

DEANS COUNCIL MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 29, 2007

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

President's Conference Room

Present: Bowers, Edwards, Furnish, Ginnetti, Jalali, Kasvinsky, Khawaja, Kobulnicky, Licata, Singler, Smith (guest), Ward, Yemma

1. Announcements

- Dr. Khawaja welcomed council and said the new academic year is off to an excellent start with an increase in enrollment of almost 2%.
- Paul Kobulnicky announced there will be a Constitution Day program (as federally mandated) on 9-17-07, at 7:00 p.m., in the Ohio Room, Kilcawley Center. John Fortier, Executive Director of the Continuity of Government Commission, will speak. Dr. Kobulnicky asked the deans to again keep the tradition of encouraging their faculty, in their classes where constitutional issues are at play, to give incentives to students to attend the event.
- Joseph Edwards said that the theater drama *Murder in the Cathedral*, by T. S. Eliot, will debut soon (October 4). The truly wonderful faculty art show will open on Friday evening, September 14, at the McDonough Museum of Art.
- Philip Ginnetti announced that the College of Education's latest edition of the *Showcase* magazine has been issued. John Yemma said the Bitonte College of Health and Human Services' *Lifeline* newsletter was recently mailed.

2. Full Proposal - M.A. in Art Education (S. Smith)

Stephanie Smith, new chair of the Art Department, presented the M.A. in Art Education to council (see the attachment). This proposal was previously presented to council as a PDP (Program Development Proposal). There are few changes to the original proposal; for example, the name of the degree was changed as a result of RACGS feedback. The impetus for this degree stemmed from reforms in the requirements of teacher education. For licensure purposes, teachers are required to accrue graduate credit within 10 years of receiving their degree. The focus is on studio practice, and the college has amazing, new state-of-the-art facilities. There is no additional cost to implement the program, and there is adequate faculty staffing. Most classes would be offered in the summer session and filled with working teachers. The program will be team taught to ensure adequate evaluation by the faculty throughout the program's implementation. Presently, six students are enrolled in the coursework. Paul Kobulnicky suggested new program proposals include budgeting \$1,000 for library publications.

Dr. Bowers said it was announced at a meeting in Columbus last week that there will be changes in the undergraduate program approval process for proposals, but there are no details at this time. Undergraduate proposals may soon require pre-proposals.

3. Northeast Ohio Commission

The commission has become much more active in the past months and must be ready to report to the Board of Regents by the end of the year. One of their major topics at this time is consolidating academic programs under certain lead institutions. Discussion followed on the pros and cons of the various proposals being considered by the commission.

One of the ideas the commission was interested in was YSU's development of the feedback report to our high schools of their students' college readiness. Dr. Bowers said we were asked for our version of the 'report cards to high schools' to be used as a template for others.

4. Draft Purchasing Policy – Feedback

The Finance area under Gene Grilli would like feedback from the deans on the draft purchasing policy that was sent to council with the agenda. Please send your comments to Marilyn Ward before her 10:00 a.m. meeting on Friday (8-31-07) and she will forward them to Mr. Grilli.

At this point, Dr. Charles Singler arrived and was welcomed and thanked for consenting to assist the Provost's Office as Interim Associate Provost this year.

It was agreed that Deans Council meetings will be moved to 2:00 – 4:00 p.m., on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, to allow Dr. Charles Singler, the new Interim Associate Provost, to attend the meetings.

5. Negotiations

One of the things asked of Dr. Khawaja in assuming responsibilities of the office was to play a more active role in the negotiations process. He researched this request by doing informal, informational consultations with various parties. We will have some involvement, some shared responsibility in the process, but not as the Academic Division. A multidivisional group will be created that will manage the process on campus. This group will provide directives as to the boundaries within which the negotiators will operate. The negotiating team will consult with this openly identified group. The plan is for the bargaining process to be as transparent as possible. The team will give factual data that can stand scrutiny by both sides. Discussions were centered on clarity and transparency of reliable information so as to not lose credibility. For example, financial information will come from the budget office, Neal McNally, and be available to both teams.

6. Faculty Positions

As was done last year, Marilyn Ward announced that we are now opening up the timeframe to begin requests for faculty positions for next year, 2008-2009. The deadline for applications is October 1. Please send all your appropriate documentation by then, and please include any anticipated retirements in this process.

7. Academic Strategic Plan - Leadership and Framework

Dr. Khawaja consulted with the deans on a last-minute draft of the Academic Division Priorities for FY 2008, requested by the President, to be presented to the Board of Trustees. Council's input will be incorporated into the list (see the attachment).

Joe Edwards had polled the deans for their input on the strategic planning priorities and the upcoming negotiations, and presented his estimate of the ranking of the importance of the various issues.

Dr. Khawaja stated that for us to successfully initiate and launch the Academic Strategic Plan, we need to develop our leadership plan and move on the plan in a systematic way. It was decided that the deans would take the lead on choosing goals from the 21 issues identified in the plan, and either lead and/or guide the creation of committees that will then move forward on the issues and create timelines. Dr. Khawaja will identify what goals the deans have agreed to take leadership on to this point and report back to the deans. He asked council to look at the remaining goals/priorities and to let him know their preferences.

8. New Business

In consultation with the Chairs Development Committee, a new chairs' employment contract period of July 1 through June 30 has been created. The letter will be sent to the chairpersons today. We have taken into consideration the circumstances of altering the outgoing chairs' contracts by extending the contract for an extra 1.5 months if they desire.

9. Adjourn

Minutes recorded by Debbie Withrow