Labor-Management Council Minutes

Meeting Date: May 12, 2015

Bresnahan III, Kilcawley Center

**In Attendance:** Dr. Martin Abraham, Interim Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs and Council Co-Chair; Allan Boggs, Director of Labor Relations; Dr. Annette Burden, Council Co-Chair (OEA); Dr. Jef Davis, Director, Center for International Studies and Programs; Dr. Mary Lou DiPillo, Associate Dean, BCOE; Ms. Connie Frisby, President of ACE; Lonnie Gentry, ACE; John Hyden, Executive Director of Facilities; Neal McNally, Interim Vice President, Finance and Administration; Michael Slavens, President, Student Government; Dr. Stephanie Smith, Director of Faculty Relations; Mr. Gary Swegan, Associate Vice President, Enrollment Planning and Management; and Jodi Clowes, Office of the Provost (recorder).

No members from APAS were in attendance. Therefore, a quorum was not present. The group chose to review the agenda items for updates.

**Check-In Updates**

**University Trainings -** Dr. Burden reported she attended both the Deescalating Violence and the A.L.I.C.E. trainings. She said she was disappointed dissatisfied with the Deescalating Violence training, as it was not what she thought it would be, and communicated those comments on the workshop evaluation form. She spoke highly of the A.L.I.C.E. training and noted there was no evaluation form for that program. She noted all employees would benefit from A.L.I.C.E. training.

**Budget Update**

Mr. McNally stated the current fiscal year started with a $10 million estimated deficit.  Because of expense reductions and vacant positions being eliminated, and there is a current $5 million structural deficit for next fiscal year.  The state budget is facing challenges.  Originally, the governor proposed a tuition cap of $193/year.  The House approved a tuition cap of $200 over the biennium.  The State Senate reduced the cap to $0. There is some expectation that state funding for higher education will be increased, in exchange for prohibiting a tuition increase. But until the budget bill makes its way through the House-Senate conference committee, there will continue to be uncertainty.    This creates uncertainty at the University level, because tuition and state funding are two of the biggest variables in terms of revenue planning.  The start of FY 2016 is in better shape than last year.  YSU has reduced the deficit by one-half in FY 2015 and plans to correct one-half next year.  In Columbus, June 30 is the budget deadline for the governor.

**Enrollment Update**

Mr. Swegan reported the enrollment report is growing larger as more registration sessions are complete. YSU is up 3,365 in freshman applications. The true barometer will be how many students from these applications complete registrations. Mr. Swegan also reported:

* Freshman FAFSA admissions have been a good prediction of freshman registration in the past. If you look at that, YSU will meet, if not exceed, its goal of 2,100 freshmen.
* Freshmen registrations are up 217 students as of the May 5 SOAR. A SOAR date was added on Saturday, May 30, and it is full. The June 9 and 10 SOAR dates are completely full. There are a few spaces left in the June 16, 17, and 20 dates.
* The Honors College registrations are down by three students vs. census day last year, but there are 130 students registered, or registered for SOAR, which would be an increase of over 30% in honors students. It was noted YSU is re-engineering its Honors College.
* The average GPA and ACT scores are higher, likely making this YSU’s best freshmen class.
* YSU has allowed students to submit an application for admission and pay their application fee at a later date. We should receive the application fee from approximately 2/3 of the students who applied. If a student has not paid their application when they enroll for classes, it can simply be billed at that time.
* The Associate Vice President for Student Experience will be living in the Courtyard Apartments. Dr. Smith asked how long the Associate Vice President would reside there. Mr. Swegan stated he will reside there up to one year.
* The number of students renewing housing is at 310, up from the last two years, but close to the five-year average. Mr. Swegan did not have an update on the number of students renewing housing at the Courtyard Apartments. This combined with paid freshman applications should put YSU campus housing at the maximum 870 mark. Dr. Abraham asked what would happen if we have more applications for housing than accommodations. Mr. Swegan reported apartments are available at the Flats at Wick and Erie Terminal.
* Dr. Smith announced that Leslie Brothers, Director of the McDonough Museum, has offered to allow the University to utilize the space at the McDonough Museum to be used for recruitment activities. She noted that some renovation work will be done at the museum during the summer, but if the space is available and is needed, to contact Ms. Brothers.
* Dr. Davis asked: At what point does enrollment cancel deficit? Mr. Swegan noted that each percent above each successive class lowers the deficit, but there are many other factors involved. Mr. McNally stated we will be spending more money in scholarships. The increase is relative and the growth in revenue may be negated. Mr. Swegan stated there are now only eight full-ride slots. There are 30 percent more scholar students. Much of the funding has been absorbed by the non-spending in the scholars program. Dr. Abraham noted that we are getting a higher quality of students in the graduate programs as well. Mr. McNally stated we will know in September the effect on the revenue. At this time, only estimates can be made. Mr. Swegan said YSU’s first priority is getting students in the door. Mr. McNally said overall, more students will reflect positively on the budget. Previously, it was stated that 1 percent of registration decline equated to $1 million of deficit. Mr. Swegan said with the continuing registrations scheduled, Fall 2015 from Fall 2014 may go up two percent.

