

Executive Vice President and Provost's Report

Faculty Senate

January 14, 2008

My first report for Winter Quarter 2008 will detail developments relating to searches that are underway, the implementation of the Vision Ohio Academic Plan, and matters associated with the University System of Ohio (USO). The contents of this report are:

Searches

- Vice Provost for Diversity, Access, and Equity
- Vice Provost for Enrollment Management
- Dean of Libraries
- Vice President for Research and Creativity Activity and Dean of the Graduate College
- Dean of Students

Vision Ohio Academic Plan Implementation updates include:

- Fall Application and Winter Quarter Enrollment Update
- First Year and Transfer Student Probation Report
- Five-Year Academic Action Plan
- Task Force on Centers of Excellence in Professional and Graduate Education
- Graduate College Task Force
- Academic Support Unit Review

University System of Ohio updates include:

- OU-USO Defining Statement
- General Update

Appendix: Ohio University-University System of Ohio Defining Statement

SEARCHES

Vice Provost for Diversity, Access, and Equity

The search has been continued. New candidates have been put forward by the search firm and the committee will begin reviewing their credentials shortly.

Chris Taylor who is the director of diversity and access, scholarship and retention programs, has accepted the position of associate vice president for institutional diversity at Miami University effective March 1. I am currently in negotiations with a retired Ohio University administrator, who has been a long time contributor to diversity initiatives, to serve as the interim director of diversity and access, scholarship, and retention programs. I hope to be able to announce the appointment shortly.

Vice Provost for Enrollment Management

On January 17 & 18, Craig Cornell will be on campus to interview for the Vice Provost for Enrollment Management. Mr. Cornell is currently Associate Vice President for Enrollment Solutions at Petersons/Nelnet. He has worked in admissions and financial aid at Kent State University and was the Director of Student Financial Aid at Bowling Green University.

Dean of Libraries

Scott Seaman, who is currently the Associate Director of Administrative Services at the Norlin Library at the University of Colorado at Boulder, has accepted the position of the Dean of Libraries. He has an impressive track record and during his interview presented a compelling strategic course for the future of the libraries. I am pleased with the enthusiasm with which faculty and library staff have greeted the news of his appointment. Dean Seaman will begin his appointment on April 1.

Vice President for Research and Creative Activity and Dean of the Graduate College

Airport interviews were held during the first weekend in January. On paper the pool looked very good and that proved to be the case in person as well. We will be bringing four candidates to campus in late January and early February. Information about the candidates and schedules for their visits will be posted on the Executive Vice President and Provost Web site in a week's time.

Dean of Students

On campus interviews for the Dean of Students position are underway. The first candidate, Brian Nichols, assistant dean of students at Texas A&M University-Commerce, was on campus last week. Brian A. Carlisle, associate dean of students at UCLA was on campus today. Ryan T. Lombardi, associate dean of students at Duke University, will be on campus on January 22. Mamta M. Accapadi, postdoctoral fellow, Women's Studies Program at the University of Houston will visit Athens on January 28. The remaining candidates will meet with the university community on the days of their respective visits from 2 to 3 p.m. in Baker University Center 240.

VISION OHIO ACADEMIC PLAN IMPLEMENTATION UPDATES

Fall Application and Winter Quarter Enrollment Update

Freshman class for fall 2008:

As of January 9th, we currently have 11,405 applications, up 1,238 from this time last year, a 12 percent increase. If this trend continues, we may have a record number of freshman applications. Nonresident applications currently are up about 10 percent. Resident applications are up about 13 percent. Northeast Ohio is where the greatest increases are coming from (about 25 percent). Central Ohio, where focused marketing efforts are occurring, is up about 6 percent.

The quality of the freshman class is up slightly from last year. Average high school GPA for applicants is 3.30 this year, compared to 3.29 last year. Average ACT is currently 23.46 compared to 23.39 this time last year.

Multicultural applications currently are up 271 this year, a 24% increase. International applications are up by 53, a 73% increase.

We currently have 6,603 admits, up 93 from this time last year. Admissions is trying to be more selective. For the second year now, we are now using high school GPA instead of class rank, along with ACT/SAT, and a comprehensive review of high school courses taken.

