

# For the Record...

Dec. 2003

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

*The purpose of this 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.*

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**YSU trustees voted to increase tuition, endorsed a plan to not outsource management of the bookstore and gave their support to the Youngstown Early College initiative during a busy series of meetings in December. The board also acknowledged the death of Trustee Charles B. Cushwa III, who passed away Dec. 6 during surgery in the Cleveland Clinic.**

**Here’s a summary of the board’s actions and discussions at the Dec. 17 full board meeting, as well as committee meetings on Dec. 2 and 4.**

## **Board of Trustees, Dec. 17**

*Chander M. Kohli, chair*

### **The board met in Tod Hall:**

- Trustee Kohli called for a moment of silence in memory of Trustee Charles B. Cushwa III, who died Dec. 6. “He was a generous, enthusiastic person, and he was a true friend of YSU,” Kohli said. “He will surely be missed.” Cushwa was named to the YSU Board of Trustees in 1998, and his nine-year term was to expire in 2007.
- President David C. Sweet reported to the board a list of accomplishments during the fall semester of 2003, including the seventh consecutive semester of enrollment growth, the opening of the new University Courtyard Apartments and the opening of an addition to Bliss Hall. He also noted several faculty achievements, including a \$350,000 grant from the Ford Foundation to the YSU Center for Working Class Studies and a \$700,000 National Science Foundation grant to a team of faculty members. He reported that Sherry Linkon, a professor of English, was named the Ohio Professor of the Year and that the Beeghly College of Education had received full national re-accreditation. Sweet also said that ground will be broken in March for the new \$12 million student recreation and wellness center.
- Tony Atwater, provost and vice president for academic affairs, reported on the Early College High School proposal. (See discussions below.)

### **The board also:**

- Voted for a resolution authorizing a doctor of humane letters degree for Judy G. Hample, chancellor of the Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education.
- Approved a resolution of support for the creation of the Youngstown Early College.

The Youngstown Early College, with start-up funding from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the KnowledgeWorks Foundation, is a partnership between YSU and the Youngstown City School District to provide a transition between high school and college for urban students.

YEC will be the first high school of its kind on the campus of a public university in Ohio.

The program calls for opening a high school in Fedor Hall on the YSU campus at the start of the 2004-05 academic year with 100 freshman high school students from the Youngstown public schools. Each fall, a new entering class of 100 students would be added until YEC reaches a maximum of 400 early college high school students, freshmen through seniors.

Students will enroll in a combination of high school courses at YEC and college courses at YSU. In the first two years, students would attend mostly high school classes taught by YEC faculty. In years three and four, students would primarily enroll in regular university classes taught by YSU faculty. Each YEC student will have the goal of completing at least 60 semester credit hours of college before graduating from YEC.

The concept has already been approved by the Youngstown Board of Education, which will provide most of the funding for the school through per-pupil state subsidies. The program also has won the support of U.S. Rep. Tim Ryan of Niles, D-17<sup>th</sup>, the Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber, Mahoning Valley Vision for Education and Tom Shipka, chair of the YSU Academic Senate.

“We have examined the pros and cons, and we’ve concluded that it’s a project to take on and make work successfully,” Atwater said in committee discussions on Dec. 2.

The board conducted a joint meeting of its academic/student affairs and finance/facilities committees to discuss the YEC proposal; the finance and facilities committee conducted a separate meeting on the matter.

Speaking in favor of the proposal at the joint meeting were Atwater; Sweet; Robert Bolla, dean of the College of Arts and Sciences; Phil Ginnetti, dean of the Beeghly College of Education; and Richard Bretz, special assistant to the provost. “This is a whole new way of looking at high school,” Bolla said. “It’s a way to get away from this notion of the traditional high school.”

During committee discussions on Dec. 2, trustees had several questions. Trustee Cushwa said he was concerned about mixing 14- and 15-year-old high school students with college-age students. “You have to see it to believe it,” said Sweet, who visited such a school in Phoenix. “I was skeptical myself.”

