

## YSU Budget Advisory Council

Meeting Minutes –March 28, 2019

3:00 p.m. – Kilcawley Center - Esterly Room 2069

Members in attendance: Dr. Charles Howell, Carly Devenburgh, Dr. Jeffrey Coldren, Lisa Mudryk, , Ernie Barkett, Dr. Gregg Sturuss, Mr. Eddie Howard, Dr. Joe Mosca, Dr. Tomi Ovaska, Dr. Bruce Keillor, Dr. Jeff Tyus, Dr. John Jakubek, Neal McNally.

Members absent: Caroline Smith, Elaine Jacobs, Dr. Thomas Wakefield.

Guests: Joy Polkabila-Byers, Director of the Andrews Student Wellness & Recreational Center; and Dr. Mike Sherman, Special Assistant to the President for Institutional Effectiveness & Strategic Planning.

The meeting convened at 3:05 p.m.

1. Joy Polkabila-Byers provided an update on the Campus Rec & Club Sports [proposal](#) for which \$44,000 in funding was recommended last year by the Budget Advisory Council and approved by President Tressel. Ms. Byers explained how the investment in Club Sports programming, in particular, is part of the University's overall enrollment strategy in that the availability of club sports activities has proven to be an effective tool vis-à-vis student recruitment and which has helped enhance student experience.

On a separate but relevant topic, Ms. Byers was asked about the Rec Center's request for a new full-time staff position that, if approved, would focus on increasing the number of non-student memberships at the Rec Center. Aside from the budgetary issue, there exists a philosophical question regarding the Rec Center's main mission as a student-focused center, and whether it makes sense to expand Rec Center membership to non-students and who may not be affiliated with YSU in any formal way. Ms. Byers addressed the budgetary concern, noting that the new position will be largely funded by reallocating budget dollars previously used for a graduate assistantship; and by revenue generated by new memberships. On the philosophical question, Ms. Byers said that memberships available to individuals not enrolled as students and not employed by YSU would be limited, capped and managed so as not to compromise the Rec Center's primary function as a student center.

2. Dr. Mike Sherman shared with the group a [resolution](#) adopted by the YSU Board of Trustees on March 7, 2019, and which among other things requires that the University's annual operating budget be aligned with the priorities to be delineated in the new YSU Strategic Plan. Dr. Jeffery Coldren stated that the strategic planning process has created some anxiety and nervousness among the campus community because there exists an inference that there will be winners and losers. Dr. Coldren said that the economic realities facing the University will require some difficult decisions that could have disparate impact on various campus constituencies. Dr. Sherman agreed and stated that incoming provost, Dr. Brien Smith, will be deeply involved in the planning process. Dr. John Jakubek noted the importance of using accurate data to help drive the next strategic plan. Dr. Coldren agreed, noting that there exists lots of useful data within Banner and Blackboard, for example, which can be better utilized to illuminate decision-making. Dr. Coldren also suggested that the Administration should dispel any conspiracy theories that may exist concerning the goals of the strategic planning process. Dr. Sherman said that a preliminary strategic plan is scheduled to be completed for review and consideration by the Board of Trustees in December 2019, with formal adoption of the new plan in the spring of 2020. Dr. Tomi Ovaska asked whether departmental consolidation in the College of Liberal Arts & Social Sciences would be considered as part of the planning process. Dr. Sherman responded affirmatively, stating that such things would be reviewed.

Dr. Sherman also shared with the group a report from the Ohio Department of Higher Education illustrating that YSU is one of only three (3) state universities in Ohio that experienced enrollment growth and stability between 2016 and 2018.

3. The meeting adjourned at approximately 4:25 p.m.