Colleges that are up the most in applications are Engineering and Technology, Communication, and Health and Human Services. University College and Honors Tutorial College are currently down slightly (about 5 percent each) in applications.

The numbers look good which is excellent news. But now the hard part begins. Our focus must turn to yield. Admissions and the colleges are working on yield activities. Last week chairs and directors were urged to work with Admissions on specific outreach efforts for admitted students. They will be turning to faculty to help assist them with those efforts. Faculty can make a tremendous difference when it comes to triggering a matriculation decision. Your participation and the participation of your colleagues is vital to the yield effort. So I urge you and your colleagues to yield to the yield requests that will be coming your way.

Winter Quarter 2008 Enrollment Update:

Athens campus undergraduate headcount enrollment is up 37 from this time last year (we're projected to be up 79). Graduate headcount enrollment is up 110 from this time last year; both Athens on-campus and graduate outreach are up. Four of the regional campus enrollments are up from last winter.

Overall total university headcount enrollment is up 218 from this time last winter. But it is still very early in the quarter, and these numbers are subject to change.

Looking at our enrollment based revenue, we are up in budget overall by just 100K on the general fund and 100K on the general fee. This is not money in the bank yet, but we are up in

undergraduates and down in graduates in terms of enrollments. In terms of enrollment based revenue, we have made our budget and are hoping for slight positive variance.

First Year and Transfer Student Probation Report

The Office of Institutional Research has released a report detailing first-year and transfer students placed on probation after Fall Quarter. Last year there were 83 transfer students and 609 first-year students on probation for a total of 692. This year there are 90 transfer students and 534 first-year students on probation for a total of 624. That is a drop of 68 students from last year.

Looking at the colleges individually, it is clear there is still need for work in this area, but I would point to a telling example. Last year University College had 14.6% of its first-year students on academic probation. This year that figure dropped to 8.7%. The staff of University College has worked diligently to give students the tools that they need to succeed. For the first time this year all incoming University College students were required to be in a learning community this year.

The significant drop in the academic probation rate of first-year University College students accords with other information that we know about the effectiveness of learning communities in helping students be successful at the outset of their careers. The Office of Institutional Research reports that, in 2005-06, learning community participants' retention rate from freshman to sophomore year was 82 percent, compared to 79 percent for nonparticipants. Learning community members' accumulative adjusted GPAs averaged 2.93 compared to 2.84 for their nonmember peers.

Five-Year Academic Action Plan

A revised draft action plan, grounded in *Vision Ohio* and responsive to feedback gathered during Fall 2007, will be formally presented to the campuses on January 16. The revised plan, now known as the *Five Year Vision Ohio Implementation Plan*, identifies a set of strategic initiatives to undertake in three high-priority areas: (1) strengthening undergraduate education; (2) making targeted investments in graduate education and research; (3) enhancing the recruitment and retention of students.

These initiatives will bolster the University and position it to succeed in an external environment replete with significant challenges, including an uncertain economic outlook for the State of Ohio and the public's opposition to increases in tuition and fees. Funding for the initiatives in the first year will not come from budget cuts and reallocations but instead from institutional reserves and carryforward accounts. In subsequent years, investments will be funded from new revenues generated from recruitment and retention efforts and from cost savings generated by productivity improvements. Any reallocation in future years will be based on results of program prioritization processes conducted in academic units and academic support units.

January 16 is a stage in an ongoing process. The documents to be presented on January 16 are drafts in the fullest and most complete sense of the word. There is more left undone than has

been done. A significant amount of work lies ahead before we can contemplate any sense of finality about the plan.

Task Force on Centers of Excellence in Professional and Graduate Education

The Task Force on Centers of Excellence for Graduate and Professional Education is making slow but steady progress. They have distributed a comprehensive list of programs to be evaluated and have identified departments/schools/program directors who will be responsible for preparing self-studies to deans, chairs, and directors for feedback.