Student Trustee Matt Pastier asked if tuition money would be used to subsidize the YEC if the school encounters financial problems. Atwater said no. “I don’t ever want to see YSU students paying for the funding of YEC,” Trustee Joe Nohra said.

Trustee Kohli asked who would be responsible for behavioral problems among YEC students. Bolla said the city school district would be.

Trustee Larry Esterly had several questions about financing. Cushwa noted that YSU already is stretched thin financially. “What we’re looking at is another hole in which we may lose more money,” Cushwa added.

Bretz and Bolla said the Youngstown City School District is responsible for the fiscal operations of the YEC. YSU would provide the facilities and faculty instruction for college courses. Bolla said funding also will come through private foundations.

Trustee Millicent Counts said there are risks involved, “but we have the obligation to take that risk.” “Urban education is in trouble, and we have to look at new models,” she added. “We have to do something.”

Trustee H.S. Wang said YSU can’t afford to turn down the opportunity to help the city schools. “The saying is if the system isn’t broke, don’t fix it; our system is broke,” he said.

“There is risk associated with this venture, no question about it,” Sweet said. “But you have to balance that with the opportunity to have an impact.”

At the finance and facilities committee meeting, several people spoke in favor of the proposal, including Ben McGee, Youngstown city schools superintendent; Joyce Brooks, coordinator of the Mahoning Valley Vision for Education; Eugenia Atkinson, former YSU trustee; and Harry Christman, manager of workforce development for the Youngstown-Warren Regional Chamber.

McGee assured trustees that the Youngstown city schools is committed to YEC. “We as a district do not intend to back away from this commitment,” he said.

Atkinson said YEC has the potential to address three of YSU’s top priorities: enrollment, diversity and partnerships. “This is an opportunity to make a difference not only in the lives of the students who participate but the families that will be impacted and the community,” she said.

“We can’t afford to say no to this,” she added.

Christman said the business community wants an educated work force, and Youngstown doesn’t have it. “The children are looking to us to make a change,” he said.

Trustees voted to support the program, subject to the board of trustees’ approval of a memorandum of understanding with the city school district that will outline the fiduciary responsibilities of each party.

- Passed a resolution celebrating the Ford Foundation grants to the YSU Center for Working Class Studies. The center, co-directed by YSU faculty members John Russo and Sherry Linkon, has received \$575,000 in grants from Ford since 2000.
- Approved a resolution recognizing accreditation of the Beeghly College of Education by the National Council for the Advancement of Teacher Education.
- Passed a resolution congratulating YSU faculty who received teaching excellence awards from the Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education and *Ohio Magazine*. Faculty receiving NOCHE awards are Stacey Lowery Bretz, Annette M. Burden, Shirley M. Keller, Nancy W. Mosca, Jennifer Pintar and David Pollack. Bretz, Burden, Keller and Pintar also were among 100 Ohio faculty members receiving *Ohio Magazine*’s 2003 Excellence in Education awards.
- Approved a resolution congratulating Sherry Linkon for being named Ohio Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education.
- Accepted development gifts totaling \$548,524 for July to September 2003.
- Voted to approve the implementation plan for construction of the new \$12 million student recreation and wellness center. Groundbreaking for the new center will be in March. The center will be constructed solely with private funds. But, since many of the private pledges will be received over several years, “bridge financing” amounting to \$2.6 million to \$4.5 million will be needed for construction, said Terry Ondreyka, vice president for financial affairs. The bridge financing will be a conventional, variable-rate bank loan secured by the pledges. The implementation plan also calls for students to pay a \$4 per credit charge up to 12 credit hours per semester to help fund operations of the rec center. YSU employees can use the center at a charge of about \$30 a month.
- Approved a resolution authorizing declarations of official intent for reimbursement. Ondreyka said the resolution acts as an insurance policy for financing the rec center project.