**CISP Update**

Dr. Davis announced the first organizational meeting of the faculty international association was attended by 15 faculty representing six colleges. A follow-up organizational meeting will take place on Friday, May 15 from 11:00 – 12 noon. The agenda will cover how international faculty can support international students, positive steps for this, and how to reconfigure this group since its meetings in 2008. Ms. Frisby asked why the meeting is being scheduled so late in the semester. Many international faculty members will be leaving to go back to their countries/hometowns. Dr. Davis said the meeting will continue. Many international faculty will be traveling, but not for the whole summer.

Dr. Davis noted there is an increase of applications of international students, exceeding last year. Dr. Davis also noted the on-line undergraduate application has been tested. He is currently working with IT to see if we can report this information into Banner. Dr. Davis noted that faculty led study abroad recommendations will be forwarded to the Provost’s Office. There are currently five faculty members who have led/are leading study abroad programs. Dr. Smith stated she learned that many YSU students prefer faculty-led study abroad programs because the time frame is usually shorter (less than one semester, usually one month to six weeks), it is more affordable, and it is many times also preferred by the students’ families.

**Facilities Update**

Mr. Hyden reported a lot of construction and renovation work will be done on campus this summer. Most of the work will be renovations and deferred maintenance. Projects include:

* Elevator upgrades: Upgrades to make elevators more reliable and high tech. Elevators will be more user-friendly to operate. The Division of Industrial Compliance will shut down elevators not in compliance. Buildings that will have elevator repairs this year include DeBartolo, Ward Beecher, Moser, and Bliss Hall. Tod Hall and Maag Library will be done next summer.
* There will be three wind turbines erected behind Melnick Hall. The turbines are research projects and will be removed after the research is done.
* Restrooms will be renovated in Bliss Hall, Tod Hall, Ward Beecher, and Sweeney Hall to bring these up to ADA compliance. All buildings have accessible restrooms.
* A $1.5 million upgrade to the electric utility grid: In 2013, YSU experienced a one-day electrical shut down for maintenance issues. During that shut down, issues were found that need upgraded. The University has gone 20 years without major service to the electric grid. The date for the maintenance is not yet scheduled. It may include one full day without power and some smaller outages. There will be a focus on emergency generators. It is already known that Ward Beecher cannot be without power.
* $250,000 for concrete repairs to the campus.
* Roof repairs to Tod Hall, Moser Hall, and Fedor Halls.
* Parking deck repairs to M-1 and M-2. The decks will be closed by levels. Next year, the lighting in M-1 will be replaced.
* $700,000 Advanced Manufacturing Lab will be created in Moser Hall, making STEM more high tech. The State is supportive of this project.
* Basketball courts north of Kilcawley Center will be removed. The fence will be taken down, the grade will be blended, and a small, half-court basketball court will be erected.
* The exterior of Bliss Hall, Moser Hall, and Stambaugh Stadium will undergo masonry repairs. The repairs are necessary for building stability. We are late in starting these projects.
* Renovations of Melnick Hall. This will be the future home of WYSU-FM (second floor) and the YSU Foundation (first floor). Most of the work will be inside the building.
* YSU is in the process of a space utilization project. Stantec of Pittsburgh will start the project this summer and should complete the study by Thanksgiving. Stantec will be meeting with our constituents on campus. They will focus on the academics, but will look at everything. Currently, when a space opens up, everyone wants it. There is wasted space at YSU, and we need to understand where it is before we begin a master plan.
* Roadway projects will be completed by the city of Youngstown. On Lincoln Avenue, parking will be eliminated on the north side of the street. The street will be more pedestrian friendly; will have places to cross out. This project will begin summer of 2016.
* Wick Avenue will be renovated. This is a city of Youngstown project. Eventually the road will be replaced to have new sewer and water lines installed. Utility lines will go underground. The four lanes will go down to three. There will be a north lane, south lane, and turning lane. This should make for more comfortable driving when completed. There will be road closures and detours. This will take place while classes are in session. This project will start in the fall.
* Dr. DiPillo asked if there is anything planned for a crosswalk near the Beeghly College of Education. Mr. Hyden said no, but it is more possible for that to happen under the city’s current administration. Mr. Hyden further stated there are discussions to move the light from Elm Street to Hazel Street. Dr. DiPillo stated there are many accidents along Rayen and Fifth Avenues. Mr. Hyden said that area has been referred to as the “phone zone” because of the high use of texting and talking when people are driving in that area. Dr. Smith asked if signage could be erected to remind people to drive cautiously. Mr. Hyden was receptive to that idea.
* Mr. Slavens asked if there are any projects to remove the dangerous red bricks on University Plaza and Wick Avenue. When the bricks are wet or snow covered, they are very dangerous to walk on. Mr. Hyden said YSU is not contemplated replacing those bricks, but noted those types bricks will not be used in future projects.
* Mr. Slavens asked about the sewer smell on campus. Mr. Hyden explained the storm and sanitary sewers are combined, and during the summer, the smell is foul. This project cannot be done until the city separates the storm sewers and the sanitary sewers.

**Announcements**

Dr. Abraham announced commencement ceremonies will be held on Saturday, May 16, at 10:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Dr. Smith asked what happens if a student is graduating with two different degrees and qualifies for both ceremonies. Dr. Abraham told her the student is welcome to attend either ceremony or both if he/she chooses.

Dr. Abraham announced the next Labor Management Council meeting will be July 7, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. in the Cochran Room of Kilcawley Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m.