

YSU Budget Advisory Council

Meeting minutes – March 20, 2018
4:00 p.m. – Kilcawley Center, Pollock Room

Members in attendance: Dr. Martin Abraham, Ted Roberts, Carly Devenburgh, Dr. Bruce Keillor, Dr. Thomas Wakefield, Amy Gordon, Eddie Howard, Lisa Mudryk, Elaine Jacobs, Rayann Atway, Ernie Barkett, Dr. Jeff Tyus, Dr. Charles Howell, Dr. Ken Learman, Dr. Tomi Ovaska Neal McNally.

Members absent: Len Schiavone, Dr. Jeffrey Coldren, Connie Augustine-Thompson.

- 1) The meeting convened at 4:02 p.m. The minutes from the 2/19/18 meeting, which had been distributed prior to today's meeting, were accepted as final without changes.
- 2) Neal McNally presented a summary financial report comparing budgeted revenues and expenses to actual revenues and expenses for the 6-month period that ended on December 31, 2017. Year-to-date, revenues are tracking on target and as planned. Despite tuition and fee income being below budget, overall revenues are on target as a result of above-budget income in other categories, namely investment income. Expenses are also on budget in most categories with the exception of scholarship spending, which is 136% of budget. This appears to be an outcome of YSU having enrolled a greater proportion of academically-prepared students who are eligible for merit-based aid, which is driving an increase in the University's Scholarships for Excellence spending. This also suggests that YSU's tuition discount rate is likely to again increase this year. Mr. McNally said that an analysis is underway to determine how much of the current year's scholarship spending might be a temporary adjustment vs. a more structural change to the University's budget. Should YSU's scholarship spending continue to increase at this rate, it will become even more challenging to invest elsewhere. It was also noted that given the competitive nature of higher education today, YSU must continue to offer attractive scholarship packages in order to compete in the marketplace of students.

Jeff Tyus noted some creative student recruitment efforts being employed by other universities, such as sending a university's marching band to prospective students' homes or high schools.

- 3) The Council turned its attention to the strategic investment proposals received from the campus community, in response to the Council's December 2017 call for proposals. Each Council member had individually evaluated the proposals prior to today's meeting. In an effort to gauge Council support for each proposal, Amy Gordon led the discussion. There was some discussion as to whether some of the proposals might be

impactful with partial funding. There was also some discussion as to whether alternative funding sources, such as course or college fees, could be used to support some of the proposals emanating from the academic sector. In the end, nine (9) proposals were recommended by the group for further consideration. These projects include:

- Admissions First Impression / Sweeny Hall
- Digital Humanities Center
- Fok Hall Maintenance
- Immersive Visualization
- IT Caching for Content
- Maag Study Area Furniture
- Pete's Treats Grocery Store
- Police Radio System Upgrade
- Rec Center / Club Sports Equipment

The submitter(s) of each proposal will be invited to attend subsequent Council meeting(s) to elaborate on their project. A tenth project—SGA's \$7,352 Water Bottle Refill Stations—was also recommended but will instead be funded by the VP for Finance's share of recovered indirect costs, per Neal McNally.

- 4) Eddie Howard briefed the Council on YSU's plans for a new student health center, which would be operated by Mercy Health and would be located at the Enclave Student Housing development on Lincoln Avenue. The Student Government Association has endorsed a student referendum that, if approved by student voters, would establish a \$34 per semester student fee. Without this fee, the new student health center is not feasible. Mr. Howard explained that, if approved, the new student health center would likely open spring semester 2019, and would be open 5-6 days a week with expanded hours, and would provide a full-time physician, as well as psychiatric services. All basic health services would be covered by the \$34 student fee. YSU employees would also have access to the health center but would be charged for services (Mercy accepts YSU's health insurance).
- 5) The meeting adjourned at 5:06 p.m.