

# For the Record...

*December 2005*

*For the Record..., published by the Office of Marketing and Communications, is distributed after the regular quarterly meetings of the YSU Board of Trustees as a way to keep the campus community informed of the board's latest actions, deliberations and discussions. Comments and suggestions may be sent to Ron Cole, manager of news and information services, at 330-941-3285 or [racole.01@ysu.edu](mailto:racole.01@ysu.edu).*

**The YSU Board of Trustees tabled action on tuition, approved financing for major campus energy improvements and heard reports on enrollment, the new Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center, Youngstown Early College and the new bachelor of general studies program during meetings in November and December. Board members also discussed the list of proposed capital improvement projects for the campus through 2012, were updated on the progress of a panel investigating campus labor relations, reviewed information on the new early retirement incentive plan and approved a resolution congratulating the football team as co-champions of the Gateway Football Conference.**

**Here's a summary of the board's actions and discussions at the Dec. 14 full board meeting, as well as committee meetings on Nov. 29 and Dec. 1.**

## **Board of Trustees, Dec. 14**

*H.S. Wang, chair*

*John L. Pogue, vice chair*

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

President David C. Sweet distributed copies of the "President's Report to the Campus" summarizing key achievements for the year and plans for the year ahead. (The report is available online at [www.ysu.edu/president/campusreport.pdf](http://www.ysu.edu/president/campusreport.pdf).)

Robert K. Herbert, provost and vice president for academic affairs, reported on several activities in the academic division, including preparations for accreditation by the North Central Association, a new committee for academic review and assessment, the successful new bachelor of general studies program and the nearly-completed search for a new dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

### **The board:**

- Approved a resolution to authorize conferral of an honorary degree on Stephen Bartolin Jr., a YSU graduate and chair, president and chief executive of The Broadmoor, a hotel in Colorado Springs, Colo.
- Voted on a resolution congratulating faculty members who received teaching excellence awards from the Northeast Ohio Council on Higher Education: Maria Delost, Jacek Fabrykowski, William Rick Fry, Randy L. Hoover, Richard A. McEwing and Victor F. Wan-

Tatah. The resolution also congratulates Delost, Fabrykowski, Fry, Hoover and Wan-Tatah for being among 100 faculty members to receive Ohio magazine's 2005 Excellence in Education award.

- Approved a resolution to accept 1,639 gifts from university donors totaling \$643,253.62 for the first quarter of fiscal year 2006.
- Voted on a resolution to name the pre-law advising center in DeBartolo Hall after brothers Sidney and Bert Rigelhaupt. Sidney graduated from the Youngstown College of Law in 1926 and served as a faculty member in the college while maintaining a private practice in downtown Youngstown. He went on to serve on the bench of the Court of Common Pleas. Bert graduated from Youngstown College of Law in 1951 and joined his brother's practice. Upon their deaths, the brothers established a trust in excess of \$1 million to provide scholarships for the pre-law program at YSU
- Voted on a resolution to modify the fiscal year 2005 operating budget by \$140,000.
- Approved a resolution to enter into an agreement with Chase Equipment Leasing Inc. to finance \$9.79 million in energy savings improvements at the university. In committee discussions, John Habat, vice president for administration, reported that the university received seven proposals for financing, that list was narrowed to four and the final choice was Chase. The interest rate for the 10-year financing package as of Dec. 12 was 3.53 percent but will be determined on the closing date. The board approved in October a contract with Johnson Controls Inc. to implement the state-of-the-art infrastructure improvements. Under the agreement, Johnson Controls guarantees the improvements will generate at least \$15 million in energy savings over the next decade. If the savings fall short, Johnson Controls will pay the difference.
- Agreed to use John W. and Lucille G. Fedor Scholarship Funds for need-based scholarship aid.
- Endorsed YSU's revised fiscal years 2007-12 state capital improvement budget project list. Habat said in committee meetings that the state asks universities for capital improvement project lists for three biennia. Normally, the governor introduces the capital budget in January and the General Assembly approves the budget by July. Habat said, however, that the General Assembly has indicated that it will not act on the capital budget until after the November 2006 elections. Habat noted that each of the biennium project lists include \$1.5 million for campus development, which includes improvements to the major campus gateways. The project list also includes money for continued improvement in classrooms and building systems, such as roofs, windows, masonry and electrical. The largest item on the list is the new College of Business building, amounting to more than \$14 million over the next three biennia. The new building will be funded through a combination of state capital funds, private donations and loan funds. By endorsing the capital budget requests, the university will now solicit and choose architects for the project, Sweet said.
- Approved a resolution authorizing the purchase of four properties in Smoky Hollow – three on Valley Street and one on Rayen Avenue – for campus improvements.
- Approved a charter for the university's Audit Subcommittee. The National Association of College and University Business Officers recently issued a report recommending the establishment of audit charters to enhance internal control structures.
- Ratified faculty/staff appointments for July 1, 2005 through Sept. 30, 2005. Hugh Chatman, executive director of human resources, reported in committee meetings that there had been 127 personnel actions in the three-month period.
- Passed a resolution of appreciation for the football team on its 2005 Gateway Football Conference Championship.
- Approved a resolution authorizing the board chair to sign all board minutes that have been approved but have not been signed.
- Set the following tentative meeting dates of the Board of Trustees: 3 p.m. Friday, March, 17, 2006; 3 p.m., Friday, June 23, 2006; 3 p.m. Friday, Sept. 22, 2006; and 3 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 13, 2006.

