

DEANS COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday, February 7, 2007
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Provost Conference Room

Attending: Bowers, Edwards, Ginnetti, Herbert, Kasvinsky, Khawaja, Kobulnicky, Kasuganti, Ritchey, Ward, Yemma

1. Announcements

- Edwards: The Dana Showcase Concert will be on February 7, 2007; this 1 1/2 hour event is an overview of all the activities that take place within the Dana School of Music.

2. Chairs Travel

The issue of the dwindling travel budget for the deans, chairs, and office staff continues to be a growing problem. Faculty are automatically allotted some funding of their travel through their union agreement. It was noted that non-faculty travel funds are part of the operating budget and can be moved within the operating budget accounts.

3. Plan for Strategic Planning Exercise

The College program plans and reviews are due now. We need to begin our review of the College plans, in addition to the non-departmental units. The secondary set of plans to consider are the department plans, in addition to the Graduate School. We need to do this work relatively quickly, turn it into a draft, share it, and distribute it by late March. The Deans Council team will work on an academic strategic plan for Academic Facilities also. They will refer to a study done in 2003 by space utilization consultants. We will set aside a large block of time to work on the project.

4. College in High School Initiative

Former Governor Taft had a vision of a plan that the average high school student could complete their high school studies with 18 hours of college credits. Dr. Ritchey has been investigating this idea over the last several months. This information is all very preliminary at this point. The scenarios could be based on honors courses, or students could sign up for college credit in particular courses. We would work with individual schools to make sure the courses are equivalent to ours. The high school teacher would be the instructor of record and

assign the grade. Students would be real YSU students and enrolled in YSU course sections, fill out applications, and YSU would be eligible for subsidies. Teachers could be considered adjunct faculty. Nate Ritchey is still investigating the financial aspect of such a plan. Dr. Herbert said there is a lot of potential in such an initiative, and is interested in pitching it to the chairpersons at the next meeting.

Dr. Kasvinsky wished to add that we will likely see immediate growth in our graduate program if the current proposal of the graduate in-state tuition rate plus \$100 is approved for non-residents. We would need to be ready to devise a marketing plan.

5. Recruitment of International Faculty: Timetable

For new faculty hires not having authorization to work in the United States, if they are eligible for OPT (occupational practical training), it is relatively easy for them to come here. The process doesn't take long and lasts for one year, but it is not renewable. If they are not eligible for that option because it was used elsewhere, the H1B visas are taking between 4 to 5 months to process. Therefore, if your departments have not hired by April 1, there may be a \$1,000 premium processing fee that must be paid. This year we are communicating to all the timeline constraints. So for those who cannot hire by April 1, the college or department may have to cover the \$1,000 fee. Otherwise, the start date can be moved to Spring Semester 2008. Please inform the chairs that if they are hiring, they need to hurry the process and make an offer.

6. Fall 2006 Workload Update

Marilyn Ward is striving to get the ratio report completed to see how we are doing. There are 16 remaining issues to resolve, mostly the reconciliation of the workload data. The data on the two forms must match. A similar problem has occurred with the audit. The Deans are asked to exert maximum pressure to clear up these matters.

7. New Business

Dr. Kobulnicky said the library is working in partnership with Stephanie Smith who is now holding a class in the library. She's excited about rethinking her instructional approach by working on a new way of teaching her Art History course. Perhaps Ron Cole can do a piece in the Update to give some notoriety to her initiative.

8. Adjourn

Minutes recorded by Debbie Withrow