

Welcome to the second issue of **“For the Record.”**

The purpose of this new publication from the Office of Marketing and Communications is to keep the campus community informed of the latest actions, deliberations and discussions of the YSU Board of Trustees. “For the Record” will be distributed after the regular quarterly meetings of the board. Comments and suggestions may be sent to Ron Cole, manager of news and information services, at 330-941-3285 or racole.01@ysu.edu.

With yet another reduction in state funding, the budget was again at the forefront of discussions during the Board of Trustees’ meetings in March. The administration warned the board that next fiscal year’s budget could be an even bigger challenge. In other action, trustees approved resolutions recognizing the accomplishments of the university’s chemistry department and its men’s indoor track and field team, and it passed measures expressing appreciation to departing board members Eugenia Atkinson and Jeff Parks.

Here’s a summary of the board’s actions and discussions at the March 21 full board meeting, as well as committee meetings on March 4 and 6.

Board of Trustees, March 21

Joe Nohra, chair

Chander M. Kohli, vice chair

The board met in Tod Hall:

- YSU President David Sweet reported several items to the board. He said nearly 30 YSU students have been called to active military duty since the start of the spring semester in January. He also reported that he sent an e-mail to students, faculty and staff updating the university’s emergency preparedness and security in light of the war in Iraq. The president said he and Student Trustee Jeff Parks testified before the Ohio House Finance and Appropriations Subcommittee on Higher Education, making the case for increased funding for the state’s public colleges and universities. YSU Student Trustee Matt Pastier also attended the hearing.
- Tony Atwater, YSU provost and vice president for academic affairs, reported to trustees the hiring of Paul Kobulnicky as executive director of the Maag Library and the receipt of a \$245,000 grant from the Ohio Learning Network. (For more information, see the report below for the Academic and Student Affairs Committee.)
- The board approved a resolution to modify the policy governing faculty rank and tenure for designated administrators. The policy currently allows for the president, provost, vice presidents and deans to get tenure. The amendment would extend the policy to department chairs or other academic administrative positions. Atwater said most public universities allow for flexibility in granting faculty tenure to administrators, putting YSU at a disadvantage in recruiting top administrative talent. The approval came after lengthy debate in the Academic and Student Affairs Committee. Trustee Larry Esterly abstained from the vote.

The board also:

- Approved a resolution congratulating the YSU chemistry department. The department was recognized in a recent article in *Chemical and Engineering News* magazine for awarding more bachelor's degrees in chemistry than any other college or university in Ohio, and the 14th most in the nation. The resolution also notes that the department received nearly \$1 million in external research funds in fiscal year 2002.
- Passed a resolution in support of YSU students called to active military duty. The resolution affirms the board's policy that any student who withdraws from classes because of a call to active military duty be refunded all tuition and fees. Existing university policy provides for a grade of Incomplete for such students, but the grade would automatically convert to an F in a year. In the resolution, the board calls for the Academic Senate, deans and faculty to grant extensions to the one-year limit in the case of military service.
- Voted to confer an honorary doctor of science degree upon Maureen E. Midgley, plant manager of General Motors Lordstown Assembly Plant. Midgley will receive the degree and speak at YSU's commencement in May.
- Voted to accept \$2.6 million in gifts for the period Oct. 1 to Dec. 31, 2002.
- Trustees approved a resolution modifying the university policy on accepting gifts. The old policy required that securities donated to YSU be sold as soon as feasible. The modified policy allows the university to receive and retain securities for possible sale at a later date to possibly allow higher returns.
- Agreed to name a room in Kilcawley Center the Stambaugh Room, in recognition of a \$150,000 gift to YSU by Mrs. Helen Stambaugh and the late Arnold Stambaugh.
- Approved a resolution of appreciation for the Mahoning Valley Drug Task Force for assisting and supporting university police in combating drug trafficking.
- Revised the fiscal year 2003 budget in response to further cuts in state funding. "2003 represented many financial challenges for the campus," said Terry Ondreyka, vice president for financial affairs. (For more information, see discussion below under Finance and Facilities Committee.
- Passed a resolution to ratify faculty and staff appointments.
- Approved a resolution of appreciation for the university's men's indoor track and field team, which won the 2003 Horizon League Championship. YSU, under head coach Brian Gorby, finished with a team score of 116 points, followed by Loyola with 99 and Detroit with 91. "The margin of victory was decisive," Trustee President Joseph Nohra said.
- Heard a report from its trusteeship committee. The committee nominated Chander M. Kohli to serve as the board's next chairman. Charles B. Cushwa was nominated vice chairman.
- Approved a resolution of appreciation for Jeff Parks, whose two-year term as a student trustee expires.
- Approved a resolution of appreciation for Eugenia Atkinson, whose term as a trustee expires. "All of us have been enriched by being able to work with you and serve with you," Nohra said to Atkinson, who has been on the board for 11 years. "It has indeed been a pleasure to serve this university," she said.
- Voted for a resolution offering the trustees' full support and appreciation of President Bush and the men and women in the U.S. military in the wake of the war in Iraq.