- Trustee Wang thanked students, faculty, staff and trustees for a year that saw some turmoil but also many accomplishments. He said the university successfully recruited a new provost, saw “relative success” in enrollment and began the successful implementation of the Banner software program. He also acknowledged three new members of the Board of Trustees. “Whatever happened in the past year ... is past, and we’re looking forward to the future,” he said.

## **Finance and Facilities Committee, Dec. 1**

*William J. Bresnahan, chair*

*Scott R. Schulick, vice chair*

- The committee had a lengthy discussion on a resolution to increase tuition and mandatory fees by 6 percent effective fall semester 2006. Bob McGovern, president of YSU Student Government, told the committee that he knows the board does not want to raise tuition. He also reported that nine years of substantial tuition hikes is upsetting to students. He said his main concern with the proposed 6 percent increase is that it is at the cap allowed by the state. “I fear that implies that, were the cap nonexistent, the proposed increase would be higher,” he said. McGovern provided the committee with a scenario for a 4.5 percent increase, rather than 6 percent, suggesting that the university set aside some money in a “One-time Tuition Offset Reserve” fund. McGovern also said that the long-term solution to rising tuition is a unified lobbying effort that includes students, faculty, staff, administration and the board. In addition, he said he can appreciate the need for reserve and “rainy day” funds. “Ladies and gentlemen, this just may be one of those (rainy) days,” he said. “To put it succinctly, it’s pouring.” Trustee Wang said he appreciated McGovern’s remarks. Sweet said he and other administrative staff met with Student Government to present the recommended tuition rates. Trustee Bresnahan also said he appreciated McGovern’s comments. “These are not things we enjoy tackling,” Bresnahan said.

Sweet said the administration is recommending the 6 percent tuition increase, but he said scenarios also will be presented for 4 percent and 5 percent increases. Sweet referenced a recent editorial in *The Vindicator* criticizing the proposed 6 percent tuition increase. The editorial, however, made no mention of declining state support for YSU, Sweet said. In 2001, YSU received \$44 million in state share of instruction funding, and that dropped to \$39 million by 2005, a 12.3 percent decrease. In 2001, state support represented 50.7 percent of the YSU general operating budget and student tuition and fees represented 46.4 percent. In 2005, state support represented 32.2 percent and student tuition and fees represented 65.4 percent, he said. “Those numbers, I think, tell the story,” he said. Sweet also noted that YSU’s general operating budget has increased 24.5 percent from 2001 to 2005, which is remarkably similar to the 23 percent price difference between a 2001 Cavalier and a 2006 Cobalt cited in *The Vindicator* editorial. While the university regrets having to pass on an increasing share of educational costs to students, to do otherwise would severely compromise the quality of YSU and the education it provides, the president said. Even with a 6 percent tuition increase, the university projects only a 2.1 percent increase in the university budget next year, he said. Sweet said *The Vindicator*’s criticism should be directed at state officials and legislators who have chosen to shift educational costs to students and their parents by decreasing general state support for higher education. *The Vindicator* editorial also doesn’t take into account the personal economic benefits or the return on investment that a higher education degree provides, Sweet said.

