



**YOUNGSTOWN
STATE
UNIVERSITY**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND STUDENT SUCCESS COMMITTEE**

James E. “Ted” Roberts, Chair

Allen R. Ryan, Vice Chair

All Trustees are Members

Wednesday, June 2, 2021

11:30 a.m., or immediately following previous meeting

Chestnut Room

Kilcawley Center

AGENDA

A. Disposition of Minutes for Meetings Held March 3, 2021

B. Old Business

C. Committee Items

1. Academic Excellence and Student Success Consent Agenda Items*

C.1.a. = Tab 1 *a. Resolution to Modify 3356-8-03, Student Residence Status for Tuition Purposes
Elaine Ruse, Associate Vice President, Student Enrollment and Business Services, will report.

C.1.b. = Tab 2 *b. Resolution to Modify 3356-8-01, Authority to Establish and Enforce a Student Code of Conduct
Nicole Kent-Strollo, Dean of Students, will report.

C.1.c. = Tab 3 *c. Resolution to Modify 3356-7-24, Recognition, Publication, and Support of Employee Degrees
Brien N. Smith, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, will report.

2. Academic Excellence and Student Success Action Items

C.2.a. = Tab 4 a. Resolution to Approve List of Candidates to be Considered for Honorary Degrees
Brien N. Smith, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Chester R. Cooper, Jr., Chairperson, Academic Senate, will report. Policy Number 3356-10-05, Honorary degrees and commencement speakers, is attached for your information.

*Items listed under Consent Agenda require Board approval; however, they may be presented without discussion as these items include only non-substantive changes.

- C.2.b. = Tab 5 b. Resolution to Modify 3356-8-01.1, “The Student Code of Conduct”**
Nicole Kent-Strollo, Dean of Students, will report.

3. Academic Excellence and Student Success Discussion Items

- C.3.a. = Tab 6 a. Fall 2021 Enrollment Update**
Elaine Ruse, Associate Vice President, Student Enrollment and Business Services,
Brien N. Smith, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, Mike Sherman, Vice
President for Institutional Effectiveness and Board Professional, Claire Berardini, Associate
Provost for Student Success, and Shannon Tirone, Associate Vice President, University
Relations, will report.

- C.3.b. = Tab 7 b. Academic Senate Update**
Chester R. Cooper, Jr., Chairperson, Academic Senate, will report.

D. New Business

E. Adjournment

*Items listed under Consent Agenda require Board approval; however, they may be presented without discussion as these items include only non-substantive changes.

Update on Academic Senate Actions – June 2, 2021

During the 2020-2021 academic year, the Academic Senate initially met in September and October 2020 using a hybrid approach (in-person attendance and video streaming). However, increasing concerns and restrictions pertaining to the coronavirus pandemic caused all subsequent meetings to take place virtually. Nonetheless, attendance of these virtual meetings by both Senators and non-senators far exceeded expectations. This sizeable mixture of individuals significantly contributed to the richness of the discussions and provided a venue for greater shared governance. Moreover, the Senate considered and acted upon a number of matters that were of noteworthy benefit to our students and the academic environment. The following briefly summarizes just a few of the more meaningful actions taken by the Senate during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Bylaws. The Senate considered and approved revisions to its bylaws, which were last updated in early 2020. These changes, which should make the work of the Senate more efficient, were necessitated by a variety of factors including the re-organization of academic units in mid-2020. A copy of the revised bylaws is attached for the Board's information.

Common Syllabus. In collaboration with the Institute of Teaching and Learning, the Academic Senate approved the use of a common syllabus for all courses at YSU. As developed by the Institute, the common syllabus contains a series of required items that must be included in syllabi, as well as several recommended items. By implementing these elements, students will have a greater and clearer understanding of the instructor's expectations and course requirements, as well as information that shall help guide them during their YSU experience. A fuller description of the Common Syllabus and its components can be found at the following URL: <https://ysu.edu/institute-teaching-and-learning/ysu-common-syllabus>.

Curricular and Programmatic Actions. A key responsibility of the faculty via the Academic Senate is the development of new curricula and programs to fit the needs of our students and the larger community, as well as to decommission those academic courses and programs that are no longer needed or relevant. Such actions make our various programs more attractive to students and reactive to changes in the community environment. To this end, the University Curriculum Committee processed 196 new courses or revisions to existing courses, as well as deleted 26 more. The Academic Programs Committee processed the addition of 27 programs and the elimination of 13 more.

Extension of Credit/No Credit Policy. Given the continued stresses associated with educational experiences in the midst of a pandemic, the Senate agreed to extend the previous credit/no credit policy through the Spring 2021 semester. Students have a limited window of opportunity to change to this grading option following the posting of grades, but only after appropriate consultation with an academic advisor.

Test Optional Admissions. The Senate agreed to continue a "test optional" admissions standard through Spring 2023. This policy will help facilitate the application process for students seeking admission to YSU, but who were unable to take the SAT or ACT examinations due to the current coronavirus pandemic.

Academic Catalog. The YSU catalog serves as a key resource for all university courses, programs, and policies. It can be YSU's first opportunity to impress prospective students and their parents, as well as provide academic and policy guidance to current students, faculty, and

staff. Hence, it is critical that the catalog contain up-to-date and relevant information to be an effective tool for all to use. To ensure this, the Senate established yearly deadlines by which academic information and policy matters must be submitted. As a result, curricular and programmatic decisions were completed in a more-timely manner. In addition, the Senate established a Curriculum Services Team to review submissions to ensure their accuracy.

Honorary Degree Nominees. The Academic Events Committee finalized a list of nominees for the Board to consider when awarding an honorary degree during the upcoming academic year. Without objection, the Senate approved this list which contains the names of notable YSU alumni. This list is included in the Board materials.

Facilitating Degree Attainment. The Senate took a number of actions to help students more readily progress towards their chosen degree without sacrificing academic quality. A few of these actions include:

- Permitting courses which fill requirements of both a major and a minor to now be counted towards the completion of both the major and the minor.
- Establishment of a “restricted minor” which is an intellectual venture of 12-19 hours that includes courses whose pre-requisites that are assumed to have been completed as part of the student’s major program of study.
- Eliminating the absolute requirement of prerequisites for 3700- and 4800-level courses with the proviso that faculty who teach in a program have autonomy to retain, add, or remove prerequisites to support academic rigor needed for their courses.

General Education. It is anticipated that due to changes coming from the Ohio Department of Higher Education, adjustments shall be required to YSU’s current general education model. Undoubtedly, this will be a major effort over the next academic year. A summary of the present state of general education and potential changes is not possible here. However, a long (1.5 hours) and detailed, yet highly informative video recording presented by YSU’s Director of General Education is available at the following URL:

<https://web.microsoftstream.com/video/ea621dfa-1398-44cb-a000-0cdab598fce0>.

Resolutions of Appreciation. Many wonderful and dedicated people comprise the membership of the Academic Senate, including students, faculty, and administrators. More so, these persons and others populate the Senate’s various committees which are the actual units that propose, deliberate, and recommend actions for the body to consider. These people, and those who work behind the scenes, help facilitate the mission of the Senate and its success.

The Senate has recognized two retiring faculty members and one retiring key staff person whose contributions have helped shepherd the body’s work over the past decades. As directed the Senate, the resolutions honoring these special individuals are attached to this Board update. The Senate is most appreciative and honored by the selfless service of the following persons:

- Dr. Bill Buckler, Associate Professor of Geography
- Dr. Gary Walker, Professor of Biological Sciences
- Ms. Jodi Clowes, Executive Assistant to the Provost, Office of Academic Affairs