- Agreed to modify the unrestricted fund budget for fiscal year 2004. John Habat, vice president for administration, said during committee discussions that YSU has received \$4.52 million more than projected in revenue from tuition, fees and state appropriations, due in part to increased enrollment. The money has been allocated to various areas, including student wage increases, enrollment incentive bonuses for member of the YSU Association of Classified Employees and campus technology improvements.

“I’m very pleased to see this initiative added into the modified budget,” Matt Pastier, a student trustee, said about the increased student wages. Hourly student pay will increase from \$5.15 to \$5.35 effective Jan. 1 for students in Level I positions. Students in Level II positions will see an increase from \$5.90 to \$6.10 an hour. YSU has about 1,800 student employees.

- Voted for two resolutions that will raise tuition by 8 percent beginning fall semester 2004. State lawmakers have set a 6-percent cap on tuition, plus an additional 3.9 percent cap on fees for technology improvements. Trustees approved a 6 percent increase and, in a separate resolution, an additional 2 percent increase for technology improvements. Annual tuition for full-time, undergraduate resident students will increase from \$5,448 to \$5,884 beginning fall 2004 semester in August.

The increase is based on what Habat called a “no-frills, maintenance budget.” “There’s not a lot of maneuvering room in this budget,” he told trustees during committee deliberations. He noted that the state’s share of YSU’s budget has dropped from 49 percent in 2000 to 36 percent in 2005. “There’s only so many places we can go to increase revenues,” he said.

“This campus operates on a very efficient basis,” Sweet said in committee discussions. “We are a very lean machine.” Sweet noted that even with the increase, YSU’s fall 2004 tuition remains below the current tuitions of the state’s other 10 major, four-year public universities.

Trustee Esterly noted that this is the second year that YSU has approved its tuition increase in December, giving students ample time to plan for the increased cost. Other universities in the state usually wait until the spring to set tuition rates. “It is to the credit of this board and this administration that” YSU makes its decision on tuition so early, he said.

Donna Esterly, interim chief technology officer, said the 2 percent increase for technology will help YSU begin to implement parts of its technology master plan, including better coordination of student computer labs, enhanced administrative computing systems and wireless computing capabilities. “Students will have many benefits from this plan,” she said.

Trustee Kohli said YSU needs to move even faster to make technology upgrades. “We don’t want to be five years behind everyone else,” he said. Donna Esterly noted that Cleveland State University spent more than \$20 million to upgrade its systems. “It’s going to be a major challenge for us,” she said.

Trustee Nohra read a statement from student Trustee Charity Pappas, who said she is not sure if YSU offers an affordable education anymore. Nohra said he shared Pappas’ concerns about tuition, but he added: “We are still very affordable and reasonable and low-priced” compared to other universities in the state. “It’s unfortunate that we have to do this ... but it’s part of the times,” he added.

“None of us can remember when we didn’t increase tuition,” Trustee Esterly said. “We’ve always done it reluctantly, and I think we’ve always done it responsibly.”

Student Trustee Pastier abstained in the vote. “As a student, I think this is very unfair, but as a trustee I can see that this is necessary,” he said.

- Passed a resolution authorizing the purchase of 22 pieces of property, mostly in the Smoky Hollow neighborhood.
- Trustee Esterly presented a report from the board’s audit subcommittee. He said YSU had received “a clean audit” from its external auditors.

- Approved faculty and staff appointments.
- Voted to modify the policy concerning professional conduct of faculty, department chairpersons and professional/administrative employees. Tom Maraffa, special assistant to President Sweet, said in committee discussions that the process to amend the policy started in September 2001. The Academic Senate approved the policy in November 2002. Maraffa said the policy deals mostly with academic honesty and spells out procedures if an employee is accused of wrongdoing. "It fills a void," Maraffa said. "There's not rampant professional misconduct on this campus, and we hope that this policy does not ever have to be used."
- Agreed to modify the policy on supplementary pay. "This is among a series of policy revisions and updates that will be coming before the board in the months to come," Sweet said.
- Approved an updated mission statement for intercollegiate athletics. Ron Strollo, executive director of intercollegiate athletics, said the statement better correlates with the university's mission statement.
- Passed a resolution of appreciation for Matthew Folk, YSU assistant track and field coach, who has qualified for the 2004 U.S. Olympics Trials in the marathon.
- Set the time and dates of upcoming meetings: 3 p.m. Friday, March 19, 2004, and 3 p.m. Friday, June 18, 2004.