The committee is currently engaged in developing both self-study guidelines and criteria for evaluating self-studies. When drafts of these documents are completed, they will be submitted to campus groups for review and feedback. Once the self-study guidelines have been modified based on the feedback received, they will be distributed to the departments and schools with a deadline for self-study preparation.

Chairs and directors can be assured that ample time will be provided for the preparation of self-studies. The original deadline that was proposed when the committee was formed will not be met. The committee recognizes that in order to complete its work fully and to the highest standards possible additional time will be required.

Academic Support Unit Review

Gary Neiman, Dean, CHHS, is chairing the Academic Support Unit Review Committee and has worked with Mike Williford, Associate Provost for Institutional Research and Enrollment Planning, and Terry Conry, Associate Vice President for Finance and Administration, to develop a draft of the process and procedures, establish committee membership, and set the groundwork for the first meeting of the committee which took place on November 30. The 17-member committee broadly represents the academic and academic support areas of the University. Committee members will participate in the following activities:

- Refine and implement the program review process;
- Provide support in developing metrics for assessment;
- Support continuous improvement during and between units' reviews;
- Review self-studies and make recommendations to planning unit heads.

In its initial meeting, the Committee discussed process and procedures and set the groundwork for the three reviews to occur during FY08, namely, Campus Recreation, Kennedy Museum, and Housing Services. In subsequent fiscal years, the Committee expects to review approximately 10-12 units per year. The Committee will provide reports of its reviews to the Executive Vice President and Provost, the Vice President for Finance and Administration, and Budget Planning Council. The Committee will meet on January 14 to embark on training on Baldrige/Excellence in Higher Education methodology. Mark Kessler, Senior Director in the Center for Organization Development and Effectiveness, will be spearheading the training for the group.

Graduate College Task Force

The Graduate College Task Force chaired by Sergio Ulloa, Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy continues to gather ideas and information relating to the mission, structure, and operation of the Graduate College. The agenda for the task force for Winter Quarter includes:

- The continuation of conversations initiated recently with UCC and Graduate Council on how the new Graduate College will interface with these two university standing committees.
- A meeting with the Chairs and Directors Council to gather feedback on the proposed structure of the college.
- A follow-up meeting with the Associate Deans for Research and Graduate Studies.

What is learned from this set of conversations plus any insights gained from the candidates who will be coming on campus during Winter Quarter to interview for the job of Vice President for Research and Creative Activity and the Dean of the Graduate College will be used to revise the draft of the Graduate College Report. It is anticipated that a draft copy of the report will be available to be shared with Faculty Senate at its February meeting.

UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF OHIO

Ohio University-University System of Ohio Defining Statement

During Fall Quarter the campus community under the auspices of the Vision Ohio Executive Steering Committee produced a document for Chancellor Fingerhut. The purpose of the document was to begin to establish Ohio University's unique position within the new University System of Ohio. It has been shared with Chancellor Fingerhut so that he and others making decisions about Ohio University within the University System of Ohio will know our strengths, our mission, and the unique contributions we can make to the emerging system.

The Vision Ohio Executive Steering Committee was charged with drafting this document. They used existing documents (Vision Ohio mission statement, previous Ohio University mission statements, and my September address to Chancellor Fingerhut) familiar to members of the University community. Members of the steering committee include representatives of all senates and faculty and staff who were involved in the development of Vision Ohio over the last three years. The steering committee sought input from all of the constituent groups during the drafting process. That feedback played an important role in shaping the document. A copy of the defining statement is included as an appendix to this report.

University System of Ohio Update

There have been some recent developments in relation to the University System of Ohio. The most notable is the draft proposal put forward by The Northeast Ohio Universities Collaboration and Innovation Study Commission which consists of Kent State University, the University of

Akron, Youngstown State University, Cleveland State University and Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine. The commission put forward eighteen recommendations on how they can more effectively collaborate to share costs and eliminate redundancies. Ohio University's focus in relation to the USO is less dramatic, but recent conversations with Teri Geiger, who is Ohio University's Director of Government Relations, suggests that we are perceived at the Board of Regents as being engaged in type of pursuits that will best prepare us for our entry into the USO. Teri has communicated that the processes that we are pursuing--particularly the work related to Vision Ohio, the Five Year Plan, the Academic Support Unit Reviews, and the Centers of Excellence Review of Graduate and Professional Education--put us ahead of most of the other public institutions when it comes to being able to define our contributions to the USO and establish measures of accountability.

