

YSU Budget Advisory Council

Meeting minutes – October 11, 2019

11:00 a.m. – Kilcawley Center - Pollock Room 2039

Members in attendance: Dr. Charles Howell, Lisa Mudryk, Justin Shaughnessy, Dr. Gregg Sturru, Mr. Eddie Howard, Dr. Mohan Eunni, Dr. Brien Smith, Dr. Jeff Tyus, Elaine Jacobs, Dr. Thomas Wakefield, Carly Devenburgh, Dr. Jeffrey Coldren, Dr. Tomi Ovaska, Dr. Mike Sherman, Neal McNally.

Members absent: Dr. Sara Michaliszyn, Caroline Smith.

1. The meeting convened at 11:02 a.m. An updated membership roster was distributed and the council welcomed its newest members in attendance: Provost Brien Smith and Dr. Mohan Eunni, Professor and Chair of the Management Department. Neal McNally stated that Brittany Bowyer would continue coordinating and scheduling meetings with the goal of maximizing attendance and participation among council members.
2. A draft of YSU's six-year capital plan was distributed; Neal McNally stated that the Governor's Office of Budget & Management (OBM) solicits plan updates every two years from state entities, like YSU, in order to inform decisions in Columbus related to the state capital budget. Although the state has not yet provided control totals, YSU can reasonably expect to receive between \$10 million and \$12 million in state capital funding for the next 2-year capital biennium, which commences July 1, 2020. Emphasizing that the list of projects on the handout was merely a draft that may be revised prior to submission to OBM, Mr. McNally stated that state capital dollars are funded by the state of Ohio issuing 25- or 30-year bonds, and that state capital appropriations for higher education may only be used to renovate and maintain *existing* educational and general space. State capital funds may not be used for new construction, generally speaking, and cannot be used for operating purposes, such as payroll. It was also noted that YSU's expected capital allocation of \$10-\$12 million would address only a small portion of the University's deferred maintenance backlog, which has an estimated price tag of at least \$200 million. Nevertheless, council members were asked to review the draft list of capital projects and to solicit input from their constituencies, and to provide feedback to Neal by October 25th.
3. Neal McNally presented an overview of the university's FY 2020 operating budget. The content of this presentation is available [online](#), and summarizes YSU's general fund revenues and expenses, and identifies a number of challenges facing YSU in the

near-term, including a 3.6% decline in FTE student enrollments this fall that has resulted in a negative revenue variance of approximately \$4 million, which has intensified the need to strategically reallocate unrestricted operating funds, regardless of source and irrespective of perceptions among financial managers about who “owns” certain budgets. The discussion also touched upon some of the University’s longer-term challenges like ongoing demographic changes and population declines facing the region, as well as an increasingly crowded and competitive higher education market.

4. Dr. Mike Sherman provided an update on the strategic planning process, noting that the Board of Trustees is expected to take action on the University’s next strategic plan in June 2020. Dr. Sherman distributed a handout illustrating a framework for institutional effectiveness. This document is available [online](#) and seeks to provide a framework for how to optimize the use of limited resources to achieve defined institutional goals.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:15 p.m.