Labor-Management Council Minutes

Meeting Date: November 1, 2016

Cochran Room, Kilcawley Center

**In Attendance:** Dr. Martin Abraham, Provost and Vice President, Academic Affairs and Council Co-Chair; Dr. Annette Burden, Council Co-Chair (President, YSU-OEA); Dr. Mary Lou DiPillo (Faculty Relations); Ms. Connie Frisby, President of ACE; Neal McNally, Vice President, Finance and Business Operations; Tyler Miller-Gordon, Student Government President; Debbie Moy, ACE representative; Kevin Reynolds, Chief Human Resources Officer; Dr. AJ Sumell, Vice President, YSU-OEA; Lt. Shawn Varso, YSU-PD; Ed Villone, President of APAS; and Brittany Bowyer, Office of VP for Finance and Business Operations.

**Meeting Topics:**

**Construction Update** –Mr. McNally began by stating most projects across campus are funded by capital funds appropriated by the State of Ohio every two years. In general, the state restricts the use of capital funds for improvements and maintenance on existing buildings. State funds are generally not available for new construction. Consequently, most new construction is funded by debt bonds or donor gifts. The handout provided to the council and created by our Facilities department, lists a number of projects across campus that are supported by these capital funds. Mr. McNally said YSU received $11 million from Senate Bill 310 for the FY17-18 capital budget. In years prior, the state would let colleges keep unused funds to be rolled over into the next year. However, the state has now moved to a spend-it-or-lose-it policy, meaning any unspent capital dollars will be unavailable in future capital biennia. For this budget period YSU will need to spend the funds by June 2018 or give the unused funds back to Columbus. Dr. Burden asked if the handout would be provided online and Mr. McNally said yes, on the Board of Trustees’ website under Finance and Facilities Committee for December 2016.

He also mentioned the Wick and Lincoln avenues improvement project and the campus gateway projects that are being led by the City of Youngstown. Ms. Frisby thought YSU was contributing to the Wick and Lincoln project. Mr. McNally said YSU has set aside $800,000 for the project, which will probably be used for lighting fixtures along Wick Avenue. However, these funds have not been spent or otherwise transferred to the City.

Ms. Frisby mentioned her concern over the continual water line breaks due to the construction on Wick. These breaks have been causing the water to be shut off in Meshel hall for hours or most of the day. She said people had to go over to other buildings to use the restrooms. The other day she said the water was off to repair a broken line and once it was fixed the water department wouldn’t turn it on unless there was a maintenance crew on hand. Mr. Miller-Gordon stated the construction on Lincoln has been causing problems for students as they try to use the marked crosswalks that are constantly changing to go to Disability Services. He thought they should at least be ADA accessible. Mr. McNally replied that YSU’s Executive Director of Facilities, John Hyden, is the main point of contact for these concerns since Mr. Hyden has been in regular contact with City officials regarding these projects. He stated Associate Vice President, Eddie Howard, was creating a Kilcawley Center Space committee to determine a plan of action for the future use of the current bookstore space once the new standalone store is built. Mr. McNally said YSU’s Disability Services office has been identified for possible relocation to the current bookstore space. Mr. Villone mentioned the use of Security Services through the YSU-PD for golf cart transportation for those students with disabilities, as the department is usually aware of the newly changed crosswalks.

**Budget Update** – Mr. McNally said the good news is that YSU’s budget is balanced and that fall enrollment is 3.5% higher than last year, on an FTE basis. Although no modifications to the budget are planned as of right now, the budget model continues to evolve as a result of state mandates, namely the College Credit Plus program and the required increase in the tuition bulk rate. Both are good for the students, but the state reimbursement rate for CCP students is as low as $40 per credit, which is nearly $300 less than YSU’s regular tuition rate. In addition, the Chancellor of the Ohio Department of Higher Education last year mandated all state universities to modify the tuition bulk rate from 12-16 credit hours to 12-18 hours, which has allowed students to take more credit hours at no additional cost. This is consistent with Governor Kasich’s and the state legislature’s policy objective of making college more affordable for students and families. And while this policy is good for students and their families, it means that YSU is collecting less revenue. Mr. Villone asked if additional classes are being added or if more faculty are being hired to fulfill the increased usage of the CCP program and the bulk rate. Mr. McNally said he wasn’t sure and Dr. Abraham would be in a better position to answer this question. Dr. Sumell asked about the number of students enrolled in CCP at YSU verses other schools. Mr. McNally said that YSU enrolls approximately 1,000 CCP students, but wasn’t completely sure and said no comparison could be done yet as the program is still new, but did mention the Governor’s press release in October stated students have saved $110 million in educational costs.