Jeff Taylor, YSU director of budget planning and resource analysis, reviewed with the committee the proposed 6 percent tuition increase. The proposal assumes a 2 percent or approximately \$800,000 decrease in state funding and a full-time equivalent enrollment in fall 2006 of 10,220, about 1 percent less than fall 2005. Even with the 6 percent increase, the

university's budget would be \$1.15 million in the red. Sweet said that that deficit would have to be rectified by July 1.

Trustee Sudershan K. Garg asked if there was any way state funding would go up between now and the start of the next fiscal year in July. Sweet said he does not anticipate any additional state funding. Trustee Donald Cagigas said that YSU probably has a higher percentage of students working and paying their own way for college. At what price, he said, does YSU price itself out? Sweet said that research on college tuition suggests there is not an "elasticity of demand." He noted that 87 percent of YSU students receive some sort of financial aid and that the average YSU student, after financial aid and scholarships, pays 46 percent of tuition. Student Trustee Paul Walker asked that if enrollment was higher than projected, would the additional revenue be passed on to students in some way? Sweet that he hopes enrollment is higher than projected. And, if it is, there will be discussions about the use of any additional revenue. Student Trustee Louise Popio asked if the state in any way would reward YSU for keeping tuition under the 6 percent cap. Sweet said there is no evidence that that would happen. Trustee Bresnahan noted enrollment is "a clear driver here." Trustee Garg asked what would happen if the state would lower the tuition cap? Sweet said YSU would abide by it. If tuition was capped at 3 percent, for instance, YSU would have to cut staff and expenses. But, Sweet said such a change in the cap is unlikely in the middle of the state's biennium budget. Trustee Schulick asked if there is a procedure for university departments to look at reducing their budgets. Sweet said that in the past decade, operating expenses are "paper thin." Habat noted that the projected budget already anticipates eliminating eight to 10 positions. Trustee Wang said if enrollment is below projections, YSU would have to cut personnel, the way Kent State University did last year. Sweet said that the number of employees and staff and YSU is much lower on a per student basis than at Kent State. Trustee Bresnahan noted that he was a member of YSU's operations task force a few years ago, and that the state auditor said YSU operates leaner than other state universities. He said the university must generate more revenue, through tuition, enrollment or state funding. "And number three (state funding) is not going to happen," he said. Trustee Cagigas said that with declining revenues and increasing costs, the entire cost is being passed on to the customer. "That's the frustrating part" for me, he said. As for YSU being the most efficient university in the state, Trustee Cagigas said YSU may be the best of the worst. He noted that YSU is giving raises to all employees. "That's unusual in today's environment," he added. Habat noted that employees, under the new contracts, are now required to share in health insurance premiums, that the new early retirement incentive plan will result in significant long-term cost savings, that the university is in the process of implementing substantial energy savings measures and that the management and structure of summer school is being overhauled to save money. Sweet said that YSU is not General Motors: YSU can't bring in robots to teach classes. YSU and universities in general are heavy on personnel costs, he said. Trustee Cagigas said YSU is vital to the Mahoning Valley, but nothing says YSU has to be here in 10 years. "No quality faculty. No quality staff. No quality programs, and the university won't be here," Sweet said. Trustee Bresnahan said YSU is always the first in the state to announce tuition rates, and that is good in terms of advance planning for students. But, he asked, is it the right thing to do this time? He asked if enrollment could be higher than anticipated in the fall. Tom Maraffa, special assistant to the president, said the university will make further projections on fall 2006 enrollment in January or February. Sweet said setting tuition in December gives students plenty of advanced notice of the increases and allows YSU's financial aid office to package financial aid and get it out quicker to compete for students. Trustee Scott Schulick noted that with the early retirement, the university is spending money to save money. He also said that he is bothered that the university has been "driven into a bunker mentality" based on the news media and other pundits. He said he has not had enough time to discuss, fully digest or question the proposed tuition increase. He said that postponing the decision may be the best course of action. Trustee John Pogue said that the trustees voted for this tuition increase when they approved the new employee contracts in the summer. "This ship has sailed," he said.

