

## **YSU Budget Advisory Council**

Meeting minutes – January 22, 2018

10:00 a.m. – Kilcawley Center, Esterly Room

Members in attendance: Dr. Jeffrey Coldren, Carly Devenburgh, Dr. Charles Howell, Dr. Bruce Keillor, Dr. Ken Learman, Dr. Tomi Ovaska, Amy Gordon, Eddie Howard, Lisa Mudryk, Elaine Jacobs, Rayann Atway, Ernie Barkett, Len Schiavone (by phone), Neal McNally.

Members absent: Ted Roberts, Dr. Martin Abraham, Connie Augustine-Thompson, Dr. Jeff Tyus, Dr. Thomas Wakefield.

- 1) The meeting convened at 10:02 a.m. The minutes from the 12/12/17 meeting, which had been distributed prior to today's meeting, were accepted as final without changes.
- 2) The Council reviewed a [document](#) that describes YSU's budgeting process that includes information about the Budget Advisory Council's role, fund-based budgeting, procedures related to budget development, strategic budgeting, and management and administration of the budget.
- 3) A report [URL will be inserted] on FY 2018 personnel-related investments was distributed as an information item. Year-to-date, investments made in YSU's existing workforce amount to \$1.2 million in wages, including the faculty OEA agreement, and the \$500 increase for university management that became effective on January 1, 2018. The report also includes costs associated with various staff reclassifications that are routine and which are the result of position audits (performed by Human Resources) that require changes in job descriptions due to departmental/divisional/college re-organizations and/or because employees have assumed additional duties. It was noted that year-to-date, 92% of the personnel investments have been in the academic affairs division, underscoring the university's prioritization of the academic enterprise. These workforce investments are also consistent with the feedback received at last year's town hall meetings hosted by President Tressel; employee compensation was cited as the overwhelming priority by members of the campus community who attended those meetings. This report will be updated after labor negotiations are concluded between the university and the ACE union.
- 4) The Council reviewed the proposal from Mike Hripko, which seeks \$217,000 be allocated to the Research Office to support that office's operations as well as to provide funding for university research challenge grants. Mr. Hripko first briefed the Council on this request in December but subsequently submitted a proposal using the Council's prescribed template. Although proposals are not due until February 1<sup>st</sup>, Provost Abraham had asked that this proposal be considered in an expedited manner. After

some discussion, there was consensus to support Mr. Hripko's request, especially since the funds originated from indirect cost recoveries related to research activity but which were unspent and leftover from the prior fiscal year. The Council further felt that given the unique nature of these dollars, as well as the Research Office's reliance on these funds for critical operations, these dollars should be segregated going forward, thereby allowing the Research Office to automatically retain funds derived from indirect cost recoveries. This recommendation will be sent to the President for consideration.

- 5) A follow up discussion on graduate assistantships was tabled due to Provost Abraham's absence. There was a related discussion about the university's overall discount rate, of which graduate assistantships is one variable. Neal McNally noted that some other Ohio universities have reported financial difficulties directly as a result of having excessively discounted tuition as a means of attracting students. Too much tuition discounting can cause an institution to begin losing net revenue on a per student FTE basis, which of course is unsustainable. Given the competitive nature of higher education, tuition discounting is an essential tool needed to attract, recruit and retain students. The key, however, is to balance the need to discount tuition with the need to generate net tuition revenue to support overall university operations.

Mr. McNally mentioned that each state college and university in Ohio must enter into a "regional compact" by June 30, 2018 (pursuant to Ohio Revised Code §3345.59). In the northeast Ohio region, YSU has been involved in discussions with Cleveland State, the University of Akron, Kent State and NEOMED to identify opportunities for academic and administrative collaborations that might naturally result from a regional compact. Ken Learman suggested that there may be opportunities for further collaboration with NEOMED regarding healthcare-related program offerings. Amy Gordon said that a regional compact might work for some administrative functions but not for others that entail customer service, such as information technology services. Trustee Schiavone mentioned his experience on the board at Mercy Health, which recently underwent a similar exercise to centralize Mercy's regional markets to its headquarters in Cincinnati. Mr. Schiavone said that this resulted in some loss of autonomy among Mercy's hospitals.

- 6) The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.