Mr. McNally stated Governor Kasich would be introducing the FY18-19 operating budget in February or March, which will establish funding levels and a tuition policy for the next two-year period that begins on July 1, 2017. He expects the current restrictions on raising undergraduate tuition to continue into the next year budget period, but has also heard talk about a mandatory tuition rollback, which would place even greater negative pressure on the university’s budget. At the last IUC meeting he attended in Columbus, it was mentioned current year tax receipts were about 5% behind projections and also indicated the operating budget for the next two years could be affected by the State of Ohio losing $550 million from annual Medicaid income, since the federal government will no longer permit states to tax Medicaid disbursements. Mr. Villone asked if the revenue model changed, would percentage change as well to off-set college tuition costs at YSU verses other colleges and would this hurt us. Mr. McNally stated that to his knowledge, the state of Ohio has never before mandated a reduction in tuition and so was unsure how it might be implemented. He noted that a flat percentage would require a comparatively lessor dollar reduction for YSU, since YSU’s tuition price is already among the lowest in the state of Ohio.

Dr. Burden stated that the Higher Education Council was expecting changes in the SSI for aggregate funding formulas for two-year community colleges and four-year universities. She asked if Mr. McNally had heard anything about these possible changes. Mr. McNally stated two- and four-year campuses are already funded through a different funding formula. One possible change to the four-year campus formula could be the introduction of weighting for first generation college students, which presumably would help YSU.

**Updated on Campus Climate Feedback Results** –Dr. Burden said the results from the Campus Climate focus groups had been finalized as of yesterday. A committee of nine people met three times for three hours each day for mandatory meetings to sort through and compile 900 narrative responses, with approximately 200 of them being from online responses. The committee identified 15 themes from the narratives and gave a brief summary, notable quotes and action statements for all of the themes for a total of 18 pages. She said the responses along with an introductory letter would be given to Dr. Abraham for his review later in the day and then would be presented by Ms. Fuhrman to Academic Senate Wednesday. A campus announcement will be sent out to the campus community along with information on how to request the raw data, as it will not be posted online.

**2017 LMC meeting schedule** – The committee agreed to keep the meetings for 2017 on a bi-monthly basis held on Tuesdays from 9-11am. Please see the corresponding handout and schedule listed at the end of these minutes.

**Check-in and Announcements:**

**Homecoming** – Ms. Frisby told the group the ACE union participated in the homecoming parade and festivities on October 29, passing out cookies and 300 hotdogs.

**Food Pantry** – Dr. Sumell informed the group that about a week ago he and Mr. Miller-Gordon had submitted a grant proposal to the National Education Association to use grant money to purchase a refrigerator and freezer for the food pantry. If awarded the grant the food pantry will be able to offer perishable food items for those in need as well as non-perishable food they already offer. Mr. Miller-Gordon said about 40 student have used the food pantry for the month of October and that support from the campus community has been great. Dr. Burden stated they should also apply for the OEA and NEOEA grants for money to be used on other items possibly needed for the pantry before the money is gone. She also mentioned the HEC newsletter that went out had a section written up about the pantry.

**Dependent Eligibility Verification** – Mr. Reynolds stated the dependent eligibility verification submission ended yesterday. As of last Friday, results showed 11 dependents would be removed from current employee plans. These 11 individuals were either a former spouse or a child that is no longer eligible. HMS stated six people never responded to the communications sent out for verification and 17 people had submitted partially completed verifications. The HR-Benefits office has followed up with these people and only 13 still need more information. Overall the use of HMS was good, effective and should decrease health care costs. Mr. Reynolds says he will be following up with Marcie Patton on the remaining employees today and stated the only thing left to do now is for HR-Benefits to update YSU’s system with the accurate information HMS received per the Affordable Care Act.

Lastly, he mentioned health care open enrollment sessions started yesterday and would run until November 18. Mr. Villone stated he thought the HR newsletter that was sent out yesterday was well done and very helpful to the campus community.

**Adjournment:**

The meeting adjourned at 9:47 a.m.

**Next Labor Management Council Meeting: Tuesday, January 10, 2017, 9:00 a.m.**

**Kilcawley Center, Cochran Room, 2020**

**Labor Management Council**

**2017 Meeting Schedule**

Updated 11/1/2016

Tuesday, January 10 9-11am KC, Cochran Room

Tuesday, March 7 9-11am KC, Cochran Room

Tuesday, May 2 9-11am KC, Cochran Room

Tuesday, July 11 9-11am TBD

Tuesday, September 12 9-11am TBD

Tuesday, November 14 9-11am TBD

Respectfully submitted, Brittany Bowyer, Recorder