Taylor reviewed with the committee the impact on the university's budget if a 4 percent or 5 percent increase in tuition was approved, instead of the proposed 6 percent.

Trustee Schulick made a motion to delay consideration of the new tuition schedule until March. The motion was seconded by Trustee Garg. The committee voted 6-5 in favor of the motion to delay action until March.

- Eileen Greaf, executive director of financial services, reviewed the university's budget-to-actual figures, as well as the university's Senate Bill 6 ratings.
- Trustee Bresnahan reported that the Audit Subcommittee met earlier in the morning and reviewed external and internal audit reports, an audit timeline matrix and adopted a resolution for a charter for the subcommittee.
- Trustee Schulick reported on a meeting of the Investment Subcommittee.
- Holly Jacobs, YSU general counsel, updated the committee on a bill passed by the State House that could impact the sale of property in the Smoky Hollow area.
- Habat presented the 2005 Annual Insurance Report. Habat said YSU is part of a pool with the Inter-University Council that bids for insurance rates as a group. Trustee Bresnahan said that in mostly every area, insurance costs savings have been significant. Habat said that the insurance rates are expected to increase.

## **Internal Affairs Committee, Dec. 1**

*John L. Pogue, chair*

*Donald Cagigas, vice chair*

- John Habat, vice president for administration, updated the committee on the Early Retirement Incentive Plan. He reported that a Policy Committee consisting of executive officers of the operating divisions of the university, the university general counsel and the special assistant to the president has been formed to guide the implementation and management of the ERIP. He noted that so far 60 employees have given notice of their intent to retire under the ERIP – 15 will retire April 1, 2006; 13 in May 2006; three in June 2006 and one in July 2006. About 180 employees in all are eligible for the plan. Of the 60 who have signed up so far, 46 are in the classified union, three are professional staff, nine are excluded employees and two are in the police union, he said.
- Provost Herbert updated the board on the activities of the labor panel appointed by President Sweet. He said the panel meets weekly for about 3.5 hours and has conducted about 18 interviews with members of the administration's and the union's negotiating teams. The panel also has received 23 written statements. The testimony, he said, has been very emotional. He said he is struck by the sincerity and commitment that people have to the university and by the courage that some people have shown by coming forward to talk to the panel. He said that a final report should be ready by late January or early February. Trustee Pogue said that both he and Trustee Bresnahan have appeared before the panel.
- Habat updated the board on possible changes in the State Teachers Retirement System, the pension fund for faculty. He said a statewide advisory panel is reviewing financial issues facing the STRS and has determined that STRS needs to increase employer/employee contributions by an additional 5 percent of payroll. Of that 5 percent, 4.4 percent would be for health care and 0.6 percent would be for the pension fund. If YSU would split the 5 percent in half – YSU pays 2.5 percent and the employee pays 2.5 percent – the cost to YSU would amount to an additional \$1 million a year, Habat said. He also noted that any increase in employer/employee contributions requires legislative approval. "Not a happy prospect," Trustee Pogue said.
- Jimmy Myers, director of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Diversity, reviewed staffing levels as of September 2005 compared to September 2004. Overall, YSU has lost one minority employee in that period, he said. Given the competitive hiring environment for minorities nationwide, Myers said he is "somewhat pleased we have not lost more."

Myers also reviewed with the committee various diversity-related activities on campus, including diversity training workshops for faculty and staff, a minority pre-doctoral student workshop, the Hispanic Heritage Conference at YSU and the visit of Martin Luther King III to campus. He also reviewed the minority business report for the first quarter of fiscal year 2006. The report showed that 15 percent of purchases for the first quarter were from minority businesses, which Myers said is "satisfactory." Myers also summarized the recent activities of the University Diversity Council. Finally, he reported that the university has identified a person to fill the position of coordinator of diversity initiatives and is prepared to make an offer.

- Ron Strollo, executive director of intercollegiate athletics, updated the committee on YSU's NCAA certification process. He said a self study started in September. Three subcommittees have been formed and have met. A final report is due to the NCAA on May 15, 2006, and an NCAA campus visit is scheduled for the week of Sept. 18, 2006.

