus and ensures that the athletic department is operating within NCAA rules and has the same oversight as other departments on campus. The process includes an eight-month self-study, led by a steering committee chaired by Cyndy Anderson, vice president for student affairs. That will be followed by a campus visit by an NCAA peer review team. A decision on certification should be made by early 2007, Jacobs said. "It's a healthy process," she said. "We look forward to the results." Trustee Pogue said the board supports the certification effort "and looks forward to participating to the extent it can."
- Strollo presented a draft of the strategic plan for intercollegiate athletics. Sweet said the athletics plan is part of an ongoing planning effort on campus which includes enrollment

management and technology master plans, a campus master plan and an upcoming academic strategic plan. "What we're doing, in my view, is working the plan," he said.

Strollo reported that YSU enrolls 355 student athletes who otherwise would not be at YSU. Thirty percent of them are minority. He said athletics is "the window to the university," attracting 150,000 fans a year to campus. The university has eight men's sports and 10 women's sports, an \$8 million annual budget and awards 183 full-time equivalent scholarships annually. The plan also identifies 15 "benchmark" institutions against which YSU will compare its athletics programs. The plan also identifies several key issues, including the graduation rates of student athletes, the NCAA's new Annual Progress Rate, a new scholarship plan for 2007-09, maintaining competitive salaries for coaches and budgets, athletic facilities and NCAA certification. Strollo also said athletics strives for national excellence in football and for placing in the top half of the Horizon League in men's and women's basketball. Trustee Bresnahan questioned the top-half goal in basketball, saying it was "hardly motivating." But Strollo said Horizon League universities generally don't have football programs, so they can pump money into developing extremely competitive basketball programs. "I think a top half finish for our men's basketball, quite frankly, is aggressive," he said. "That program has a long way to go."

External Relations Committee, June 2

Larry D. DeJane, chair

- George McCloud, special assistant to the president for university advancement, reported that University Development "has been making very steady progress" in the Centennial Capital campaign, including completion of a feasibility study and a request for proposals for campaign counsel.
- Paul McFadden, YSU chief development officer, introduced the university's two new development officers: Heather Chunn and Joe Casesse. McCloud said Chunn and Casesse are calling "lapsed donors." Sweet noted that Western Kentucky University has 31 employees in its development office, many more than YSU. "(Chunn and Casesse) are going to do the work of 15," he joked.
- The committee received the third quarter report from University Development. The report shows a 4 percent drop in the number of donors and a 17 percent drop in donated dollars through the first three quarters of fiscal year 2005 compared to the same period of fiscal year 2004.
- Committee members received a list of summer and fall semester events planned by the Office of Alumni Relations, including an event for Columbus alumni in June, the Distinguished Citizen Award Dinner in August and an Alumni Tailgate Tent at the YSU football game against the University of Pittsburgh at Heinz Field on Sept. 24.
- McCloud reported on spring commencement, which included a ceremony for undergraduates in Beeghly Hall and a separate ceremony for graduate students in Stambaugh Auditorium. "Everything came off without a hitch," Trustee Bresnahan said. "It was beautifully done...It was a fine day." Trustee Millicent S. Counts said she liked the split ceremonies. "It gives each group a chance to showcase themselves," she said. Trustee Pogue agreed, saying it gave the graduate ceremony "a little more luster."
- Bob Tupaj, university web site manager, made a presentation on what McCloud said is "one of the best Web sites that state universities in this part of the country can boast." Walt Ulbricht, executive director of the Office of Marketing and Communications, said that more than 90 percent of students receive their first college contact through a Web site. Tupaj reviewed for the board several new and/or developing Web site items, including new Web sites for the provost's office, institutional research, the YSU magazine, the online version of the YSUupdate, Penguin Parade, commencement and

WYSU-FM. McCloud said the Web site is a constantly evolving effort. "It is an invitation to involvement with the university," he said.

- Ulbricht reported on the university's spring and summer marketing campaigns, including an effort targeting western Pennsylvania with billboards, radio and cable TV commercials. McCloud noted a significant increase in enrollment from areas targeting by the university's marketing efforts, including parts of Northeast Ohio. "Our presence is increasingly being felt," he said.
- The committee received a report from WYSU-FM, noting that the station's annual spring fund drive raised \$89,110, surpassing the \$87,000 goal. The report also showed that the station's membership and underwriting revenue has increased from \$237,983 in fiscal year 2003 to \$263,702 in fiscal year 2005.
- The committee received a compact disc of a concert by classical guitarist Ana Vidovic, recorded when Vidovic visited YSU on March 29. The concert, co-sponsored by WYSU, was broadcast by National Public Radio on April 20 and April 24. WYSU and the Dana School of Music were mentioned several times during the program, which is aired by more than 200 stations nationwide.
- McCloud reported that PBS Channel 45/49 is expanding its board of directors. As a result, YSU is naming two additional members to the board: Atty. Michael Harshman, Liberty, of Harshman and Bernard, and Andrea Wood of Poland, president of Youngstown Publishing Co. and publisher/editor of The Business Journal. They join Eugenia Atkinson as YSU's community representatives on the board.