The Chancellor is still seeking public comment on his evolving draft of the 10 Year Master Plan for the University System of Ohio. You can relay you feedback via the USO Web site. Last week I urged chairs and directors to bring the draft to a faculty meeting for discussion. I would urge Faculty Senate to do likewise. Ohio University will not be subject to all the measures of attainment that will eventually form the plan, but having a close look and commenting on what is contained in the draft could open up possibilities for shaping the system that are currently not part of the master plan.

APPENDIX

DRAFT--USO DEFINING STATEMENT—OHIO UNIVERSITY

Ohio University and the University System of Ohio

Oldest institution of higher education in the state with a rich tradition of citizenship development

Exceptional levels of student-faculty engagement fueled by the synergy between undergraduate education, focused graduate education, and the research and creative activity of students and faculty.

Substantive contributions through partnerships on multiple campuses in Southeastern Ohio, the state, the nation, and the world

Established by the Northwest Ordinance of 1787 and chartered in 1804, Ohio University is the state’s first institution of higher education and one of America’s oldest public universities. Ohio University is known nationally for its academic excellence, commitment to diversity, and the quality of its faculty and their effectiveness in helping students of all backgrounds achieve their promise

The university’s success in developing student potential owes to the richness of student-faculty engagement and the synergistic relationships among its exceptional undergraduate and graduate degree programs on its six campuses, the nationally prominent research and creative activity of its faculty and students, and the internal and external partnerships that benefit the campuses and their communities, the region, the state, the nation, and the world. The university brings its partnerships and the knowledge that it generates from research and scholarly activity into classrooms, into learning communities, into centers of excellence, into guided research and artistic endeavors, and into experiential academic opportunities.

Ohio University is regularly recognized nationally for the excellence of its faculty and their extensive achievements in engaging students. Evidence of the remarkable nature of the depth and breadth of student-faculty engagement resides in its fourth in the nation graduation rate performance among public universities and its consistently outstanding success in students’ receipt of nationally competitive awards ranging from the Fulbright Scholars Program for international study to the Goldwater Scholarship for excellence in science, mathematics, and technology. Because of the level of commitment on the part of faculty to students, Ohio University’s graduate and undergraduate programs make substantial contributions to the furtherance of civic engagement and service in the realms of communication, the environment, technology, health and wellness, fine arts, and the liberal arts and sciences.

Partnerships and connections help define Ohio University’s continuous commitment to citizenship. The cultural strengths and economic challenges of the region in which Ohio University resides encourage the creation of partnerships to share resources and provide access to programs and services in the areas of economic development, environmental initiatives, health and wellness, and educational concerns. As part of its mission to enhance the quality of life in its geographic region and beyond, Ohio University builds collaborative internal and external partnerships with other universities, two year colleges, public schools, and governments to create and support sustainable businesses, and to promote private investment and technological advancement.

Ohio University also fulfills its commitment to citizenship by creating valued, diverse communities on its main campus and on its five regional campuses. Each Ohio University campus provides an appealing environment in which standards of civility, integrity, and collaboration matter. These academic

communities also enrich the lives of those who live in the towns and areas where the campuses are located. Through contributions such as arts programming, sustained volunteer activity, or commerce, Ohio University brings much needed resources to those who live and work near its campuses.

With a deep and abiding commitment to its original covenant of developing citizens and being itself a good citizen of the state, Ohio University brings pragmatism and passion to the task of providing accessible and affordable, high quality higher education for Ohio's diverse population as well as programs and curricula designed to meet Ohioans' needs for the 21st century. With the longest record of success in the state in helping students to fulfill their promise, with centers of excellence that connect knowledge to needs, with a demonstrated ability to adapt and evolve through connections and partnerships, and with a record of establishing meaningful communities, Ohio University is well suited to make unique and essential contributions to the University System of Ohio.