Strollo also reviewed YSU's volleyball, soccer and football seasons, including an 8-3 football season. He said the football team was co-champions in the Gateway Conference, that the team's 14,500 average home attendance was again the most in the Gateway Conference (and 11<sup>th</sup> among the 125 Division I-AA teams in the nation) and that the team and coaching staff received numerous awards, including Coach of the Year honors for head coach Jon Heacock. Yet, the team was not selected for the I-AA playoffs. "To say it was disappointing is probably an understatement," he added. He also reported that legislation concerning alcohol at tailgate lots prior to football games has passed the state House and is pending in the state Senate. And he said the athletics department has completed the Horizon League compliance audit.

He also previewed winter sports, including swimming, women's basketball and men's basketball programs, and he reviewed the university's partnerships with local media for coverage of games. He also reported that all home men's and women's basketball games and Horizon League games will be simulcast live on the internet.

- General Counsel Holly Jacobs introduced Gregory G. Morgione, the new associate general counsel for the university. The committee then went into closed, executive session with Jacobs to hear about litigation concerning the university.

## **External Relations Committee, Sept. 8**

*Larry D. DeJane, chair*

*Dianne Bitonte Miladore, vice chair*

- The committee received the Office of Development's report for the first quarter of fiscal year 2006. The report shows that \$551,742 in gifts was received from 668 donors. The report shows Annual Fund donations at \$123,847, a 75 percent increase from the first quarter of fiscal year 2005. The number of Annual Fund donors more than tripled, from 192 in the first quarter of fiscal year 2005 to 663 in the first quarter of fiscal year 2006.
- George McCloud, special assistant to the president for university advancement, and Shannon Tirone, director of alumni relations, reported on several activities of the alumni relations office, including alumni receptions in Baltimore, Washington D.C. and Florida. McCloud said the alumni and events management staff are working together to "refine and reinforce emotional attachments to the institution."
- Pam Palumbo, director of events management, reported that fall commencement will be 2 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 18 in Beeghly Center. Stephen Bartolin Jr., a 1975 YSU graduate and the chair, president and chief executive of The Broadmoor resort in Colorado, will receive an honorary degree. About 600 students will receive degrees.
- McCloud told committee members about the expansion of university publications, the result of "creativity and hard work...from a relatively small marketing staff." Walt Ulbricht, executive director of marketing and communications, reported that the latest edition of the YSU magazine was recently mailed to more than 70,000 alumni and others, including about 300 international alumni. In the future, the publication also will be mailed to the parents of

applicants to YSU. Ulbricht thanked magazine editor Wendy Wolfgang, graphic artist Brad Robison and photographer Jim Evans for their work on the magazine. He said this edition for the first time combines the magazine and the university's annual report. Ulbricht also told the committee that a YSU Magazine Advisory Council has been formed.

Ron Cole, manager of news and information services and editor of the YSUpdate, told committee members about changes in the YSUpdate. Cole said the YSUpdate is circulated to about 2,500 faculty, staff and students on campus, up from about 1,200 two years ago. The publication also goes to about 1,500 people off campus, up from about 500 two years ago. Cole also introduced the new online version of the YSUpdate, called the eUpdate. He invited board members and others to subscribe to the online version.

Ulbricht also reviewed progress in improving the university Web site, including a new Web page designed specifically for prospective students in Western Pennsylvania. Sweet complimented the marketing and communications staff "for all of their good work."

- Gary Sexton, director of WYSU-FM 88.5, reported that the station received a \$98,500 Audience Service Challenge Grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. With WYSU's match, the grant totals \$116,500. He also reported that the station's fall fund drive raised a record \$93,850 from 1,000 donors. That's a 5 percent increase from the amount raised in the spring fund drive. Sexton thanked his staff and community volunteers for their hard work. "The environment for fund-raising is difficult," and WYSU should be commended, Sweet said.
- McCloud reported that the board of PBS Channels 45/49 met recently, chaired by Sweet. The board voted to extend Sweet's chairmanship and to form a bylaws committee, chaired by McCloud. Trustee Wang said that by viewing Channels 45/49, it is not readily apparent that YSU is involved with the station. Sweet noted that he was pleased with the station's coverage of the Youngstown 2010 plan. Trustee Garg asked if YSU provides funding to the station. McCloud said no.
- McCloud reported that the Lariccia family is funding a sculpture of Howard Jones, YSU's first president. The project will be similar to the Lariccia-funded sculpture of Coach Dom Rosselli. A panel has been named to conduct a national search for an artist. The sculpture should be finished and dedicated during YSU's bicentennial year in 2008. "We thank the Lariccia family for its continued support of this university," McCloud said.
- The board also received background material on the Friend of the University award and the Distinguished Citizen Award.