Academic and Student Affairs Committee, June 2

Millicent S. Counts, chair

- Cynthia Anderson, vice president for student affairs, reported that summer 2005 enrollment is down by 17 students (0.36 percent) from last summer. Fall 2005 enrollment also is down slightly from the same period last year. "Enrollment is very fluid," she told the committee. "Those numbers, by the time I get back to my office today, will be different." Anderson also reported that the University Courtyard Apartments are at 92 percent of capacity for fall 2005, while campus residence halls are at 67 percent of capacity. Anderson reviewed several enrollment statistics with the board, including projections that the 2005-06 high school graduating classes in Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana counties are expected to decline. She also reported that 12 sessions of SOAR (Student Orientation and Registration) will be conducted over the summer. Students take placement tests, learn about campus services (i.e. crime prevention, Center for Student Progress), meet their academic advisors and register for classes during the day-long process.
- Tom Maraffa, special assistant to the president, reported on a plan to better allocate student scholarship funds and to link those allocations to the university's enrollment goals. Maraffa said 87 percent of YSU students received some form of financial aid (scholarships, work study, loans, grants), amounting to \$84 million. Through scholarships and grants alone, the average YSU student pays 46 percent of the stated tuition. Maraffa presented a plan to increase the amount of money allocated for goal-based scholarships, with an emphasis on need and excellence from \$5.75 million in fiscal year 2005 to \$8.67 million in fiscal year 2009. The plan would include big increases in the Martin Luther King Achievement Scholarship, the Pennsylvania Higher Education Assistance Award grant match and housing scholarships. Also included in the plan is increasing the Trustees Scholarship for high school valedictorians from \$3,000 to \$4,500 annually, phasing out the \$1,500 department scholarships awarded to continuing students for academic achievement and creating two new scholarships: A \$1,500 award for students with mid-level ACT scores and a \$500 retention award.
- Maraffa also updated the board on the university's new conditional admissions policy aimed at helping academically at-risk new students succeed. Maraffa said the policy,

which places academic restrictions and requirements on conditionally-admitted students, will be implemented in spring semester 2006, although the trial phase will begin in the fall semester 2005.

- Larry Johnson, dean of the Youngstown Early College, and Richard Bretz, special assistant to the provost, updated the board on the first year of YEC, a high school operating in partnership with the Youngstown City School District. “We’ve had an exciting year,” Johnson said. Bretz reported that 43 of the 68 ninth-graders in the school enrolled in college classes during the spring semester, earning 75 college credits and a combined 2.9 grade point average. He also said the school posted a 95.6 percent attendance rate, the highest among the city’s public high schools. “That’s very encouraging from my point of view,” he said. Committee members had questions about enrollment and costs. Trustee Donald Cagigas asked if there were any financial surprises with the school. “None that have been called to my attention,” Sweet said. He added, “Having had experience with the launch of many new programs, this launch was as smooth as I’ve seen.” Trustee Schulick asked what are the major challenges facing the school in its second year. Bretz said the program had projected enrolling 75 to 100 students a year, but enrollment for next year is only 68. “Growing the enrollment is an issue,” he said. Schulick also asked about disciplinary problems at the school. Bretz reported “a couple of minor incidents.” “I don’t think we had nearly the number of issues that a number of people expected,” he added.
- The committee received a report showing an 11 percent increase in grants awarded to university faculty and staff in the third quarter of fiscal year 2005, from \$461,438 to \$512,969.
- Bege Bowers, interim provost, reported on new department chair appointments, noting that three long-time department chairs had retired – John White, sociology and anthropology; Jim Morrison, psychology; and Charles Singler, geology.
- The committee also received a report on 13 faculty members who have been promoted to the rank of professor. The report also listed 11 faculty members who have been promoted to associate professor and one promoted to assistant professor.
- Bowers reported that about 150 people have inquired about the new bachelor of general studies degree, approved by the Ohio Board of Regents in April. The degree-completion program is designed primarily for adults who took college courses at some point in the past without completing a bachelor’s degree. Bowers also reported that the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine is developing a doctor of pharmacy degree that would be available to YSU students. She also thanked Ron Chordas, associate provost, the college deans, Sweet, board members and others for their help during her tenure as interim provost. “I’ve really enjoyed working with you,” she said.