## **Finance and Facilities Committee, Dec. 4**

*Larry E. Esterly, chair*

*Larry D. DeJane, vice chair*

- The committee endorsed a recommendation from Sweet that the university bookstore remain under the current management.
 

Habat reported that a 16-member committee that studied the possibility of re-locating and/or changing the management of the bookstore presented a report to him in late November. Habat said the report suggested maintaining the location of the bookstore in Kilcawley Center and generally suggested that the current bookstore management should be kept.

Sweet said he has not received a single complaint about the bookstore's existing management. "In fact, it was quite the opposite," he said. "I've received a lot of accolades."

While Sweet said the management of the bookstore will remain the same, he said he will seek enhanced services and revenues as part of a new agreement.
- The committee reviewed a report that showed the amount of unpaid student bills has dropped from \$8.95 million in September 2002 to \$7.71 million in September 2003. Ondreyka said the decline is due mostly to the write-off of dated receivables. He said his office hopes to implement new billing practices soon that will reduce delinquent accounts. "We think we are making progress," Ondreyka said.
- Committee members also received a report showing the proposed scholarship budget for fiscal year 2005. The report indicates that scholarship funding will increase from \$7.1 million to \$7.166 million. Trustee Kohli noted that scholarship support from the YSU Foundation is projected to drop slightly. Sweet said he thinks the drop is due to conditions in the stock markets.
- John Hyden, facilities director, reported that a consultant's report on campus space utilization is nearing completion. He said the report shows that the university is in need of flex space, an automated classroom scheduling system, more office space for part-time faculty members and additional research laboratory space.
- Hunter Morrison, director of the YSU Center for Urban and Regional Studies, and David Reed, project director of the Urban Design Center of Northeast Ohio, reported on the campus

master plan and campus corridor improvements. Morrison and Reed outlined five action steps, including improvements to campus gateways and accesses, making Spring Street/University Plaza the main corridor of the campus and connecting the campus to downtown.

Among the immediate actions that will take place: reorganizing the parking along Spring Street/University Plaza; better linking of Spring Street with Smoky Hollow by enhancing the area between Bliss Hall and the new University Courtyard Apartments; and development of Harrison Commons in Smoky Hollow.

## **Internal Affairs Committee, Dec. 4**

*Joseph S. Nohra, chair*

*John L. Pogue, vice chair*

- Sweet introduced Jimmy Myers, the new YSU director of equal opportunity and diversity. Myers said he has been meeting with several people on and off campus. “Overall, the commitment to diversity and some of the activities have been profound,” he said.
- The committee reviewed a workforce analysis report that showed the total number of employees has increased by 65 between September 2002 and September 2003, from 1,556 to 1,621.
- Committee members also received the quarterly report on minority business, which showed that 8.5 percent of the university’s expenditures for goods and services in the first quarter of fiscal year 2004 went to minority businesses.
- Ron Strollo, executive director of intercollegiate athletics, reported that average attendance at home football games for the 2003 season was 16,004, 10<sup>th</sup> highest in the nation among NCAA Division I-AA schools. He said it’s the third consecutive year that YSU has placed in the top 10. He also reported, however, that attendance was down from the 17,300 average in the 2002 season. Strollo noted that the football team, with a record of 5-7, played the most difficult schedule in the nation among Division I-AA teams.

Strollo also reported that season ticket sales and Penguin Club memberships for women’s basketball are at their highest level ever.