## **Academic and Student Affairs Committee, Sept. 8**

*Millicent S. Counts, chair*

*Sudershan K. Garg, vice chair*

- Tom Maraffa, special assistant to the president, reported on enrollment. He said fall enrollment dropped 2.2 percent this year to 12,812. He said the university is maintaining its target enrollment of 14,000 by fall 2008. The goal is ambitious but attainable, he said. To stay on track, the university's target enrollment for fall 2006 would have to be 13,551, a 5.6 percent increase. He said there are many positive indicators for enrollment next fall, including enhanced scholarship offerings, new academic programs and projected increases in local high school graduation classes. The number of high school graduates in Mahoning, Trumbull and Columbiana counties is projected to increase from 6,772 last spring to 7,181 in spring 2006 and 7,555 in spring 2007. "The pool in the immediate area will grow in the next couple of years, and we hope to capitalize on that," Maraffa said.
- Cyndy Anderson, vice president for student affairs, provided the committee with a report updating activities at the new Andrews Student Recreation and Wellness Center. She reported that 60 percent of freshmen students have visited the center at least once this semester. "It is being used consistently throughout the day...and it is one of the glorious points that we showcase on our campus tours," she said. Trustee Bresnahan said he and others had received a letter in which the writer was concerned about use of the rec center by faculty. Sweet said

that the number of faculty using the center is minimal, and he noted that faculty and other employees pay a fee to use the center. Trustee Bresnahan said from a capacity standpoint, the use of the rec center by faculty and other employees appears not to be a problem.

- Maraffa reported that an audit of YSU scholarship funds revealed that the Fedor Scholarship Fund is not being used. The endowment fund has a \$518,872 value with \$185,000 available for distribution. Maraffa said the university proposes to use the money to fund needs-based scholarships.
- Anderson reported on two recent student surveys.

The university randomly sampled 209 of the 1,100 prospective students who were accepted to attend YSU this fall semester but did not enroll. Anderson said that the percentage of students who are accepted and do not enroll is actually lower than other universities in the state, so the number is not alarming. She said one of the reasons why the number of such students is up is because students can now more easily apply online. The survey showed that the major reasons students did not enroll at YSU include: they decided to go to another school, scholarship offers, the size of YSU, cost and location. She said 22 percent of students expressed interest in attending YSU in the future. "I don't think we got any surprises here," she said about the survey. Trustee Wang asked if the university can conclude anything from this survey. Anderson said more study is needed. She said the survey showed that YSU is on the "radar screen" of students. She said a key part of recruiting is getting students and parents on campus. "We're very proud of what we have as soon as students and their parents get on campus," she said.

The university also conducted a comprehensive image survey of high school seniors and their parents. Maraffa said the survey revealed that Kent State University, the University of Akron and Ohio State University are YSU's major competitors. Respondents gave YSU high marks for value/cost, availability of majors and campus/academic facilities. Respondents had a negative perception of YSU for the community of Youngstown and the ability/quality of students who attend YSU. Maraffa said the university needs to continue to market the university's positive points and needs to work to correct the perception of the ability/quality of YSU students. The negative perceptions toward the Youngstown community is more difficult. He said there are some positive developments in the community, such as improvements in the downtown area and the new convocation center.

- Ron Chordas, associate provost for academic administration, updated the committee on the Youngstown Early College, a high school in Fedor Hall operated jointly by YSU and the Youngstown City School District. Chordas noted that YEC opened in fall 2004 with 75 high school freshmen students, and 70 completed the year. Forty-three of the students completed 75 semester hours of college work the first year, earning a cumulative 2.9 grade average. There were no failures, Chordas reported. Fifty-five of the 70 students have returned this academic year, in addition to 66 new freshmen, for a total of 121 students. Chordas also reviewed financial information for the school. He said it is important for the school district to increase recruitment efforts. He said the school "is the opportunity of a lifetime, and we need to get the word out better." He also said the school has become a national model for school district/university partnerships, noting that a group of educators from North Carolina visited the school recently. Chordas said that he initially was not an advocate for the school and that he had reservations about funding and other matters. "They're beginning to change my mind," he said.