Finance and Facilities Committee, March 6

Larry E. Esterly, chair

F.W. Knecht, vice chair

- Terry Ondreyka, vice president for financial affairs, reported that YSU's state share of instruction is being cut 2.5 percent or \$1.065 million. It's the third reduction in state funding for YSU since the start of the fiscal year eight months ago, President Sweet said. In all, the university's state allocations have been slashed by \$3.98 million or nearly 10 percent in that period. Sweet said he does not expect any further reductions before the end of the fiscal year on June 30.

Sweet said the latest round of cuts will be made up through a selective hiring freeze, reductions in university division and auxiliary budgets and slashing the university's strategic initiative account. Sweet also announced that any purchases above \$1,000 will require the written approval of a vice president or other unit head.

Trustee Wang commended the administration for adjusting the budget without having to lay off any workers. Sweet emphasized that, while there will be no layoffs, the university has left a couple dozen jobs vacant this year, "and we pay a toll by doing that."

- Ondreyka and Sweet then updated trustees on the fiscal year 2004 budget, which begins July 1, 2003, and ends June 30, 2004. Ondreyka said that early "worst case scenario" projections show a shortfall in the 2004 general fund budget of \$4.6 million to \$5.06 million.

In December, trustees approved a 9.5-percent tuition increase for the new fiscal year. Since then, Gov. Bob Taft has proposed capping tuition increases at 6 percent, which would generate \$1.4 million less in revenue than the 9.5-percent increase.

Sweet said, "The sentiment for tuition caps in this environment is not too high."

Sweet and Ondreyka said the 2004 budget would be even deeper in the red if not for increased enrollment. "Enrollment has made a difficult situation a little less difficult," Ondreyka said.

"Where are the lifeboats?" Trustee Cushwa said after hearing the gloomy forecast.

Sweet cautioned that a \$5 million shortfall represents only about 4 percent of the budget. "It's going to be a challenge, but I think it's going to be a controllable challenge," he said.

Sweet said public universities across Ohio are mobilizing influential alumni to communicate to state lawmakers the importance of higher education to the state's future.

- Len Perry, YSU director of environmental and occupational health and safety, presented the 2002 annual insurance report to the committee. He also reported that the university has purchased terrorism insurance for \$6,500 a year. The insurance will cover \$5 million in property damage and was purchased through a consortium of Ohio public universities, Perry said. "You buy it as an added protection because of the climate," he added.
- John Hyden, facilities director, reported that a space utilization study now underway on campus should be completed by May.
- Hyden also updated the committee on the selection of an architect for a new student recreation and wellness center. The committee chose Hanahan Strollo and Associates of Youngstown and Ellerbe Becket of Washington, D.C., contingent on a visit to one of Ellerbe Becket's work sites. Hyden said he and two other university officials visited the site of Becket's construction at Yale University. "We found nothing in our site visit to change our mind," he said. "The detail and attention that was paid to it was creative and certainly something I think you would be pleased with."

Internal Affairs Committee, March 6

Chander M. Kohli, chair

John L. Pogue, vice chair

- The committee met in closed, executive session to discuss personnel and collective bargaining issues. The university's contract negotiations with the Association of Professional and Administrative Staff and the Fraternal Order of Police are ongoing.
- Trustees reviewed a report summarizing staffing levels by race and gender. The report shows that YSU has 1,075 fulltime employees, including 139 minority workers.
- The committee reviewed a report showing that \$932,375 in university purchases for the first half of fiscal year 2003 went to minority business enterprises.
- Trustees also approved a resolution asking that the university administration evaluate proposals to require cost-sharing of health insurance premiums by university employees not covered by collective bargaining agreements. The resolution asked that the evaluation be presented to the committee at its June 2003 meeting.

External Relations Committee, March 4

Charles B. Cushwa, chair

Larry D. DeJane, vice chair

- Paul McFadden, development director, reported that gifts to the university are nearly triple what they were last year at this time. Gifts amounted to \$3.34 million between June and December 2002, compared to \$842,273 for the same period in 2001, the report showed. McFadden credited the increase to major gifts for the construction of a new campus recreation and wellness center.
- Hunter Morrison, director of YSU's Center for Regional and Urban Studies, updated committee members on development in the Smoky Hollow neighborhood adjacent to campus. Morrison said a preliminary master plan calls for the construction of 167 single-family houses, town homes and condominiums, 77 units of senior apartments, 32 loft apartments, 55 English basement apartments and 230 student apartments, 130 of which are already under construction on Wick Oval and are expected to open in August. He said there has been "significant interest" from YSU and city of Youngstown employees to live in the neighborhood. Morrison said he is in discussions with the local homebuilder's association about the plan.
- Shannon Tirone, director of alumni relations, announced that the 2003 Distinguished Citizens Award will go to Frank Watson. The banquet will be July 10 at Mr. Anthony's.
- Walt Ulbricht, executive director of marketing and communications, updated the committee on the university's website development, including a new external homepage, a new page that allows students to search for scholarships, a new site for the YSU Board of Trustees and a new site listing the university's news releases. Ulbricht and George McCloud, special assistant to the president for development and public relations, also reported that the university's recent advertising campaign in the five-county Cleveland area is paying off. For instance, 147 Cuyahoga County residents have applied to YSU this year, compared to 104 in the same period last year. "We can and should have a larger market share in those targeted counties," McCloud said.
- David Luscher, associate director of WYSU-FM, reported that the radio station's listenership is way up. In fall 2000, the station had an estimated 22,800 unique persons listening each week in Mahoning, Trumbull, Columbiana, Mercer and Lawrence counties. In fall 2002, that number increased 60 percent to 36,400. Luscher said the

increase is due to the station's increased focus on National Public Radio news and quality classical music.

