

DEANS COUNCIL MINUTES

TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2009

1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

President's Conference Room

Members Present: Bowers, Castronova (guest), DePoy, Furnish, Ginnetti, Horvath (guest), Licata, Mosca, Kasvinsky, Khawaja, Kobulnicky, Rodabaugh, Singler, Ward

1. Announcements

(Kobulnicky) Paul Kobulnicky and Hunter Morrison, representing the Alternative Transportation Committee, gave a report of the committee's activities to the President's Cabinet. The committee suggested that a date be set for demolition of the Lincoln Street parking deck in the spring, and that the land be reserved for academic purposes. However, in the meantime, the land should be used as a surface parking lot. The proposal was accepted by cabinet; however, financial considerations are clearly paramount in this project.

(Furnish) The History Department has been asked to spearhead some local publicity and book signings for the journal of Ben Roth, who wrote first-hand reflections of the depression in Youngstown.

(DePoy) Dean Bryan DePoy shared his College's excitement that a Director of the Marching Band has been located. Donald Linn from Ball State will be given a contract for the fall semester.

2. Proposals for F&PA (B. DePoy)

Dean Bryan DePoy introduced 2 new proposals from the College of Fine and Performing Arts. The 1st proposal is a new Master of Arts degree in Professional Communication. The proposal is from the Dept. of Communication and involves 3 departments: Communication, English, and Marketing. (Please see the proposal attached.) Cary Horvath answered Council's questions about the proposal. It was suggested that a realistic request for graduate assistantships be added to the proposal at this time, in addition to clearly showing the total number of hours proposed for the degree.

The 2nd proposal is for a new B.A. undergraduate degree in Dance Management. Please see the attached prospectus. This is a different degree program than that of Kent, Slippery Rock, and Akron. The degree will have dance at its core, but include studies in management and theater production. Dr. Castronovo answered questions from Deans Council. With a substantial number of dance studios in our area, Castronovo stated that enhanced economic impact for the area will result.

3. FY 2010 Strategic Priorities (C. Singler)

Dr. Singler informed Deans Council that it is time to look at the *Academic Strategic Plan 2007-2013* and determine what strategic goals will be focused on during the 2009-2010 academic year.

Deans Council discussed and determined the goals for the upcoming year. Dr. Singler composed a summarized list of goals determined for 2009-10. The attached list will be presented to the Board of Trustees at the September 2009 Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting.

4. Staff Employee Evaluations - Deadlines

The Deans have received information from Human Resources about staff employee evaluations that are overdue. Dr. Khawaja asked the deans to check their lists and remind chairs/directors that the ACE and APAS contracts specify that timely evaluations are required.

5. Reassigned Time

Dr. Singler said that one of the Academic Strategic Plan priorities was to look at the FT/PT faculty ratios. The amount of reassigned time given for various duties other than teaching was reviewed, and reassigned time has increased over the last 3 years. This past year, the amount increased by 9 FTE.

Important issues here are that YSU has slipped drastically in FT/PT ratios and we need to have FT faculty teaching. The FT/PT faculty ratio used to be one of YSU's selling points--our profile now is not as strong. Further, if YSU is going to be distinctively different from the community college, we need to provide a different experience. The FT/PT ratio can reflect that and is one reason improving the ratio is important. We need to reassess what we're doing and to make the FT/PT faculty ratio a fiscal imperative as well. Dr. Khawaja proposes to take categories of reassigned time that are not contractual obligations and look at them for reduction. What is being proposed under the heading PROPOSED REDUCTION (see the attachment) is that the colleges reduce their reassigned time by a specific number of hours. The reduction can be made across the board, targeted, or whatever the deans feel is best. Dr. Khawaja realizes reductions will be a challenge. Maybe not much can be reduced for fall, but something can be done in spring, so the Provost asked the deans to make reductions for the spring term.

6. Summer 2010

Marilyn Ward distributed the summer 2010 workload targets. Targets were not met by everyone in 2009. Dr. Khawaja stated that summer 2009 enrollment was up, so reduced workload did not harm enrollment at the bottom line; FTE and headcounts were both up. Dr. Khawaja said that we will look at future deadlines and try to put some mechanisms in at the deans' level so that we can find out earlier if we are not meeting workload targets. Dr. Khawaja reminded the deans that the course schedules should not be released without their review and approval.

7. Old/New Business

Dr. Khawaja believes enrollment is going up and that it will generate some additional revenue. If so, once the red ink is removed, Dr. Khawaja hopes to ask for an allocation of additional revenue to the Academic Division. Referring to his conversation last spring that annual reports from the departments were to identify some goals for the upcoming year, he requested that the deans look at their departments' FY10 annual plans. Not trying to raise expectations, the Deans should ask departments what they'd most like to strive for this year, and send Dr. Khawaja that information. Dr. Khawaja will also meet with the leadership of the Centers of Excellence and try to determine what immediate resources could help start their centers on a sustainable level, or at least get a picture of what their expense footprint might be.

8. Adjourn

Minutes submitted by Debbie Withrow