- Sweet updated committee members on alcohol consumption by fans at campus sporting events. The university’s student newspaper, *The Jambar*, reported in November that consumption of alcohol in the university’s tailgate lots for football games was in violation of state law, and Sweet called for a prohibition of alcohol at the final home football game on Nov. 15. He also appointed a committee – chaired by Strollo and Cyndy Anderson, vice president for student affairs – to examine the university’s policies and state laws and recommend possible changes for next football season. Sweet emphasized that fans have always been well-behaved at the games. “The tailgate tradition at YSU is a very important one . . . and I think it is important that we continue that tradition in compliance with appropriate rules and regulations,” he said.

Strollo said he hopes the new tailgating policy can be in place by March. Alcohol, he said, has always been part of the football event. “We have the responsibility to make sure it’s done right,” he said. “There are some different avenues that we’re looking at.”

## **External Relations Committee, Dec. 2**

*Charles B. Cushwa, chair*

*Millicent S. Counts, vice chair*

- Reviewed the quarterly development report. Paul McFadden, chief development officer, noted that faculty and staff giving is at an all-time high.
- McFadden also reported that the \$12 million campaign for a new student recreation and wellness center has reached the \$9.75 million mark. He noted that an additional \$1.6 million in pledges is being considered by potential donors. He also noted that the Kresge Foundation will decide later in December whether or not to provide a challenge grant for the fund-raising effort. "It's a turning point in our campaign," McFadden said. (Update: The Kresge board has approved a \$600,000 challenge grant for the YSU rec center campaign.)
- Scott Lange of the consulting firm Marts & Lundy updated the committee on plans for the university's Centennial Campaign fund drive.

Lange, whose firm was hired by YSU to help develop the fund-raising plan, said he and his staff have been interviewing YSU staff, reviewing databases of potential donors, surveying other similar universities and examining accounting procedures to prepare for the fund-raising campaign, which has not been formally announced. The next phase will be to conduct a feasibility study, Lange said. "The enterprise of the campaign is a significant one and requires a lot of thought and planning," he said.

Lange also said that YSU must increase the size of its development staff. He suggested that the university could easily add eight "road warriors" for the campaign. "You have an energetic and capable group of people together now; however, you do not have enough players," he said. "You can't play football when you've got six players on the field."

George McCloud, special assistant to the president for development and public relations, said the university is examining ways to concentrate its existing fund-raising staff and resources for the upcoming campaign.

Trustee Cushwa noted that fund-raising is becoming more and more critical as the state cuts back on funding public universities.

McFadden also presented a report on proposed naming opportunities for the new campaign. He noted that YSU required a \$1 million donation in the last capital campaign to name a building or college on campus. McFadden is recommending the level be raised to \$2 million.

- Shannon Tirone, director of alumni relations, updated committee members on alumni-related events scheduled in Cleveland and Columbus, as well as efforts regarding state legislative issues.
- Walt Ulbricht, executive director of marketing and communications, updated the board on the university's "Success Stories" advertising campaign and showed committee members a new "Flash e-mail" message being sent to prospective students. He also noted that his office recently launched a new ad campaign featuring YSU professor Sherry Linkon, who was recently named Ohio Professor of the Year.
- Gary Sexton, director of WYSU-FM, reported that the radio station exceeded its \$82,000 goal in the semi-annual fund drive. He also reported that the station will convert to digital starting in early January.

## **Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Dec. 2**

*F.W. Knecht, chair*

*H.S. Wang, vice chair*

- Atwater and Noah Midamba, interim administrator of International Studies and Programs, reported on efforts to move into a sister city-university agreement with the city of Salerno, Italy, and the University of Salerno. “It’s going to be an exciting prospect for YSU given the extraordinary history between Youngstown and Italy,” Atwater said. Midamba said a delegation from Youngstown hopes to travel to Salerno in the spring to sign an agreement.
- The committee reviewed a report concerning program and department review.
- The committee also received a report on grant activity for the first quarter of fiscal year 2004 that shows a 73 percent increase in the number of grant dollars awarded to YSU faculty and staff, from \$1.26 million last year to \$2.12 million this year.
- Committee members also received a report on current accreditation activity.