- Sweet announced that the university is planning to set up a Board of Visitors for each of the university's colleges to serve as both advisors and ambassadors.
- Sweet also reported that he recently met with U.S. Reps. Timothy Ryan, Steven LaTourette, Ted Strickland and Ralph Regula in Washington, D.C., to talk about the needs of YSU. "It's our intent to continue to cultivate these contacts," Sweet told trustees. Sweet presented a map showing that 5,611 YSU students live in Strickland's 6th district, which runs from Mahoning County to Scioto County, while 3,539 live in Ryan's 17th district, which includes Youngstown, most of Trumbull and Portage counties and a portion of Summit County.

Academic and Student Affairs Committee, March 4

Eugenia Atkinson, chair

H.S. Wang, vice chair

- Kathleen Akpom, associate professor of health professions, made a presentation about Asynchronous Distance Learning, BSAS Programs for Health Professionals. Under a \$245,000 grant from the Ohio Learning Network, YSU will offer 16 web-based distance learning courses for health professionals that lead to a degree or certification in healthcare to enhance employability of adult incumbent and underemployed workers.
- Bege Bowers, assistant provost for academic programs and planning, presented the Ohio Board of Regents 2002 Performance Report. The third annual report, which was released in January, showed that YSU scored high in terms of student access to senior faculty, retention of first-year students, affordability and students finding jobs after graduation. "We were very pleased with the results," Bowers said.
- Ron Chordas, assistant provost for academic administration, briefly talked about YSU's three main economic development outreach units: Cushwa Center for Business Development, Ohio Small Business Development Center and the Mahoning Valley Education and Training Initiative. Chordas said the Ohio Small Business Development Center, currently housed in the Cushwa Center, will report to the Williamson College of Business. The MVETI will be a department located in the current Metro College, he said.
- The committee received a memo from Peter Kasvinsky, dean of graduate studies, on grant activity for the second quarter of the fiscal year. The report showed that the university received grants totaling \$1.8 million in the first half of this fiscal year, down from \$2.8 million for the same period last year.
- The committee also received documentation that the following faculty have been granted sabbatical and improvement leaves for 2003-04: Joan Boyd in health professions, Alan Jacobs in geological and environmental sciences, Thomas Kim in chemistry, Johanna Krontiris-Litowitz in biological sciences, Ganesh Kudav in mechanical and industrial engineering, Jeffrey Smiley in chemistry, Stephanie Tingley in English, Salvatore Attardo in English, Michael Crescimanno in physics and astronomy, J. Douglas Faïres in mathematics and statistics, Michael Finney in English, David Law in accounting and finance, Sherry Linkon in English, Heather Lorimer in biological sciences, Brendan Minogue in philosophy and religious studies, Jennifer Pintar in human performance and exercise science, John Russo in management and Rick Shale in English.
- Provost Tony Atwater announced the appointment of Paul Kobulnicky as executive director of Maag Library, effective July 1. Kobulnicky was chosen after a national search led by Tom Shipka, chairman of YSU's philosophy and religious studies department and

chairman of the YSU Academic Senate. Kobulnicky has been vice chancellor for information services and chief information officer at the University of Connecticut since 1999. He previously was university director of libraries at UConn, and also previously served as both interim director and deputy director of the University Library System at the University of Pittsburgh. His salary will be \$87,000 a year.

Trustees Chairman Joe Nohra questioned if, given the university's difficult financial situation, the university administration could possibly not have filled the position. "This is a very, very important search for us," Atwater said. Sweet noted that the library post is on the short list of positions that must be filled.

- The committee heard a presentation from Joe Rottenborn, executive director of the Mahoning Valley College Access Program. One of 30 college access programs in Ohio, MVCAP was started in December 2000 by the Raymond John Wean Foundation to help increase the number of students in Trumbull and Mahoning counties who continue their education beyond high school. MVCAP provides programs that promote college as necessary and attainable for all students, provide students and families with information about opportunities and resources for post-secondary education and offer scholarships for eligible high school seniors.
- Bill Countryman, university registrar, reported that spring semester enrollment increased 3.3 percent, from 11,833 last year to 12,215 this year. He also said applications for summer classes are up nearly 7 percent from the same time last year.
- Cyndy Anderson, vice president for student affairs, reported that Stamats, an enrollment management consultant, has developed several creative concepts to help develop an enrollment management plan for YSU. The plan, which will be written by a team of university administrators, will include a financial aid and scholarship audit, a space utilization study and enrollment forecasts from each college.
- The Center for Student Progress reported that it has made great strides in retaining students. Of the full-time students served by the center, 80 percent were retained as compared to 77.5 percent the previous year.