Trustee Counts asked if YSU will assist the city school district in developing improved recruitment efforts. Provost Herbert said that YSU would be in an advisory role in terms of recruitment. He said a meeting is planned with city school officials, at which time YSU will offer any help it can. Trustee Schulick asked why the enrollment of the inaugural class dropped from 70 to 55. Chordas said part of it is the rigor of the school's curriculum. Herbert said there needs to be more in-depth study on why students did not return this year. Schulick noted that the school originally proposed enrolling 100 students per class. That is now down to 55, he said. "If this trend continues, this obviously isn't working the way we



wanted,” he said. Herbert said the city school district needs to look at what private schools do for recruitment and retention and apply those techniques to YEC. Trustee Bresnahan asked if the city school district is committed to continuing its financial support of the YEC. Sweet said he has sent a letter to Youngstown schools Superintendent Wendy Webb asking that and other questions. Trustee Pogue noted that the board’s resolution approving the formation of the YEC included an amendment concerning the financial viability of the school. Sweet said a detailed financial breakdown of the school will be provided to the board in March. Trustee Wang said continued monitoring of the school is needed. “I think it’s still too early to say if this program is good or bad,” he said.

- Jane Kestner, associate dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, updated the board on the new bachelor of general studies degree, which she said has been an “incredibly successful endeavor.” She said nearly 400 people have inquired about the program since May 2005 from places as far away as Nevada, Texas and Florida. The first graduates of the program will receive their degrees at the December commencement, she said. The program is aimed at helping students, especially those who have earned several credits but did not graduate, complete their degrees. She said the program gives YSU the chance to welcome back students who may have left the university with bad feelings or a sense of frustration. She said a Web site has been developed for the degree and that billboard advertising – especially on Interstate 680 - has helped publicize the program. “People have been calling from their cell phones on 680” to ask about the program, she said. The degree is a “cost free program” that required adding only two new courses and no additional faculty, she said.

Trustee Bresnahan said the degree is very beneficial program, but he said that down the road he wants to make sure that the program remains a “real degree” and not just a “shortcut to a diploma.” Kestner said the degree is not a shortcut and that students in the program must complete the same general education requirements as other students. But she added, “That’s very much a concern of mine, too.” Trustee Schulick also said he thought it was an excellent program. But, he noted that the recent YSU image survey revealed that prospective students and their parents perceive the quality of YSU students to be low, and he questioned how the general studies degree would only serve to bolster that image. Kestner said that general studies programs are very common. More than 280 universities nationwide have such programs and most have had them for decades, she said.

- The board received background materials on several items, including an update on grant activity on campus. That report showed that faculty and staff submitted 48 grant proposals for \$3.18 million in the first quarter of fiscal year 2006, compared to 37 proposals for \$5.57 million in the first quarter of fiscal year 2005. Thirteen grants amounting to \$513,436 were funded, down from 29 grants for \$1.79 million in the same quarter last year.
- Other background material included updates on current accreditation activity and academic program developments. YSU’s Graduate Curriculum Committee recently approved two proposed programs – a doctorate of physical therapy and a master of arts in art. The programs will enter the initial internal approval process before being submitted to the Ohio Board of Regents Advisory Committee on Graduate Study. The committee also was given the program that was used at the Eighth Annual Research Recognition Luncheon.

Trustee Schulick asked for an update on YSU’s North Central Association accreditation and the new pharmacy program at the Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine. Bege Bowers, associate provost, said three individuals have been named to coordinate YSU’s self-study for the NCA accreditation process: herself; Jan Elias, professor of human ecology; and Sharon Stringer, professor of psychology. She said the coordinators will set up the framework for the study. Research for the study will begin in spring semester 2006, and five criteria committees will be formed. The self study is due in fall 2007, followed by an NCA site visit in February 2008. Sweet reported the doctorate program in pharmacy at NEOUCOM has been approved by the Board of Regents and that YSU is among four universities partnering with the medical school.