

YSU Budget Advisory Council

Meeting minutes – April 30, 2018

2:00 p.m. – Kilcawley Center, Pollock Room

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

Members absent: Amy Gordon, Dr. Tomi Ovaska, Dr. Ken Learman, Dr. Jeffrey Coldren, Len Schiavone, Connie Augustine-Thompson.

- 1) The meeting convened at 2:00 p.m. Review and approval of the minutes from the 4/27/18 meeting were not ready and deferred until a future meeting.
- 2) The Council discussed and recapped the nine budget hearings that had been hosted during the month of April. A consensus was formed among the Council, leading to the following recommendations:
 - a) Admissions First Impression / Sweeney Hall: Fully fund the proposal at the requested amount of \$54,625. The Council noted that this funding amount is not likely to accomplish all of the renovations outlined in the proposal since it appeared that some of the cost estimates may have been low. However, the Council agreed that improvements to Sweeney Hall are needed and that the requested funding amount could serve as seed-funding for a larger renovation project in the future.
 - b) Digital Humanities Center: Fully fund the proposal at the requested amount of \$100,000.
 - c) Fok Hall Maintenance: The Council recommended that this project not be funded with Strategic Investment funds. Recognizing the importance of this proposal, however, the Council recommended other funding sources be used for building improvements.
 - d) Immersive Visualization: Fully fund the proposal at the requested amount of \$89,513.
 - e) IT Caching for Content: Fully fund the proposal at the requested amount of \$40,000.
 - f) Maag Study Area Furniture: Fully fund the proposal at the requested amount of \$115,673.
 - g) Pete's Treats Grocery Store: Partially fund the request up to \$25,000. Rayann Atway said that Ted Roberts had introduced her a local Sparkle Market owner who agreed to donate four freezers and shelving to help jumpstart this project.

- h) Police Radio System Upgrade: Partially fund the request up to \$180,000 to enable the YSU Police Department to install a new radio system that, due to funding limitations, may need to be scaled back but could still support key upgrades to the dispatch system and a select number of police cruisers.
- i) Rec Center / Club Sports Equipment: Partially fund the request up to \$44,000. Eddie Howard noted that the Rec Center had received revised cost estimates that lowered the cost, and that some aspects of the original proposal could be deferred.

Dr. Charlie Howell made a motion to approve these recommendations, which was unanimously endorsed by the Council members in attendance. If accepted by President Tressel, these recommendations would result in a combined distribution of \$648,811 in strategic investment funds that could be allocated and approved by the Board of Trustees as part of the FY 2019 budget, making funds available July 1, 2018. This recommended allocation would leave a residual reserve balance in the Strategic Initiatives fund of approximately \$109,000.

Elaine Jacobs asked about the status of the current year FY 2018 budget. Neal McNally responded that based on the most recent quarterly budget vs. actual report, which is an analysis of year-to-date revenues and expenses, the FY 2018 budget remains balanced. Despite a marginal shortfall in tuition and fee income, and above-budget scholarship spending, the overall general fund budget is tracking on-target, buoyed by favorable investment income and on-budget spending in all other categories. With just a couple of months left in the fiscal year, Mr. McNally stated that healthcare claims are the biggest budgetary variable that could significantly impact the university's fringe benefit budget. If necessary, the residual balance in the Strategic Initiative fund could serve as a hedge if FY 2018 revenues are insufficient to cover expenses at fiscal year-end.

- 3) The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:00 p.m.