

DEANS COUNCIL MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2007

2:00 – 4:00 p.m.

President's Conference Room

Attending: Abraham, Bowers, DiPillo, Edwards, Elias (guest), Furnish, Jiang (guest), Kasvinsky, Khawaja, Singler, Stringer (guest), Van Dussen (guest), Yemma

1. Announcements

- (Furnish) The annual Italian Language Conference begins Friday (10-26-07) and will continue on Saturday this year, compliments of a €4,000 (Euro) grant from the Italian Consulate in Detroit. The reception on Saturday is at 3:00 p.m., in the Presidential Suite, Kilcawley Center.
- (Abraham) The celebration of Janet DelBene's 200th scientific research publication will take place on the evening of 10-27-07. Also, the ABET accreditation site visit will begin on Sunday, 10-28-07, and continue through Tuesday.

There were no objections to the proposed Schedule of Operations timetable for the period Spring 2009 through Fall 2009.

As an FYI to the Council members, Dr. Singler is coordinating a series of space moves on campus (Maag Library, Jones Hall, Tod Hall, etc.) and is meeting with facilities, architects, and the staff involved in the move.

Dr. Khawaja and Marilyn Ward are currently reviewing position requests and hope to conclude the process in a few days.

2. Program Proposal – B.A. in Gerontology (Jiang and Van Dussen)

Qi Jiang, Chair, Sociology & Anthropology, introduced Dan Van Dussen, a new gerontology faculty member who was recruited last year. A program in Gerontology is not a new initiative at YSU; it was identified as a critical area to be developed as far back as 1994. Dr. Van Dussen stated that the major is comprised of an interdisciplinary collaboration between Sociology, Anthropology, Psychology, Nursing, Social Work, Human Ecology, Health Professions, and a community advisory committee. Dr. Van Dussen designed a full program and all the needed courses (some of which are currently in the approval process) based on the guidelines of the Gerontology Association of America, of which he is a member. The continuing rapid growth of older adults in the Greater Mahoning Valley and in nearby PA constitutes enough of a sufficiently older population to warrant a Bachelor's in Gerontology. This initiative has been well-received in the local community and institutions—many have offered to provide internships. There is not an existing B.A. in Gerontology program in the area; in fact, this

program would be complementary to the existing certificates, master's, and Ph.D. programs offered at other Northeast Ohio universities. Current courses can be staffed with existing faculty, but it would be necessary to recruit 1 or 2 more faculty in gerontology as the program grows. An enrollment of 50 to 60 students pursuing the gerontology major is anticipated over the next 5 years. (See the attached report and PowerPoint presentation.) Council requested that information on the workforce impact of this program on the region be included in the proposal. Inquiry must be made to the Board of Regents to see if the new approval process guidelines have been implemented.

3. Higher Learning Commission Discussion (Bowers, Elias, Stringer) [Refer to handout e-mailed on 10-22-07.]

Dr. Bowers asked council for comments--additions to the list and what challenges are the most significant challenges--on the draft summary of strengths, challenges, and recommendations identified by the HLC accreditation committees and coordinators during the self-study process e-mailed to them prior to the meeting. She noted that each chapter of the self-study will include much additional information not included in these lists that shows we meet the criteria for accreditation. Discussion followed.

Dr. Elias asked that each of the deans send by e-mail to her a draft of information about significant research within their respective colleges by 10-31-07. An example from Wright State University's self-study document was passed out (see the attached). Please describe your centers and the types of research being performed. When you are returned an e-mail regarding your submission, please check the document for accuracy.

Dr. Bowers thanked everyone present and expressed her appreciation of the enormous amount of work invested by them and all of the criterion committee members in our preparation for the University's upcoming HLC accreditation visit.

4. Report on Northeast Ohio Commission's Recommendations to Date (Kasvinsky)

The Northeast Ohio Universities Collaboration and Innovation Study Commission has now formulated its series of recommendations. These will be submitted to the governor and then the legislature. Dr. Kasvinsky gave a rundown of the list in its current form (see the attachments), and discussion followed. Also attached is a draft of the *North Shore Graduate & Research Alliance Draft - Mission and Goals* handout outlining NSGRA's purpose of expanding the research enterprise of Northeast Ohio. This draft statement is for formalizing the alliance as the venue for organizing ongoing research collaborations.

Discussion followed on what strategy the deans can pursue to address the commission's recommendations on Academic Program Review and Expansion. Discussion followed. Dr. Khawaja suggested the deans review this information with the chairs, taking time to digest the information, and then have strategic conversations with the chairs to see how we can move forward and position ourselves by complementing our strengths. Then identify and prepare a list

of YSU's academic programs that may be linked strategically in some manner with other Northeast Ohio universities' programs so as to encourage mutual collaboration.

5. New Business

Dr. Khawaja asked the deans to continue moving forward in their progress of implementing their particular Academic Strategic Plan goals. Dr. Singler continues to work on the full-time/part-time funding and faculty teaching ratio issues. Dr. Khawaja asked the deans to examine the issues (for example, reapportionment of the funds such as converting term positions to full-time) and see what makes sense. Please prepare for a more meaningful discussion on the issue in the near future.

At the request of Dr. Sweet, Dr. Khawaja has reviewed how we might utilize YSU's unused scholarship funds to enhance our commitment to diversity initiatives. After careful consultation and review, Dr. Khawaja will present to the president a proposal on how we can enhance study abroad, faculty-led and conducted study abroad, and student exchange programs in certain geographic areas through leveraged funds.

Dr. Khawaja also will recommend to the President that the Center for International Studies and Programs become the first contact of foreign applicants, allowing them to shepherd the processing of paperwork. It is important that the center charged solely with increasing YSU's international profile be in the forefront of doing so.

Joe Edwards stated that the Academic Standards Committee is currently discussing several matters: interest in a Dean's List for part-time students in the Spring term only, how multiple suspensions are handled from college to college (with deans having final authority), questions on academic requirements of multiple degrees and multiple majors, and whether multiple failures should be recalculated upon the successful completion of a course.

6. Adjourn

Minutes recorded by Debbie Withrow